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May 12, 2009

Since AB 32—the *California Global Warming Solutions Act*—was passed in 2006, a regulatory framework has emerged that makes it abundantly clear that local governments in California have a responsibility to fight global warming. Toward that end, Los Angeles County has already taken a number of important steps by improving the energy efficiency of our own operations, mandating stringent green building standards in private developments throughout all unincorporated areas, promoting the installation of solar power facilities on rooftops throughout the county, and setting ambitious goals for reducing the County’s own greenhouse gas emissions 80% below 2007 levels by 2050.

However, there are three critical and immediately necessary tasks that the County needs to complete in order to most efficiently reduce the County’s greenhouse gas emissions, comply with legal obligations, and ensure that the County is prepared to respond to the expected environmental changes wrought by climate change.

First, the County should inventory its operational and communitywide greenhouse gas emissions. This inventory should at minimum include an accounting of our emissions today, our emissions in 1990 (the baseline year established by AB 32), and what our emissions are expected to be in the year 2020, which is the year by which

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the AB 32 Scoping Plan indicates that the County and other local governments should have reduced their emissions to approximately 15% below current levels.

Second, the County should utilize the greenhouse gas emissions inventory to begin work on a comprehensive Climate Action Plan that contains greenhouse gas emissions reduction goals consistent with AB 32 benchmarks and existing Board policy, develops and implements programs for achieving those goals, and tracks the County's progress on an ongoing basis.

Third, Los Angeles County should determine how it will respond to the likely effects of climate change. In its 2007 report, the United Nations International Panel on Climate Change found that North America was likely to experience:

- Reduced winter snowpack and other hydrological changes in the western mountains that could result in less predictable sources of drinking water and increased winter flooding;
- Extended periods of high fire risk in areas subject to heat waves and high wind conditions;
- Damage to coastal communities from impacts such as sea-level rise, increased storm surges, and increased coastal erosion.

Just as importantly, the U.N. report also noted that most communities are not prepared to adapt to these changes. Nevertheless, the State of California, and several local jurisdictions—notably including the Cities of Los Angeles, New York, and Chicago—have already begun taking action to model the effects of climate change on a more localized scale in order to ensure that critical infrastructure is protected and neighborhoods are prepared. The County should look for opportunities to join in these critical tasks and capitalize on the expertise, protocols and data that these agencies are developing. Ultimately, these models and adaptation strategies should be considered

when developing the Climate Action Plan.

Fortunately, the County has a prime opportunity to leverage new financial resources to help pay for these critical efforts if we move decisively. This opportunity exists because several other entities in our region are looking for opportunities to partner with the County to share the costs and benefits of completing these efforts. In addition, a portion of the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant funds from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act can be used for these two purposes along with other potential non-Net County Cost funding sources such as SB 732 (Proposition 84) funds.

In addition to the financial wisdom of acting now, the Environmental Impact Report for the County's draft General Plan is legally required to assess the plan's impact on global warming and identify mitigation measures to address any such impacts that have a significant effect on the environment. To its credit, the draft General Plan currently contains statements of intent to do things like "work with scientists and other experts to understand the County's ecological footprint and climate change's effect on the County." However, the draft plan does not yet contain the supporting data or package of enforceable environmental mitigation measures, goals, policies or future implementation actions necessary to address global warming in a way that is likely to truly reduce greenhouse gas emissions or further the county's overall efforts to adapt to environmental changes in policy areas such as long-term infrastructure planning, water availability, air quality and climate change, and hazard mitigation that already must be addressed by the General Plan.

**WE, THEREFORE, MOVE** that the Board of Supervisors instruct the Chief Executive Officer, in cooperation with the Director of Internal Services, the Acting Director of Regional Planning, and other appropriate departments to:

1) Take all steps necessary to secure either discretionary or formula federal Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Funds in an amount sufficient to complete the emissions inventory, develop the Climate Action Plan, and support the climate change adaptation efforts enumerated above;

2) Pursue formal partnership agreements with the City of Los Angeles and other interested parties to: a) complete the greenhouse gas emissions inventory and adaptation modeling in a way that reduces the duplication of efforts throughout the region, b) equitably share the cost and benefits of this work among participating entities, c) improve the ability of the County and other participating entities to effectively compete as partners for state and federal funds available for these efforts, and d) to the maximum extent possible, create data that will be useful for a variety of needs, including region-wide planning efforts such as SB 375 mandates, as well as more localized land use plans; and,

3) Report back to the Board regarding how these new endeavors will be administered and how they will be coordinated with the County's other ongoing efforts—including the Internal Services Department's analysis of its own operational greenhouse gas emissions, the Department of Regional Planning's environmental analysis for its draft General Plan, and any County participation in efforts by SCAG, METRO, or Councils of Governments to comply with SB 375 mandates—in order to ultimately develop a comprehensive countywide Climate Action Plan.

**WE FURTHER MOVE** that the Board of Supervisors instruct the Acting Director of Regional Planning in consultation with the Acting County Counsel and other appropriate Departments to report back in four weeks on how the Department will develop the General Plan and its companion EIR in a way that will: a) inventory the County's operational and communitywide contribution to greenhouse gas emissions in

accordance with accepted protocols; b) help to ensure that the County is prepared to adapt to the likely environmental effects of climate change through a combination of policies contained within the General Plan itself, the enumeration of future implementation actions, and / or coordination with the Climate Action Plan; and, c) ensure that the current draft of the General Plan will be modified in response to any new data and policy recommendations that emerge from the plan's EIR, the greenhouse gas emissions inventory, the climate change adaptation modeling and the Climate Action Plan in a way that will create the clear, measurable, and enforceable package of environmental mitigation measures, policies, and future implementation actions necessary to reduce communitywide greenhouse gas emissions in compliance with Board policy, AB 32 Scoping Plan benchmarks, and CEQA mandates.

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