



Climate & Air Quality Committee

January 28, 2009

Update on Regional Greenhouse Gas Inventory Protocol (GRIP)

Issue: SACOG has contracted with Dr. Sebastian Carney from the University of Manchester to conduct a series of workshops in early March related to greenhouse gas emissions in the Sacramento region.

Recommendation: None. This item is for information only.

Discussion: GRIP is a method and tool for creating regional inventories and forming future year scenarios looking at ways to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. The method, created by Dr. Sebastian Carney from the University of Manchester and used in many major regions throughout the United Kingdom and the European Union, consists of three steps: the inventory, scenario formation, and policy formation. The idea behind GRIP is to enable discussion across all GHG contributing systems with ideas quantified in real time.

The initial phase of the process is the creation of a regional GHG inventory. GRIP uses data in conjunction with local climate action plans and GHG inventories in a top down and bottom up approach depending on the level of available information. The bottom up data consists of existing inventories and other rich sets of information that do not need to be supplemented. For areas of the region without existing datasets, aggregated default data will be used in a top down approach. For this, additional information will likely be needed. The model assumes a variety of sectors for this information, but SACOG is hoping to capture most data from a few sources: energy production, energy usage, agriculture, and transportation.

In order to facilitate a clear and expeditious process, SACOG formed a Technical Advisory Committee (TAC). The group, consisting of staff from local agencies, jurisdictions and GHG contributors, will be the main suppliers of data, as well as provide technical expertise during all phases of the process. The TAC will meet several times between now and the end of March, when the project will culminate with a final report. At this point, the TAC will continue to meet quarterly to discuss climate change issues and facilitate exchange of data and knowledge.

It is anticipated that three GRIP workshops will be held during the early weeks of March. Participants will include members of the TAC, additional representatives from generators of GHG emissions, local agency staff, and elected officials. The workshops will give participants the opportunity to see how each sector contributes to the overall GHG emissions, and what policies can be implemented to reduce sectoral and cumulative emissions. It offers the chance for members of each of these groups to come together and discuss climate change issues and potential mitigation efforts.

Approved by:

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