

YOLO COUNTY CLIMATE CHANGE COMPACT

MINUTES AND NOTES FROM THE JUNE 20, 2008 MEETING

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Supervisor Rexroad welcomed attendees and convened the meeting, with particular thanks to UC Davis for providing the room, and to Amy King for setting up the conference call.

STATUS OF COMPACT RESOLUTIONS

To date, the Climate Action Compact Resolution has been enacted by Yolo County, Yolo County Housing, the City of Woodland, the City of West Sacramento, the City of Davis, the Davis Joint Unified School District, and UC Davis. The City of Winters plans to adopt the resolution in early July, and the Yolo County Flood Control and Water Conservation District and the Woodland Joint Unified School District are also in the process of adopting the resolution.

PARTNERSHIP WITH PG&E

Supervisor Rexroad announced that Yolo County has entered into a partnership with PG&E to provide \$14,000 to fund the application fee for every jurisdiction in the county to apply for membership in the California Climate Action Registry. Staff will be following up with each jurisdiction.

PARTNERSHIP WITH THE YOLO-SOLANO AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

Supervisor Rexroad announced that Yolo County has received a grant of \$18,000 from the Y-SAQMD to assist cities and schools in establishing climate action plans, including a focus on methods of reducing vehicle miles traveled. Staff will be following up with each jurisdiction.

UPDATE FROM PG&E

John Mott-Smith (transmitting information from James Morante of PG&E who was ill and unable to attend) indicated that PG&E was initiating a Yolo County Residential Shade Tree program in conjunction with the Woodland Tree Foundation, TREE Davis, and the City of Winters, and that they were co-sponsoring, with Y-SAQMD, a lawnmower exchange program.

UPDATES FROM EACH JURISDICTION

CITY OF DAVIS: Reported that the city had established a Climate Action Team and that the first public forum to solicit input from the community was planned for June 26th. They also indicated preliminary exploration of the possibility of producing 30 MW of electricity from photovoltaic systems.

CITY OF WEST SACRAMENTO: Reported that the city council had adopted the Compact Resolution, had refined its Transportation Management Plan, and was setting a LEED standard for all new city buildings, purchasing hybrid vehicles, installing solar at the Port, and had a “bike barn” for city employees to use bikes for city business around town.

YOLO COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT: Reported that they were in the process of adopting the Compact Resolution.

DAVIS JOINT UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT: Reported that the School Board had adopted the Compact Resolution, and had established a “Green Schools Committee” consisting of two board members and the student representative to jump start their “Green Schools Initiative.

WOODLAND JOINT UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT: Expressed interest in joining the California Climate Action Registry and indicated they were in the process of enacting the Compact Resolution.

CITY OF WINTERS: Reported that they had held their “Celebrate E.A.R.T.H.” festival on May 17th, the hottest day of the year to that date. The festival was a success, featuring a wide variety of activities, including: entertainment, food, wine tasting, demonstrations of solar and energy efficiency equipment , an “Energy Answer Man,” electric and hybrid vehicles, recycling and composting demonstrations, and a community forum.

CITY OF WOODLAND: Reported that they had established a Climate Change Committee that includes two members of the city council, as well as members of the community, they had designated staff to work on putting together a climate action plan, were examining their electricity account structure and had identified significant savings, were looking into joining the Climate Action Registry and had brought on an intern to assist with this process. They also reported that the Woodland Tree Foundation was sponsoring a discussion on Sustainable Urban Forests for June 25th.

UC DAVIS: Reported that they had adopted the Compact Resolution, and that the university had created a new Office of Environmental Stewardship and Sustainability, and appointed a Vice Chancellor to head up this new program. They are also identifying a multi-departmental Sustainability Committee and are recruiting for a Principal Planner and a Sustainability Analyst. They have set aside \$100,000 per year for two years for a “Green Fund” to support the program and get it up and running, as well as \$20,000 per year for two years to provide grants to students for sustainability projects. They are committed to producing a Climate Action Plan by December of this year, are in their 3rd year of collecting data and reporting to the Climate Action Registry, and have undertaken an additional responsibility to track staff commute and business travel. Student Housing has established a “Sustainability Coordinator” position and every new student will receive a metal bottle and a canvass bag (about 5,000 students per year) to introduce them to the culture of sustainability as they enter as freshmen. The John Muir Institute is conducting an analysis of the planned West Village development to measure the potential impacts/benefits of locating university staff closer to the university. All university buildings with energy meters are now connected to a central tracking system.

YOLO COUNTY HOUSING: Reported that they have adopted the Compact Resolution, switched to recyclable/compostable paper and saved 10% on the costs, set up a program to recycle their toner cartridges, and have a contract to do an energy analysis of all their properties. They are interested in joining the Climate Action Registry and the federal

Department of Housing and Urban Development is coming to tour their facility and observe their energy efficiency programs.

YOLO COUNTY: Reported that they had received a grant of \$18,000 from Y-SAQMD to assist cities and schools and districts in establishing climate action plans as well as \$14,000 from PG&E to assist the same jurisdictions in applying to join the Climate Action Registry. In addition, they have created a web site for climate change activities, had convened a meeting of Public Information Officers in the SACOG region to discuss climate change, are building three new energy efficient libraries, have all new lighting in the county administration building, and have officially incorporated energy efficiency as a regular topic for Board meetings.

AB 32: IMPLEMENTING THE GLOBAL WARMING SOLUTIONS ACT OF 2006

Cara Martinson and Kiana Buss of the California State Association of Counties reported on the status of the "Scoping Plan" (the blueprint for achieving the greenhouse gas reduction targets required by state law). Cara indicates she uses the Yolo County Compact as an example of local efforts to provide regional leadership. The ARB is required to adopt the implementation plan prior to 1/1/09. The state is developing "protocols" for local government inventories of energy use and greenhouse gas production. Local government will be asked to contribute through its land use and zoning powers, primarily by encouraging greater density, mixed use, compact cities, transit oriented development, and other strategies to reduce vehicle miles travelled.

FEDERAL CLIMATE CHANGE LEGISLATION UPDATE

Ken Markowitz, Senior Counsel for Akin, Gump, Strauss, Hauer, and Feld, LLP, Yolo County's lobbying firm in Washington D.C., joined the group by conference call from Washington and discussed legislation at the federal level and its likely effect on local governments.

THE ENERGY INDEPENDENCE AND SECURITY ACT OF 2007: Enacted last year, this new law is intended to recognize the appropriate roles for different levels of government and provide energy efficiency block grants to cities and counties over a specified population (cities 35,000; counties 200,000) level. Staff will follow up and provide further information on this potential funding source.

FOOD, CONSERVATION, AND ENERGY ACT OF 2008 (aka the "Farm Bill"): Provides \$1 billion for investments in biofuels primarily from non-corn sources, and there may be research money for institutions such as UC Davis.

RENEWABLE ENERGY PRODUCTION TAX CREDIT: It appears that without unexpected agreement, the solar tax credit may expire at the end of this year.

LIEBERMAN-WARNER CLIMATE SECURITY ACT (S 3036): Would establish a cap and trade system and could include provisions such as one to require states to certify that building codes for residential and commercial development address energy efficiency. The proposed cap and trade system could auction a significant number of credits, and also distribute some as unauctioned emission allowances to the states to encourage energy efficiency, carbon sequestration, etc. It is possible that the federal legislation could include a preemption clause that would supersede California law related to climate change.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:05 am.

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