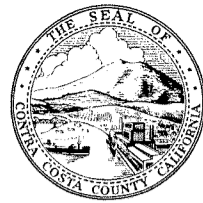


TO: BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
FROM: Climate Change Working Group
DATE: November 15, 2005



Contra
Costa
County

SUBJECT: Climate Protection Report – Measures to Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions

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

RECOMMENDATION(S)

1. ACCEPT the Climate Protection Report from the Climate Change Working Group (CCWG), which lists measures that could reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions generated by County operations and the private sector.
2. EXPAND the CCWG to include the Agricultural Commissioner and Director of Building Inspection to help address potential sources of GHG emissions within their purview.
3. DIRECT the CCWG to report back in February 2006 to identify which measures can be implemented with existing staff and resources and which measures will require additional funding to research, analyze and/or implement.
4. DIRECT the CCWG to report back in February 2006 with the potential costs and benefits of joining the International Council of Local Environmental Initiatives' (ICLEI's) Cities for Climate Protection Campaign, which involves conducting a GHG emission inventory, setting emission reduction goals and preparing/implementing a Climate Action Plan.
5. DIRECT the CCWG to identify any funding sources (e.g. grants) or opportunities to expand the eligibility for funding sources which could be used to implement additional GHG reduction measures and/or join the Cities for Climate Protection Campaign and include in the February 2006 report.

FISCAL IMPACT

The costs associated with staff time spent identifying recommended measures that can be implemented with existing staff and resources are expected to be funded through existing departmental budgets.

Some measures will require more extensive research to determine their effectiveness at reducing GHG emissions give the County's operations. Additionally, some measures, due to their complexity, will require a more detailed analysis of potential implementation issues. This type of work is not included in existing departmental budgets and therefore is not proposed to occur until adequate funding is identified.

CONTINUED ON ATTACHMENT: YES NO SIGNATURE Dennis M. Barry
____ RECOMMENDATION OF COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR ____ RECOMMENDATION OF BOARD COMMITTEE
____ APPROVE ____ OTHER

SIGNATURE(S): _____
ACTION OF BOARD ON _____ APPROVED AS RECOMMENDED ____ OTHER ____

VOTE OF SUPERVISORS

____ UNANIMOUS (ABSENT: _____)
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.

Contact: Deidra Dingman (925-335-1224)
cc: Maurice Shiu, Public Works Department (PWD)
Mitch Avalon, PWD
Dennis Barry, Community Development Department (CDD)
Dr. Bill Walker, Health Services Department (HSD)
Dr. Wendel Brunner, HSD-Public Health
Mike Lango, General Services Department (GSD)

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

BY _____, DEPUTY

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS AND BACKGROUND

On May 24, 2005, the Board of Supervisors formed the Climate Change Working Group (CCWG) which is comprised of Department Heads of the Community Development Department, General Services Department, Health Services Department and Public Works Department. The Board directed the CCWG to report back with an inventory of existing County policies that help minimize climate change.

On August 16, 2005 the CCWG provided a report to the Board listing existing County policies and activities that help protect the climate. The Board directed the CCWG to begin work on a model ordinance identifying best practices to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and report back in three months, additionally stipulating that the County should not incur more than approximately one-third of the costs for developing this ordinance in an equitable fiscal partnership with the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD) and the California Air Resources Board (ARB).

After the August Board meeting, County staff contacted the staff member designated by the BAAQMD and ARB to assist local governments working to mitigate climate change. Their staff indicated that the BAAQMD was not planning on developing a model ordinance because they have found that the many strategies available to local governments are too varied and complex to incorporate into a single ordinance. Instead their staff was planning on compiling a clearinghouse of local government policies, plans and ordinances related to greenhouse gas emissions. However, they had not been able to dedicate sufficient time to this effort and were not certain when this information would be available. Therefore, their staff was not going to be able to provide the level of fiscal partnership to develop a model ordinance as was suggested by the Board's direction.

In light of the Board's direction and the limited resources available, the CCWG changed focus from development of a model ordinance to a listing of potential "best practices". Staff designated by the CCWG developed the attached Climate Protection Report which lists measures to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from County operations and the private sector. Staff does not have the expertise, tools or data to determine the relative benefit to the climate of the many measures listed in the Climate Protection Report. Therefore, for the purposes of this report, staff has interpreted "best practices" to mean those GHG reduction measures the County has implemented or could consider implementing or expanding (if feasible financially or otherwise). All relevant measures known to staff which the County has already either partially or fully implemented are listed in the Climate Protection Report. Those measures which have not been implemented by the County or could be expanded upon are identified under the subheadings "***Additional action(s) to be considered (may be dependent on additional funding)***".

Staff developed the Climate Protection Report based on research of Climate Action Plans and related ordinances prepared by local governments. These documents list the measures they selected to mitigate their local sources of GHG emissions and that are within their authority at the city or county level. Although there are many measures listed in this report, they only represent a fraction of the measures taken by cities and counties throughout the United States.

It is likely that more measures could be identified with input from other knowledgeable sources, including additional County staff from Departments which have authority over other potential local sources of emissions such as buildings (Building Inspection) and agriculture (Agriculture) as well as experts in the field of GHG emissions. Therefore, the CCWG recommends that the Board designate the Agricultural Commissioner and Director of Building Inspection as additional members of the CCWG.

Because there are many measures listed in the Climate Protection Report and limited resources for implementation, staff recommends that the Board direct the CCWG to report back in three months with the following information:

- Identify which measures can be implemented with existing staff and resources and which measures will require additional funding to research, analyze and/or implement.
- Identify potential costs and benefits of joining the International Council of Local Environmental Initiatives' (ICLEI's) Cities for Climate Protection Campaign (see Appendix B of the Climate Protection Report for details).

BACKGROUND/REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS – CONTINUED

- Identify any new funding sources (e.g. grants) that can be used to implement additional GHG reduction measures and/or join the Cities for Climate Protection Campaign as well as identify opportunities to expand the eligibility of funding sources to fund implementation of more GHG reduction measures.

The Climate Protection Report provides a comprehensive sampling of measures to reduce GHG emissions that other local governments can consider implementing. Many of these measures offer benefits beyond climate protection, such as saving energy, conserving natural resources, conserving water, preventing pollution and beautifying communities.

Many local governments, state and federal agencies and the BAAQMD are expected to participate in a Bay Area-wide climate protection summit to be held next summer. This could provide a good opportunity for the County to share information regarding the status of our efforts and encourage other local jurisdictions to take similar actions to help protect the climate.

ATTACHMENTS:

- Summary Table – Measures to Reduce GHG Emissions
- Climate Protection Report