COUNTY OF GLENN
AGENDA ITEM TRANSMITTAL

MEETING DATE: October 16, 2007

BRIEF SUBJECT/ISSUE DESCRIPTION:
Consideration of invitation to sign the U.S. Cool Counties Climate Stabilization Declaration

Submitting Department(s):
Clerk of the Board David Shoemaker

Contact: Sandy Soeth
Phone: 934-6400

AGENDA PLACEMENT

APPOINTMENT – Appearances by: (Specify Name & Title)

Required _____ Minutes
☑ Business – No ☐ Consent
☐ Correspondence ☐ Reports & Notices

AFFECTED DEPARTMENT(S)
☐ Receive Concurrence

ATTACHMENTS
☐ Board Report
☐ Letter
☐ Minute Order
☐ Contract
☐ Transfer
☐ Grant App.
☐ Resolution
☐ Ordinance
☐ Proclamation
☐ Policy Update
☐ Code Update
☐ Other
☐ Declaration, backup

LEGAL/PERSONNEL/FISCAL
☐ County Counsel
☐ Personnel
☐ Finance
☐ County Administrative Office

CLERK INSTRUCTIONS
☐ Return Minute Order
☐ Return Certified Copy Of:
☐ Other:

PUBLIC HEARINGS & COMMITTEE VACANCIES

☐ State ☐ Federal

Public Hearings:
☐ Published
☐ Affidavit on File w/Clerk
☐ Affected Parties Notified

Bill#:  ______
☐ Latest Version of Bill
☐ Draft Letter Attached
☐ List of Supporters/Opponents
☐ Statement of Relevance to County Interests
☐ Description Attached

LEGISLATION

☐ General Fund Impact
☐ Other: ______
☐ Budgeted
☐ Transfer Attached
☐ 4/5ths Vote Required
☐ Contingency Request

FUNDING SOURCE/IMPACT

☐ New ☐ Renewal
☐ Amendment
☐ Insurance Certificate
☐ Contract Report

CONTRACTS, LEASES & AGREEMENTS

Date of Original Contract:
Contract:
Contract No.:
Fiscal Year:

RECOMMENDED ACTION/MOTION:
Recommendation of Clerk of the Board David Shoemaker to consider invitation from Alameda County to sign the U.S. Cool Counties Climate Stabilization Declaration committing to:
a. Reducing our own contributions to climate change through our internal operations, at a target level we determine;
b. Demonstrating regional leadership to achieve climate stabilization and protect our communities;
c. Helping our community become climate resilient; and

Reviewed By (if applicable):

Sandy Soeth
Department Head

Personnel Director

Department of Finance

County Administrative Officer

CC:
TO: Honorable Board Members  
FROM: Sandy Soeth, Deputy County Administrative Officer  
DATE: October 16, 2007  
SUBJECT: U.S. Cool Counties Climate Stabilization Declaration  

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY  
Alameda County President of the Board of Supervisors is requesting that all Counties adopt the U.S. Cool Counties Climate Stabilization Declaration, committing to:  
    a. Reducing our own contributions to climate change through our internal operations, at a target level we determine;  
    b. Demonstrating regional leadership to achieve climate stabilization and protect our communities;  
    c. Helping our community become climate resilient; and  
    d. Urging the federal government to support our efforts.  

RECOMMENDATION(S):  
Consider invitation to sign the U.S. Cool Counties Climate Stabilization Declaration.  

HISTORY AND BACKGROUND:  
The Alameda County Board of Supervisors has invited all California counties to adopt the U.S. Cool Counties Climate Stabilization Declaration with a goal of making California the first 100% Cool Counties State, all counties committing to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and taking a leadership role to achieve climate stabilization and protect the communities. Current signatories are Alameda County, Lake County, Santa Clara County, Yolo County and Contra Costa County.  

FISCAL/PERSONNEL IMPACT(S):  
Taxpayers dollars could be saved as a result of energy efficiency retrofits in buildings. Global warming would impact county budgets which would bear the impacts of severe climate changes, such as in agriculture and public health. Competition for energy resources will put financial demands on county governments. Cool Counties can lobby together to direct federal dollars back to the local level for key projects in water supply, emergency preparedness, coastal impacts, forestry, land use and transportation. Green collar jobs could be available for citizens.  

ANALYSIS/DISCUSSION
Attached is a follow-up letter from the Alameda County Board of Supervisors President to his fellow Board presidents/chairs, encouraging all counties to adopt the U.S. Cool Counties Climate Stabilization Declaration. Our goal is to make California the first 100% Cool Counties State—with all counties committing to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and taking a leadership role to achieve climate stabilization and protect our communities.

Please review the attached letter and encourage your Board of Supervisors to sign on as a “cool county”. Thank you for your support of this important initiative -- we look forward to your participation and to seeing you in Alameda County for the annual CSAC conference in November.

Susan S. Muranishi
County Administrator
October 5, 2007

Dear Board President:

Subject: Invitation to Sign U.S. Cool Counties Climate Stabilization Declaration

It has been two and a half months since we launched the effort to make California a 100% Cool Counties State. Our goal is to ensure counties have a strong voice in the policies that will affect us and shape our communities for generations to come.

As you will recall from my letter of July 19, participating counties commit to four smart actions:

1. Reducing our own contributions to climate change through our internal operations, at a target level we determine;
2. Demonstrating regional leadership to achieve climate stabilization and protect our communities;
3. Helping our community become climate resilient; and
4. Urging the federal government to support our efforts.

Current Signatories

I am pleased to report that several pioneering boards have already positioned their counties for the 21st century economy and gained recognition for their current efforts by officially passing the Cool Counties Climate Stabilization Declaration. Each county who joins contributes an added diversity of knowledge and expertise to the group. Hats off to these early signatories!

Alameda County – July 31
Lake County - August 28
Santa Clara County - September 25
Yolo County - September 11
Contra Costa County - October 2
Benefits

Taking action on climate also results in a range of benefits, from financial savings to quality of life improvements. Why join Cool Counties?

- **Save money.** For example, Alameda County is saving taxpayers over $6 million annually as a result of energy efficiency retrofits in our buildings.

- **Mitigate local impacts on vulnerable populations.** Our county budgets will bear the impacts of severe climate change such as public health. For example, we will be providing the emergency teams to respond to increasingly-frequent extreme weather events. Water shortages and heat waves most affect those with limited mobility, health care, and funds.

- **Build green economies.** Green collar jobs which cannot be exported, from alternative energy to reuse industries, are available for our citizens if we prepare and position ourselves. Rural counties, for example, have the opportunity to provide the biofuel resources to help us move out of the fossil fuel economy and achieve energy independence.

- **Position counties for the new economy.** As we experience global economic growth, competition for energy resources will only continue to put financial demands on county governments and our citizens. Counties that look ahead with land use and transportation plans appropriate for a fossil-fuel limited scenario will be in much better positions in the future.

- **Build adaptive capacity.** We are already observing effects associated with climate change such as drought, flooding, increased forest fires, and expanded range of insect pests affecting crops and trees. By joining Cool Counties, you gain the resources of a powerful national network to plan for and adapt to changes affecting infrastructure.

- **Share information.** Climate change is an issue that affects almost all areas of county responsibility so we need to work together to share best practices. Larger counties and counties who have already begun taking climate-protecting actions can partner with smaller counties and counties who are just beginning.

- **Shape AB 32 implementation.** All California counties will be affected by the provisions of AB 32, the Global Warming Solutions Act. Together with CSAC, we can have a voice in shaping these regulations to help us achieve our climate and other goals.

- **Obtain needed federal dollars.** Cool Counties will lobby together to direct federal dollars back to the local level for key projects in water supply, emergency preparedness, coastal impacts, forestry, land use, and transportation.
Events at CSAC Annual Conference

We will be celebrating our partners in this effort at the CSAC Annual Conference in Oakland on November 13 – 16, 2007. Details will be available on our new Cool Counties website www.acgov.org which will go live on Monday, October 15.

60-Second Survey Request

Many of you have begun the process of taking regional leadership on this issue by looking at Cool Counties. Please fax back the attached status form regardless of your plans. It will just take a moment to fill out and will provide valuable information as we build our coalition, share resources, and develop a California Cool Counties website.

As always, we welcome the opportunity to address questions or put you in touch with your peers at other counties to share resources. Please contact us at coolcounties@acgov.org.

Very truly yours,

Scott Haggerty
President, Board of Supervisors

Attachment

cc: County Administrators
July 16, 2007

U.S. Cool Counties Climate Stabilization Declaration

WHEREAS, there is a consensus among the world’s leading scientists that global warming caused by human emission of greenhouse gases is among the most significant problems facing the world today;

WHEREAS, documented impacts of global warming include but are not limited to increased occurrences of extreme weather events (i.e., droughts and floods), adverse impacts on plants and wildlife habitats, threats to global food and water supplies – all of which have an economic impact on communities and their local governments;

WHEREAS, leading scientists have projected that stabilization of climate change in time to minimize such impacts will require a reduction of global warming emissions to 80 percent below current levels by the year 2050;

WHEREAS, currently the United States is responsible for producing approximately 25 percent of the world’s global warming pollutants;

WHEREAS, many leading U.S. companies that have adopted greenhouse gas reduction programs to demonstrate corporate and operational responsibility have also publicly expressed preference for the federal government to adopt precise and mandatory emissions targets and timetables as a means by which to provide a uniform and predictable regulatory environment to encourage and enable necessary and long-term business investments;

WHEREAS, state, regional and local governments throughout the United States are adopting emissions reduction targets and programs and that this effort is bipartisan, coming from Republican and Democratic leadership;

WHEREAS, the U.S. Conference of Mayors has endorsed the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement, which commits cities to reduction of global warming emissions to 7 percent below 1990 levels by 2012, and calls for a federal limit on emissions;

WHEREAS, the State of California has mandated statewide reduction of greenhouse gas emissions to 80 percent below 1990 levels by 2050;

WHEREAS, more than 100 county leaders signed a letter written by Dane County, Wisconsin, that was sent to the President in March 2006 calling for increased energy
investment and development of jobs focused on clean energy technologies;

WHEREAS, counties have a unique role to play in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and preparing for the impacts of climate change through their regional jurisdiction over policy areas such as air quality, land use planning, transportation, zoning, forest preservation, water conservation, and wastewater and solid waste management;

WHEREAS, the economic arguments for implementing climate solutions are compelling, from the near-term economic gains of energy efficiency to the long-term climate stabilization that can prevent irreparable harm from catastrophic climate change impacts;

WHEREAS, many counties throughout the nation, both large and small, are reducing global warming pollutants through programs that provide economic and quality of life benefits such as reducing energy bills, preserving green space, implementing better land use policies, improving air quality, promoting waste-to-energy programs, expanding transportation and work choices to reduce traffic congestion, and fostering more economic development and job creation through energy conservation and new technologies;

NOW, THEREFORE WE DECLARE,

We as Cool Counties will take immediate steps to help the federal, state, and our governments within our county to achieve the 2050 climate stabilization goal by making the following commitments:

i. Create an inventory of our county government (operational) greenhouse gas ("GHG") emissions and implement policies, programs and operations to achieve significant, measurable and sustainable reduction of those operational GHG emissions to help contribute to the regional reduction targets as identified in paragraph ii;

ii. Work closely with local, state, and federal governments and other leaders to reduce county geographical GHG emissions to 80 percent below current levels by 2050, by developing a GHG emissions inventory and regional plan that establishes short-, mid-, and long-term GHG reduction targets, with recommended goals to stop increasing emissions by 2010, and to achieve a 10 percent reduction every five years thereafter through to 2050.

iii. Urge Congress and the Administration to enact a multi-sector national program of requirements, market-based limits, and incentives for reducing GHG emissions to 80 percent below current levels by 2050. Urge Congress and the Administration to strengthen standards by enacting legislation such as a Corporate Average Fuel Economy ("CAFE") standard that achieves at least 35 miles per gallon (mpg) within 10 years for cars and light trucks.
We will take immediate steps to identify regional climate change impacts; we will draft and implement a county plan to prepare for and build resilience to those impacts.

Related information

- U.S. Cool Counties Climate Stabilization Declaration

Updated: July 19, 2007
Questions About Making California a 100% Cool Counties State

1. What would adopting the Cool Counties Climate Stabilization Declaration commit us to do?

Participating counties commit to four smart actions:

- To look at our own operations to assess what policy or program changes we can enact to lower the greenhouse gas emissions produced by county governments and other areas under county jurisdiction;

- To work with our communities to reduce countywide greenhouse gas emissions 80% below current levels by 2050, an achievable annual average of 2%;

- To identify local vulnerabilities to climate change and create a plan to address them;

- To work with our counterparts nationally to urge the federal government adopt legislation to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to 80% below current levels by 2050, the level scientists agree is necessary to prevent catastrophic effects on human civilization.

These actions directly benefit counties and serve as a tremendous opportunity for us to demonstrate leadership. Our regional role and perspective as county government positions us to take action.

2. Why does it make so much sense for California be the first 100% Cool Counties state?

We should be the first 100% Cool Counties state because the State of California has already committed to reduce emissions 80% below 1990 levels by 2050. As you may be hearing from CSAC, state climate measures will affect general plans, regional transportation plans, agricultural regulatory practices, energy conservation investments, and other areas of county regulatory authority and operational practices.

We can be the first 100% Cool Counties state because many of our jurisdictions have already demonstrated that greenhouse gas reductions make business sense. In addition, many measures offer additional benefits to our citizens such as energy security, dollar savings, cleaner air, and healthier lifestyles.

We must be the first 100% Cool Counties state because we as local governments are already experiencing climate change impacts. In California in particular, air quality degradation, sea level rise, and more frequent droughts, floods, and heat waves threaten food and water supplies, damage infrastructure, and strain our county resources.

3. Where can we find out more?

For more information and the full text of the Declaration, please visit:
Cool Counties Climate Stabilization Initiative

The threats of global climate change are now widely recognized as being among the most pressing issues facing us today. Recent statements by the world’s scientific community affirm that there is no longer any doubt that human influences and activity play a major role in our changing climate.

Acting individually to address climate change will help, but we also must have a concerted, coordinated effort if we are to address this problem adequately. We as county governments may not regulate emissions from power plants, automobiles or even lawn and garden equipment, but we do have both the opportunity and the responsibility to take aggressive steps to reduce our operational greenhouse gas emissions, while at the same time leveraging our special role as region to affect positive change. We also must recruit our state and federal partners to take similar actions.

The “Cool Counties” Initiative consists of two parts: A pledge on our part to take action and a plan to carry that out. The U.S. Cool Counties Climate Stabilization Declaration serves as the pledge piece. King County, Washington led the effort to draft this declaration and organize support for its approval. King County will continue to serve as the lead organizing government as we build support across our nation.

Fairfax County took the lead on the operational planning portion of the initiative. The Cool Counties Policies and Programs Template provides a menu of policies and actions that local governments can take to help achieve the goals identified in the Cool Counties Declaration.

The Cool Counties Declaration consists of three key elements. The first asks county governments to commit to reducing their operational greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by first creating an inventory of their local emissions and then planning and implementing policies and programs to achieve significant, measurable and
sustainable reductions.

The second element of the Declaration calls on local governments to work closely with their regional and state governments and others to reduce regional GHG emissions to 80 percent below current levels by 2050. The idea is to engage the nation’s metropolitan planning organizations to develop regional GHG emissions inventories and create regional implementation plans that establish short-, mid-, and long-term emissions reduction targets. The goal is to stop the increase in emissions by 2010, and to achieve average reductions of 10 percent every five years thereafter through to 2050.

The third element of the Declaration calls on counties to urge Congress and the Administration to enact a multi-sector national program of market-based limits and incentives for reducing GHG emissions to 80 percent below current levels by 2050, and to urge Congress and the Administration to strengthen standards by enacting legislation such as a Corporate Average Fuel Economy (CAFE) standard that achieves at least 35 miles per gallon (mpg) within 10 years for cars and light trucks.

The Cool Counties Policies and Programs Template, the menu or tool kit of suggested policies and programs for implementation is designed to provide counties guidance on developing their own greenhouse gas emissions reduction plans. The document is divided into seven solutions areas that are common to all local governments. It is not expected that every county will implement all of the policies and/or actions within the template, just those that are most applicable to their situation. Bridging diverse local and regional interests requires a flexible initiative that allows different types of commitments for different counties. Each solution area contains policies, actions and strategies for achieving emissions reductions. While each jurisdiction’s Cool Counties plan will be unique, at a minimum, the plans (either as a separate plan or a plan that is woven into a larger environment or land use plan) should specify how each county is addressing global climate change.

It is worth noting the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement provided a necessary catalyst to facilitate dialogue on this important environmental issue. Likewise, the Sierra Club’s Cool Cities program was instrumental in recruiting cities from across the country to sign the agreement and
develop solutions to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions to 7 percent below 1990 levels. To date, nearly 600 cities have accepted the challenge. Cool Counties builds upon that effort as local governments across the country take the lead in this historic fight against global climate change.

Updated: July 19, 2007