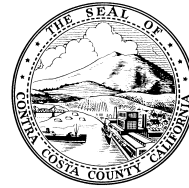


TO: **BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**
FROM: Supervisor Mark DeSaulnier
DATE: May 24, 2005
SUBJECT: **Climate Control**



Contra
Costa
County

SPECIFIC REQUEST(S) OR RECOMMENDATION(S) & BACKGROUND AND JUSTIFICATION

ACKNOWLEDGE that growing scientific evidence has opined that climate change as a result of human activity is a critical environmental problem.

ACKNOWLEDGE that Contra Costa County has been a national leader in implementing progressive, effective, and efficient programs to protect public health and our environment.

ACKNOWLEDGE that the California Air Resources Board passed unanimously, at the direction of the State Legislature and Governors Davis and Schwarzenegger, the world's most aggressive requirements to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

REQUEST that a working group be created to report back to the board on possible actions to be taken to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The working group would be comprised of the heads of the Departments of General Services, Community Development, Public Works, and Health, as well as representatives from the Bay Area Air Quality Management District and the California Air Resources Board. The working group will report back to the Internal Operations Committee within 6 months on possible actions to be taken. Supervisor DeSaulnier's office will coordinate the formation of the working group.

DIRECT this working group to evaluate consolidating the existing county policies in regards to green fleets, SUVs, ZEVs, and green buildings.

CONTINUED ON ATTACHMENT: YES

SIGNATURE: _____

_____**RECOMMENDATION OF COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR** _____**RECOMMENDATION OF BOARD COMMITTEE**
_____**APPROVE** _____**OTHER**

SIGNATURE(S): _____

ACTION OF BOARD ON 5/24/2005 APPROVED AS RECOMMENDED OTHER

See attached addendum

VOTE OF SUPERVISORS

UNANIMOUS (ABSENT None)
AYES: _____ NOES: _____
ABSENT: _____ ABSTAIN: _____

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS IS A TRUE
AND CORRECT COPY OF AN ACTION TAKEN
AND ENTERED ON THE MINUTES OF THE BOARD
OF SUPERVISORS ON THE DATE SHOWN.

ATTESTED _____
JOHN SWEETEN, CLERK OF THE BOARD OF
SUPERVISORS AND COUNTY ADMIN

Contact:

cc: Community Development
General Services
Health Services
Public Works

BY _____, DEPUTY

REQUEST that Supervisor DeSaulnier and Uilkema (as board representatives to the BAAQMD) collaborate with city representatives Mark Ross and Mike Shimansky on ways to incorporate climate control measures within cities.

RECOMMEND the County Administrator and the Retirement Board establish environmentally responsible investment policies with regard to climate control and report back to the Internal Operations and Finance Committees.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact.

BACKGROUND

Climate change is a growing global problem with local implications. Many environmental experts at the California Air Resource Board believe the Delta will be among the first places to be impacted by global warming. Our state has taken the first step in implementing policies to reduce greenhouse gases. It is time for Contra Costa County to look at ways we can lessen our contribution to this alarming trend.

ADDENDUM TO ITEM D.3

MAY 10, 2005

On this day, the Board of Supervisors considered adopting Resolution No. 2005/303 to form a working group to establish policies to be implemented by Contra Costa County to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Chair Uilkema invited the public to speak. There was no comment from the public.

Supervisor DeSaulnier cited reports of the National Academy of Science that indicate there is growing evidence that fossil fuel use is affecting the climate, and affecting public health. He noted that the County has already made efforts to reduce greenhouse gas through policies such as the clean fuels, clean cars, and green buildings programs. He said he hopes to form a working group, as defined in the Resolution, to define best practices, outlining the pros and cons of climate control as well as the short term and long term effects, and to look at how, in the long term, these policies and practices could save the County money. He proposed the working group come back in six months with a list of best practices and fiscal impacts. He suggested that as part of the report back to the Board, the County would join with the other "Cities for Climate Protection," an International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI) program to engage cities, towns, and counties in reducing pollution that causes global warming.

Chair Uilkema suggested doing an inventory to show what has already been implemented, and to show which policies or programs the County may need to augment. She said that this information would enable the working group to be very focused.

Supervisor DeSaulnier responded that Chair Uilkema's suggestion is already included in the Board Order recommendations, but that her suggestion to develop an inventory could be done immediately and presented to the Board in a report within two months.

Supervisor Gioia proposed changing the seventh bullet point on the Board order to read:
RECOMMEND the County Administrator and the Retirement Board explore establishing environmentally responsible investment policies with regard to climate control consistent with the primary objectives of maximizing investment rates of return and minimizing risk, and report back to the Internal Operations and Finance Committees.

By unanimous approval, the Board of Supervisors:

ADOPTED Resolution No. 2005/303 to form a working group to establish policies to be implemented by Contra Costa County to reduce greenhouse gas emissions; DIRECTED the new working group to produce an inventory listing of the County's current policies and programs that reduce greenhouse gas, or that could be augmented to reduce greenhouse gas, and to bring this report back to the Board of Supervisors at its July 26, 2005 meeting; AMENDED the language of the Resolution to read (amended language underlined): "RECOMMEND the County Administrator and the Retirement Board explore establishing environmentally responsible investment policies with regard to climate control consistent with the primary objectives of maximizing investment rates of return and minimizing risk, and report back to the Internal Operations and Finance Committees."