



A Tradition of Stewardship
A Commitment to Service

Agenda Date: 2/16/2011

Agenda Placement: 9B

Napa County Planning Commission Board Agenda Letter

TO: Napa County Planning Commission
FROM: John McDowell for Hillary Gitelman - Director
Conservation, Development & Planning
REPORT BY: Hillary Gitelman, Director - 253-4805
SUBJECT: Draft Climate Action Plan

RECOMMENDATION

DRAFT CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

Request: Presentation and discussion of the proposed Climate Action Plan. Commission and public comments are requested.

CEQA Status: 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 memorandum and initial study checklist 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 offices of the Department of Conservation, Development and Planning, 1195 Third Street in Napa, 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).

Staff Recommendation: Conduct a public hearing, discuss the proposal and provide direction to staff. No formal action is requested at this time.

Staff Contact: Hillary Gitelman 253-4805 or hillary.gitelman@countyofnapa.org.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Napa County Department of Conservation, Development & Planning, working with the Napa County Department of Environmental Management and consultants at ICF, has prepared a draft Climate Action Plan for unincorporated Napa County and is requesting public review and comments. (A copy of the draft plan is attached.)

Today's hearing is for the purpose of receiving comments from the public and members of the Commission. Written and email comments are also being requested on the draft document and the associated environmental evaluation (also attached) by the close of business on April 4, 2011. [Note new date.] Written comments may be submitted by email to Hillary.gitelman@countyofnapa.org or by US Mail c/o 1195 Third Street, Suite 210, Napa, CA 94559. The proposed plan, incorporating changes and additions based on public comments, is tentatively scheduled for consideration by the Commission at their meeting of April 20, 2011 [note new date], at which time the Commission will consider whether to recommend the plan to the Board of Supervisors for adoption. The proposed plan will not become effective until it is adopted by the Board of Supervisors in May of this year or later.

Once adopted, the Climate Action Plan is intended to provide 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 (AB 32). Proposed emission reduction strategies would require specific actions by the County and would require applicants seeking approval of discretionary projects from the County (i.e. certain development projects and new vineyards on slopes of >5%) to meet specific targets. Worksheets are included in the draft plan to assist project applicants in calculating project emissions and reduction requirements.

FISCAL IMPACT

Is there a Fiscal Impact? No

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION: 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 memorandum and initial study checklist 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 offices of the Department of Conservation, Development and Planning, 1195 Third Street in Napa, 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).

BACKGROUND AND DISCUSSION

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. The draft Climate Action Plan has been developed in conformance with the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD) CEQA Guidelines (2010), and is intended as a “qualified plan” that will serve to streamline environmental review of subsequent projects pursuant to CEQA. Once adopted, the plan will not be static, but will be reviewed and revised as needed to reflect changes in circumstances over time. This will be particularly important as the AB 32 horizon year of 2020 approaches, and after any new General Plan amendments that are adopted by the County.

Please see attached documents, including "Frequently Asked Questions" for more information.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

- A . Public Notice
- B . Draft Climate Action Plan
- C . CEQA Document
- D . Climate Action Plan FAQ
- E . Supplemental Public Notice

Napa County Planning Commission: Approve

Reviewed By: John McDowell