Los Angeles County
Department of Regional Planning

Planning for the Challenges Ahead

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Director

June 12, 2014

TO: Esther L. Valadez, Chair
Laura Shell, Vice Chair
David W. Louie, Commissioner
Curt Pedersen, Commissioner
Pat Modugno, Commissioner

FROM: Connie Chung, AICP, Section Head
General Plan Development and Housing Section

SUBJECT: LOS ANGELES COUNTY GENERAL PLAN UPDATE
PUBLIC HEARING: PROJECT NO. 02-305 (1-5)
PERMIT NO. RADVT201300009 – COMMUNITY CLIMATE ACTION PLAN
JUNE 25, 2014 – AGENDA ITEM #6

INTRODUCTION

At your meeting on June 25, 2014, staff will present the Los Angeles County Community Climate Action Plan (CCAP). The CCAP is a component of the proposed Air Quality Element of the General Plan Update.

PUBLIC HEARING FORMAT

To recap the public hearing format, the schedule below divides hearings into discrete topics to help you manage the content of the General Plan Update, and to allow the public to attend hearings that are of specific interest to them. This schedule is a suggestion only and can be adjusted to provide additional meetings as needed.

February 26, 2014	Introduction and Planning Areas Framework; Land Use Element; Mobility Element
March 26, 2014	Air Quality Element; Conservation and Natural Resources Element; Parks and Recreation Element; Noise Element; Safety Element; Public Services and Facilities Element; Economic Development Element.
April 23, 2014	Significant Ecological Areas (SEA) Program Update and SEA Ordinance, and Hillside Management Ordinance.
May 28, 2014	Zone changes and amendments to Title 22
June 25, 2014	Community Climate Action Plan (CCAP); Significant Ecological Areas (SEA) Program Update and SEA Ordinance, and Hillside Management Ordinance [as continued from April 23, 2014]
August 27, 2014	Recap/Final EIR

After the discussion and receiving testimony from the public, staff recommends that you add an additional hearing date, July 23, 2014, to the schedule above and that you continue the remaining aspects of the General Plan Update to that date. The additional date is needed to provide you with an update of the changes that staff has made to the Draft General Plan throughout the public hearing process. A continuation to a date certain is necessary to provide adequate public notice of the next hearing.

JUNE 25, 2014 DISCUSSION TOPICS

Part III. General Plan Elements / Air Quality Element / CCAP

I. BACKGROUND

The CCAP is supportive of policies in the General Plan Update to encourage and facilitate continued economic growth in Los Angeles County, while reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions that are generated by community activities. The CCAP, in conjunction with other concurrent climate change and sustainability initiatives, represents the County's commitment to the Global Warming Solutions Act (AB 32), which was passed by the California legislature in 2006. The CCAP identifies GHG emissions related to community activities in the unincorporated areas; establishes a reduction target consistent with AB 32; and provides a roadmap for successfully implementing actions selected by the County to reduce GHG emissions. The Draft CCAP is available on the DRP web site at http://planning.lacounty.gov/ccap and is included as Attachment A.

The CCAP will work in conjunction with the Municipal Climate Action Plan (MCAP), which seeks to reduce GHG emissions that are generated by County facilities and operations, and the County's climate change adaptation strategies to anticipate the effects of climate change. The MCAP is being coordinated separately by the Internal Services Department and climate change adaptation strategies are being coordinated directly with affected County departments by the Chief Executive's Office. Together, these efforts will ensure that the County achieves its goal of reducing overall GHG emissions and mitigating the impacts of global warming.

GHG Emissions Inventory and Forecast

The CCAP includes a GHG emissions inventory and forecast for the unincorporated areas. GHG emissions generated by community activities within the unincorporated areas were analyzed using methodologies and procedures that are widely accepted and used by federal, state, and local air quality management and environmental agencies. The 2010 inventory of local emissions serves as a baseline for existing emissions levels. The 2020 forecast is a prediction based on expected growth in the unincorporated area population, employment, and households. In the unincorporated areas, building energy use and on-road and off-road transportation are the largest sources of GHG emissions, comprising approximately 49% and 42% of the total emissions, respectively.

GHG Emissions Reduction Target

The CCAP also includes a 2020 GHG emissions target for the unincorporated areas. AB 32 commits to reducing statewide GHG emissions to 1990 levels by 2020. In 2008, the California Air Resources Board (CARB) provided a Scoping Plan that equates the AB 32 goal to be "15% below 'current' emissions levels." In August 2013, CARB released the latest update of the GHG emissions inventory for the State with updated emissions data through 2010. This update shows different inventory levels than were estimated in the 2008 Scoping Plan. Specifically, actual emissions statewide for the years

2009 and 2010 were significantly less than 2000 to 2008 levels due to the effects of the economic downturn in the U.S.

The County conducted an analysis to identify a reduction target from its 2010 emissions levels that would be equivalent to the reduction target needed for pre-recession state levels. This analysis showed that a minimum reduction of 11% below 2010 levels is needed to achieve consistency with the State's AB 32 goals and the CARB Scoping Plan. An 11% reduction from 2010 levels will reduce GHG emissions generated within the unincorporated areas by approximately 2.4 million metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent. According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, this reduction would equate to removing 506,000 passenger vehicles from the road each year, reducing gasoline consumption by more than 272 million gallons, and providing renewable energy to power over 121,000 homes.

Actions to Reduce GHG Emissions

State-Level Actions

Statewide efforts to reduce GHG emissions at the local level are a fundamental part of the CCAP. The majority of emissions reductions achieved from state-level initiatives are gained from building energy efficiency standards and mandates for renewable energy generation. The CCAP quantifies the following four statewide initiatives that will contribute to reduced emissions in the unincorporated areas: Renewables Portfolio Standard; Title 24 Standards for Commercial and Residential Buildings (Energy Efficiency and CalGreen); Pavley/Advanced Clean Cars (Vehicle Efficiency) and Low Carbon Fuel Standard for On-Road Transportation; and Low Carbon Fuel Standard for Off-Road Equipment and Vehicles.

Local-Level Actions, By Sector

In addition to state-level initiatives, the CCAP analyzes 26 local actions that are necessary to meet the County's emissions reduction target. These local actions, which are described below, are grouped into five strategy areas.

Green Building and Energy

BE-1	Green Building Development: Encouraging energy efficiency in new development.
BE-2	Energy Efficiency Programs: Setting goals for retrofits for existing development.
BE-3	Solar Installations: Encouraging solar in new development and renovated properties.
BE-4	Alternative Renewable Energy Programs: Promoting energy alternatives, such as wind and geothermal.
BE-5	Wastewater Treatment Plant Biogas: Encouraging renewable biogas projects.
BE-6	Energy Efficiency Retrofits of Wastewater Equipment: Promoting efficient equipment.
BE-7	Landfill Biogas: Encouraging renewable biogas projects at regional landfills.

Land Use and Transportation

LUT-1	Bicycle Programs and Supporting Facilities: Expanding and improving facilities for cyclists.
LUT-2	Pedestrian Network: Improving pedestrian infrastructure to promote walking and access

	to transit.
LUT-3	Transit Expansion: Creating bus priority lanes and improving transit facilities and amenities.
LUT-4	Travel Demand Management: Encouraging employer-sponsored programs to reduce vehicle use.
LUT-5	Car-Sharing Program: Supporting on-demand access to a shared vehicle fleet.
LUT-6	Land Use Design and Density: Promoting sustainability in land use design.
LUT-7	Transportation Signal Synchronization Program: Enhancing traffic signal synchronization.
LUT-8	Electric Vehicle Infrastructure: Expanding fueling opportunities for electric vehicles.
LUT-9	Idling Ordinance: Limiting idling time for heavy-duty construction equipment.
LUT-10	Efficient Goods Movement: Maximizing efficiency of goods movement.
LUT-11	Sustainable Pavements Program: Improving the efficiency of pavement rehabilitation.
LUT-12	Electrify Construction and Landscaping Equipment: Establishing electrification goals for equipment.

Water Conservation and Wastewater

WAW-1	Per Capita Water Use Reduction Goal: Reducing 5-20% below baseline values.
WAW-2	Recycled Water, Water Supply Improvement Programs, and Stormwater Runoff: Encouraging the use of recycled and gray water.

Waste Reduction, Reuse and Recycling

SW-1	Waste Diversion Goal: Diverting at least 75% of waste from landfills.

Land Conservation and Tree Planting

LC-1	Develop Urban Forests: Creating a comprehensive urban tree program.
LC-2	Create New Vegetated Open Space: Promoting land restoration and re-vegetation.
LC-3	Promote the Sale of Locally Grown Foods and/or Products: Supporting locally sourced food.
LC-4	Protect Conservation Areas: Encouraging the protection of current natural areas.

GHG emissions reductions from local-level actions are quantified from existing and planned programs and estimated rates of participation for voluntary programs. Examples of existing and planned programs include the Traffic Signal Synchronization Program (LUT-7), which is currently being implemented on roadways throughout the unincorporated areas, and the bicycle and pedestrian improvements (LUT-1 and LUT-2) that are anticipated with the implementation of the 2012 Bicycle Master Plan and the 2010 Healthy Design Ordinance. Examples of voluntary programs that contribute to reduced emissions include Photo-Voltaic Solar Installations (BE-3) and Alternative Renewable Energy Programs (BE-4).

Community Co-Benefits and CEQA Streamlining

The CCAP highlights the important community co-benefits that will result from the actions undertaken as part of CCAP implementation. These co-benefits include improved air quality, energy

savings, increased resource conservation, long-term cost savings, and increased mobility, as well as enhanced resiliency of the community in the face of changing climatic conditions.

Furthermore, projects that incorporate applicable CCAP actions can "tier off" of the General Plan Update EIR to meet project-level CEQA evaluation requirements for GHG emissions. This can potentially reduce project costs and streamline the County permit process. Projects that demonstrate consistency with applicable CCAP actions can be determined to have a less than significant cumulative impact on GHG emissions and climate change (notwithstanding substantial evidence that warrants a more detailed review of project-level GHG emissions).

II. STAKEHOLDER OUTREACH

Coordination with County departments and stakeholders formed the foundation for the CCAP. To develop the CCAP, the staff contacted stakeholders including the Los Angeles County Business Federation (BizFed), the Center for Biological Diversity, and the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC); and met with many groups including the Los Angeles Regional Collaborative for Climate Action and Sustainability (LARC), California Audubon, Building Industry Association (BIA), Antelope Acres Town Council, the Association of Rural Town Councils, Resource Conservation District of the Santa Monica Mountains, and the Los Angeles Economic Development Corporation (LAEDC).

Following the release of the Draft CCAP in January 2014, the staff mailed courtesy postcards to approximately 3,000 addresses and 1,200 email addresses on stakeholder outreach lists. Additionally, copies of the Draft CCAP were made available on the CCAP web site and at all County public libraries and Department of Regional Planning Field Offices.

Staff fielded numerous email and telephone inquiries, and received comment letters on the CCAP from the following organizations: Building Industry Association (BIA); ClimateResolve; Freeport McMoRan Oil & Gas; the Puente Hills Habitat Preservation Authority; Land Veritas; and the California Native Plant Society. The staff engaged directly with various groups to discuss their comments. The final draft CCAP reflects the input received through this process.

III. IMPLEMENTATION

The CCAP outlines steps for implementation upon adoption of the General Plan Update. As part of the CCAP effort, the team also developed preliminary tools and resources that can be used to facilitate CCAP implementation.

CCAP Implementation Team (CIT)

The County will form an interdepartmental team (CIT) to be responsible for the implementation and maintenance of the CCAP. Specific roles and responsibilities of the CIT may include reporting to the Board of Supervisors, maintaining the implementation schedule, coordinating updates to the CCAP, and investigating new financing options.

Finance Report

A finance report was prepared to inform the CCAP and assist in implementation, and is included as Attachment B. It identifies potential new financing options and provides a high-level assessment related to the CCAP energy efficiency and renewable energy measures. It focuses on new financing options that are most relevant to the residential, commercial, and industrial sectors in the unincorporated areas.

GHG Reduction Tracking Tool

This tool was developed to track the County's ongoing progress to meet its 2020 GHG reduction target. It includes a sector by sector breakdown of the CCAP actions. The tool can estimate the County's progress in reducing GHG emissions through the implementation of specific measures. This information can be also used in the future to adaptively manage CCAP updates.

CEQA Streamlining Project Checklist

This tool was developed to assist project applicants pursuing the CEQA streamlining benefit, and is included as Attachment C. The checklist includes a series of questions to determine the applicability of existing local-level programs and is meant to demonstrate consistency with the CCAP to qualify for CEQA streamlining.

ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENT

A Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the General Plan Update is currently being prepared, and will be made available in June 2014. A public comment period will be provided pursuant to California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) reporting requirements, and a Final EIR will be produced that includes all public comments.

COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The staff has updated the Commission's matrix to manage stakeholder comments and responses to date. The matrix[1] can be found on the Department's General Plan Update webpage.[2] For the next meeting, recommended for July 23, 2014, staff will provide you with a complete, revised version of the Draft General Plan that reflects the input received through the public hearing process.

NOTIFICATION

A notice of public hearing and availability of the General Plan Update was mailed in mid-January 2014. The notice was prepared and distributed pursuant to Section 22.60.174 of the County Zoning Ordinance. Notices were mailed to more than 40,000 property owners whose parcels are located in General Plan major policy areas. Notices were also distributed to more than 3,000 stakeholder individuals and organizations, and emailed to more than 1,200 addresses. Furthermore, the Draft was made available on the DRP web site, in all County libraries, DRP field offices and other suggested locations. The notice was also published in 16 newspapers, including one Spanish language newspaper, of general circulation in the unincorporated areas of Los Angeles County between January 23, 2014 and January 27, 2014.

IV. STAFF RECOMMENDATION

The following recommendation is made prior to the public hearing and is subject to change based upon testimony and/or documentary evidence presented at the public hearing:

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[1] http://planning.lacounty.gov/generalplan/comments2014

[2] http://planning.lacounty.gov/generalplan/draft 2014

Staff recommends that the public hearing on the General Plan Update, referred to as Project Number 02-305 (1-5), be continued to July 23, 2014 and that the focus of that hearing be to discuss updates to the Draft General Plan.

If you have any questions or require further information regarding this memo, please contact Leon Freeman at (213) 974-6417 or lfreeman@planning.lacounty.gov.

MC:CC:LF

Attachment 1: Los Angeles County Community Climate Action Plan

Attachment 2: Finance Report

Attachment 3: CEQA Streamlining Project Checklist

I MOVE THAT THE REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION CONTINUE THIS MATTER, THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY GENERAL PLAN UPDATE, AND ADD THE ADDITIONAL DATE OF JULY 23, 2014, TO THE PROPOSED HEARING SCHEDULE.

I FURTHER MOVE THAT THE FOCUS OF THAT JULY 23, 2014 HEARING BE TO DISCUSS UPDATES TO THE DRAFT GENERAL PLAN.