



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
AGENDA LETTER

Agenda Number:

A-15

Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
(805) 568-2240

Submitted on:
(COB Stamp)

Department Name: CEO
Department No.: 012
For Agenda Of: 3/03/2009
Placement: Set Hearing
Estimate Time: 15 minutes
Continued Item: NO
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Department Director: Michael F. Brown, County Executive Officer
Contact Info: John Baker, Assistant CEO and Planning and Development Director
805-548-3400

SUBJECT: Proposed Santa Barbara County Climate Change Guiding Principles

County Counsel Concurrence:

As to form/legality: Yes No N/A

Auditor-Controller Concurrence:

As to form: Yes No N/A

Recommended Action(s):

Set a hearing for March 17, 2009 (estimated 15 minutes) to:

- A. Receive a presentation on the proposed Santa Barbara County Climate Change Guiding Principles and accept a summary outline for development of a Sustainability Action Plan
- B. Adopt a Resolution Affirming the County's Commitment to Reducing Greenhouse Gases Emissions and Adopting the Santa Barbara County Climate Change Guiding Principles.
- C. Direct County staff, including the County Executive Office to collaborate and seek available Federal and State funding opportunities related to initiatives that reduce the County's greenhouse gas emissions and promote energy efficiency, while also minimizing the County's upfront costs.
- D. Approve and authorize the Chair to execute the attached addendum to the Santa Barbara Energy Efficiency Partnership program with Southern California Edison.
- E. Adopt the attached resolution extending the term of the Energy Watch Partnership program with Pacific Gas & Electric.

Summary:

Recent State and Federal climate change policy aimed at reducing green housing gas (GHG) emissions and promoting renewable energy sources presents various obligations and opportunities for Santa Barbara County (County). Given the complex nature of this policy environment, the adoption of the proposed Santa Barbara County Climate Change Guiding Principles serves as an important first step necessary to coordinate the response to new State regulations, access grants and other funding

opportunities, and initiate a comprehensive strategy to address the County's operational and communitywide GHG emissions.

Background:

On December 16, 2008 the Office of Long Range Planning briefed the Board of Supervisors (Board) on recent State climate change legislation, including Assembly Bill (AB) 32 and Senate Bill (SB) 375. As discussed during the briefing, AB 32 provides a comprehensive eighteen-point program of regulatory and market mechanisms to achieve a mandated Statewide reduction in greenhouse gas emissions to 1990 levels by 2020. SB 375 implements one of the eighteen points by aligning regional housing, land use, and transportation planning efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions related to vehicle trips. In addition to these new regulatory mandates, the recently enacted *American Recovery and Reinvestment Act*, commonly referred to as the Federal economic stimulus bill, allocates \$43 billion toward the category of energy. Since its inception in the House in January 2009, the stimulus has included funding to promote the theme of "creating jobs with clean, efficient, American energy."

Recognizing local governments' role in implementing strategies to achieve State and Federal objectives, many jurisdictions have developed guiding principles to enable consistent policy direction concerning climate change action. In fact, ten counties within California have adopted resolutions similar to the one being brought forward to the Board for consideration today, and over 135 local jurisdictions in California, including one third of all counties, have adopted Climate Action Plans. Similar efforts are underway nationwide. For example, the "Cool Counties" initiative, which was created at the National Association of Counties Annual Conference in 2007, seeks to marshal the resources of all 3,066 counties across the nation to address the challenges climate change poses to communities.

Given this context, the adoption of the proposed Santa Barbara County Climate Change Guiding Principles demonstrates the Board's commitment to actively reducing GHG emissions (Attachment 2). Furthermore, this serves as an important first step necessary to guide County in establishing an organizational framework for climate action, accessing Federal economic stimulus funds, and identifying opportunities to offset costs associated with strategic planning.

Organizational Framework for Climate Action

The County is already engaged in a number of activities designed to address the broader concept of sustainability, including efforts to quantify and reduce the County's Carbon Footprint, the Innovative Building Review Program, and the Integrated Regional Water Management Plan. In order to initiate immediate, short-term action related to County operations, on December 16, 2008 the Board voted to reconstitute the County "Green Team" as the "Sustainability and Conservation Team (SCT)." The General Services Department was charged with facilitating the SCT, which was to report to the Board within 90 days on progress related to reducing operational emissions. This report is included as Attachment 1 for the Board's consideration. In addition, the SCT has recommended reestablishing programs to encourage energy efficiency with the local utilities, including Southern California Edison (SCE) and Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E). The documents needed to reinstate these programs are included as Attachments 3 and 4, respectively.

To prepare the County for an overarching, coordinated, and cost-effective approach to climate action, the Office of Long Range Planning proposed a project to develop a countywide Climate Action Strategy (CAS). The CAS proposal, heard by the County Planning Commission on January 28, 2009 and February 4, 2009, was one of two projects that emerged as priorities to a majority of Planning Commissioners

for inclusion in the 2009-2010 Work Program. If approved by the Board, this project will establish a Countywide Climate Action Strategy Team (CAST), appointed by the County Executive Office and facilitated by Long Range Planning, that will set forth a series of goals, policies and actions to address local GHG emissions by leverage the County's roles as a producer of GHG emissions, a regulator of GHG emitting activities, and a potential provider of incentives to reduce GHG emissions. Developing the CAS will require careful coordination of the CAST, along with two subcommittees; one charged with overseeing reductions to County operational emissions, and the other responsible for measures to reduce communitywide emissions. The work performed by each subcommittee will result in a complete strategy to address all four categories of climate change action, as outlined by the State's Scoping Plan including: 1) Air/energy, 2) Green building, 3) Resource conservation, and 4) Transportation and land use.

As proposed, the SCT will serve as the CAST "operational" subcommittee, and will be responsible for leveraging the collective expertise of the County's leadership to develop a comprehensive sustainability action plan applicable to internal County operations. This strategy will include measures needed to meet State requirements by reducing operational emissions in five distinct areas: the vehicle fleet, waste and water systems, employee commute trends, and the energy efficiency of County facilities. If approved, the proposed Santa Barbara County Climate Change Guiding Principles will help focus the SCT's early actions, and provide the policy direction needed to tie such actions to a long-term strategy capable of fully accessing the benefits of climate change action. As its first order of business, the newly reconstituted SCT will focus on improving the energy efficiency of County buildings.

Funding Opportunities and Climate Action

In addition, policy direction provided by the proposed Guiding Principles gives the County a competitive advantage in accessing Federal spending and other funding opportunities. Since its inception in the House in January 2009, the Federal economic stimulus bill has promoted the creation of new jobs and a "green economy." Accordingly, the Act includes funding and provides tax incentives for a variety of initiatives to promote renewable energy and energy efficiency in an effort to reduce GHG emissions over the next 10 years. This is an important consideration, given that funding available to local agencies and private-sector partners in the Federal economic stimulus bill includes \$4.5 billion to modernize the electric grid, \$5 billion to help low-income families reduce their energy costs by weatherizing their homes, \$2.5 billion in grants for energy efficiency and renewable energy research, \$2 billion in grants to manufactures to develop long-lasting batteries for electric vehicles, and \$3.2 billion for energy efficiency and conservation block grants. The County has a number of projects already in the development pipeline, such as General Service's Energy Management Control System to reduce energy usage and costs for County facilities, which are poised to receive Federal funding, while requiring minimal upfront design investment by the County.

Beyond streamlining access to Federal funding, adopted climate change Guiding Principles sets the stage for other local actions to address climate change and support economic stability. For example, the CAS could provide incentives for energy efficient private-sector building retrofits through public financing and relaxed regulations. This would increase retrofit activity and spur the demand for new skills, translating into new jobs, business, and increased private spending. As another example, the AB 32 California Air Resources Board (CARB) Scoping Plan notes that California currently receives 40% of the total public and private global investment in green technology venture capital. Given this extraordinary comparative advantage, coupled with local expertise such as UCSB's world renowned programs in applied physics, carbon-based engineering, nanotechnology research, and green economics, Santa Barbara County is well positioned to facilitate incubation of investment in green technology by

local business, work to attract new venture capital into the area, and encourage innovative alternative energy projects.

Meanwhile, the cost of planning for climate change action can be offset through coordination with local non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to access available funding or in kind services. For example, the California Governor's Strategic Growth Council, the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)'s Community Action for Renewed Environment Program, US EPA's Smart Growth Program have made grants, loans, and other resources available to pay for the development of local climate action plans. With the Board's action today, staff will take steps to pursue grants and local partnerships to create a cost-effective strategy for climate action.

Conclusion

Given the nexus between action to reduce GHG emissions and countywide economic vitality, public health and safety, natural resource protection, and internal cost control, the importance of a coordinated approach to climate action cannot be understated. Adoption of the proposed Santa Barbara County Climate Change Principles represents an important first step necessary to position the County to take manage the regulatory environment and access Federal economic stimulus funding. Most importantly this action provides early direction to all County departments and stakeholders in support of the development of a comprehensive Climate Action Strategy.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Budgeted: Yes No

Fiscal Analysis:

Funding Sources	Current FY Cost:	Annualized Cost:	Total Project Cost
General Fund	\$0		\$0
State			
Federal			
Fees			
Other:			
Total	\$	- \$	- \$

Narrative: There is no fiscal impact associated with adopting the resolution and accompanying climate change guiding principles.

Staffing Impact(s):

Legal Positions:

NA

FTEs:

NA

Existing County staff from various departments may be utilized in developing a strategy and in implementing projects that contribute to energy efficiency and the reduction of GHG emissions.

Special Instructions:

Clerk of the Board should send a copy of the resolution and minute order to Planning and Development and the General Services Departments.

Attachments: (list all)

To be provided with Board letter

Authored by:

David Matson, Deputy Director, Long Range Planning

cc:

OLRP Chron File

