



December 10, 2018

County of Santa Barbara
Board of Supervisors
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

SUBJECT: SB County Energy and Climate Action Plan Update Direction, Dec 11, 2018

Dear Chair Williams and Supervisors,

The League of Women Voters is a non-partisan civic organization with a long history of environmental action. The League strongly supports actions to mitigate and adapt to climate change in order to protect our County from the negative physical, economic, and public health effects. We applaud the County's good work in this area.

We note that the County's GHG emissions are 14 percent above 2007 levels. The League finds this very disturbing. The County must prioritize controlling all sources of GHGs with implementation of regulations and incentive programs. We have no time to lose.

The League strongly recommends that the new 2020 GHG reduction target align with the State's GHG reduction goal. The State of California is on track to meet or exceed the current target of reducing greenhouse gas emissions to 1990 levels by 2020. The County on the other hand, is lagging. The League recommends that the County urgently take actions that are more aggressive and set a much more ambitious goal in order to catch up with the State. The ECAP should include firm metrics to closely monitor the progress of GHG emission reductions and requirements.

The ECAP should require (not just encourage) climate resiliency actions integrated with existing and new GHG reduction measures. The ECAP should include clear examples of these integrated measures and how progress will be measured. The Plan should be flexible in order to accommodate new technologies as they become available in the future and as our own knowledge on the topic increases.

The League supports taking an inclusive, multi-jurisdictional approach to updating the ECAP and the GHG emission reduction implementing actions. The League urges the County to work with not only the eight Cities in the County and Special Districts, but at the Tri-County level.

We appreciate your consideration of our comments. Again, Thank you for your proactive work on this urgent issue. Please contact Vijaya Jammalamadaka, Chair, LWVSB Sustainable Communities Committee at 805-963-2622/vjinsb@gmail.com if you have questions.

Sincerely,

Lindsey Baker,
Co-President for Programs & Advocacy
League of Women Voters of Santa Barbara

Cc: League of Women Voters of Santa Maria Valley