TO:

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS** 

FROM:

Mark DeSaulnier

DATE:

November 14, 2006

SUBJECT:

**ICLEI MEMBERSHIP** 



Contra Costa County

S D.10

SPECIFIC REQUEST(S) OR RECOMMENDATION(S) & BACKGROUND AND JUSTIFICATION

### **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- 1. APPROVE Resolution 2006/ to join ICLEI –Local Governments for Sustainability (formerly known as International Council of Environmental Initiatives) Cities for Climate Protection (CCP) Campaign. (Attachment A)
- 2. AUTHORIZE the Climate Change Working Group to submit application and membership dues of \$5,750 on or after January 1, 2007.
- 3. AUTHORIZE the Climate Change Working Group to conduct greenhouse gas emissions inventory using a part-time intern funded by County Health Services Department Hazardous Materials Division with the assistance of ICLEI.

### FISCAL IMPACT:

Initial annual membership fee of \$5,750 to be paid from funding set aside previously by the Office of Supervisor Mark DeSaulnier for the Department of Employment and Human Services' Family and Children Policy Forum. The County Health Services Department - Hazardous Materials Division is prepared to provide funding in the amount of \$2,500 to pay an intern to conduct the greenhouse gas emissions inventory with the assistance of the ICLEI CCP Campaign staff and resources. No specific costs or funding sources for the development and implementation of a climate action plan have yet been identified.

CONTINUED ON ATTACHMENT:YES	SIGNATURE:
RECOMMENDATION OF COUNTY ADMINISTRA APPROVEOTHER	ATORRECOMMENDATION OF BOARD COMMITTEE
SIGNATURE(S): ACTION OF BOARD ON NOVEMBER 11	APPROVED AS RECOMMENDED OTHER
Please Vicw	attached addendum —
VOTE OF SUPERVISORS	I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS IS A TRUE AND CORRECT COPY OF AN ACTION TAKEN AND ENTERED ON THE MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS ON THE DATE SHOWN. ATTESTED NOW HAVE HEREBY HOLD HER SHOWN
	JOHN CULLEN, CLERK OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS AND COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR
Contact: cc: BOS CAO	1010100

## **BACKGROUND:**

Contra Costa County recognizes that climate change is one of the most critical sustainability issues threatening the long-term human and environmental health, social well-being, and economic vitality of our community. The County also realizes that local leadership is critical to address this urgent issue. Without rapid and significant reductions of greenhouse gas emissions, higher temperatures will create severe local effects. These may include several feet of sea level rise, water shortages due to loss of Sierra snow pack, increased frequency of critically dry years and large wildfires, reduced agricultural and forest yields, and increased heat- and smog-related deaths.

The County Board of Supervisors originally formed the Climate Change Working Group in May 2005. The County's Climate Change Working Group is comprised of the Agricultural Commissioner and the Directors of the Building Inspection Department, Community Development Department, General Services Department, Health Services Department and Public Works Department. The Board of Supervisors directed the Climate Change Working Group to inventory the actions that the County has taken to date which potentially reduce greenhouse gas emissions. This listing of actions that have been partially or fully implemented by the County is contained within the Contra Costa County Climate Protection Report dated November 2005. This Report also contains a listing of measures/actions the County could consider implementing or expanding upon to reduce GHG emissions generated directly as a result of County operations (including County owned or maintained buildings, vehicles and right-of-way) or generated by sources within the private sector that potentially fall within the County's authority.

The Climate Protection Report also includes information regarding some potential benefits of joining ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability (formerly known as the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives) Cities for Climate Protection (CCP) Campaign to build on the County's existing climate protection efforts such as energy efficiency.

# DESCRIPTION OF ICLEI'S CCP CAMPAIGN:

ICLEI is an international membership association of local governments dedicated to addressing environmental problems through local actions. ICLEI works with local governments to help them reduce their greenhouse gas emissions and therefore their impact on global climate change. ICLEI's Cities for Climate Protection (CCP) Campaign is a program designed to motivate and empower local governments worldwide to take action on climate change. CCP is a performance-oriented campaign that offers a framework for local governments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve livability within their municipalities. More than 170 cities, towns, and counties in the United States and over 700 worldwide participate in the Cities for Climate Protection Campaign, which began in 1993.

By joining local governments around the world in the internationally-proven approach of the CCP, the County can capitalize on the experience and knowledge of other government entities in the ICLEI network. Once municipalities make the commitment to participate in the CCP Campaign, ICLEI provides experienced staff, software tools, and a wide variety of programs and technical assistance to help local governments reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Local governments begin participating in the CCP Campaign by passing a resolution pledging to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from their municipal operations and throughout their communities. The process is not linear and consists of working through five CCP Milestones:

- 1. Conduct a local inventory and forecast of greenhouse gas emissions
- 2. Establish greenhouse gas reduction targets
- 3. Draft an action plan to achieve the greenhouse gas reduction targets
- 4. Implement the climate action plan
- 5. Evaluate & report on progress

### **NEXT STEPS**

The attached Resolution (Attachment A) pledges to build upon the County's existing cross-departmental approach to climate protection by joining ICLEI's CCP and initiating a greenhouse gas emissions inventory.

The greenhouse gas emissions inventory is the first CCP Milestone. Conducting the emissions inventory will enable the County to quantify emissions from the overall community (external) and municipal operations (internal). This inventory would serve as a baseline for comparison purposes to see how local emissions change over time. By using local energy and waste data, the County can establish its baseline inventory and develop a forecast of anticipated future emissions. The baseline inventory can also be helpful when setting an emissions reduction target (second CCP Milestone) and measuring future progress (fifth CCP Milestone).

As a participant in ICLEI's CCP Campaign, the County will have access to information and resources to help identify the feasibility and effectiveness of the new and expanded measures identified in the County's Climate Protection Report dated November 2005. Furthermore, by conducting the emissions inventory utilizing ICLEI's framework allows the County to:

- Utilize ICLEI's software and associated training to assist with quantifying emissions,
- Access ICLEI's technical assistance and their professional network of peers,
- Involve county departments who later become essential to creating and implementing the action plan,
- Quantify emissions reductions from the actions the county has already implemented,
- Quantify potential emissions reductions of new or expanded measures prior to committing resources/staff.
- Document emissions reduction efforts in a manner that is comparable to others which
  may become important as the State moves forward with efforts to mandate reduction of
  greenhouse gases emissions.

ICLEI provides members with notification of relevant grant opportunities, which can be very valuable. New dedicated funding will be critical to pay for the development of a climate action plan (third CCP Milestone) and implement effective long-term emission reduction strategies (fourth CCP Milestone).

The County's Climate Protection Report contains most of the elements of a local climate action plan (third CCP Milestone). The climate action plan represents the local blueprint for climate protection, which should include the set of programs and policies the jurisdiction will implement in order to achieve its chosen emissions reduction targets. The climate action plan should include existing initiatives implemented, as well as potential new policies and programs that, when fully implemented, will help meet the chosen emissions reduction targets.

# ADDENDUM TO SD.10 November 14, 2006

On this day the Board considered adopting Resolution No. 2006/740 authorizing Contra Costa County to join the nonprofit environmental organization ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability; authorizing the Climate Change Working Group to submit an application and membership dues to ICLEI in the amount of \$5,750 on or after January 1, 2007; and authorizing the Climate Change Working Group to conduct a greenhouse gas emissions inventory using a part-time intern funded by County Health Services Department – Hazardous Materials Division with the assistance of ICLEI.

Greg Bedard, Chief of Staff for District IV, said Supervisor DeSaulnier would like the County to join ICLEI (formerly known as International Council of Environmental Initiatives). Mr. Bedard said given the fact Supervisor DeSaulnier is winding down his time with the County consideration to postpone this item and return at a future date would be the suitable thing to do.

Deirdre Dingmam, Community Development Department, noted members of ICLEI look at greenhouse emissions from local municipalities. She said the Hazardous Materials Division of the Health Services Department has agreed to fund a part-time intern to conduct a greenhouse gas emissions inventory.

John Cullen, County Administrator, said if a policy decision is made by the Board to join ICLEI he would recommend the Board approve item Number 1 to approve Resolution 2006/740 to join ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability (formerly known as International Council of Environmental Initiatives) Cities for Climate Protection (CCP) Campaign, and work with affected Departments to coordinate next steps and return later to the Board. Mr. Cullen said his office and a couple of other Departments would touch base with the Climate Change Working Group of the Health Services Department Hazardous Materials Division, to make sure they are all on the same page.

Supervisor Uilkema expressed interest in receiving background related to the County's Climate Change Working Group and an update on the County's efforts so far. Supervisor Uilkema said this might be an opportunity to integrate the County's efforts with the work of other regional groups.

Chair Gioia noted this membership is unique to municipalities, cities and counties.

Supervisor Glover said being a part of the organization would allow us to use some of those best practices that others have already implemented. He noted the membership fees are minimal.

By a unanimous vote with Supervisor DeSaulnier, District IV, absent, the Board took the following action:

**ADOPTED** recommendation numbers 1 and 2 from the Board Order; and DIRECTED the County Administrator to return with details on item number 3, "to authorize the Climate Change Working Group to conduct greenhouse gas emissions inventory using a part-time intern funded by County Health Services Department-Hazardous Materials Division with the assistance of ICLEI."

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