



**COUNTY OF SAN MATEO**  
Inter-Departmental Correspondence  
County Manager's Office



**DATE:** September 4, 2012  
**BOARD MEETING DATE:** September 11, 2012  
**SPECIAL NOTICE/HEARING:** N/A  
**VOTE REQUIRED:** Majority

**TO:** Honorable Board of Supervisors  
**FROM:** Peggy Jensen, Deputy County Manager  
**SUBJECT:** County of San Mateo Climate Action Plan for Government Operations and 2010 Greenhouse Gas Inventory

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Adopt a Resolution authorizing:

- A. Approval of the County of San Mateo 2010 Government Operations Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory; and
- B. Adoption of the County of San Mateo Government Operations Climate Action Plan

**BACKGROUND:**

The California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006 (Assembly Bill 32) set forth a statewide greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reduction target of reducing emissions to 1990 levels by 2020. To meet this goal, California counties need to reduce GHG emissions from both government operations and community activities in their unincorporated areas.

On October 16, 2007, your Board adopted Resolution No. 069053, supporting the U.S. Cool Counties Climate Stabilization Declaration. This Declaration includes three components: (1) County action – inventory Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions, plan how to reduce GHG emissions, and measure results; (2) Regional targets – 80% regional GHG emission reduction target by 2050 with flat emissions by 2010 and a 10% reduction every five years from 2010 to 2050; and (3) Federal advocacy.

On June 8, 2010, your Board adopted Resolution No. 070802 approving the 2005 GHG Inventory for Government Operations as the baseline for San Mateo County government operations GHG emissions. The 2005 baseline emissions level was 41,517 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalents (CO<sub>2</sub>e). A standard model devised by ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability (ICLEI), a global non-profit specializing in guiding local government climate change response, was used to calculate the 2005 baseline.

## **DISCUSSION:**

### **2010 GHG Inventory**

The 2010 update to the baseline 2005 GHG Inventory, was calculated using the same ICLEI methodology as in 2005. The total emissions in 2010 are calculated at 39,621 metric tons CO<sub>2</sub>e. Operations of County buildings and facilities contributed the most emissions (52%), followed by employees' commute (33%) and the County vehicle fleet (11%). Details and a graphic summary of the 2010 government operations emissions inventory is included in Attachment A.

Overall, the County is meeting its intermediate Cool Counties commitment of flat GHG emissions by 2010. This accomplishment was achieved through a variety of actions. A large solar array was installed on the County parking garage. The facilities staff improved the efficiency of our heating and ventilating systems and installed motion sensors on lights and replaced high energy fixtures with more energy efficient equipment. The Public Works Department installed LED traffic signals and high energy streetlights are being changed to LED fixtures as they need replacement. And, over 25% of County employees commute by public transit and/or work a flex schedule which reduces the GHG emissions from car travel and commutes.

### **Climate Action Plan**

The Government Operations Climate Action Plan (Plan) guides County efforts to continue to reduce GHG emissions. The Plan is based on the 2005 Inventory baseline, and identifies how the County will meet established reduction targets by 2020 and 2050 as required by AB 32 and the Cool Counties Declaration. The County will meet these targets by building on current work in the areas of energy, transportation, and solid waste. Many of the measures are low or no-cost, some are tied to behavior change, and most generate savings over time. A summary of the emissions reductions measures included in the Climate Action Plan is included in Attachment B. The Climate Action plan for the unincorporated areas of San Mateo County is being prepared by the Planning and Building Department. It will be brought to your Board for consideration at a future meeting.

The Resolution has been reviewed and approved by County Counsel. Acceptance of the 2010 Inventory and Plan contributes to the Shared Vision 2025 outcome of an Environmentally Conscious Community by identifying a tangible pathway to reducing the carbon footprint of the County.

## **FISCAL IMPACT:**

There is no cost associated with accepting the 2010 GHG inventory. The only immediate cost associated with adopting the Government Operations Climate Action Plan is \$20,000 which is part of the salary of an extra-help Sustainability Fellow. These funds are available in the Green Team budget and will be included in the September budget revisions. The balance of the fellowship funding will come from SamTrans and PG&E grants. Costs for the specific improvements identified in the Plan will be included in department budgets or brought to your Board prior to implementation.

## **ATTACHMENTS:**

Attachment A – Summary of 2010 Government Operations GHG Inventory  
Attachment B – Summary of Government Operations Climate Action Plan