



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
AGENDA LETTER

Agenda Number:

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

Department Name: Community Services
Department
Department No.: 057
For Agenda Of: September 12, 2017
Placement: Discussion
Estimated Tme: 30 minutes
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Department George Chapjian, Community Services Director
Director(s) (805) 568-2467

Contact Info: Jen Cregar, Project Supervisor, Energy and Sustainability Initiatives
(805) 568-3506

SUBJECT: Energy and Climate Action Plan Progress Report

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: YES

Other Concurrence: Risk Management

As to form: YES

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: YES

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors:

- A. Receive and file an Energy and Climate Action Plan 2016 Progress Report (Attachment A);
and
- B. Determine that, pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines Section 15162, no new effects will occur and no new mitigation measures would be required as a result of the recommended action because there are no substantial changes proposed to the Energy and Climate Action Plan (project), no substantial change in circumstances, and no new information of substantial importance regarding environmental effects of the project or of the sufficiency or feasibility of mitigation measures, and therefore the recommended actions are within the scope of the environmental review documents for this project [Final Environmental Impact Report (Case No. 14EIR-00000-00003); available at http://longrange.sbcountyplanning.org/programs/climateactionstrategy/docs/BOS051915/Attachment%20C_Final%20EIR%20Combined.pdf] certified by the Board on May 19, 2015, and that therefore no new environmental document is required.

Summary Text:

In response to Resolution 09-059 (March 2009; Attachment D), the Board of Supervisors adopted the County of Santa Barbara Energy and Climate Action Plan (ECAP) (Attachment C) in May 2015. The ECAP established a goal of reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in the unincorporated county by 15 percent below 2007 levels by 2020 and outlined strategies to help reach this goal. Members of the County Sustainability Committee have prepared an ECAP Progress Report (Attachment A) to document progress towards the County's 2020 emissions reduction goal.

Background:

By adopting the ECAP in May 2015, the Board of Supervisors established a goal of reducing GHG emissions in the unincorporated county by 15 percent below 2007 levels by 2020. This emissions reduction level is in line with GHG reduction targets set in Assembly Bill 32, the California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006. The ECAP identifies quantifiable actions that the County and community can take to reduce GHG emissions. Examples of emissions reduction activities include: making buildings more energy- and water-efficient, upgrading the fuel efficiency of the County vehicle fleet, reducing the amount of trash sent to the landfill, better integrating transportation and land use planning to cut down on travel distances, and encouraging the use of renewable energy like solar and biogas.

A County Sustainability Committee—led by the County Executive Office and comprised of representatives from ten County departments and divisions, the Santa Barbara County Air Pollution Control District, and the Santa Barbara County Association of Governments—is responsible for the implementation, monitoring, and reporting on the ECAP's GHG reduction strategies. Members of the committee have prepared an ECAP Progress Report ("Progress Report") to document progress towards the County's 2020 emissions reduction goal. The Progress Report includes activities completed through 2016 and features selected projects achieved by the County and its community partners (see Attachment B).

Since the plan was adopted in 2015 through 2016, the County is 16 percent overall towards reaching its 2020 emissions reduction target, as measured by the implementation of the individual emissions reduction activities included in the ECAP. Sixteen percent is a conservative estimate of the County's progress because lack of reliable data has prohibited the inclusion of quantitative progress reporting for some activities. The report provides more detail on the implementation progress, challenges, and next steps for each emissions reduction strategy, many of which are on track to reach their 2020 goals.

The ECAP has won two American Planning Association (APA) awards, one locally and one state-level recognition for "Innovation in Green Community Planning." County staff from the Energy and Sustainability Initiatives and Long Range Planning Divisions also recently presented at the California Climate Action Planning Conference to share lessons learned with other local governments.

In addition, the ECAP supports many of the County's 2017 legislative principles, most notably:

- **Community Sustainability and Environmental Protection** – Activities implemented under the ECAP directly improve the quality of the environment and the community by reducing GHG emissions and other forms of air pollution. The creation of the County Sustainability Committee to help coordinate ECAP implementation activities has led to the sharing of broader environmental sustainability best practices across County departments.

- **Job Growth and Economic Vitality** – The ECAP supports the growth of local green jobs such as energy efficiency contractors, solar installers, environmental planners and consultants, green technology manufacturers, drought-resistant landscapers, and workers who help divert trash from the landfill through recycling and composting programs. Similarly, actions that reduce GHG emissions can also save money by reducing energy, water, and transportation fuel consumption.
- **Health and Human Services** – One of the co-benefits of climate action is improved public health. For example, when people walk and bike, they decrease auto transportation and reduce emissions, while improving their physical activity and overall health. Similarly, reducing GHG emissions can also improve local air quality, which can reduce the frequency and severity of asthma events and other respiratory conditions.
- **Inter-agency Collaboration** – Implementation of the ECAP has fostered interdepartmental and cross-agency relationships, as evidenced by the broad stakeholder participation on the County Sustainability Committee. As a result of the ECAP, County staff has also increased collaboration with other local governments across the tri-county region on shared climate action activities.

Performance Measure:

N/A

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Budgeted: Yes. Funds have previously been appropriated for the ECAP development and some implementation, monitoring, and reporting activities.

Fiscal Analysis:

N/A. Staff is not requesting a change to its FY17-18 budget.

Staffing Impacts:

None.

Special Instructions:

Please send one copy of the minute order to Jennifer Cregar.

Attachments:

Attachment A: Energy and Climate Action Plan 2016 Progress Report
Attachment B: Energy and Climate Action Plan 2016 Featured Stories
Attachment C: Energy and Climate Action Plan
Attachment D: Resolution 09-059 – Climate Change Guiding Principles

Authored by:

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