



County of Los Angeles CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE

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November 3, 2008

To: Supervisor Yvonne Burke, Chair
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Supervisor Don Knabe
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

From: William T Fujioka
Chief Executive Officer

LOS ANGELES REGIONAL COLLABORATIVE FOR CLIMATE ACTION AND SUSTAINABILITY CHARTER

On October 7, 2008, your Board instructed this Office to report back at the October 14, 2008 Board meeting regarding the County's support and participation in the L.A. Regional Collaborative for Climate Action and Sustainability Charter. We provided an initial report on October 10, 2008. This memo will provide further details with regards to the County's participation. While your Board was supportive of County participation in the initiative, concerns were identified with the lack of specificity in the governance structure and the funding model of the Collaborative. Subsequently your Board moved to support and participate in the Collaborative and asked for the Chief Executive Office (CEO) to report back in 30 days on the details and requirements of the County's role, including the cost impact.

On October 17, 2008, staff from the CEO met with representatives from organizations who have been working on the development of the L.A. Regional Collaborative for Climate Action and Sustainability. The group shared the concerns raised by your Board and discussed how to finalize the operational structure of the group.

Governance

After much discussion, Collaborative participants decided that, at this time, it would be best to keep the structure informal, with voluntary participation in each project, rather than mandating an official charter that would require ratification and signatures from its members. This structure is more in line with the purpose of the Collaborative, which is to provide a venue for information sharing and development of mutually-beneficial projects. This direction obviates the need for a voting framework.

"To Enrich Lives Through Effective And Caring Service"

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Various jurisdictions, including Los Angeles Unified School District, City of Los Angeles, City of Santa Monica, City of Pasadena, Metropolitan Water District, UCLA Institute of the Environment, and Green LA are proceeding with resolutions to acknowledge their intent to participate in Collaborative as described above. Other participants, including Metropolitan Transportation Authority, Community Redevelopment Agency, Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG), and the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce, will continue to support this effort and introduce resolutions as necessary. Additionally, the Collaborative has done outreach to the various sub-County Council of Governments (COGs) to ensure regional representation from the diverse jurisdictions throughout the County.

Funding

Under this informal structure, a financial contribution from the County is not required in order to participate in Collaborative meetings. However, Federal and State legislators and regulators have made it clear that potential funding will be allocated regionally through local collaborative efforts. In order to position itself to apply for any potential Federal funding, the Collaborative is actively seeking grants and third-party funding for administrative support and to implement beneficial regional projects.

Within the framework described above, County staff will begin working to explore opportunities for regional collaboration that will provide cost-saving and efficiency benefits that will assist the County in implementation of AB 32 and SB 375 mandates, as well as the County's previously established energy and environmental goals. Our efforts will be coordinated and shared as appropriate with Collaborative partners.

Initial Projects Proposed for the Collaborative:

Regional Climate Action Plan: Representatives at the October 17, 2008 Collaborative meeting agreed that one of the highest priority projects would be to develop a Regional Climate Action Plan, including conducting a Greenhouse Gas Baseline Assessment and developing strategies, priorities and goals for reducing emissions throughout the County. This assessment is currently not mandated under AB32, but is anticipated to be the subject of future State legislative amendments to AB32. It is an activity that will result in information beneficial to many entities in the region, including how to most cost effectively and efficiently reduce our carbon emissions.

This endeavor is well beyond the means of most public or private agencies to independently undertake, including the County. Other existing regional entities such as SCAG have financial challenges that make it difficult to provide more than a leadership role. SCAG has, however, expressed support for the Collaborative and can provide in-kind support. Therefore, Collaborative representatives agree that the development of a Regional Climate Action Plan, including the Greenhouse Gas Baseline Assessment, is a prime activity for which Federal funding under a regional entity would be sought and would probably be awarded.

Coordinated Public Outreach and Communications Network: Members would be given the opportunity to collaborate on developing a consistent environmental messaging campaign and reduce duplicative costs.

Additional Benefits of Participation:

Information Sharing: The Collaborative would develop and coordinate workshops, seminars and other networking events to share best practices, industry updates, recognition and other information in conjunction with statewide or other regional programs. Los Angeles County and other local entities will benefit from identifying a single point of coordination to streamline the many local events that are occurring. The County has agreed to be the lead on publishing all relevant information or available resources resulting from the Collaborative by including it on the County's green website, www.greenlacounty.gov.

Regulatory Monitoring: Collaborative participants may utilize a single (or central) resource to track and monitor key legislative and regulatory activities which will implement greenhouse gas reduction programs. The current scope of these activities is too broad for any one entity (including the County) to cost-effectively manage. A process for establishing a legislative/regulatory information directory will be discussed by the Collaborative at future meetings.

As the Collaborative identifies projects of merit which will benefit the County, prior to moving forward this Office will report back to your Board with the specifics on scope, anticipated outcomes, project costs, County share, funding source(s) and specific recommendations for Board action.

Please contact Ellen Sandt of this Office at (213) 974-1186 or esandt@ceo.lacounty.gov or Howard Choy of Internal Services Department at (323) 881-3939 or hchoy@isd.lacounty.gov if you have any questions or need additional information.

WTF:EFS:
SW:ef

c: Deputy Chief Executive Officers
Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors