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## Notice of Public Review & Public Hearing

### REVISED Climate Action Plan for Unincorporated Napa County

The Napa County Departments of Conservation, Development & Planning and Environmental Management have released a REVISED Climate Action Plan for unincorporated Napa County. Copies of the revised plan and a proposed checklist that would be used to implement the plan are available upon request at Suite 210, 1195 Third Street in Napa or on the County's website at <http://www.countyofnapa.org/CAP/>.

The Planning Commission will conduct a public hearing about the revised plan and the checklist at 1:30 PM on January 18, 2012 in Suite 305 at 1195 Third Street in downtown Napa. At that time, the Commission will decide whether to forward the revised plan to the Board of Supervisors for adoption and whether to begin use of the proposed checklist on a trial basis.

### Project Description & Objectives

The REVISED Climate Action Plan provides a baseline inventory of green house gas (GHG) emissions from all sources in unincorporated Napa County as well as strategies for reducing those emissions to 1990 levels by 2020 consistent with California Assembly Bill 32 from 2006. Emission reduction strategies included in the revised plan would be implemented by the State and the County itself, as well as by individual project applicants. Specifically, the revised plan would require discretionary projects approved by the County to reduce their "business as usual" emissions by 39%. The proposed checklist would be used by project applicants to select the emission reduction strategies they would implement, and would allow staff and consultants to calculate project emissions and emission reductions.

In addition to reducing Napa County's GHG emissions consistent with State policy, the revised plan is intended to (a) reduce uncertainties and risks for individual projects being reviewed pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA); (b) give project applicants the information and the flexibility they need to meet plan requirements by selecting emission reduction strategies that are consistent with their objectives and lower in cost than other possible strategies; and (c) lay the foundation for a local offset program so that any resulting habitat restoration, land conservation, and energy efficiencies would accrue to Napa County rather than elsewhere.

## Background

Preparation of a GHG inventory and emission reduction plan for unincorporated Napa County implements Action Items CON CPSP-1 and 2 from the Napa County General Plan (2008), and builds off of the non-binding Climate Action Framework that was developed and adopted by the Napa County Transportation & Planning Agency (NCTPA) in 2009.

On January 28, 2011, the Napa County Department of Conservation, Development & Planning, released a draft Climate Action Plan for the unincorporated Napa County. The Planning Commission conducted a public hearing on the draft plan on February 16, 2011 and written comments were accepted until the close of business on April 4, 2011.

Since April, County staff and consultants have met with interested stakeholders and worked to ensure that all comments have been addressed and/or responded to. Revisions to the plan include more refined projections of future vineyard development based on historic data, more refined calculations of agricultural emissions from a variety of sources, and an analysis of emission reduction “credits” available to business which participate in a third party certification program such as Napa Green.

In accordance with CEQA and the State CEQA Guidelines (Sections 15168), the County is proposing to use the program level Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the General Plan Update (SCH# 2005102088, certified June 2008) as the EIR for the Climate Action Plan. As discussed in a separate memorandum and checklist (initial study) dated January 28, 2011, this approach is consistent with CEQA and the State CEQA Guidelines because (1) the proposed plan is within the scope of the General Plan approved in 2008, and (2) the program EIR prepared for the General Plan Update adequately describes the activity for purposes of CEQA. In addition, (3) the County has not identified any changes in the General Plan, changes in circumstances under which the General Plan Update was adopted, or new information of substantial importance that would necessitate subsequent environmental review pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15162. A copy of the General Plan Update EIR may be reviewed during business hours at the Department of Conservation, Development and Planning, 1195 Third Street, Suite 210, in Napa, CA or on the County’s website at <http://www.countyofnapa.org/Pages/DepartmentDocuments.aspx?id=4294967660>. Reviewers are particularly directed to Section 3.4.4 of the Final EIR (on the website, see the document called “FEIR Responses Intro” and scroll to p. 3.0-49).

## Next Steps

Interested members of the public are encouraged to review the revised plan and to submit written or oral comments at the meeting on January 18, 2012. Comments and questions may also be submitted in advance by emailing [hillary.gitelman@countyofnapa.org](mailto:hillary.gitelman@countyofnapa.org) or [steve.lederer@countyofnapa.org](mailto:steve.lederer@countyofnapa.org). At the close of the hearing on January 18, 2012, the Planning Commission will decide whether to forward the revised plan to the Board of Supervisors for adoption and whether to begin use of the proposed checklist on a trial basis. The plan will not become effective until it is adopted by the Board of Supervisors.

Once adopted, the plan will not be static, but will be reviewed and revised to reflect changes in circumstances and new information. This will be particularly important as the year 2020 approaches.