



Land Use, Housing & Air Quality Committee

June 4, 2007

SACOG to Consider Joining the California Climate Action Registry

Issue: Whether SACOG should join the California Climate Action Registry.

Recommendation: That the Land Use, Housing & Air Quality Committee recommend that the Board authorize the Executive Director to submit a “Statement of Intent” to participate in the California Climate Action Registry.

Discussion: In December 2006, the SACOG Board of Directors adopted a resolution stating that SACOG would inventory the carbon emissions associated with its own operations and inventory the emissions associated with the Metropolitan Transportation Plan for 2035 (MTP). It also noted that SACOG would consider joining the California Climate Action Registry. Staff has been investigating what actions would be required to achieve these goals. Joining the State’s Climate Action Registry would assist the agency in meeting these goals in several ways. The Registry provides a tool to their members to help them calculate and inventory their own greenhouse gas emissions. The creation of such an inventory also assists SACOG in providing a baseline of emissions. SACOG would then be able to take “credit” for any “early” actions that the agency can take now to reduce emissions. SACOG would also be joining the City of Sacramento and the Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District, who are already members of the Registry. The costs associated with SACOG joining the Registry are anticipated to be \$400 per year. The California Climate Action Registry is now one of a number of other state registries that are expected to merge into a single entity effective January 1, 2008.

A number of other organizations offer similar benefits. These include ICLEI, STAPPA/ALAPCO and the Chicago Climate Exchange. There tend to be other benefits to joining these groups, but there are also some additional costs associated with them. Virtually all require the member to pledge a reduction in carbon emissions and show progress in meeting that goal. The Chicago Climate Exchange also offers the ability to purchase carbon offsets at the current “market” rate.

Staff has reviewed the membership benefits associated with all of these agencies, and recommends joining the California Climate Action Registry as soon as possible. Staff will bring back a report at a subsequent meeting to discuss which –if any- of the other groups SACOG should consider joining. If you have any questions about this item, please contact Jason Crow at 916-340-6219 or jcrow@sacog.org.

Approved by:

Mike McKeever
Executive Director

MM:JPC:ts
Attachment

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