



A Tradition of Stewardship  
A Commitment to Service

Agenda Date: 7/14/2015

Agenda Placement: 6H

## NAPA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS Board Agenda Letter

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**TO:** Board of Supervisors

**FROM:** David Morrison - Director  
Planning, Building and Environmental Services

**REPORT BY:** JASON HADE, PLANNER III - (707) 259-8757

**SUBJECT:** Professional Services Agreement with Ascent Environmental Inc. for Preparation of the Climate Action Plan

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### **RECOMMENDATION**

Director of Planning, Building and Environmental Services requests approval of and authorization for the Chair to sign an agreement with Ascent Environmental, Inc., for a maximum of \$99,890 for the term July 14, 2015 through June 30, 2016 to prepare a Climate Action Plan (CAP) for the County of Napa.

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

A proposed CAP was recommended for adoption by the Planning Commission in early 2012 and later considered by the Board of Supervisors, who sent the document back to staff for additional revisions. Approval of the recommended action will enable staff to complete the CAP as directed by the Board of Supervisors and Planning Commission at the special meeting of March 10, 2015.

Ascent Environmental, Inc. is not a local vendor.

### **FISCAL IMPACT**

Is there a Fiscal Impact?	Yes
Is it currently budgeted?	Yes
Where is it budgeted?	Planning, Building and Environmental Services
Is it Mandatory or Discretionary?	Discretionary

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Discretionary Justification:	The contract to prepare the CAP can be accommodated through the existing budget process and would be paid for by the General Plan fee.
Is the general fund affected?	Yes
Future fiscal impact:	Implementation of the Climate Action Plan would extend into future fiscal years.
Consequences if not approved:	If this contract is not approved, staff would be unable to complete the CAP.
Additional Information:	

### **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT**

ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION: The proposed action is not a project as defined by 14 California Code of Regulations 15378 (State CEQA Guidelines) and therefore CEQA is not applicable. As a project under CEQA, environmental review of the CAP will be conducted prior to adoption.

### **BACKGROUND AND DISCUSSION**

Among the actions required in the General Plan was the preparation of a CAP. The Planning Department started work on the document in 2011. In early 2012, a proposed CAP was recommended for adoption by the Planning Commission and subsequently considered by the Board of Supervisors. However, the CAP was not adopted and was instead referred back to staff for additional revisions. Among other things, the Board requested that the CAP be revised to better address transportation emissions, and to credit past accomplishments and voluntary efforts. The Board also directed that the Planning Commission consider "best practices" when reviewing projects until a revised CAP can be prepared and adopted. The work remains unfinished.

At a special meeting of the Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors held on March 10, 2015, staff received direction to complete the preparation of the CAP.

The CAP will incorporate current guidance from the California Air Resources Board, as well as, the State Legislature (i.e. Senate Bill 32). Several voluntary adaptation actions are already underway such as the Napa River Flood Project, Updated Hazard Mitigation Plan, Green Business Certification Program, Marin Clean Energy program, oak woodland protection policies and programs, a partnership with Pepperwood Preserve, Sustainable Napa County, and Recycled Water Program which will be incorporated into the adaptation section of the CAP. Key internal and external stakeholders will be engaged through public outreach efforts scheduled to take place throughout the preparation of the CAP.

A CAP consistency review checklist will also be developed to aid project applicants in determining whether a project is consistent with the County's CAP. The checklist is intended to provide a streamlined review process for proposed new development projects which are subject to discretionary review and trigger environmental review pursuant to CEQA. As a qualified greenhouse gas emission reduction plan, the CAP will be used in cumulative impact analysis concerning proposed development projects allowing those projects which demonstrate consistency with the CAP to utilize this streamlining process. Projects that achieve consistency with the CAP and the County's General Plan policies may be able to conclude no additional significant environmental effects in their

CEQA review.

Ascent Environmental, Inc. was selected to complete the CAP as a sole-source provider under County Purchasing Policy guidelines based upon a number of factors including their history of work experience in Napa County including the preparation of Environmental Impact Reports for several recent high profile projects and specialized training and exceptional expertise in the field of climate change adaptation. Ascent staff have provided technical support on GHG emissions to the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG), California Air Pollution Control Officers Association, California Air Resources Board, Sacramento Area Council of Governments (SACOG), and the State Attorney General's Office. Additionally, the proposed contract calls for the CAP to be completed within one year and Ascent's unique capacity and knowledge are critical to achieving that goal.

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### **SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS**

A . Professional Services Agreement

CEO Recommendation: Approve

Reviewed By: Liz Habkirk