



MARIPOSA COUNTY

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MEETING: April 8, 2014
TO: The Board of Supervisors
FROM: Sarah Williams, Planning Director
RE: Presentation of the Mariposa County 2010 Baseline GHG Inventory

RECOMMENDATION AND JUSTIFICATION:

Presentation of the March 2014 Mariposa County Community and Municipal Operations 2010 Baseline Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventories Final Report by Sierra Business Council (SBC) staff. The report was prepared with funding support from PG&E's Government and Community Partnership Program. The report was prepared in collaboration with Mariposa County, using methodology and protocols developed by ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability USA.

SBC PROGRAM INFORMATION:

The Sierra Nevada Partnership Program is a collaborative program between PG&E and SBC. There are two options for participation in the program: Option 1 is for preparation of a GHG Inventory and Option 2 is for development of an energy planning document. Option 1 must be completed before Option 2. In 2013, the county was approved to participate in Option 1 of the program.

The partnership program is based on the recognition that "local governments play a fundamental role in addressing the causes and effects of human-caused climate change through their actions at both the community and government operations levels. While local governments cannot solve the problems of climate change by themselves, their policies can dramatically reduce greenhouse gas emissions from a range of sources and can prepare their communities for the potential impacts of climate change." (*Local Government Operations Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory Instructions / Data Gathering*)

There are two parts to the GHG emissions report: A Municipal Emissions Inventory and a Community Emissions Inventory.

Municipal Inventory: Within the context of government operations, local governments have direct control over their emissions-generating activities. The county can reduce energy consumption in buildings and facilities, reduce fuel consumption in fleet vehicles and equipment, reduce the amount of government-generated solid waste that

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is sent to a landfill, and increase the amount of energy that is obtained through alternative energy sources. By quantifying the emissions coming from its operations, the county will have information to choose the most effective approach to reducing its contribution to climate change. The final report includes a "Municipal Operations Baseline Inventory".

Community Inventory: The preparation of the community-wide baseline inventory provides a measure or quantification of emissions at a point in time (2010 for this study) for potential use in climate action planning in the future, to enable tracking of emissions performance over time, and to deal with CEQA and environmental review procedures.

OTHER CLIMATE CHANGE ACTIONS IN COUNTY:

Mariposa County's General Plan (GP) was adopted in 2006, before climate planning was considered a critical and required component of planning efforts. The County has been proactive in working to adapt and begin consideration of climate change in its planning efforts, most recently with the Catheys Valley Community Plan that was adopted in December, 2012 and includes more detailed goals for climate planning in that community. While these two documents are the only documents which specifically address goals for climate planning in the county, there are many other actions which have been taken in the county including:

- 1) participation in Yosemite Area Regional Transportation System (YARTS), a popular transit system used by visitors, employees and students;
- 2) implementation of current Title 24 standards to all development permits by the Building Department (including CA Green Building Standards Code, Solar Photovoltaic Systems Article from the Electrical Code, and CA Energy Code);
- 3) adoption of GP policies by Board of Supervisors (BOS) to ensure development occurs first where services are located, to cluster commercial and service development in planning areas (towns and communities), to preserve large tracts of agricultural lands and continue participation in the Williamson Act (LCA) program, to encourage and allow home businesses, and to mandate implementation of the County's Transit Plan and the Bicycle, Pedestrian and Equestrian Facilities Plan;
- 4) operation of an Automated In-Vessel Composting Facility at the County Landfill since 2006, including a sorter (to increase recycling), and composting green waste and Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) fines;
- 5) operation of 4 landfill transfer stations throughout the county;
- 6) operation of e-waste, sharps and recycling center at the County Landfill;
- 7) local Air Pollution Control District (APCD) staff involvement in decisions on



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prescribed burning with NPS and United States Forest Service (USFS);

8) APCD use of 4 hybrid vehicles; and

9) prohibition of drive-through facilities in town of Mariposa.

The County is looking forward to continuing cooperative efforts with its predominant regional partner, the National Park Service (NPS) at Yosemite. NPS has partnered with the county on landfill facilities (including the composting facility) and is a partner with YARTs. Recognizing the tremendous numbers of visitors to the area each year, it is critical Mariposa County continue to work closely with the NPS on climate change planning and strategies.

BACKGROUND AND HISTORY OF BOARD ACTIONS:

The Board of Supervisors adopted Resolution No. 2013-253 on June 18, 2013 endorsing an application for the Sierra Nevada Partnership Program / County of Mariposa County Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Inventory and Authorizing the Chairman of the Board of Supervisors to Sign a Participation Agreement.

This action by the Board was taken in acknowledgement of the following county-wide benefits:

- 1) objective information will enable the public and decision makers to make educated decisions about energy efficiency programs in the future for cost savings for residents, business owners and visitors (lower energy bills and operating costs, potential coordination between governmental decision-makers for land use and transportation, improved air quality, and improved quality of life and quality of visitor experience);
- 2) quantification and establishment of baseline emissions data is the first step in objectively evaluating a program or project's reduction of greenhouse gases;
- 3) the program enables general fund dollars to be used for other public purposes; and
- 4) there will be no direct costs to county residents; in fact residents have already paid into funding for this program through their PG&E billings.

Following award of the grant (grant work valued at approximately \$25,000), work on the inventory project began in September 2013. County staff who worked cooperatively with SBC staff to gather and provide information included the Environmental Health Division Manager from the Health Department, the Facilities Manager from Public Works, the Fleet Superintendent from Public Works, the Plant

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Operations Technician from Public Works, the Solid Waste & Recycling Manager from Public Works, the Administrative Analyst from Public Works, and the Planning Department Director.

METHODOLOGIES USED IN STUDY:

The methodologies used in the study are in line with the Local Government Operations Protocol (LGO Protocol), which is a new national standard developed and adopted by the California Air Resources Board (ARB) in conjunction with ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability USA, the California Climate Action registry, and the Climate Registry. LGO Protocol provides standard accounting principles, boundaries, quantification methods, and procedures for reporting greenhouse gas emissions from local government operations.

ALTERNATIVES AND CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION:

Alternatives:

1. Take formal action by resolution to approve the report. If the Board is interested in this alternative, staff recommends continuing the item to a future agenda in order to have the report peer reviewed.
2. Direct staff to pursue Option 2 of the program, for development of an energy planning document. Proposals for the 2014-2015 are due in late May 2014.

ATTACHMENTS:

140408 Mariposa County GHG_Inventory Final Report (DOCX)

140308 Presentation Slides (PDF)

Climate Change Land Use & Environmental Laws (PDF)

CAO RECOMMENDATION