



SACOG Board of Directors

May 22, 2008

Confirming Authorization for SACOG Joining The Climate Registry

Issue: SACOG membership in The Climate Registry.

Recommendation: The Climate & Air Quality Committee recommends that the Board confirm authorization for the Executive Director submission of a “Statement of Intent” to participate in The Climate Registry (TCR).

Committee Action/Discussion: In June 2007, the Board agreed to join the California Climate Action Registry (CCAR), a voluntary greenhouse gas (GHG) registry designed to promote early actions to reduce GHG emissions in California. CCAR has helped launch The Climate Registry (TCR), which expands the GHG measurement, accounting, and reporting standards of CCAR across North America. To date, 39 American states, 7 Canadian provinces, and 6 Mexican states are participating in TCR.

TCR is essentially a national-level registry that provides a consistent GHG inventory reporting approach by linking several state-sponsored GHG emissions reporting efforts. As the CCAR and TCR are linked, members of both organizations only have to report carbon emissions data once. TCR’s minimum requirements are more stringent than CCAR, as they require emissions reporting of all six GHGs after two years (CCAR requires reporting all six GHGs after three years) and reporting at the facility level (CCAR makes facility-level reporting optional).

SACOG staff recommended to the Climate & Air Quality Committee that it join The Climate Registry by May 1, 2008, so our organization will be identified as a “Founding Reporter” of TCR. Other reasons to join TCR include:

- Demonstrate environmental leadership
- Document early actions to voluntary emissions reduction targets
- Identify and manage GHG risks and opportunities
- Gain access to user-friendly web-based software and technical assistance designed to assist in the development of the agency GHG inventory
- Participate in GHG policy discussions with other TCR members

CCAR members receive a 50 percent discount on TCR’s annual fee, resulting in only \$225 per year for TCR membership. Due to the deadline of May 1, the Climate & Air Quality Committee and Chair Cosgrove authorized the Executive Director to send the statement of intent. Additional membership information is attached.

Approved by:

Mike McKeever
Executive Director

MM:JC:LS:gg
Attachment

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WHY YOUR ORGANIZATION SHOULD HAVE JOINT MEMBERSHIP IN THE CALIFORNIA REGISTRY AND THE CLIMATE REGISTRY

BACKGROUND: The Climate Registry (TCR) invites all CCAR members to become joint participants in TCR for 2008. You are encouraged to report your entity emissions to both Registries through 2009, and transition to TCR-only reporting for footprint reporting in 2010. CCAR plans to become a full offset registry by that time.

During 2008 and 2009, TCR is offering a 50% discount in membership to CCAR members and, for those joining in 2008, free transfer of historical data to TCR when you begin reporting there.

For example, if your dues to CCAR are \$10,000, your cost for dual reporting will be \$15,000 annually, with \$5000 going to TCR. If your cost is \$600, your fees will be \$900 for both organizations. (If you join TCR only, your fees will be identical to those of CCAR-only membership.) Aside from these annual fees, there is expected to be no additional cost for reporting or certifying to both Registries, as the CCAR data will be accepted as historical data by TCR for 2008 and 2009.

Why Should We Maintain CCAR Membership?

THE CALIFORNIA FOCUS

- *Continued voice in AB 32 implementation.* Registry members are leaders in the dialogue on implementing the State's ground-breaking climate regulations. By completing your inventory and knowing your carbon footprint, you are better informed to shape California climate policy.
- *Baseline protection of historical data.* The Registry's enabling legislation commits the State to consider reductions in GHG emissions prior to implementation of any mandatory programs. Organizations that do not have continuous reporting to the California Registry, risk baseline protection possibilities and may be putting past investments at risk.
- *Stay involved in the community of like-minded organizations.* Engaging with other Registry members in California, the leadership state on climate, helps foster new thinking, exchange of best practices, and networking opportunities for climate-friendly thinkers.

RISK MANAGEMENT

- *CCAR is a working, accurate, measurement system.* TCR will be implementing new software, verification processes and operations during the coming year. It makes sense to remain a California Registry member to insure your data integrity while also helping the new organization get started.

Why Should We Also Become Founding Reporters (join before May 1, 2008) in TCR?

REGIONAL, NATIONAL AND NORTH AMERICAN FOCUS

- *Environmental Leadership.* As a member of the CCAR, you have already staked out a leadership role on carbon. California Registry members will be natural leaders in TCR. Preserve and expand your voice by becoming an early and influential member of TCR.
- *Potential for baseline protection across participating states/provinces.* TCR's members, including states, tribes & provinces, commit to consider baseline protection for companies that report emissions to TCR.
- *One-stop shop for North American reporting.* TCR's goal is to serve as a common reporting portal for all North American GHG reporting needs. For organizations with operations in one or more jurisdictions, centralized reporting provides efficiency and certainty for building data management systems. CCAR members asked for this common approach; you should support it now to make sure it doesn't falter.
- *Learning Portal about climate policy development varied state, regional, national and international levels.* The Climate Registry will have information sessions, webinars, workshops, conferences and other opportunities to learn from TCR board members and staff, who represent the top environmental policy makers from all of our 39 states, 3 tribal nations, 4 Canadian provinces and 1 Mexican state (more members to come!).

RISK MANAGEMENT

- *Risk management across North America.* As a member of CCAR, you understand the value of helping shape policy. For little money, your voice is extended. If you felt early participation in CCAR was valuable to your company, as a listening post, a way to find like-minded companies, an avenue to learn from policy makers around the world, you will find the same value in early TCR participation.
- *Readiness for a variety of regulatory regimes in different jurisdictions .* Climate regulations will be in place in the next few years and TCR will support several of the mandatory data collection programs. Market leaders need to prepare today to assess their position to understand and manage their carbon assets from a variety of perspectives.