



June 29, 2012

TO: Solano County Residents and Businesses
 FROM: Robert Macaulay, Solano Transportation Authority Planning Director
 SUBJECT: Energy Efficiency Climate Action Plan Activities

Background:

The cities of Benicia and Vallejo and the County of Solano have all independently developed inventories of Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions and Climate Action Plans (CAPs). The STA Board and Solano City County Coordinating Council (CCCC) directed the STA to work with the cities of Dixon, Fairfield, Rio Vista, Suisun City and Vacaville to develop GHG inventories. These were completed in late 2011.

On July 13, 2011, the STA Board authorized staff to pursue funds from the California Strategic Growth Council (SGC) for the development of a multi-agency CAP and CAP Implementation Strategy, subject to endorsement from the CCCC. On August 11, 2011, the CCCC requested STA take the lead in seeking a SGC grant for the multi-agency CAP and CAP Implementation Strategy.

In the fall of 2011, the Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) notified STA that PG&E funds were available to assist in the development of a CAP focused on energy production and use, known as Energy Efficiency Climate Action Plan (EECAP). After discussions with the county Planning Directors and the CCCC, STA applied for and received funding from PG&E for the development of the EECAPs. At its meeting of April 11, 2012, the STA Board approved extension of the contract between STA and the consulting firm AECOM for development of the EECAP and SGC-funded CAP and CAP Implementation Plan.

Discussion:

The program guidelines for the EECAPs are established by PG&E, under the direction of the California Public Utilities Commission (PUC). The guidelines require one community-wide public kick-off meeting. That meeting is planned for 6 p.m. on July 12, at the County administrative offices. PG&E and STA staffs developed a press release to make sure members of the community are aware of the award of the PG&E funds, and to solicit participation in the July 12 meeting. Subsequent meetings will be held in each of the participating cities as the draft EECAPs are developed. All work must be done by the end of 2012. Work done on the EECAPs will provide a substantial portion of the subsequent SGC-funded countywide CAP and implementation plan.

There are several advantages in preparing EECAPs and a countywide CAP and implementation plan at this time, rather than waiting until a community updates its general plan or is subject to a state mandate. These advantages include:

- **Funding.** Climate actions that are performed before they are mandated can be funded by outside agencies such as PG&E and SGC. CAPs done in response to a state mandate must be funded by the city.
- **Commonality.** All of the Solano cities and the county are working off of common GHG emission baseline inventories, and the EECAPs and countywide CAP and implementation plan will be based upon a single menu of GHG emission reduction strategies. This means that no community in Solano County will be at a competitive disadvantage to the others in terms of economic development. It will also allow an efficient sharing of resources for the CAP implementation activities.
- **Energy Savings.** By working with PG&E, local businesses and residents will have better access to energy savings information and technologies. This involvement can be especially helpful to large energy users that are seeking to cut costs.
- **Cleaner Air.** Implementation of the EECAPs and CAPs will result in fewer local emissions of air pollutants and GHGs.

Because this is a county-wide effort that involves issues beyond transportation, STA staff has been authorized by the CCCC to use the CCCC name and letterhead when issuing press releases for the public meetings. STA will also bring the draft EECAPs to the CCCC prior to their formal submittal to the cities, and ask for the CCCC authorization to release the draft EECAPs. When the SGC countywide CAP and Implementation Plan schedule is developed in the fall of 2012, the CCCC will take the policy lead on this item.