

# MINUTES AND NOTES

## CLIMATE CHANGE COMPACT OF YOLO COUNTY

March 13, 2009

### WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Yolo County Supervisor Matt Rexroad opened the meeting at 9:04 am and thanked UC Davis for its assistance in providing meeting space and amenities.

### STAFF REPORT

The staff report was suspended for this meeting in order to accommodate the rest of the agenda. A binder was circulated with current news, announcements, and materials of interest to member.

### BRIEF UPDATES ON RECENT MEMBER ACTIVITIES

**Washington Unified School District:** They are, in partnership with the City of West Sacramento and Sacramento City College, pursuing a 10-acre solar PV project. A second project in which they are participating involves a portion of Los Rios Community College bond funds for development of a Green Technology Center in West Sacramento.

**City of Winters:** Working on a Power Purchase Agreement for PV at the waste water treatment facility, installing water meters, and the second annual E.A.R.T.H. (Energy, Agriculture and Food, Recycling and Resources, Transportation, and Habitat) festival for spring of this year.

**UC Davis:** Applied to the California Energy Commission for funding to promote energy efficiency in the West Village residential development on campus property.

**Davis Joint Unified School District:** Initiated the "Green Schools" program to inventory current programs, establish "Green Teams" at each school site, provide classroom materials to teachers and students, and conduct a "Showcase" of school-based activities in spring.

**Yolo County:** Has completed a draft update to the General Plan that includes more than 300 specific goals, policies, and actions --- spear through all of the elements of the plan --- related to energy efficiency and greenhouse gas reduction. General Services personnel are also continuing work to retrofit the 63 county buildings, are exploring a Power Purchase Agreement for the planned Justice Campus, and were recently recognized by PG&E for outstanding work in energy efficiency.

**City of Davis:** City officials are examining the potential for a solar PV financing program similar to the FIRST program adopted by the City of Berkeley. They also submitted a RESCO proposal to study renewable at the local level and are, in conjunction with PG&E, analyzing expansion of the current

PVUSA solar facility north of the city. The city has also established, through a contract with UC Davis professor Deb Niemeier, a greenhouse gas standard for new development.

**Pacific Gas and Electric:** Announced its plans to build or contract for 500 MW of solar PV near and around substations.

**City of Woodland:** They have completed their inventory for the Climate Action Registry, including the process of third party verification. They have created an Energy Committee that is currently (no pun intended) working on a Climate Action Plan. They are interested in exploring a program similar to the JPA in Marin County to provide energy efficiency services to Compact members, and possibly engaging a grant writer for the group as well.

**Yolo County Office of Education:** They have a new Director of Maintenance and Operations and are developing a 3-year plan to increase energy efficiency.

**Yolo-Solano Air Quality Management District:** They are beginning the 2009-2010 funding cycle for their Clean Air Funds.

**City of West Sacramento:** Their Green Team, in cooperation with Waste Management, recently held a seminar on regulations related to diesel vehicles. The Green Team is pursuing policies and activities throughout city departments. They have established a “Local Government Partnership” with PG&E.

#### **PG&E ANNOUNCEMENT RE: “LOCAL GOVERNMENT PARTNERSHIP” PROGRAM**

**John Ketcherside** announced that **PG&E** will form a “Local Government Partnership” with the Compact. The utility will provide staffing and resources to bring the widest range of energy efficiency and renewable energy programs to Compact members. A steering committee with representatives of Compact member jurisdictions will be created in the next 30 days to determine program opportunities. Compact chair Matt Rexroad and PG&E will co-sign the letter inviting representatives to participate. The program will become available to Compact members beginning in January, 2010.

#### **A LOCAL GOVERNMENT COLLABORATIVE APPROACH TO ADDRESSING CLIMATE CHANGE: FUNDING AND LESSONS LEARNED**

A team of representatives from the municipal consulting firm **PMC** spoke about their experience in conducting comprehensive greenhouse gas inventories for the City of San Carlos and for San Luis Obispo County and its cities.

**Michael McCormick**, the Climate Change Services Coordinator for PMC described the process in San Carlos. The BAAQMD provided funding for development of a Climate Action Plan that was integrated into but separate from the General Plan update process. The CAP is consistent with the GP, and can be used to streamline CEQA review of proposed projects.

**Tammy Seale**, the Central Coast Climate Coordinator for PMC, described the process in San Luis Obispo County to develop a Climate Action Plan for the county and all of its 6 cities. SLO is very similar to Yolo County: it is a small, mostly rural county that includes mostly small towns and a university. The SLOAPCD

was interested in a coordinated, regional approach that would use a uniform methodology and base year in order to standardize the data. The Air District provided the funding for the project using mitigation funds as a source --- there is no cost to the cities other than the fee to join ICLEI in order to use their software to calculate emissions. The Air District also motivated the formation of a partnership similar to the Compact here in Yolo County that includes the County and each of the cities to develop greenhouse gas inventories, both for municipal operations and for the community at-large. PMC is contracted to manage the development of these baselines. The project also formed a partnership with Cal Poly to provide an “army” of interns to assist with the inventory process. Ms Seale indicated that in addition to standardized data and less time to produce a baseline inventory, one major advantage of the regional approach is the communication that takes place between member jurisdictions. The group is using a coordinated process for stimulus grant application grant applications.

**Jillian Rich** described potential sources of funding for development of Climate Action Plans, including the block grant funds in the federal stimulus package, as well as other sources of state and private funds. Ms. Rich distributed a chart indicating much of the available funding sources and (subsequent to the meeting) provided staff with a detailed summary that has been distributed to Compact members .

#### **UNDERSTANDING AND BENEFITING FROM THE FEDERAL STIMULUS BILL**

**Ken Markowitz**, Senior Counsel at Akin Gump Strauss Hauer and Feld LLP in Washington DC. described in detail the recently enacted federal stimulus bill as it relates to funding for local governments for energy efficiency and greenhouse gas reduction. He indicated that the Department of Energy is struggling to figure out the process for distributing block grant funds, as well as for determining the amount of funds and criteria to obtain them by local governments. In terms of his sense of what the criteria might be for local funding proposals he indicated that project approval might be best for those that created or retained jobs, were “shovel ready,” demonstrated that funds would move quickly into the local economy, that had “real” and substantial plans and were not invented overnight, would result in real GHG reductions, involved regional partnerships, and could demonstrate strong accountability and transparency. Significantly, he indicated that development a strategy to respond to climate change, including a Climate Action/Greenhouse Gas Reduction plan, would most likely be eligible for block grant funds. Also, 2% of the funds were designated for tribal projects.

#### **ADJOURNMENT AND NEXT MEETING**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:06. The Compact meets the second Friday of every other month. The next meeting will be May 8<sup>th</sup> from 9 – 11 am at the Buehler Visitor Center on the UC Davis campus. Mr. Cliff Rechtschaffen, Special Assistant Attorney General for the California Department of Justice will join us to discuss the Attorney General’s perspective on climate change as it relates to General Plans and environmental documents.