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"To enrich lives through effective and caring service"

February 22, 2011

To: Each Supervisor

From: Tom Tindall *Tom Tindall*
Director

Subject: **ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY REPORT #9**

This memo provides an update on the accomplishments and activities under the County-wide Energy and Environmental Policy (Policy) that your Board approved on January 16, 2007.

This report also discusses the County Office of Sustainability (COS) within the Internal Services Department (ISD) and its relationship to the Policy.

TEAM ORGANIZATION

Under the Policy, the Energy and Environmental Team (Team) was created to investigate and develop energy and environmental programs for implementation in County facilities and operations. The Team provided support to County departments for programs initiated by the Board, including those that impact constituents County-wide or in County unincorporated areas.

In September 2009, your Board approved the creation of a County Office of Sustainability within ISD to respond to legislation, regulation, and policy related to climate change, and to coordinate energy efficiency, conservation, and sustainability programs within the County and the region. ISD is also administering American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) grants related to County-wide energy efficiency programs, including:

- \$15.4 million from the formula-allocated Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG);
- \$8 million from the California Energy Commission's (CEC) Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant funds;
- \$14 million from the \$30 million competitive Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant, termed Better Buildings Program, awarded to the County and three other California regional entities.

Our most recent semi-annual status report was issued on August 16, 2010. In that report, we noted a large degree of overlap between the responsibilities of the COS and the Team. We recommended that all functions previously assigned to the Team be absorbed by the ISD. In October 2010, the Executive Office submitted a request to the Board and the Audit Committee to revise the Policy to reflect this change. The Audit Committee met on February 17, 2011 and approved the revised Policy, providing authorization for ISD to absorb the duties previously assigned to the Team.

ISD will continue to inform your Board, the CEO, and departments of the status of environmental and energy efficiency initiatives through periodic meetings, semi-annual reports, and updates to an improved and expanded <http://green.lacounty.gov> website.

RECENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The following is a summary of significant activities and accomplishments since our August 2010 report.

- A portion of the formula-allocated EECBG funds have been designated to develop, implement and administer the Los Angeles County Energy Program (LACEP), a comprehensive home energy retrofit program. In an effort to coordinate with other State-wide and local efforts, LACEP has been rebranded as Energy Upgrade California in Los Angeles County (EUC-LAC). EUC-LAC does not currently include a residential Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) financing program due to complications at the Federal level, as detailed to your Board in a report dated July 22, 2010. Although residential PACE is on hold, under EUC-LAC financing tools will be made available to homeowners who undertake energy upgrades. The County is working with the local investor owned utilities (Southern California Edison and Southern California Gas Company), the municipally owned utilities, cities within the County, and various other stakeholder groups to ensure the success of EUC-LAC. ISD is overseeing various marketing, outreach, participant recruitment, workforce development, incentive, and administration efforts associated with EUC-LAC. More information about the State-wide effort is at www.energyupgradecalifornia.com. More information about County-specific efforts can be found at www.lacountyenergyprogram.org.

ISD and the Treasurer & Tax Collector (TTC) are working with the City of Los Angeles (City) to develop a County-wide non-residential PACE program. The City is using a grant from the California Energy Commission (CEC) to develop a City-wide PACE program targeting commercial buildings. ISD and TTC are implementing the City's program under the County's adopted PACE documentation. ISD and TTC will work with the City to expand the program throughout the rest of the County.

- On June 15, 2010, your Board authorized the acceptance of \$8 million via an intergovernmental contract with the CEC, and delegated authority to ISD to administer the associated contract. These funds leverage other grant monies by augmenting the marketing and workforce development components of EUC-LAC. Under the CEC funding, ISD is working to expand comprehensive marketing efforts into cities throughout the County by working with the Councils of Governments and directly with other local governments. Scholarships for contractors and other eligible professionals will be provided under this funding to incentivize the local workforce to obtain additional skills and certifications that support EUC-LAC.
- On May 25, 2010, your Board authorized the acceptance of \$30 million of Competitive EECBG funds, under the Better Buildings Program, from the Department of Energy (DOE) and delegated authority to ISD to administer the associated contract. The County will serve as the prime recipient of this award, for itself and three other regional entities, and is responsible for overall program administration. Under the Better Buildings Program, the County and its other regional partners are developing and implementing innovative pilot programs with the goal of encouraging and tracking energy efficiency retrofit projects across the State. The County's \$14 million share of the award will serve to supplement existing funds to expand the marketing, outreach, workforce development, and monitoring efforts being implemented under EUC-LAC.
- The formula allocated EECBG includes funds to establish Environmental Service Centers around the County to provide information, materials, and resources to constituents about a range of County and non-County programs. The contractor team hired to implement EECBG programs has created an Environmental Service Center program proposal and marketing plan, and portable kiosks and displays are being created. The contractor will also provide a dedicated half-time staff person to service the displays as EUC-LAC launches to the public. ISD has established information centers in field offices in each of the five supervisorial districts, to include literature racks containing information about various County, utility, and other environmental programs. Field office staff have been trained to assist constituents in finding information about the various programs.
- A portion of the formula-allocated EECBG funds have been allocated for support of the County's Green Building Program. These funds will be used to provide industry stakeholder and constituent outreach, as well as training for County staff related to Program requirements and implementation. On May 12, 2010, the Green Building Program Implementation Task Force submitted its first annual Report to the Board of Supervisors responding to questions posed by the Board and outlining recommended changes to the ordinances.

ISD is currently competitively soliciting vendors for the staff training and stakeholder outreach services to support the Program.

- The Los Angeles Regional Collaborative (LARC) for Climate Action and Sustainability will use a portion of the County's formula-allocated EECBG to oversee the creation of a Regional Climate Action Plan (RCAP) for the County. The LARC, which includes members from local jurisdictions, public agencies, non-profit organizations, and universities, formed a Regional Climate Action Planning Committee to outline work to be completed as part of the RCAP, help define analysis parameters as the project gets underway, and participate in on-going coordination efforts. A scope for the greenhouse gas emissions inventory has been finalized and data collection and initial analysis has begun. More information about the LARC and the RCAP can be found at <http://www.laregionalcollaborative.org>.
- ISD and the CIO have completed an online Solar Map which provides building owners in the County with information about solar power installations: <http://solarmap.lacounty.gov>. The Solar Map utilizes data from the CIO's latest aerial imagery mapping project and solar power estimation software to provide preliminary cost and savings information from a solar power project, installation details and resources for information about solar technology. In January 2010, the Solar Map was awarded a Best in California Award for Green Information Technology. Staff is utilizing formula-allocated EECBG funds to enhance the Solar Map by increasing the map's functionality, creating new user-facing tools, and providing a Spanish language version of the site.
- To comply with Assembly Bill (AB) 32, ISD has prepared a Municipal Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory (Inventory) to support the development of an Emissions Reduction Plan for all County operations. The Inventory includes municipal greenhouse gas emissions from operations measured for the year 2009, and projects a "Business As Usual" forecast for 2020. Together, these will aid the County to identify strategies to reduce internal operations emission by 15% by 2020 and ensure the County's compliance with AB 32. The County is preparing an Emissions Reduction Plan, which will be completed by July 2011.
- Both ISD and Public Works received Quality and Productivity Commission Investment Fund grants and loans to certify their respective headquarters buildings under LEED Existing Building - Operations and Maintenance (EBOM) guidelines. Efforts are underway to achieve LEED EBOM certification by June 2011. ISD is on target to receive a LEED Silver certification and DPW will likely achieve LEED Certified level status.

Both ISD and Public Works have submitted their applications to the US Green Building Council (USGBC) for review and are anticipating responses shortly. ISD is also developing building operation policies and standards that are consistent with LEED EBOM requirements for use in all County buildings.

- As part of the LEED EBOM certification process for both buildings, staff training sessions are being held to promote the value of sustainable construction and building operations. Trainings were organized into three levels to serve at least 75 staff persons from various departments. ISD is planning to offer additional classes throughout 2011.
- ISD has been awarded \$1 million under Southern California Edison's (SCE) Long-Term Energy Efficiency Strategic Planning grant program. Under this program, ISD will use funding, in combination with approximately \$3 million received by other cities in SCE service territory, to expand the Enterprise Energy Management Information System (EEMIS – ISD's internet-based, real-time energy management program) for use by other local governments. Expanding EEMIS to other cities will spread energy management expertise across the region, reduce ISD's annual EEMIS operating costs, and generate revenues for ISD technical support and consulting services.
- ISD is working to expand and enhance the County's Energy and Environmental website <http://green.lacounty.gov>. This website is a major outreach component for County programs, as well as a forum for interdepartmental communication and collaboration. The new design of the website has been finalized and staff is working to create the new pages and content. The enhancements currently underway will serve to improve the website's user-friendliness and update its design.
- The Team continues to support a variety of County programs that are led by other organizations. These include:
 - Developing programs to limit or ban the use of polystyrene food containers and plastic bags (led by the CEO and Public Works);
 - Implementing the Green Building Program and participating in the Green Building Program Implementation Task Force (led by Regional Planning and Public Works);
 - Implementing the County Capital Project Program to certify new County buildings (>10,000 square feet) at the United States Green Building Council's LEED Silver level;

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- Offering feasibility assessments to facilities contemplating LEED certification.

Further details on the Team activities described above are included as attachments and may be found at <http://green.lacounty.gov>. If you have any questions, please contact me at (323) 267-2101 or Howard Choy at (323) 881-3939.

TT:JJ:LR

c: William Fujioka, CEO
Ellen Sandt, DCEO
ISD Board Deputies
Each Department Head