



February 18, 2009
NCTPA BOARD Agenda Item 9.3
Continued From: New
Action Requested: INFORMATION/ACTION

NAPA COUNTY TRANSPORTATION AND PLANNING AGENCY TAC Agenda Letter

TO: NCTPA Board
FROM: Paul W. Price, Executive Director
REPORT BY: Eliot Hurwitz, Program Manager – Transportation and Land Use
(707) 259-8782 / Email: ehurwitz@nctpa.net
SUBJECT: Napa Countywide Climate Protection Program - Report 1

RECOMMENDATION

Information Only.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The report presents to the NCTPA Board the initial findings of the Circuit Rider program focusing on the first comprehensive carbon footprint for Napa County, including breakdown by jurisdiction and by source.

The NCTPA Board has begun to undertake the issue of Global Warming/Climate Protection/Energy Efficiency at a time of increased awareness and activity on the issue. The topic is given further urgency by the passage of the California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006 (aka AB 32) which has accelerated action on the issue statewide, mandating a reduction in statewide greenhouse gas emissions to 1990 levels by 2020 with further aggressive reduction targets by 2050. On a parallel track, SB 375, signed into law in September 2008, mandates coordinated regionwide transportation/land use planning to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. This legislation will be reflected in upcoming statewide transportation and housing planning processes.

Nonetheless, smaller jurisdictions, such as those here in Napa, continued to be challenged by the staffing demands to respond to this issue. In order to provide some assistance to our local jurisdictions in addressing climate protection/energy efficiency issues, NCTPA has successfully applied for a one year grant from the Bay Area Air Quality Management District to support a "Climate Protection Circuit Rider for Napa County."

It is important to note that Napa operates as an integrated countywide system and although the report presents results distributed by jurisdiction, no changes in any one jurisdiction will adequately address the countywide situation and that Napa is also dynamically linked to regional, statewide, national and global solutions.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

Is there a Fiscal Impact? No

CEQA REQUIREMENTS

The proposed action is not a project as defined in Section 15378 of the CEQA Guidelines, which define a project as an action which has the potential for resulting in either a direct physical change in the environment or a reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change. Accordingly, no additional CEQA review is required at this time.

BACKGROUND AND DISCUSSION

NCTPA has executed a contract with MIG, represented by Mr. Steve Kokotas who is serving as the Napa County Circuit Rider. The Climate Protection Campaign organization, which recently completed the Sonoma County Climate Protection Action Plan, is a subconsultant to MIG. Mr. Kokotas will report the results of the first phase of this project, the carbon footprint for all of Napa County and for each jurisdiction.

Since the beginning of the grant period the Circuit Rider has held numerous meetings with staff in the Cities of Calistoga, St. Helena, Napa, American Canyon, the Town of Yountville and the County of Napa to discuss their efforts to establish preliminary draft climate protection plans that include emissions from community sources and from municipal operations. Local governments are challenged, by themselves, to find the financial, staff and technical resources to pursue development of such a program. The Circuit Rider in building on the current efforts of Napa's Cities and County to bring expertise to each jurisdiction as well as assume some of the specific labor involved in each place necessary to put together a viable comprehensive climate protection program.

The Climate Protection Circuit Rider has met with the City Managers and Public Works and Planning staffs of each jurisdiction. The Climate Protection Project Team has been functioning as:

- Technical advisor—assisting staff in
 - collecting and analyzing data on energy and fuel use and energy finance
 - evaluating transferability of strategies from other jurisdictions that have set community emissions reduction goals.
 - working with other technical experts to assess impacts of potential reduction measures

- Trainer – The Climate Protection Project Team coordinated a multi-jurisdictional workshop designed to assist staff in understanding the data and protocols necessary to use the ICLEI software to perform analysis of their local GHG emissions.
- Networker/convener – the Climate Protection Circuit Rider has kept key staff and organizations apprised of the project status, convened multi-jurisdictional meetings and coordinated assistance from regional technical service providers.
- Technical resource – helping local staff to create a countywide greenhouse gas emissions inventory that includes municipal operations as well as the communities at large.

The initial greenhouse gas profiles for the jurisdictions of Napa County are presented in the attached report “Draft report on the Carbon Footprint of Napa County Jurisdictions”.

Supportive projects that are currently underway in the community include the Sustainable Napa initiative of the Gasser Foundation in partnership with non-profit organizations countywide, the Napa Green Business Program, spearheaded by Napa County, the “Napa Green” programs of the Napa Valley Vintners and other programs such as green building programs.

The regional effects are also being seriously considered by regional agencies at this time, especially in response to SB 375.

At a national level, there are also new developments that will affect our own state, regional and local options. For example, the new administration has signaled a change in national priorities, pledging to implement a national cap-and-trade program to reduce greenhouse gas emissions 80 percent by 2050 and to make the U.S. a “leader on climate change”.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

- Attachments:
- (1) Presentation from Steve Kokotas, Napa County Climate Protection/ Energy Efficiency Circuit Rider
 - (2) Draft Napa Countywide Carbon Footprint Results
 - (3) January 26, 2009 NOAA Study on Climate Change – “New Study Shows Climate Change Largely Irreversible”
 - (4) Staff Memo to NCTPA Board Regarding SB 375
 - (5) January 23, 2009 Joint Policy Committee Policies for SB 375
 - (6) September 20, 2008 SB 375 Governor’s Signing Message