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"To enrich lives through effective and caring service"

August 11, 2011

To: Each Supervisor

From: Tom Tindall
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Subject: **ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY REPORT #10**

This memo provides an update on the accomplishments and activities under the Countywide 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 work to support the Policy.

In September 2009, your Board approved the creation of the 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 countywide energy efficiency programs, including:

- $15.4 million from the formula-allocated Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG);
- $9.2 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.

RECENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The last report was issued on February 22, 2011. The following is a summary of significant activities and accomplishments since that report.

- A portion of the formula-allocated EECBG funds have been designated to develop, implement, and administer Energy Upgrade California in Los Angeles County (EUC-LAC). EUC-LAC officially launched to the public in March 2011 with the introduction of a public-facing web portal and a wide-ranging marketing and outreach campaign. Under EUC-LAC, homeowners who undertake whole home energy efficiency retrofits are eligible to receive significant rebates to offset the cost of their project.

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 other stakeholder groups to ensure the success of EUC-LAC. ISD is overseeing marketing, outreach, participant recruitment, workforce development, incentive, and administration efforts associated with EUC-LAC. More information about the program can be found at www.energyupgradeca.org.

- In late July, 2011, the County launched a EUC-LAC financing program to offer property owners a preferred interest rate on loans for eligible residential energy efficiency and solar projects. The County is partnering with a private lender and providing a loan-loss reserve to help secure an interest rate for homeowners that is often lower than other loan options. More information about EUC-LAC financing can be found at https://energyupgradeca.org/county/los_angeles/financing_overview

- ISD and the Treasurer & Tax Collector (TTC) are working with the City of Los Angeles (City) to develop a countywide Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) program for non-residential properties. The City is using a grant from the California Energy Commission (CEC) to develop a citywide 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. This Commercial PACE program is scheduled to launch in late August 2011.

- On June 15, 2010, your Board authorized the acceptance of $8 million in an intergovernmental contract with the California Energy Commission (CEC). On June 27, 2011, the CEC authorized an additional $1.2 million in funding to provide additional support and funding for EUC-LAC marketing and workforce development efforts. 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 funded through the CEC grant for contractors and other eligible professionals are currently available to support the local workforce in obtaining additional skills and certifications that support EUC-LAC.

- ISD is using the County's $14 million share of Better Building Program grant funds to develop and implement various energy efficiency pilot programs. The overarching goals of these programs are to drive participating in EUC-LAC and achieve measurable energy savings in existing buildings. The County serves as the prime recipient of this award, on behalf of itself and the three other regional entities, and is responsible for overall grant administration.

- 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. Portable kiosks are nearing completion and will soon be deployed throughout the County.

A marketing plan for the Environmental Service Centers is near final and marketing will begin during August 2011.

- A portion of the formula-allocated EECBG funds have been allocated to support the County's Green Building Program. These funds will be used to provide industry stakeholder and constituent outreach, as well as offer training for County staff related to Program requirements and implementation. ISD competitively solicited and contracted with two consultant teams to develop and implement an industry stakeholder outreach and staff training program. The industry stakeholder outreach is underway and the consultant is working to identify appropriate outreach events, develop specific training and materials, and create an outreach plan suited to building and development professionals. The staff training program is under development and the first module of training is scheduled to begin August 29, 2011.

- The Los Angeles Regional Collaborative (LARC) for Climate Action and Sustainability is utilizing a portion of the County's formula-allocated EECBG to oversee the creation of a countywide Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory (Inventory). The Inventory will serve as the foundation for a Regional Climate Action Plan (RCAP) that will summarize and coordinate greenhouse gas reduction efforts countywide. ISD has contracted with a consultant to develop the Inventory and has begun initial scoping efforts. The LARC has formed a Technical Advisory Committee to participate in and oversee project scoping, data collection, and analysis that will result in the final Inventory. More information about the LARC and the RCAP can be found at http://www.laregionalcollaborative.org.

- 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 County is developing an Emissions Reduction Plan (Plan), which will help the County comply with AB 32 by reducing internal operations emission by 15% by 2020. Additional proposed measures will also be included that would have the potential to exceed the AB 32 requirements through further reductions. The Inventory and Reduction Plan are in the final stages of development, and should be ready for release in draft form by the end of this calendar year.

- Both ISD and DPW received Quality and Productivity Commission Investment Fund grants and loans to certify their respective headquarters buildings under LEED Existing Buildings – Operations and Maintenance (EBOM) guidelines. ISD achieved LEED certification in June 2011, and DPW is anticipating LEED certification by September 2011.

- 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. To date, three Level One classes have been taught to a total of 75 County employees and two Level Two classes presented to a total of 40 County employees. The Level Two participants will now be eligible to apply for testing and accreditation by Green Building Certification Institute as either LEED Green Associates or LEED Accredited Professionals, depending on their level of experience with LEED.

- ISD launched the redesigned and enhanced Regional Energy and Environmental website: http://green.lacounty.gov on June 30, 2011. This website is a major outreach component for County programs, as well as a forum for interdepartmental communication and collaboration. An interactive online interface was also developed for the Environmental Service Centers to guide residents to the site and direct them to other online resources. New content and features will be added on a continuing basis.

- ISD and the CIO have enhanced the County's online Solar Map http://solarmap.lacounty.gov, which provides building owners in the County with information about solar power installations. The Solar Map utilizes data from the CIO's latest aerial imagery mapping project and solar power estimation software to provide preliminary savings information from a solar power project, information about project costs, installation details, and resources for information about solar technology and installations. Using formula EECBG funds, staff has significantly enhanced the Solar Map and translated it into Spanish. The enhanced map now allows users to pinpoint specific areas of the rooftop that are most suitable for solar installations and create printable reports summarizing the information the Solar Map provides. Staff has also created high-resolution 3D models for County-owned properties to aid in better understanding the solar potential of these buildings.

- Through the County's membership in the Local Government Sustainable Energy Coalition (LGSEC), the County and other member local governments are able to pool resources to more efficiently track, report on, and participate in key energy and environmental activities, including regulatory proceedings. ISD staff continues to meet regularly with LGSEC members to discuss issues related to utility rebate programs and policies, data acquisition, and recent legislation.

- ISD will be asking the Board to accept $1 million awarded 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.

In addition, ISD will work with the other grant recipients to develop and implement a regional centralized source for information and resources related to energy efficiency projects, in order to improve the delivery of projects by all participants.

- ISD continues to implement energy savings projects, funded by grants and other sources, to reduce the County's energy cost. Current projects and efforts include:

    - Retro-commissioning of the downtown Men's Central Jail, Chatsworth Courthouse, Barry J. Nidorf Juvenile Hall and several smaller facilities. These retro-commissioning projects are essentially a "tune-up" of the heating, ventilating and air conditioning systems to ensure optimal performance, which in turn produces energy efficiency and savings.

    - Implementation of a program to replace the current T-8 type fluorescent lamps with lower wattage, higher efficiency lamps throughout the County.

    - Coordination with various departments, including the DPW, Parks and Recreation and the Sheriff's Department to assure that utility rebates are being captured for several energy efficiency projects, including lighting upgrades, computer server virtualization upgrades, and efficient pump replacement projects.

    - Working with the Department of Health Services (DHS), using Board-authorized Capital Project funds, to replace old, inefficient boilers and to retrofit existing boilers to meet current South Coast Air Quality Management District requirements at the Olive View/UCLA Medical Center, Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center, Harbor/UCLA Medical Center, and the LAC+USC Medical Center.

    - Conversion of an existing system at the Civic Center Power Plant used to control emissions for the gas turbine generators, to use urea instead hazardous anhydrous ammonia to improve safety. The main advantage of urea injection over ammonia injection is that urea is a nontoxic liquid that can be safely stored and handled.

    - Completion of upgrades to the heat recovery steam generator at the Civic Center Power Plant to reduce emissions. Reduction improvements reduced nitrogen oxides (NOx) by 350%, from 8.8 parts per million (ppm) to 2.4 ppm, and carbon monoxide (CO) emissions by 650%, from 8.0 ppm to 1.2 ppm.

- Completion of water control measures at the Civic Center Power Plant, including the installation of electronic monitoring on the existing cooling towers, which has resulted in a water savings of about 8 million gallons a year.

- The County Office of Sustainability 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 County Capital Project Program to certify new County buildings (>10,000 square feet) at the United States Green Building Council's LEED Silver level;

  - Offering feasibility assessments to County facilities contemplating LEED certification.

Further details on many of the activities described above may be found on the website http://green.lacounty.gov.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (323) 267-2101 or Howard Choy at (323) 267-2006.

TT:JJ:LR

c: ISD Board Deputies
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