

December 8, 2009

Board of Supervisors
County of Ventura
800 South Victoria Avenue
Ventura, CA 93009

J. Matthew Carroll
Assistant County Executive Officer

Paul Derse
Chief Financial Officer

John K. Nicoll
Human Resources Director

Subject: Receive and File Report Back to the Board on Climate Change Action Plan Status

Recommendation:

It is recommended that your Board receive and file an oral presentation updating the progress made on the Ventura County Climate Change Action Plan (CCAP) addressing County operations.

Background:

On August 4th of this year, your Board received a report updating the progress made on preparing the Ventura County Climate Change Action Plan (CCAP) and the CCAP team's actions. In that report, the CCAP outlined the following major milestones:

- 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.

Discussion:

In June of this year, the Climate Change Action Plan Team began work to meet their identified major milestones. This work began with milestone 1) the review and recommendation of a consulting firm to aid in the development of the County's CCAP, selecting the consulting firm of Ryerson, Master and Associates, Inc. (RyMA). With a consulting firm selected, work then began on meeting milestone 2) the establishment of baseline emissions inventories for the current and prior years.

At this time, it should be remembered that over the past decade the County, in its concern for energy efficiency and the costs associated with energy usage, has shown remarkable forethought in establishing a variety of energy efficiency projects prior to the passing of AB32. Projects include: Replacement of inefficient lighting; Hybrid and PZEV vehicle purchase policy;

Installation of photovoltaic systems; Entering into Power Purchase Agreements for solar energy generation; and Smart design of new facilities.

In October of this year, RyMA prepared a Status Report for the CCAP Team (Exhibit 1) to update the County on our progress in meeting this milestone. While our work is still on schedule, difficulties have been experienced in our data collection. One difficulty has been identifying our electricity use for the years between 2000 and 2005. The County, along with our consultants at RyMA, has been unsuccessful in obtaining records from Southern California Edison (SCE) for the previously-mentioned years as SCE has recently purged those years from their records. GSA has maintained records of electricity usage since 2000 and provided RyMA with an account-based data set from 2000 forward - for GSA managed buildings only. This does not include any of the facilities owned and operated by the Health Care Agency, Airports, and Harbor. The absence of SCE historical data is significant and affects the ability to identify 2000 as the County's base year.

The CCAP Team will be exploring two alternatives in the establishment of our baseline emissions inventories for current and prior years. One alternative would be to utilize the data obtained from SCE and set the County baseline year at 2005, in compliance with Advisory Committee on SB 375 recommendations to the California Air Resources Board. The second alternative would be to work with County agencies on retrieving all historical energy records as a means to reconstruct electricity usage for the years between 2000 and 2005. Current estimates indicate this process could take an additional year and would increase the overall cost of the CCAP. Additionally, initial inquiries indicate that facility records for the Health Care Agency covering calendar years 2000 to 2005 may not be complete, which would then render these years unusable in the establishment of our base year emissions inventory. With the exclusion of these years from our emissions inventory, it will be problematic to set 2000 as our certified baseline year. At present, a certified baseline emissions inventory may not be mandated by the State, but obtaining certification at this time would preclude the County from the requirement of trying to certify at a later date only to find 2005 as the base emissions inventory year acceptable for certification. Setting the base year at 2005 will not diminish the County's past activities for the years between 2000 and 2005, as these activities will aid in meeting the overall goal established by AB32, the reduction of Green House Gas emissions to 1990 levels.

Once the emissions inventory has been completed, the CCAP Team will form a CCAP Steering Committee, whose main purpose will be to complete milestones 4) completion of emissions forecasting/reduction goal for the target year and 5) developing the County's Action Plan for the Board's review. Additionally, the CCAP Team is exploring options for utilizing graduate students from local universities to aid in the development of the Action Plan. The Board can expect another progress report late in the first quarter of 2010. If you have any questions, please contact Jeff Burgh, Program Management Analyst, at 477-1994.

Sincerely,


MARTY ROBINSON
County Executive Officer

Attachment

Exhibit 1- Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory Status Report, County of Ventura