



## MEMORANDUM

**To:** Community Resources Commission

**From:** Erik V. Lundquist, Associate Planner

**CC:** Jim McCann, City Manager  
Jonathan Mills, Police Chief  
Charlene Gallina, Planning and Building Director

**Date:** December 5, 2008

**Re:** Climate Action Program

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### A. Global Climate Change

Global climate change is a subject that is gaining statewide, national and international attention. Human activities such as fossil fuel combustion, deforestation and other land use changes are resulting in the accumulation of greenhouse gases (GHGs) in the atmosphere, the most prevalent of which is carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>). Further GHG emissions will result in an increase in the earth's average surface temperature, commonly referred to as global warming, which is expected to affect weather patterns, average sea level, ocean acidification, and precipitation rates. Recent reports released by the State of California indicate that climate change could have profound impacts on California's water supply. A report prepared by the California Climate Change Center, concludes global warming is a very serious issue requiring changes in the management of natural resources, water supply, and public health. In the fourth assessment report released by the UN's intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), it was stated that "Warming of the climate system is unequivocal" and that climate change will cause "abrupt and irreversible changes."

California is a substantial contributor of global greenhouse gases, emitting over 400 million metric tons of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) a year. Because primary greenhouse gases have a long lifetime in the atmosphere, accumulate over time, and are generally well mixed, their impact on the atmosphere is mostly independent of the point of emission. Although GHG emissions are not currently addressed in federal regulations, the State of California recently passed the Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006 (AB32) which seeks to reduce GHG emission generated by California.

**B. State Mandates regarding Greenhouse Gases**

**Executive Order S-3-05.** In June 2005, Governor Schwarzenegger established California's greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets in Executive Order S-3-05. The Executive Order established the following goals:

- Greenhouse gas emissions should be reduced to 2000 levels by 2010;
- Greenhouse gas emissions should be reduced to 1990 levels by 2020; and
- Greenhouse gas emissions should be reduced to 80 percent below 1990 levels by 2050.

The Secretary of the California Environmental Protection Agency is required to coordinate efforts of various agencies in order to collectively and efficiently reduce greenhouse gases.

**Assembly Bill 32 (Nuñez).** The State's Legislature enacted Assembly Bill 32, the California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006, which Governor Schwarzenegger signed on September 27, 2006 to further the goals of Executive Order S-3-05. Assembly Bill 32 represents the first enforceable statewide program to limit greenhouse gas emissions from all major industries with penalties for noncompliance. The foremost objective of California Air Resources Board (CARB), tasked with implementing AB32, is to adopt regulations that require the reporting and verification of statewide greenhouse gas emissions. The initial State goal is to limit greenhouse gas emissions to 1990 levels by 2020. Assembly Bill 32 allows CARB to adopt market based compliance mechanisms to meet the specified requirements. CARB is ultimately responsible for monitoring compliance and enforcing any rule, regulation, order, emission limitation, emission reduction measure, or market based compliance mechanism adopted. In January 2008, the first deadline for Assembly Bill 32, a statewide cap for 2020 emissions based on 1990 levels was adopted. By January 2009, CARB must adopt mandatory reporting rules for significant sources of greenhouse gases and also draft a plan indicating how reductions in significant greenhouse gas sources would be achieved through regulations, market mechanisms, and other actions. In June, 2008, CARB produced a Draft Local government Operations Protocol, outlining the procedures necessary for reporting community level GHG emissions.

**C. City of Calistoga Aligned with State Policies**

On December 4<sup>th</sup>, 2007 the City Council passed Resolution 2007-122 authorizing the City to join with the Napa County Transportation Planning Agency (NCTPA) to participate in the Cities for Climate Protection (CCP) campaign sponsored by the International Council for local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI). As an ICLEI Member and a participant in the Cities for Climate Protection Campaign the City will:

1. Take a leadership role in promoting public awareness about the causes and impacts of climate change.

2. Undertake the Cities for Climate Protection program's milestones to reduce both greenhouse gas and air pollution emissions throughout the community, specifically:
  - Conduct a greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions inventory and forecast to determine the source and quantity of GHG emissions in the jurisdiction;
  - Consider to establish a greenhouse gas emissions reduction target; and
  - Consider an action and implementation plan with both existing and future actions which, when implemented, will meet the local greenhouse gas reduction target.

On June 3, 2008, the City Council setting forth the City Council priority projects for Fiscal Year 2008/09. One of the priority projects included the exploration and adoption of "green" environmental policies and initiatives. Typical policies and initiatives may include, but are not limited to, a Green Building Ordinance, Water Conservation Regulations energy efficiency measures to municipal buildings and facilities, streetlight retrofits, alternative transportation improvements and alternative energy applications.

#### **D. Municipal Activities to Date**

Subsequent to becoming a member of ICLEI and joining forces with NCTPA, the City has adopted CCP's framework to ultimately identify and reduce GHG emissions. This framework consists of five steps:

1. Conduct an inventory of local greenhouse gas emissions (February 2008).
2. Set GHG reduction targets (Spring 2009).
3. Complete a Climate Action Plan defining programs and actions that will achieve those targets (Summer 2009).
4. Implement the Climate Action Plan, modify as needed.
5. Monitor and report on progress.

The City has commenced the first step in this process to quantify the current greenhouse gas emissions from both the municipality and from the various community sources (transportation, residential homes, business and industry).<sup>1</sup> This information will help identify key emissions sectors, help focus reduction strategies and set initial levels from which to track program success. A comprehensive greenhouse gas inventory involves completing two assessments: a community wide assessment and a separate inventory for municipal sources. The municipal inventory represents the subset of the community wide emissions over which city government has direct control. Once completed, these inventories will provide the basis for forecasting future emissions trajectories. The inventories will be presented in the form of a community-scale assessment report.

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<sup>1</sup> Emissions data for this inventory came from numerous sources including City billing records, PG & E, California Energy Commission, CalTrans, ABAG, Upper Valley Disposal and departmental record keeping.

**E. City of Calistoga Program Staff**

Jim McCann	City Manager
Jonathan Mills	Police Chief
Dan Takasugi	Director of Public Works
Bill McBride	Maintenance Superintendent
Warren Schenstrom	Water Systems Superintendent
Charlene Gallina	Director of Planning and Building
Brad Cannon	Building Official
Erik V. Lundquist	Associate Planner

**F. Next Steps**

The Commission is expected to play a pivotal role in this process to insure that the Plan achieves local goals and objectives. The Commission will guide outreach and maintain focus on local perspectives by recommending targets and implementation strategies for both public aspects and actions and private initiatives and roles.

Once the Inventory is completed, the Community Resources Commission will be called to assist in target setting and the recognition of achievable best management practices. The Commission will further make strategy/action recommendations to achieve targets (Adopt AB 32 targets). The Commission recommendations will be used to develop the City's Climate Action Plan (CAP).