

August 4, 2009

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**Subject: Report Back To The Board On Preparing A 2009 Climate Change Action Plan Addressing County Operations**

**Recommendations:**

It is recommended that your Board receive a presentation updating the progress made on preparing the 2009 Climate Change Action Plan (CCAP) addressing County operations.

**Background:**

On December 5, 2006, your Board directed the County Executive Office to report back on the costs, timeline, and funding opportunities associated with preparing a Climate Change Action Plan (CCAP) addressing the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) of County government operations. On July 17, 2007, the County Executive Office reported back to the Board with the following findings: A) The CCAP generally consists of a multi-year emissions inventory, emissions forecast, adoption of a reduction target for the forecast year, and preparation of an emissions reduction plan; B) Successful implementation of the plan requires participation and cooperation from all County agencies and a long-term commitment to monitoring program and supporting employee energy efficiency education efforts; C) Preliminary costs for the CCAP planning effort range from \$175,000 to \$280,000. Estimated annual on-going costs for education, monitoring and plan update range from \$35,000 to \$50,000; and D) Anticipated timeline for CCAP development and adoption ranges from 12 to 18 months.

At the time of this 2007 presentation the development of a CCAP was not identified in the California Global Warming Solution Act of 2006 (AB 32) as a mandate on local governments, your Board and the County Executive Office realized that its development would be the first steps to realizing our long-term vision of a sustainable Ventura County community. Additionally, through the development of the CCAP it was noted that we would be moving Ventura County ahead of the curve, placing us in a leadership role of setting the standard in GHG reductions for others to follow. Based upon the July 17, 2007 presentation, your Board accepted the findings and directed the County Executive Office to proceed with the development of a CCAP.

**Discussion:**

In Fiscal Year 2008-09, the CEO's office set aside funds to contract with a qualified consultant to assist with in the development of our CCAP. Also in April of 2009, the Climate Change Action Plan Team (Exhibit 1), consisting of internal County subject matter experts, was created to assist the consultant in obtaining the necessary data to complete the inventory and action plan. The goals as outlined by the Climate Change Action Plan Team are to: a) Develop emissions inventories following state approved local government operations protocols; b) Quantify our baseline carbon footprint; c) Enable measurement of how our programs have met and will meet climate emissions reduction goals; d) Develop a feasible target reduction for a selected forecast year; e) Develop a long-range plan and policy recommendation to meet the targeted reduction goal; and f) Develop and implement an implementation and monitoring strategy to quantify results.

Through the development of a CCAP specifically addressing County operations we will have the ability to quantify all our reduction efforts to date and will be in a better position to take proactive steps towards meeting future emission reduction mandates. Conducting an inventory which establishes a baseline from which to track our performance will ensure that our future actions and projects will reduce emissions in a quantifiable and transparent way. The CCAP will also assist in collectively addressing organizational inefficiencies, identify management strategies to enable the County to effectively respond to new regulations, and demonstrate the County's commitment to environmental stewardship.

The major milestones and timeframes for development of the CCAP consist of the following: 1) Review proposals and recommend Consultant for CCAP development; 2) Complete baseline emissions inventories for current and prior years; 3) Present findings of the emissions inventory to your Board; 4) Complete emissions forecasting/reduction goal for target year; 5) Develop action plan including appropriate energy related sub-policies; 6) Complete third party certification of current and prior year inventories; and 7) Present recommendations of the action plan to your Board for approval.

In June 2009, the consulting firm of Ryerson, Master and Associates, Inc. (RMA) was selected to assist the County in the development of our CCAP. With the signing of the contract, awarded in the amount of \$84,940, the Climate Change Action Plan Team has met the first of its identified major milestones – The review and recommendation of consulting firms for the development of the County's CCAP. Work has now begun on the second and fourth of our major milestones, the establishment of baseline emissions inventories for the current and prior years and the completion of emissions forecasting/reduction goal for the target year. The goal is to establish our baseline inventory back to calendar year 2000, as a majority of existing energy reduction strategies were implemented after FY 2000, this year appears to be a reasonable starting point. The timeline developed by RMA, with input from the County's Climate Change Action Plan Team, provides for a report back to your Board in late fourth



quarter 2009 with an update on the establishment of our baseline emissions inventories and reduction goal for the target year.

Along with the establishment of our baseline emissions inventories and identified reduction goal for the target year, RMA and the County's Climate Change Action Plan Team will concurrently begin working on the development of our Emission Reduction Plan. This plan will quantify the impacts of projects already implemented, and identify new measures to be undertaken to meet adopted target reductions. Assistance in identifying and prioritizing potential projects, providing technical support, keeping the County abreast on state and federal legislation and policies pertaining to energy and emissions reduction, as well as provide information on a variety of grant and financial opportunities, will be sought through membership in the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI), and collaborations with the Ventura County Regional Energy Alliance (VCREA), and the Air Pollution Control District (APCD). The timeline developed by RMA, with input from the County's Climate Change Action Plan Team, provides for a final report back to your Board in late first quarter 2010 with a final listing of emissions inventories, target year reductions, and completed Emissions Reduction Plan, for your approval.

The County Executive Office is currently exploring grant funding for the implementation of our Emissions Reduction Plan. To this end, the CEO's office will be working with the County's Climate Change Action Plan Team as well as other local governments on an application for the ARRA Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG). This grant program was established to assist counties and cities in implementing projects and programs to reduce total energy use, reduce fossil fuel emissions, and improve efficiency in building and other appropriate sectors. There has been \$49.6 million dollars allocated to this grant program for small counties and cities. The CEO's office will be coming back to your Board in the very near future for approval of this grant application. Additionally, the CEO's office will continue to explore additional funding opportunities as they become available.

This office would like to acknowledge the efforts and support from the General Services Agency, Public Works Agency, Resource Management Agency, Fire Protection District, Department of Airports, Harbor department, Health Care Agency, and Library Services Agency for their support of the Climate Change Action Plan Team. If you have any questions, please contact Jeff Burgh, Program Management Analyst, at 477-1994.

Sincerely,



9<sup>th</sup> MARTY ROBINSON  
County Executive Officer