



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

2009 MAR -9 AM 10:35

COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA  
CLERK OF THE  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Department Name: General Services  
Department No.: 063  
For Agenda Of: March 17, 2009  
Placement: Departmental  
Estimated Tme: 45 minutes  
Continued Item: No  
If Yes, date from:  
Vote Required: Majority

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**TO:** Board of Supervisors

**FROM:** Department Sustainability and Conservation Team  
Director(s) Robert Nisbet, General Services Director (560-1011)

Contact Info: Paddy Langlands, Assistant Director (568-3096)

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**SUBJECT:** Update on the Activities of the Sustainability and Conservation Team (SCT)

**County Counsel Concurrence**

As to form: N/A

**Auditor-Controller Concurrence**

As to form: N/A

**Other Concurrence:** N/A

As to form: No

**Recommended Actions:**

That the Board of Supervisors:

- a) Receive a status update on the activities of the Sustainability and Conservation Team (SCT) and accept and approve the attached summary outline for development of a Sustainability Action Plan for County Operations.
- b) Approve and authorize the Chair to execute the attached addendum to the Santa Barbara Energy Efficiency Partnership program with Southern California Edison.
- c) Adopt the attached resolution extending the term of the Energy Watch Partnership program with Pacific Gas & Electric.

**Summary Text:** The SCT intends to develop a comprehensive Sustainability Action Plan for the County of Santa Barbara. The attached Approach Document provides an outline of the proposed Sustainability Action Plan and a schedule for its development and eventual implementation.

The Santa Barbara Energy Efficiency Partnership program between the County and Southern California Edison was initiated on August 1, 2006 and has expired in December 2008. A signed agreement is necessary to continue participation until the 2009 – 2011 funding cycle has been approved by the California Public Utilities Commission.

The Energy Watch Partnership program between the County and Pacific Gas & Electric also expired in December 2008. A resolution is necessary to continue participation until the 2009 – 2011 funding cycle has been approved by the California Public Utilities Commission. This Partnership will provide the County with approximately \$5,000 per month to cover various expenditures (including the Energy Manager's time) associated with implementing electricity usage reduction strategies.

## **Background:**

### **Sustainability and Conservation Team**

The SCT was initiated by the Board of Supervisors at their December 16, 2008 meeting. The idea of the SCT was to "reinvent" the County Green Team, a committee which has existed since 1999. The Board directed the Team to renew its focus on operating the County's facilities and fleet in a sustainable manner. To that end, the new mission and vision of the team will reflect this focus and concentrate on sustainability, energy efficiency, renewable energy, greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction from County operations and achieving compliance with Assembly Bill 32, which establishes statewide goals for the reduction of GHG. Further, the new Team includes representation from the Information Technology Department, CEO/Human Resources, and Planning and Development.

An important component of reducing the County's contribution to GHG will be to examine County workforce mobility. This effort was initiated in November 2008 with a County-wide survey. The workforce mobility effort is focused on developing strategies to attract and retain diverse employees to the workforce by providing flexible work locations and arrangements, reducing and eliminating office space and associated overhead, and decreasing the number of days employees commute or engage in unnecessary work-related trips. Employing "greener" workforce mobility solutions will positively impact the environment and reduce both the employer's and employee carbon footprint. It is estimated that the contribution to GHG emissions from employees commuting to work could be as high as 40% of the County's total contribution.

The Team intends to develop a Sustainability Action Plan that will cover County operations. The attached Approach Document outlines the role and membership of the Team, and describes plan objectives, scope and timeline for developing the Sustainability Action Plan (Attachment 1). Several counties have already adopted such plans. One of the better examples is Contra Costa's, which was adopted in December 2008. Attached is an excerpt from the introduction to that plan to give the Board an idea of the scope and approach envisioned for Santa Barbara's plan for internal County operations (Attachment 2).

On December 16, 2008, the Planning and Development Department made a presentation to the Board on the impacts and opportunities associated with statewide climate change legislation. AB 32 requires a

15% reduction of existing statewide GHG emissions by 2020. Each county will ultimately be responsible for their share of this reduction. GHG emissions from County operations and employees commute to work probably represents less than 1% of the total County contribution to GHG emissions. However, the SCT has the opportunity to lead by example and inspire changes in the greater community by focusing on development and implementation of a *municipal* Sustainability Action Plan consisting of reduction measures that target emissions generated by *County operations*. On a parallel track, the SCT will work collaboratively with Planning and Development as they embark on the more complex task of guiding the community's reduction of GHG emissions in accordance with AB 32, SB 97 and SB 375, as well as a host of emerging state and federal regulatory requirements. As presented on December 16, 2008, this larger endeavor will culminate in the creation of a *Communitywide* Climate Action Strategy.

### **Southern California Edison Partnership Program**

On August 01, 2006, the County Board approved, passed and adopted Resolution No. 06-00732 supporting and endorsing the 2006-2008 Santa Barbara Energy Efficiency Partnership program and approving the County as a Program Participant with SCE. Later on October 3, 2006 approval was granted authorizing the Chair to execute the Program agreement between the County and SCE. Since our involvement, the Partnership has provided outreach to Santa Barbara businesses in the form of training and lighting retrofits and several residential programs including *Holiday Light Exchange, Refrigerator and Freezer Pickup, Lamp Exchange* and *Compact Fluorescent Giveaways*. This Addendum provides for continuing participation past December 2008 (Attachment 3).

### **Pacific Gas & Electric Energy Watch Partnership Program**

On February 12, 2008, the County Board approved, passed and adopted Resolution No. 08-044 supporting and endorsing the 2006-2008 Energy Watch Partnership program and approving the County as a Program Participant with PG&E. This resolution provides for continuing participation past December 2008 (Attachment 4).

### **Cool Counties**

Before AB 32 passed, the Governor stated a vision and long-term goal for the reduction of GHGs statewide. Similarly, the Board may want to articulate a vision statement for the reduction of GHGs in County operations and communitywide. Articulating a long-term "stretch goal"—without knowing fully how to achieve the goal—demonstrates leadership and can inspire an organization and community into unprecedented action.

In a related item on the Board's agenda today, the Planning and Development department proposes a similar idea and recommends the Board adopt a Resolution of Guiding Principles. Their report also references "Cool Counties" as an example of a commitment to the reduction of GHG the Board could adopt if desired. To be eligible, the County must make four commitments as shown in the attached sample resolution (Attachment 5). Adopting these principles allows Santa Barbara to network on-line with counties from around the nation who have done the same. Nine counties in California have adopted such resolutions.

### **Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:**

Budgeted:

**Special Instructions**

Please forward a copy of the Minute Order to Jerry McFerran, General Services Department, Support Services Division, Courthouse East Wing.

**Attachments:**

- 1) Sustainability Action Plan Approach Document
- 2) Excerpt from Contra Costa's Municipal Climate Action Plan
- 3) Agreement with Southern California Edison extending the term of the Santa Barbara Energy Efficiency Partnership program
- 4) Resolution extending the term of the Energy Watch Partnership program with Pacific Gas & Electric
- 5) Sample Resolution designating Santa Barbara County as a "Cool County"