County of Yolo

PLANNING AND PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

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John Bencomo
DIRECTOR

PLANNING COMMISSION STAFF REPORT **January 13, 2011**

FILE #2009-043: Conduct a public hearing and provide a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors regarding adoption of the proposed Yolo County Climate Action Plan (CAP)

APPLICANT: Yolo County Planning and Public Works Department
292 West Beamer Street
Woodland, CA 95695
(530) 666-8775

LOCATION: Unincorporated area
GENERAL PLAN: N/A
ZONING: N/A

SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT: All
SOILS: N/A
FLOOD ZONE: N/A
FIRE SEVERITY ZONE: N/A

ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION: Pursuant to Section 21083.3 of the Public Resources Code and Section 15183 of the CEQA Guidelines, the County will rely upon the certified General Plan Environmental Impact Report (EIR) (SCH #2008102034) for the purposes of adoption of the CAP.

REPORT PREPARED BY:

Heidi Tschudin, Project Manager

David Morrison, Assistant Director

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

It is recommended that the Planning Commission take the following actions:

1. Hold a public hearing to receive public testimony and take final action on the Yolo County Climate Action Plan (CAP) (see Attachment 1).
2. Recommend adoption of a resolution adopting the CAP (Public Review Draft dated December 17, 2010) to the Board of Supervisors (see Attachment 2).
3. Recommend reliance upon the General Plan EIR (SCH#2008102034) certified November 10, 2009, Resolution No. 09-189 for compliance with the CEQA for these actions.
4. Direct staff to transmit the Planning Commission's actions to the Board of Supervisors.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

The Climate Action Plan represents a significant milestone for Yolo County, which has a long history of being in the forefront of the smart growth movement with land use policies that emphasize development consistent with local communities, open space preservation, and agricultural protection. In 1982, Yolo County adopted an Energy Plan, which was one of the first of its kind. In 1985, the county landfill completed a gas-to-energy facility, which generates 20,000 kilowatt hours per year and captures 90% of methane emissions.

In 2007, Yolo County became one of 12 charter members from throughout the country to sponsor the Cool Counties Initiative, which pledges each county collectively to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 80% by 2050. That same year, the county organized local cities, special districts and UC Davis to form the Yolo County Climate Change Compact, providing an ongoing forum for exchanging information on how best to analyze and address greenhouse gas emissions.

In 2009, Yolo County adopted its 2030 General Plan, which contains more than 350 policies that deal with climate change, including the requirement to develop a Climate Action Plan. In addition to implementing General Plan policy, the Climate Action Plan also fulfills the requirements of various State legislation, including Assembly Bill 32, Senate Bills 97 and 375, and Executive Order S-3-05 that are being developed to regulate greenhouse gas emissions.

Pursuant to Action CO-A117 of the General Plan, once the CAP is adopted it is to be amended into the 2030 General Plan. All County operations and actions, as well as land use approvals, are required to be consistent with this plan. In addition, pursuant to General Plan Action CO-A117 the CAP must be in place prior to adoption of any specific plan, including the Dunnigan Specific Plan which is currently underway.

The CAP has been in preparation since February 2010. It has been the subject of numerous public meetings and workshops, and an extensive public outreach program. It is consistent with State law and County policy, and reflects the direction of the Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors.

BACKGROUND

Climate Change Overview

A balance of naturally occurring GHGs in the earth's atmosphere is responsible for maintaining a habitable climate. Emissions from human activities, such as the production of energy, motor vehicle use, and some agriculture practices are elevating the concentrations of GHGs in the atmosphere, and have led to increasing instability in the earth's climate. This is known as climate change. Carbon dioxide (CO_2), methane (CH_4), and nitrous oxide (N_2O) are the primary GHGs. Other GHGs of concern include hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), perfluorocarbons (PFCs), and sulfur hexafluoride (SF_6). When concentrations of these gases exceed historic concentrations in the atmosphere, the greenhouse effect is enhanced and global warming occurs.

Summary of Key State Laws

California's major initiatives for reducing climate change and GHG emissions are summarized below:

- Pavley Vehicle Emissions Standards (AB 1493, 2002) -- This law requires California to establish new standards for motor vehicle greenhouse gas emissions. The California Aie Resources Board (ARB)-adopted regulations will reduce GHG emissions from California passenger vehicles by about 22 percent in 2012 and about 30 percent in 2016.

- 2050 GHG Target (Executive Order S-3-05, 2005) – This Executive Order establishes a GHG emissions target for the State of 80 percent below 1990 levels by 2050.

- Global Warming Solutions Act (AB 32, 2006) – This law requires the establishment of regulatory and market mechanisms to reduce GHG emissions California to 1990 levels by 2020.

- Low Carbon Fuel Standard (Executive Order S-01-07, 2007) -- This Executive Order establishes a new Low Carbon Fuel Standard (LCFS) for transportation fuels sold in California. By 2020 the standard requires that the carbon intensity of California's passenger vehicle fuels be reduced by at least 10 percent.

- Sustainable Communities and Transportation Planning (SB 375, 2008) -- This law requires the ARB to develop regional GHG reduction targets to be achieved from the automobile and light truck sectors for 2020 and 2035 that would be implemented through a "sustainable communities strategy" (SCS) to be adopted in each of the Metropolitan Planning Areas (MPOs) throughout the State including the Sacramento Area Council of Governments (SACOG) of which Yolo County is a member agency. The focus of the SCS is to reduce the amount of vehicle miles traveled (VMT) within the applicable regions and demonstrate the ability for the region to attain ARB's targets.

Yolo County General Plan

How California communities are designed and built has large consequences on the State's GHG emission levels, and as a result, has an impact on global climate change. The majority of the State's GHG emissions are the result of development decisions: how we build our communities and buildings, where we locate them in relation to one another, and the type of infrastructure that serves them. The County's 2030 General Plan adopted in November of 2009 addresses these issues for unincorporated Yolo County, and establishes a land use pattern and strategy of policies and actions that will result in reductions in local GHG emissions.

Policies and actions incorporating the concepts of "smart growth" and climate change are prominent in every element of the 2030 General Plan. These concepts are also fundamental to the county's commitment towards protecting agriculture and open space, as well as creating communities characterized by neighborhoods that are compact, walkable, and have a variety of commercial and residential uses to provide a jobs/housing balance. There are over 350 policies and actions that serve to reduce GHG emissions and address climate change issues in the General Plan. Two actions of particular relevance to the CAP are:

Action CO-A117
Develop a Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions Reduction Plan and/or Climate Action Plan (CAP) for the County, to control and reduce net GHG emissions, and to address economic and social adaptation to the effects of climate change. Development of this plan(s) shall include the following steps:

1) Conduct a baseline analysis (GHG emissions inventory) for 1990 or most appropriate baseline year;
2) Adopt an emissions reduction target;

3) Develop strategies and actions for reducing emissions including direct offsets and fees to purchase offsets;
4) Develop strategies and actions for adaptation to climate change;
5) Implement strategies and actions; and
6) Monitor emissions and verify results a minimum of every five years starting in 2010.

Utilize the 1982 Energy Plan as a starting point for this effort. Encourage collaboration with the cities to include the incorporated areas in the plan(s). Amend the General Plan to include the plan(s) after adoption. Require County operations and actions, as well as land use approvals to be consistent with this plan(s). This plan must be in place prior to adoption of any specific plan.

Action CO-A118
In the interim until the GHG Emissions Reduction Plan/Climate Action Plan is in effect, the following significance thresholds shall be used for project analysis:

- Projects consistent with the General Plan and otherwise exempt under CEQA – Assumed to be de minimus.

- Projects consistent with the General Plan and subject to CEQA – Net zero threshold to be achieved by the applicant as follows:

-Apply practical and reasonable design components and operational protocols to reduce project GHGs emissions to the lowest feasible levels;

-Use verifiable offsets to achieve remaining GHG reductions to the greatest feasible extent, offsets shall be: locally based, project relevant, and consistent with other long term goals of the County.

CAP Preparation

A Request for Proposal (RFP) to prepare the CAP and an accompanying online carbon calculator was prepared and circulated on November 5, 2009. Eleven firms responded to the RFP and four firms were interviewed. AECOM Technical Services, Inc. (previously known as EDAW), in partnership with Ascent Environmental, Fehr & Peers Transportation Consultants, and CTG Energetics, was chosen as the most qualified firm for the work and has been under contract since February 9, 2010. The firm is preeminent in the field and is one of the few with significant experience preparing CAPs statewide.

Funding for the CAP is largely provided by the SACOG, which awarded Yolo County a grant to prepare the document. Under SB 375, SACOG is responsible for reducing vehicle miles travelled within the metropolitan region, to attain the GHG reduction goals established by the ARB. The remaining costs are paid for by the Dunnigan Landowners Group, which is the applicant for the Dunnigan Specific Plan. As required in the General Plan, the CAP must be adopted before any Specific Plan may be approved,.

YOLO COUNTY CLIMATE ACTION PLAN (CAP)

The Public Review Draft of the *"Yolo County Climate Action Plan (CAP): A Strategy for Smart Growth Implementation, Greenhouse Gas Reduction, and Adaptation to Global Climate Change"* was released December 17, 2010 for a 45-day review period that will conclude on February 1, 2011. A summary of the Draft CAP is provided below:

Executive Summary
This chapter provides an overview of the entire CAP.

change, as well as the specific discussion of the potential impacts to Yolo County including increased energy demand, changed cropping patterns, worsened air quality, and greater flood risks. Key relevant State legislation and County efforts are summarized, as are public outreach and agency consultation efforts. Parallel efforts by the four cities and the University of California at Davis (UCD) are identified.

Chapter 2, Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Targets

This chapter presents the emissions inventories by key sector for the unincorporated County for the 1990 "historic baseline" year and for the 2008 "existing conditions" year. The sectors represent categories of emissions that are commonly aggregated within climate change research and analysis. The sectors are comprised as follows:

Agriculture – Emissions from off-road farm equipment, irrigation pumps, residue burning, livestock, pesticide application, rice cultivation, lime and urea application, and fertilizer volatilization.

Energy Consumption -- Emissions from electricity production, natural gas and propane combustion, and domestic water consumption.

Transportation -- Emissions from vehicles traveling on highways and roadways within the County, adjusted to deduct trips that did not start and/or finish in the County (external/ external and external/internal).

Solid Waste -- Emissions from disposal at the Yolo County Central Landfill.

Wastewater Treatment – Methane emissions from secondary treatment wastewater facilities. Tertiary treatment facilities, which do not have GHG emissions, are captured in the Energy Consumption sector.

Stationary Sources – Industrial and commercial facilities such as manufacturing facilities, wineries, food processing plants, etc.

Construction and Mining – Emissions associated with on-site use of heavy duty equipment. Emissions associated with the land use itself, such as other transportation emissions or energy use, are captured in other relevant sectors.

The emissions inventories for the unincorporated area are as follows, shown in metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent emissions per year (MT CO_2e/year):

1990 (historic baseline)	Agriculture	292,032 MT CO_2e/year (48%)
	Transportation	155,577 MT CO_2e/year (25%)
	Energy	131,652 MT CO_2e/year (22%)
	Other Sectors	34,390 MT CO_2e/year (5%)
	Total	613,651 MT CO_2e/year (100%)
2008 (existing conditions)	Agriculture	297,341 MT CO_2e/year (46%)
	Energy	181,447 MT CO_2e/year (28%)
	Transportation	105,253 MT CO_2e/year (16%)
	Other Sectors	67,699 MT CO_2e/year (10%)
	Total	651,740 MT CO_2e/year (100%)

This chapter also provides emissions projections based on population and employment growth forecasts from the General Plan (assuming no implementation of the CAP). Table 2-1 on page 15 describes these projections by sector for each year.

2020	993,538 MT CO_2e/year (62% over 1990 baseline)
2030	1,394,957 MT CO_2e/year (127% over 1990 baseline)
2040	1,502,332 MT CO_2e/year (145% over 1990 baseline)
2050	1,607,798 MT CO_2e/year (162% over 1990 baseline)

Based on the requirements of State law (in particular AB 32 which requires statewide reductions of GHG emissions to 1990 levels by 2020) and the policies of the General Plan (in particular Action CO-A126 which encourages achievement of 80 percent below 1990 emissions in the region by 2050), the Draft CAP contains the following proposed emission reduction targets for unincorporated Yolo County. The 2030 goal and the 2040 goal were determined based on the trajectory of reductions needed to achieve the 2050 goal in General Plan Action CO-A126:

2020 target	613,651 MT CO_2e/year (1990 level)
2030 goal	447,965 MT CO_2e/year (27% below 1990 level)
2040 goal	288,416 MT CO_2e/year (53% below 1990 level)
2050 goal	122,730 MT CO_2e/year (80% below 1990 level)

Consistent with the horizon year of the General Plan, the CAP is designed to specifically address reductions through 2030. Achievement of reduction goals for years beyond 2030 will be addressed in future updates of the General Plan and CAP.

This chapter also describes emissions reductions that are likely to be achieved in the unincorporated County through the efforts of State and federal government. This is expected to total 121,212 MT CO_2e/year by 2020 and 253,021 MT CO_2e/year by 2030.

Chapter 3, Strategies and Measures

This chapter identifies 15 primary measures upon which the County will rely to achieve the mandatory 2020 reduction target and to help achieve the 2030 reduction goal. The CAP also identifies 18 supporting measures which could not be relied upon to achieve the State-mandated 2020 target due to limitations in accepted protocols, but are relied upon to achieve the County's 2030 goal.

The reduction measures are categorized into "strategy" areas as follows[1]:

Agriculture	37,769 MT CO_2e/year reduction by 2020 121,902 MT CO_2e/year reduction by 2030
Transportation and Land Use	42,018 MT CO_2e/year reduction by 2020 84,035 MT CO_2e/year reduction by 2030
Building Energy	185,990 MT CO_2e/year reduction by 2020 287,968 MT CO_2e/year reduction by 2030
Solid Waste and Wastewater	9,366 MT CO_2e/year reduction by 2020 13,649MT CO_2e/year reduction by 2030

[1] A fifth strategy area, "Adaptation", does not have specific reductions associated with it and is addressed below. The adoption of the CAP will require several revisions to the Climate Change section of the Open Space and Conservation Element to the 2030 General Plan.

When combined with anticipated State and federal level reductions and reductions from supporting measures identified in the CAP for 2030, total GHG reductions are expected to be 396,355 MT CO_2e/year by 2020 and 969,818 MT CO_2e/year by 2030. Attaining these levels of reduction would mean successful achievement of the 2020 target and the 2030 goal, including a slight margin (3 to 4 percentage points) of excess for each scenario.

As indicated above, the County is dependent on energy conservation measures to achieve most of the necessary reductions in both 2020 and 2030. These numbers are also provided in Figure 3-2 on page 24 of the Draft CAP.

	% of 2020 Total	% of 2030 Total
Agriculture	9.5%	12.6%
Transportation and Land Use	10.6%	8.7%
Building Energy	46.9%	29.7%
Solid Waste and Wastewater	2.4%	1.4%
Supporting Measures	N/A	21.6%
State Actions	30.6%	26.0%

Of all the proposed individual measures, the Community Choice Aggregation program is the single most important action in the CAP in terms of reductions achieved. It alone accounts for 43 percent of the 2020 reductions and 29 percent of the 2030 reduction. Other significant actions include: setting standards for Vehicle Miles Travelled (VMT); requiring new construction to exceed Title 24 energy conservation requirements; and requiring new construction to install solar water heaters and photovoltaic systems. These four actions will achieve 81% of the 2020 GHG reduction goal and 71% of the 2030 target.

In the course of developing the CAP, it became apparent that the range of feasible and practical actions available to the County for reducing GHG emissions is fairly limited. Metropolitan areas that have seen significant urban sprawl over the past several decades have an extensive excess of GHG emissions. In many cases, they have a variety of options for reducing GHG levels through infill, mixed use development, improved building standards, public education, and alternative transportation. In contrast, Yolo County has historically followed a pattern of managed growth and agricultural/open space preservation. While this has resulted in a very small increase in GHG emissions since 1990, it also leaves us with few opportunities for improvement, particularly for the dramatic decrease needed to comply with long-term targets to reduce emissions to 80 below 1990 levels by 2050.

With dispersed and modest rural communities, significant reductions in the energy and transportation sectors are unachievable. Agriculture represents nearly half of the GHG output, but any large emission reductions would require extensive shifts in cropping patterns and operations that would have widespread economic impacts to the County's primary industry. As a result, the bulk of the CAP's efforts are directed toward Community Choice Aggregation. VMT standards, energy conservation standards, and alternative energy are also important, particularly with regards to the Specific Plan areas where the majority of future growth is anticipated.

This chapter describes each of the proposed reduction measures, action steps that implement the measure, progress indicators that allow for monitoring of implementation, an estimate of anticipated emissions in 2020 and 2030 as a result of the measure, and additional community benefits that are expected to result from implementation. The table in Attachment 3 summarizes the primary emission reduction measures identified in the CAP (listed in order of greatest reduction potential for 2020) and identifies the related General Plan policies that authorize or recommend the measure. This is helpful in demonstrating that within the approximately 350 policies and actions in the General Plan included to specifically address climate change, the reduction measures ultimately relied upon within the CAP were fully anticipated.

This chapter also describes those measures needed to direct County efforts towards adapting to future environmental impacts caused by climate change. While the reduction measures described earlier focus on avoiding or minimizing GHG emissions, the focus of the adaptation measures is to prepare for the likely effects of climate change on the County. There are five adaptation measures identified accompanied by implementation actions and progress indicators.

Measure AD-1: Anticipate climate adaptation within Yolo County agriculture. Issues described include: crop vulnerability related to changes in temperatures, crop water needs, pests and disease, crop mix, and irrigation methods.

Measure AD-2: Prepare for climate change effects on water resources. Issues described include: flooding, storm water management, water supply and storage, groundwater banking, drought preparedness, water conservation, and water recycling.

Measure AD-3: Respond to the potential threat of sea level rise. Issues described include emergency preparedness, flood insurance, and flood control.

Measure AD-4: Protect the public from increased health risks. Issues described include air pollution, vector-borne disease, heat-related illness, and wildfire.

Measure AD-5: Develop governance strategies to ensure that Yolo County remains resilient to climate change. Issues described include risk assessment, risk analysis, and government response.

Chapter 4, Implementation and Benchmarks

This chapter provides information for implementation of each measure including performance indicators, responsible parties, timeframes for implementation, and other information. This section also addresses plan evaluation and amendment over time. The emissions inventory, implementation of individual measures, and overall success toward achieving the 2020 target is to be evaluated and reported on in 2015 and again in 2018. State law requires amendment of the CAP should the County determine that the adopted 2020 target is not being achieved.

This chapter also describes potential funding sources that the County could pursue to offset the financial burden to applicants of implementing the measures

The chapter also contains a detailed discussion of the relationship between the CAP and CEQA as outlined below. It should be noted that while there is recent regulatory guidance provided in the recent CEQA Guidelines amendments regarding analysis and disclosure responsibilities for GHG emissions and climate change effects, this area of the law is rapidly evolving. In general,

the regulatory environment is in its early stages, implementation is uneven, case law is minimal, and legal exposure is a factor to be considered. In light of this, the streamlined approach to CEQA compliance described in the General Plan and CAP, and summarized below establishes a new approach to dealing with GHG emission impacts that may serve as an innovative model for other jurisdictions working to address these issues. Although untested, staff believes it is fully compliant with all legal requirements, represents a fair interpretation of the regulatory environment, and provides an appropriate approach in the interests of the County as a whole.

- CEQA compliance for adoption of the CAP – The County proposes to rely upon the certified General Plan EIR (SCH #2008102034) for the purposes of adoption of the CAP. This is discussed further below.

- Reliance on the CAP for analysis and mitigation of cumulative GHG emissions -- Because the target future year emissions levels adopted by the County are below existing emissions levels, by definition the adoption of the CAP would not contribute to or result in an adverse change in the environment. As a result, achievement of the County's reduced levels of emissions would not be "cumulatively considerable". The proposed approach is that if a project demonstrates consistency with the General Plan and CAP, including compliance with the applicable reduction measures, that project would therefore be considered to have addressed its fair share of measures required to achieve the GHG target and thus have fully mitigated both project-level and proportional cumulative impacts of GHG emissions.

- Adoption of CEQA thresholds of significance – General Plan Action CO-A118 as adopted on November 10, 2009 established an interim CEQA threshold of a "net zero" increase in GHG emissions. Adoption of the CAP will require amendment of the General Plan to incorporate a mandatory GHG emissions reduction target for 2020 and a reduction goal for 2030. Both levels are lower than existing conditions, thus insuring no net increase in emissions over time and substantial progress towards meeting long-term reduction targets. Therefore, as part of the General Plan amendment, Action CO-A118 would be modified to be consistent with the CAP, as shown in Attachment 4.

- Procedures for demonstrating project-level CEQA compliance – The CAP has been developed, among other reasons, specifically to satisfy the requirements of Section 15183.5(b) of the CEQA Guidelines (see Attachment 5) relating to "tiering and streamlining the analysis of greenhouse gas emissions". The CAP is fully compliant with the requirements of this code section. In order to demonstrate project-level compliance with CEQA relevant to GHG emissions and climate change impacts, applications for discretionary projects must demonstrate consistency with the General Plan and CAP, and provide an estimate of GHG emissions that would result from the project. The estimate of GHG emissions can be developed at no cost to the applicant using the County's Carbon Calculator which is described more below. Assuming that the information provided substantiates a finding of consistency, a CEQA Guidelines Section 15183 Statutory Exemption or other appropriate determination (if there are other potential environmental impacts) would be filed and the project could be approved.

GENERAL PLAN AMENDMENT

The adoption of the CAP will require several revisions to the Climate Change section of the Open Space and Conservation Element of the 2030 General Plan (see Attachment 4). The proposed amendments would substitute new language for Policy 8.3, to reflect the adaptation strategies included in the CAP. Policies 8.4 and 8.5 would be deleted (and subsequent policies renumbered), as their broad approaches have been refined by more specific implementation measures in the CAP.

Action CO-A117 is proposed to be replaced with a new action that would reference the CAP and establish specific GHG emission targets and dates. Action CO-A118 would be replaced with new CEQA thresholds consistent with the CAP. Minor editing has been made to Actions CO-A119, CO-A120, CO-A121, CO-A125, and CO-A126 to update policy wording to reflect the CAP. Actions CO-A122 and CO-A123 have been deleted (and subsequent actions renumbered), as they are duplicative of language in the CAP. A new action has been added which sets forth a schedule for monitoring and reporting to the Board of Supervisors, as well as a schedule for updating the greenhouse gas emission inventory.

The Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation has requested a consultation under State law regarding the proposed General Plan Amendment, as is provided for under their mandated 90-day review period. As a result, the General Plan Amendment will be considered for recommendation by the Planning Commission at a future meeting. This will also allow staff time to make any necessary changes to the proposed General Plan language should the CAP be extensively revised by either the Commission or the Board of Supervisors.

CARBON CALCULATOR

As a tool for implementation of the Draft CAP, the consultant team has developed an online interactive "calculator" that prepares an estimate of GHG emissions for individual projects based on information entered by the applicant into an Excel spreadsheet. Through a series of prompts regarding the use of and participation in various emissions reduction measures, this tool will help future applicants determine their project's consistency with the CAP. A test version of this calculator has been posted online at: http://www.yolocounty.org/Index.aspx?page=2004.

COMPLIANCE WITH CEQA

Pursuant to Section 15162 of the CEQA Guidelines, when an EIR has been certified for a project, no subsequent EIR is required unless: 1) revisions to the EIR are necessary to address new or substantially more severe significant impacts that result from changes in the project or changes in the circumstances under which the project is undertaken; or 2) new information of substantial importance identifies new or substantially more severe significant effects, or identifies new or better mitigation measures or project alternatives that the County would otherwise decline to adopt.

In this case, adoption of the CAP (and the associated policy changes in the 2030 General Plan needed to incorporate the CAP) was contemplated in the General Plan and included as a part of the project description for the General Plan EIR. Adoption of the General Plan Amendment and the CAP do not result in any new or substantially more severe significant impacts. Further, the policies referencing the CAP reflect industry best practices for mitigation strategies and calculations of greenhouse gas reductions. The County is adopting these strategies as part of the CAP approval. Therefore, none of the situations requiring a subsequent EIR are triggered.

In addition, implementation of the policies in the new General Plan, as compared to the 1983 General Plan, were identified in the General Plan EIR as beneficial related to climate change because they would result in more stringent environmental protection and greater accountability in the regulation of activities that cause GHG emissions. As demonstrated throughout the CAP, successful implementation (as will be required in the General Plan Amendment) will actually achieve emissions well below existing levels, thus exceeding the County's interim CEQA significance threshold of no net increase, pursuant to Action CO-A118.

The potential for a net increase in GHG emissions associated with build-out under the General Plan was identified as significant and unavoidable in the General Plan EIR; however, successful implementation of the CAP will result in lower emissions in 2020 and 2030 than current levels.

The potential for significant impact under CEQA is measured against existing conditions (CEQA Guidelines Sections 15126.2(a) and 15382). Therefore, adoption of the CAP and the General Plan Amendment (including the GHG reduction measures included within the plan) does not trigger any of the requirements of CEQA Section 15162 to prepare additional environmental analysis beyond the certified General Plan EIR. The certified General Plan EIR provides CEQA compliance for adoption and implementation of the CAP, as well as the necessary General Plan policies needed to make the CAP part of the land use decision making process.

As anticipated and disclosed on page 2 of the Draft volume of the General Plan EIR, pursuant to Section 21083.3 of the Public Resources Code and Section 15183 of the CEQA Guidelines, the staff proposes that the County rely upon the certified General Plan EIR (SCH #2008102034) for the purposes of adoption of the CAP.

PUBLIC OUTREACH

Staff has undertaken considerable public outreach as a part of this process. The following summarizes various efforts in this regard. In addition all parties identified below, plus many others, have been asked to review and comment on the Draft CAP:

Agricultural/Rural/Open Space Stakeholders -- The agricultural sector in Yolo County generates more GHG emissions within the unincorporated area than any other sector. This contrasts significantly with the state as a whole and most communities where the transportation sector is the largest emitter. As such it was recognized early in the process that the farm community would have an important role in assisting with the development of the CAP and accomplishing necessary reductions. In light of this, staff met with a group of stakeholders to provide input to the process. Two workshops were held, on May 6 and July 29, 2010. There were 13 participants in each workshop, representing a variety of interests within the agriculture and open space communities. The inventories and strategies were substantively refined based on the input from attendees at these meetings. This was especially important in ensuring the accuracy of the inventories and the practicality of the reduction measures.

Climate Change Compact -- Staff briefed the Yolo Climate Change Compact three times during the preparation of the plan -- April 9, June 11, and August 13, 2010. The purpose was to ensure awareness of the County's efforts and coordinate with other key local jurisdictions on key assumptions.

Attorney General's Office – The State Attorney General has played a significant role in increasing awareness of climate change issues at the local level and the relationship of those issues to local land use control. Representatives of the Attorney General's office were briefed during the County's General Plan Update process regarding the future preparation of the Climate Action Plan. On July 1 and December 2, 2010, staff met with representatives of that Office again to brief them on the development of the CAP, including the proposed draft reduction targets, emissions control measures, and approach for compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) as related to adoption and implementation of the CAP, as well as future development projects covered by the CAP. Another follow-up meeting is scheduled for January, 2011, but has not been set at the time of this report's release.

Sacramento Area Council of Governments (SACOG) –Staff has been updating SACOG staff regularly regarding progress on the CAP as a requirement of the grant funding program. In addition, meetings with various SACOG staff were held June 11, 2010 to discuss the CAP effort in greater detail. Discussion included identification of efforts needed to ensure local CAP inventories add up to the SACOG regional inventory and make sense in terms of regional implementation of both AB 32 and SB 375. There was also discussion regarding efforts to utilize the Yolo County methodology for the agricultural sector as a model for the rest of the SACOG region.

Dunnigan Specific Plan Developer Group – The Dunnigan Specific Plan (DSP) is the largest growth area in the 2030 General Plan and as such will play a significant role in future GHG emissions and the County's ability to achieve its CAP goal and target. The CAP is required to be in place prior to adoption of the DSP, and the DSP is required to include climate action efforts consistent with the adopted CAP. Staff met with the DSP representative on July 26, 2010 to coordinate regarding appropriate growth assumptions for the DSP area, provide an update on the CAP efforts, and to provide direction to ensure incorporation of appropriate CAP strategies into the Draft DSP. A second meeting was held September 10, 2010 to provide an overview of the proposed draft reduction requirements.

Yolo Solano Air Quality Management District (AQMD) – The Yolo-Solano AQMD implements State and federal air quality regulations for the region through authority delegated from the ARB. Staff met with the AQMD staff prior to commencing the CAP work and on August 10, 2010 to update them regarding the County's progress.

Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation – The Nation has requested a formal consultation under SB 18 regarding the proposed General Plan changes associated with the CAP, which the County is required to provide. At that meeting, the CAP will also be discussed, but is not part of the formal consultation process. The meeting is tentatively scheduled for January, 2011, but has not been set at the time of this report's release.

Internal Coordination within Yolo County -- The CAP team has worked directly with the following County departments and divisions to coordinate regarding the CAP and related efforts: County Administrator's Office, County Counsel, Public Works, Integrated Waste Management, Natural Resources, Economic Development, General Services, and the Agricultural Commissioner's Office.

In addition, the proposed General Plan language has been distributed to various affected State agencies for a formal 45-day public review, as is required by State law. Both the CAP and the proposed General Plan language have also been made available to local jurisdictions and organizations, as well as County libraries.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1, Draft CAP (Public Review Draft dated December 17, 2010)*
Attachment 2, Resolution Adopting the CAP
Attachment 3, Primary Emission Reduction Measures and Related General Plan Policies
Attachment 4 Proposed General Plan Amendment language
Attachment 5, CEQA Guidelines Section 15183.5

*Previously distributed. Available online at http://www.yolocounty.org/Index.aspx?page=398 or copies may be reviewed and/or purchased at the Yolo County Planning and Public Works Department located at 292 W. Beamer Street in Woodland, CA 95695. Phone number (530) 666- 8775.

ATTACHMENT 2
YOLO COUNTY RESOLUTION NO. _____

(Resolution of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Yolo
Adopting the Yolo County Climate Action Plan)

WHEREAS, the Yolo County Climate Action Plan (CAP) is a local plan for the reduction and mitigation of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions which includes specific requirements that will avoid and/or substantially lessen cumulative GHG emissions. Among other things the CAP: provides an inventory of 1990 ("historic baseline") and 2008 ("existing conditions) GHG emissions; provides emissions projections for 2020, 2030, 2040, and 2050 based on growth forecasts from the 2030 Countywide General Plan; identifies the County's mandatory emission reduction target for 2020 and emissions reduction goals for 2030, 2040 and 2050; identifies reduction measures for achieving the 2020 target and the 2030 goal; and provides an implementation plan and monitoring program; and

WHEREAS, the CAP is consistent with state law and reflects state-of-the-art-practice in the emerging field of climate change planning and GHG emissions reduction; and

WHEREAS, Action CO-A117 of the Circulation and Open Space Element of the 2030 Countywide General Plan directs that the CAP be prepared; and

WHEREAS, the CAP is consistent with all applicable policies of the 2030 Countywide General Plan; and

WHEREAS, the CAP was considered and recommended for approval by the County Planning Commission on January 13, 2011; and

WHEREAS, the CAP has been under preparation since February of 2010 and has been subject to an extensive public outreach and review program during that time; and

WHEREAS, on December 17, 2010 the County released a Notice of Availability and Notice of Intent to the public and state agencies regarding proposed adoption of the *"Yolo County Climate Action Plan (CAP): A Strategy for Smart Growth Implementation, Greenhouse Gas Reduction, and Adaptation to Global Climate Change"* and amendment of the General Plan to reflect the CAP; and

WHEREAS, the CAP has been available for public and agency review over a 45 day period prior adoption; and

WHEREAS, the 2030 Countywide General Plan was analyzed for environmental impacts in the General Plan EIR (SCH #2008102034) which was certified by the Board of Supervisors on November 10, 2009 (Resolution 09-189) and which contemplated

adoption of the CAP, and included all the reduction measures upon which the CAP relies as a part of the General Plan project description.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Yolo as follows:

1. Pursuant to Section 15162 of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines, when an EIR has been certified for a project, no subsequent EIR is required unless specified circumstances occur. The County has analyzed whether a subsequent EIR is triggered and concluded based on the record that one is not. Therefore, pursuant to Section 21083.3 of the Public Resources Code and Section 15183 of the CEQA Guidelines, the County hereby relies upon the certified General Plan EIR (SCH #2008102034) for the purposes of adopting the CAP. No further environmental review is required.

2. The Board of Supervisors hereby adopts the *"Yolo County Climate Action Plan (CAP): A Strategy for Smart Growth Implementation, Greenhouse Gas Reduction, and Adaptation to Global Climate Change"* attached hereto.

3. Pursuant to Sections 15064(h)(3) and 15064.4 of the CEQA Guidelines, the Board of Supervisors finds, based on substantial evidence in the record, that the CAP is a local plan for the reduction and mitigation of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions which includes specific requirements that will avoid and/or substantially lessen cumulative GHG emissions.

4. Pursuant to Section 21082 of the Public Resources Code and Section 15064.7 of the CEQA Guidelines, the Board of Supervisors finds, based on substantial evidence in the record, that the CAP contains thresholds of significance for general use as a part of the environmental review process.

5. Pursuant to Section 15126.4(c) of the CEQA Guidelines, the Board of Supervisors finds, based on substantial evidence in the record, that the CAP contains measures designed to mitigate to less-than significant levels, the impacts from future projects anticipated in, consistent with, and allowed under the General Plan.

6. Pursuant to Section 15130(b)(1)(B) of the CEQA Guidelines, the Board of Supervisors finds, based on substantial evidence in the record, that the General Plan, General Plan EIR, and CAP satisfy the requirement for a summary of projections that describes and evaluates conditions related to cumulative impacts from GHG emissions.

7. Pursuant to Section 15183(g)(8) of the CEQA Guidelines, the Board of Supervisors finds, based on substantial evidence in the record, that the CAP constitutes/includes uniformly applied development policies and standards that will substantially mitigate the environmental effects of GHG emissions and climate change impacts when applied to future projects.

8. The Board of Supervisors finds, based on substantial evidence in the record, that the CAP has been developed, among other reasons, specifically to satisfy the requirements of Section 15183.5 of the CEQA Guidelines related to "tiering and streamlining the analysis of greenhouse gas emissions"; and further that Yolo County has analyzed and mitigated the effects of GHG emissions in the General Plan and General Plan EIR, as implemented through the adopted CAP, therefore, later projects may rely on that analysis as a part of their environmental review.

9. Pursuant to Section 15183.5 of the CEQA Guidelines, the Board of Supervisors finds, based on substantial evidence in the record, that future projects that are consistent with the General Plan, consistent with the CAP, and incorporate as binding and enforceable those requirements of the CAP that are applicable to the project, will not result in cumulatively considerable incremental contributions of GHGs.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Yolo, State of California, this 1st day of February, 2011, by the following vote:

AYES:
NOES:
ABSENT:
ABSTENTION:

_____
Matt Rexroad, Chair
Board of Supervisors, County of Yolo

Attest:
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

By_____
Deputy
(Seal)

Approved as to Form:
Robyn Truitt Drivon, County Counsel

By_____
Phil Pogledich, Deputy

Exhibits:

Exhibit A – Final Yolo County Climate Action Plan

Attachment 3
Primary Emission Reduction Measures and Related General Plan Policies

GHG Reduction Measure	Reduction Potential ($MT CO_2e$/year)		General Plan Policy/Action
	2020	2030	
Measure E-1 (2020): Community choice aggregation program results in 50% of county relying on 50% renewable, and 25% of county relying on 100% renewable	117,285	n/a	Policy PG-10.1: Pursuant to AB 117 (Statutes of 2002) explore "community choice aggregation" as a means of facilitating the purchase of electrical energy at the local level for community needs. Action PF-A63: Conduct a feasibility study regarding the applicability of "community choice aggregation" in Yolo County.
Measure E-1 (2030): Community choice aggregation program results in 75% of county relying on 50% renewable, and 25% of county relying on 100% renewable	n/a	145,884	Same as above
Measure T-1 (2020 and 2030): Compliance with VMT standard. 100% of Dunnigan, 60% of Madison, 50% of Esparto, 33% of Elkhorn, and 25% of Knights Landing achieve 44 VMT	42,017	84,035	Policy CI-1.3: Reduce the total vehicle miles of travel (VMT) per household by making efficient use of existing transportation facilities and by providing for more direct routes for pedestrians and bicyclists through the implementation of "smart growth" and sustainable planning principles. Policy CI-3.19: The Dunnigan Specific Plan shall incorporate a maximum of 44 vehicle miles of travel (VMT) generated per household per weekday through implementation of all feasible actions including but not limited to specifications contained in Policies CC-3.3 through CC-3.6. As part of the specific plan implementation, the VMT performance shall be monitored at each phase. Policy CI-3.21: Other Specific Plan areas allowed under the General Plan shall strive to achieve the VMT threshold of 44 miles generated per household per weekday to the extent feasible, using the same methods described above.

Measure E-4 (2020): Require 90% of new and 5% of existing homes to have photovoltaic systems Require all new and 200,000 sf of existing commercial to have photovoltaic systems Require 90% of new and 15% of existing residential units to install solar water heaters Require all new and 5% of existing commercial to install solar water heaters	26,307	n/a	Goal CC-4: Project Design. Require project design that incorporates "smart growth" planning principles and "green" building standards that reflect the County's commitment to sustainable development. (36 policies) Policy 4-12: Require "green" design, construction and operation including: (l) Use of passive and active solar strategies and efficient heating and cooling technologies. Goal CO-7: Energy Conservation. Promote energy efficiency and conservation. (11 policies and 6 actions) Policy CO-7.1: Encourage conservation of natural gas, oil and electricity, and management of peak loads in existing land uses. Policy CO-7.3: Require all projects to incorporate energy-conserving design, construction, and operation techniques and features into all aspects of the project including buildings, roofs, pavement, and landscaping. Policy CO-7.8: Increase energy efficiency and alternative energy utilization in existing buildings where feasible. Policy CO-7.9: Require that new site and structure designs maximize energy efficiency. Policy CO-7.10: Encourage residents to retrofit existing residences to maximize energy efficiency. Goal PF-10: Sources of Energy. Provide opportunities for the development of energy alternatives. (4 policies and 4 actions) Policy PF-10.2: Streamline the permitting process for the production of energy alternatives (including but not limited to photovoltaic, solar, wind, biofuels, and biomass), to reduce dependency on fossil fuels. Goal HO-6: Sustainable Housing. Promote environmentally sustainable

Measure A-4 (2020 and 2030): Reduce 90% of manure methane emissions from 100% of confined livestock	12,370	12,035	Action AG-A10: Work with the UC Cooperative Extension to develop technical assistance programs that may include: monitoring of changes in natural cycles; discouraging methane producing practices where feasible alternatives exist; encouraging methane recovery; and promoting farming practices that capture and store more carbon in the soil.
Measure WR-1 (2020 and 2030): Landfill captures 90% of methane	9,366	13,649	Action PF-A57: Reduce methane emissions from the landfill by closing the filled units, expanding bioreactor operations and the landfill gas collection system to future landfill units; and continuing the use of the landfill gas for energy or fuel.
Measure A-1 (2020): Reduce nitrogen application rates by 6%	4,232	n/a	Policy AG-2.11: Encourage farmers to use agricultural methods that reduce or minimize use of pesticides, herbicides and manufactured fertilizers.
Measure A-1 (2030):Reduce nitrogen application rates by 15%	n/a	10,294	Policy AG-2.11: Encourage farmers to use agricultural methods that reduce or minimize use of pesticides, herbicides and manufactured fertilizers.
Measure E-2 (2020): Retrofit 20% of existing residential units to reduce energy 15% Retrofit 10% of existing non-residential buildings to reduce energy 20%	3,948	n/a	Policy CC-4.6: Encourage all new residences to exceed Title 24 energy standards by at least 15 percent, and encourage all new commercial buildings to exceed Title 24 by at least 20 percent. Policy CO-7.6: Encourage the use of building materials and methods that increase energy efficiency a minimum of 15 percent beyond State Title-24 standards for residential buildings and 20 percent beyond State Title 24 standards for commercial buildings. Action CO-A116: Use Development Agreements and/or adopt an ordinance to require the use of building materials and methods that increase energy efficiency a minimum of 15 percent beyond State Title-24 standards for residential construction and 20 percent beyond Title 24 for commercial construction, where feasible.

Measure A-6 (2030): Sequester carbon in agricultural landscapes[1]. Restore 2,000 acres of riparian forest Establish 100 miles of new hedgerow Establish new orchards: 1,146 acres almonds, 891 acres walnuts, 2,860 acres olives	n/a	60,033	Same as above
Measure E-6 (2020): Improve water fixture/fixture fitting efficiency by 15% in 100% of residential units built prior to 1994 Reduce water consumption by 6% through leak repair in 40% of existing residential units and commercial buildings	2,103	n/a	Policy CC-2.16(Y): Require the following sustainable design standards as appropriate for projects located within the growth boundaries of the unincorporated communities: Incorporate low-water use appliances, drought tolerant landscaping and other water efficient features. Policy CC-3.4: Encourage developers to show significant net benefit to the community, after accounting for all mandated capital and operational costs, including but not limited to the items listed in Table LU-11 (Community Planning Guidelines) to provide minimum quality of life services and sustainability standards. (upgraded water systems for Dunnigan, Knights, Landing, and Madison) Policy CO-5.20: Encourage water purveyors to adopt conservation pricing strategies for existing and new development. Action CO-A80: Work with local water purveyors to develop and implement urban and agricultural water management plans to provide a 20 percent improvement in water use efficiency throughout the county by 2030. Action CO-A86: Consider adoption of an ordinance requiring that existing homes be retrofitted with water efficient appliances and fixtures prior to sale. Policy CO-7.4: Require the use of Energy Star certified appliances, such as water heaters, swimming pool heaters, cooking equipment, refrigerators, furnaces and boiler units,

			Policy ED-5.1: Assist businesses in reducing their dependence upon non-renewable resources, such as fossil fuels.
Measure A-2 (2030): Reduce fossil fuel consumptions in 5% of farm equipment by 6% through operation and maintenance Reduce fossil fuel consumption in 75% of farm equipment by 5% through improvements to equipment	n/a	2,903	Same as above
Measure E-5 (2020): Generate 1MW of renewable energy on farms in unincorporated County (excluding solar water pumps)	316	n/a	Same as above Action AG-A13: Reduce development restrictions for new and/or expanded agricultural processing, on-site agricultural sales, and bioenergy production. Policy ED-5.11: In all agricultural, industrial, and commercial endeavors, promote use of solar technology, water reuse systems, biomass systems, and other systems to capture alternative sources of energy. Strongly encourage businesses to incorporate water and energy conservation measures. Action ED-A31: Create incentives for businesses that reduce energy and water usage.
Measure E-5 (2030): Generate 2MW of renewable energy on farms in unincorporated County (excluding solar water pumps)	n/a	632	Same as above
Measure E-7 (2020): Reduce landscape water consumption by 20% in 2% of residential units Reduce landscape water consumption by 20% in 5% of commercial buildings	51	n/a	Policy CC-2.16(Y): Require the following sustainable design standards as appropriate for projects located within the growth boundaries of the unincorporated communities: Incorporate low-water use appliances, drought tolerant landscaping and other water efficient features. Policy CC-3.5: In addition to Table LU-11, achieve the following within the Dunnigan Specific Plan growth boundary: (L) As part of the specific plan process, establish and implement construction criteria, infrastructure standards, landscaping requirements, etc. to limit water use under normal conditions to a specified daily maximum. Use that threshold for purposes of sizing the community

			pesticides, incorporating winter stubble and summer fallow, etc. Policy CO-2.19: Support the use of sustainable farming methods that minimize the use of products such as pesticides, fuels and petroleum-based fertilizers.
Subtotal	275,143	507,556	
Supporting Measures	n/a	209,244	
State and Federal Reductions	121,212	253,021	
TOTAL GHG REDUCTIONS	396,355[2]	969,818[3]	

[2] 2.7% below 1990 levels (1990 level is target)
[3] 30.7% below 1990 levels (27% below is goal)

ATTACHMENT 4
PROPOSED GENERAL PLAN REVISIONS

The following text that appears on pages CO-91 through 94 of the Conservation and Open Space Element in the Yolo 2030 Countywide General Plan. New language is shown in underline. Deleted language is shown in ~~strike-through~~.

GOAL CO-8
Climate Change. Reduce greenhouse gas emissions and plan for adaptation to the future consequences of global climate change.

Policy CO-8.1
Assess current greenhouse gas emission levels and adopt strategies based on scientific analysis to reduce global climate change impacts.

Policy CO-8.2
Use the development review process to achieve measurable reductions in greenhouse gas emissions.

Policy CO-8.3
~~Prepare appropriate strategies to adapt to climate change based on sound scientific understanding of the potential impacts.~~ Implement those strategies as described in the adopted Climate Action Plan to adapt to climate change based on sound scientific understanding of the potential impacts.

~~**Policy CO-8.4**~~
~~Encourage all businesses to take the following actions, where feasible: replace high mileage fleet vehicles with hybrid and/or alternative fuel vehicles; increase the energy efficiency of facilities; transition toward the use of renewable energy instead of non-renewable energy sources; adopt purchasing practices that promote emissions reductions and reusable materials; and increase recycling.~~

~~**Policy CO-8.5**~~
~~Promote GHG emission reductions by supporting carbon efficient farming methods (e.g. methane capture systems, no-till farming, crop rotation, cover cropping); installation of renewable energy technologies; protection of grasslands, open space, oak woodlands, riparian forest and farmlands from conversion to other uses; and development of energy efficient structures.~~

Policy CO-~~8.6~~ 8.4
Undertake an integrated and comprehensive approach to planning for climate change by collaborating with international, national, State, regional, and local organizations and entities.

Policy CO-~~8.7~~ 8.5
Integrate climate change planning and program implementation into County decision making.

Policy CO-~~8.8~~ 8.6
Increase public awareness about climate change and encourage county residents and

businesses to become involved in activities and lifestyle changes that will aid in reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.

Policy CO-~~8.9~~ 8.7
Work with local, regional, State, and Federal jurisdictions, as well as private and non-profit organizations, to develop a regional greenhouse gas emissions inventory and emissions reduction plan.

3. Implementation Program

Action CO-A117
~~Develop a Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions Reduction Plan and/or Climate Action Plan (CAP) for the County, to control and reduce net GHG emissions, and to address economic and social adaptation to the effects of climate change. Development of this plan(s) shall include the following steps:~~

~~1) Conduct a baseline analysis (GHG emissions inventory) for 1990 or most appropriate baseline year;~~
~~2) Adopt an emissions reduction target;~~
~~3) Develop strategies and actions for reducing emissions including direct offsets and fees to purchase offsets;~~
~~4) Develop strategies and actions for adaptation to climate change;~~
~~5) Implement strategies and actions; and~~
~~6) Monitor emissions and verify results a minimum of every five years starting in 2010.~~

~~Utilize the 1982 Energy Plan as a starting point for this effort. Encourage collaboration with the cities to include the incorporated areas in the plan(s). Amend the General Plan to include the plan(s) after adoption. Require County operations and actions, as well as land use approvals to be consistent with this plan(s). This plan must be in place prior to adoption of any specific plan.~~

Pursuant to the adopted Climate Action Plan (CAP), the County shall take all feasible measures to reduce its total carbon dioxide equivalent (CO_2e) emissions within the unincorporated area (excluding those of other jurisdictions, e.g., UC-Davis, Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation, DQ University, school districts, special districts, reclamation districts, etc.), from 648,252 metric tons (MT) of CO_2e in 2008 to 613,651 MT of CO_2e by 2020. In addition, the County shall strive to further reduce total CO_2e emissions within the unincorporated area to 447,965 MT by 2030. These reductions shall be achieved through the measures and actions provided for in the adopted CAP, including those measures that address the need to adapt to climate change. (Policy CO-8.1)
Responsibility: Planning and Public Works
Timeframe: Ongoing

Action CO-A118
~~In the interim until the GHG Emissions Reduction Plan/Climate Action Plan is in effect, the following significance thresholds shall be used for project analysis:~~

- ~~Projects consistent with the General Plan and otherwise exempt under CEQA – Assumed to be de minimus.~~
- ~~Projects consistent with the General Plan and subject to CEQA – Net zero threshold to be achieved by the applicant as follows:~~
  - ~~Apply practical and reasonable design components and operational protocols to reduce project GHGs emissions to the lowest feasible levels;~~

~~- Use verifiable offsets to achieve remaining GHG reductions to the greatest feasible extent, offsets shall be: locally based, project relevant, and consistent with other long term goals of the County. (Policy CO-8.9).~~

Pursuant to and based on the CAP, the following thresholds shall be used for determining the significance of GHG emissions and climate change impacts associated with future projects:

1) Impacts associated with GHG emissions from projects that are consistent with the General Plan and otherwise exempt from CEQA are determined to be less than significant and further CEQA analysis for this area of impact is not required.

2) Impacts associated with GHG emissions from projects that are consistent with the General Plan, fall within the assumptions of the General Plan EIR, consistent with the CAP, and not exempt from CEQA are determined to be less than significant or mitigated to a less-than-significant level, and further CEQA analysis for this area of impact is generally not required.

   To be determined consistent with the CAP, a project must demonstrate that it is included in the growth projections upon which the CAP modeling is based, and that it incorporates applicable strategies and measures from the CAP as binding and enforceable components of the project.

3) Impacts associated with GHG emissions from projects that are not consistent with the General Plan, do not fall within the assumptions of the General Plan EIR, and/or are not consistent with the CAP, and are subject to CEQA review are rebuttably presumed to be significant and further CEQA analysis is required. The applicant must demonstrate to the County's satisfaction how the project will achieve its fair share of the established targets including:

   - Use of alternative design components and/or operational protocols to achieve the required GHG reductions;

   - Use of real, additional, permanent, verifiable and enforceable offsets to achieve required GHG reductions. To the greatest feasible extent, offsets shall be: locally based, project relevant, and consistent with other long term goals of the County;

   The project must also be able to demonstrate that it would not substantially interfere with implementation of CAP strategies, measures, or actions. (Policy CO-8.5)

Responsibility: Planning and Public Works Department~~, Parks and Resources Department~~
Timeframe: Ongoing

Action CO-A119
Monitor ~~State progress in~~ the development of GHG quantification protocol and guidance for local governments ~~that allows for statewide uniform measurement and estimation of expected jurisdiction-wide GHG emissions~~ to refine the Climate Action Plan and ensure compliance with appropriate state and federal requirements. (Policy CO-8.1)
Responsibility: Planning and Public Works Department
Timeframe: Ongoing

Action CO-A120
Require the implementation of cost-effective and innovative GHG emission reduction technologies in County building components and design. (Policy CO-8.2, Policy CO-~~8.4~~ 8.5)
Responsibility: Planning and Public Works Department, General Services Department
Timeframe: Ongoing

Action CO-A121
Adopt ~~urban forestry~~ practices that encourage forestation as a means of storing carbon dioxide, ~~with the goal of doubling the tree canopy in unincorporated communities by 2030. Use appropriate protocols to assess owner eligibility to sell carbon credits~~ including increasing the urban tree canopy, expanding riparian corridors, establishing hedge rows, and enlarging the acreage of permanent crops such as vineyards and orchards. (Policy CO-8.1)
Responsibility: Planning and Public Works Department, General Services Department (Parks Division)
Timeframe: 2012/2013

~~**Action CO-A122**~~
~~Require new development to incorporate designs and/or programs to reduce travel demand and vehicle emissions. (Policy Co-8.2, Policy CO-8.4)~~
~~Responsibility: Planning and Public Works Department~~
~~Timeframe: Ongoing~~

~~**Action CO-A123**~~
~~Require that new development incorporate alternative modes of transportation, including transit, bicycling and walking, in order to reduce vehicle emissions. (Policy Co-8.2, Policy CO-8.4)~~
~~Responsibility: Planning and Public Works Department~~
~~Timeframe: Ongoing~~

Action CO-~~A124~~ A122
Consider the provision of local housing for County employees to reduce commute travel time. (Policy CO-8.2)
Responsibility: Planning and Public Works Department
Timeframe: Ongoing

Action CO-~~A125~~ A123
~~In conjunction with, or immediately following, preparation of the Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction/Climate Action Plan(s) for the County, require countywide departmental analysis of~~ Require each county department to analyze how the predicted effects of climate change will affect its responsibilities and resources ~~of each department~~. Develop strategies and actions to addresses outcomes. (Policy CO-~~8.3, Policy CO-8.7~~ 8.5)
Responsibility: County Administrator's Office
Timeframe: 2011/2012

Action CO-~~A126~~ A124
Encourage Incorporation of the County's Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Plan/Climate Action Plan into a regional climate action plan. The regional plan should strive to achieve its fair-share contribution towards a minimum 80 percent reduction below 1990 levels in regional greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. (Policy CO-~~8.9~~ 8.7)
Responsibility: Planning and Public Works Department
Timeframe: 2011/2012

Action CO-A125
GHG emission reductions shall be monitored and reported to the Board of Supervisors biennially. The GHG emissions inventories shall be updated at least every five years beginning in 2010. (Policy 8.5)
Responsibility: Planning and Public Works Department
Timeframe: Ongoing

Attachment 5
CEQA Guidelines Section 15183.5

15183.5 Tiering and Streamlining the Analysis of Greenhouse Gas Emissions

(a) Lead agencies may analyze and mitigate the effects of greenhouse gas emissions at a programmatic level, such as in a general plan, a long range development plan, or a separate plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Later project-specific environmental documents may tier and/or incorporate by reference that existing programmatic review. Project-specific environmental documents may rely on an EIR containing a programmatic analysis of greenhouse gas emissions as provided in section 15152 (tiering), 15168 (program EIRs), 15175-15179.5 (Master EIRs), 15182 (EIRs Prepared for Specific Plans), and 15183 (EIRs Prepared for General Plans, Community Plans, or Zoning).

(b) Greenhouse Gas Reduction Plans. Public agencies may choose to analyze and mitigate greenhouse gas emissions in a greenhouse gas reduction plan or similar document. A plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions may be used in a cumulative impacts analysis as set forth below. Pursuant to sections 15064(h)(3) and 15130(d), a lead agency may determine that a project's incremental contribution to a cumulative effect is not cumulatively considerable if the project complies with the requirements in a previously adopted plan or mitigation program under specified circumstances.

(1) Plan Elements. A greenhouse gas emissions reduction plan may:

(A) Quantify greenhouse gas emissions, both existing and projected over a specified time period, resulting from activities within a defined geographic area;

(B) Establish a level, based on substantial evidence, below which the contribution to greenhouse gas emissions from activities covered by the plan would not be cumulatively considerable;

(C) Identify and analyze the greenhouse gas emissions resulting from specific actions or categories of actions anticipated within the geographic area;

(D) Specify measures or a group of measures, including performance standards, that substantial evidence demonstrates, if implemented on a project-by-project basis, would collectively achieve the specified emissions level;

(E) Establish a mechanism to monitor the plan's progress toward achieving the level and to require amendment if the plan is not achieving specified levels;

(F) Be adopted in a public process following environmental review.

(2) Use with Later Activities. A greenhouse gas reduction plan, once adopted following certification of an EIR, may be used in the cumulative impacts analysis of later projects. An environmental document that relies on a greenhouse gas reduction plan for a

cumulative impacts analysis must identify those requirements specified in the plan that apply to the project, and, if those requirements are not otherwise binding and enforceable, incorporate those requirements as mitigation measures applicable to the project. If there is substantial evidence that the effects of a particular project may be cumulatively considerable notwithstanding the project's compliance with the specified requirements in the greenhouse gas reduction plan, an EIR must be prepared for the project.

(c) Special Situations. Consistent with Public Resources Code sections 21155.2 and 21159.28, certain residential and mixed use projects, and transit priority projects, as defined in section 21155, that are consistent with the general use designation, density, building intensity, and applicable policies specified for the project area in an applicable sustainable communities strategy or alternative planning strategy accepted by the California Air Resources Board need not analyze global warming impacts resulting from cars and light duty trucks. A lead agency should consider whether such projects may result in greenhouse gas emissions resulting from other sources, however, consistent with these Guidelines.