

TO: APCD Community Advisory Council

FROM: Ron Tan, Planning and Technology Supervisor (961-8812)

SUBJECT: Inclusion of a Climate Protection Chapter in the 2010 Clean Air Plan

DATE: March 25, 2009

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Community Advisory Council recommend to the APCD Board of Directors to direct staff to include a Climate Protection Chapter in the 2010 Clean Air Plan

BACKGROUND:

In 2006, Governor Schwarzenegger signed into law Assembly Bill 32 which created the first-ever statewide cap on global warming pollution. AB 32 requires the California Air Resources Board (CARB) to establish a reporting program for greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions beginning with the largest sources of emissions, to determine 1990 GHG emissions and to set that as the statewide limit to be achieved by 2020. AB 32 also requires that CARB publish a list of “Early-Action” GHG reduction measures by June 2007 and adopt regulations for those measures by January 2010. Finally, by January 2009, CARB had to prepare a scoping plan (in consultation with state agencies, including the Public Utilities Commission) that outlines the direct reduction measures, market-based mechanisms, and incentives needed to meet the 2020 emissions cap.

Another important piece of GHG-related legislation is Senate Bill 375. Enacted in 2008, SB 375 requires Metropolitan Planning Organizations like the Santa Barbara County Association of Governments (SBCAG) to develop a “Sustainable Communities Strategy” that meets targeted reductions in greenhouse gas emissions set by the Air Resources Board by September 2010. The legislation also requires the Sustainable Communities Strategy be integrated into an update to SBCAG’s Regional Transportation Plan and Regional Housing Needs Assessment process.

DISCUSSION:

The California Clean Air Act requires the APCD to report our progress in meeting state mandates and revise our 1991 Air Quality Attainment Plan to reflect changing conditions on a triennial basis. The 2010 Clean Air Plan (2010 Plan) will represent the next triennial progress report and must be submitted to the CARB by the end of 2010.

We will begin preparing the 2010 Clean Air Plan (2010 Plan) in mid 2009. As was the case for previous clean air plans, the Community Advisory Council will be provided the opportunity to comment on the 2010 Plan as it is being prepared and ultimately to recommend to the APCD Board of Directors whether the Board should adopt the 2010 Plan.

Because of the afore-discussed legislation, we propose to include a Climate Protection Chapter in the 2010 Plan. This effort would represent our initial effort to integrate climate change issues in a clean air plan. The chapter would be informational and not regulatory in nature, present an overview of global warming issues and at a minimum provide a baseline 2007 CO₂ inventory for the county. This inventory will provide a starting point to track the County's progress in reducing gases that cause global warming. Inventories for future years which reflect "business as usual" practices and those which reflect state mandated controls (e.g., Early-Action measures) might also be included.

Consequently, we are recommending that the Community Advisory Council recommend to the APCD Board of Directors to direct staff to include a Climate Protection Chapter in the 2010 Clean Air Plan.