



REPORT TO MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

AGENDA ITEM

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR
AND CITY COUNCIL

DATE: July 15, 2008

SUBJECT: California Climate Action Registry

Report in Brief

To establish a baseline of the City's carbon dioxide emissions, staff is actively pursuing joining the California Climate Action Registry (Registry). Joining the Registry is consistent with the Climate Action Compact adopted by the City Council on April 1, 2008.

Staff recommends that the City Council approve membership and associated costs of joining the California Climate Action Registry and completing third party verification services to further the City's ongoing efforts to promote climate protection.

Background

The City Council Energy Committee has been exploring options for improved energy efficiency and reduction of harmful emissions associated with municipal operations. The Registry appears to be an important step in this process and is consistent with the recently approved Climate Action Compact. This voluntary greenhouse gas registry is designed to give guidance to the City through quantifying annual energy consumption to ultimately assist in lowering the City's greenhouse gas emissions. Joining the Registry will give the City an important measuring stick by which to understand City energy practices and offer future options for increased energy efficiency and climate friendly practices. Furthermore, starting in 2009, potential federal and state legislation could impact local governments requiring greenhouse gas emission quantification and reduction. Establishing the City's baseline greenhouse gas emissions will place the City in a better position to meet potential future requirements.

Following input from business, government, and environmental stakeholders, the California State Legislature established the Registry in 2000. The Registry is a non-profit public/private partnership that serves as a voluntary greenhouse gas registry to protect, encourage, and promote early actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The Registry provides leadership on climate change by promulgating credible and consistent greenhouse gas reporting standards and tools for organizations to measure, report, verify, and reduce their greenhouse gas emissions. Current members of the Registry include over 300 of the world's largest and leading corporations, universities, cities,

counties, government agencies, and environmental organizations voluntarily measuring, monitoring, and publicly reporting their greenhouse gas emissions using the Registry's protocols and working together to solve climate change. Yolo County has already joined the Registry and the City of Davis is in the process of becoming a member. Registry participants must submit their greenhouse gas emissions to the Registry each year by June 30 (the reporting deadline recently changed from August 31 to June 30; the Registry approved an extended deadline of August 31 for the City to report 2007 data). For the first three years after joining the Registry participants must report at a minimum their carbon dioxide emissions. Starting with the fourth year, participants must report all Kyoto greenhouse gas emissions (carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, hydrofluorocarbon, perfluorocarbon, and sulfur hexafluoride).

Discussion

Joining the Registry meets one of the action items of the Climate Action Compact "Create an inventory of government (operational) energy usage and greenhouse gas emissions." The Registry would be an ongoing program which would allow the City to track its progress in the reduction of greenhouse gasses resulting from future actions implemented.

In order to join the Registry, a Statement of Intent to Join the Registry will need to be submitted; gas, electricity, and fuel consumption data for 2007 will need to be gathered and entered into the Registry's online reporting tool by August 31, 2008; and an approved third party verifier to review the data reported to the Registry will need to be hired (the Registry maintains a list of approved third party verifiers).

Costs associated with Registry participation include: \$2,500 annual fees, \$11,762.46 for Year 1 (2007) third party verification costs (approximately \$8,300 each year for 2008 and 2009 verification), and internal staff time to gather and input the necessary data. It should be noted that PG&E, through coordination with Yolo County, will fund Year 1 Registry fees (\$2,500) for Woodland and other Yolo County Climate Action Compact participants. No formal bid process was warranted to hire a third party verifier because the scope of services does not exceed the formal bid threshold. An informal request for proposals was sent to five local verifiers on the Registry's approved list of verifiers and Tetra Tech provided the most responsive proposal. Recently implemented PG&E rate schedule changes for twelve of the City's facilities will be implemented starting in August. It is anticipated that changing rate schedules at these facilities will save the City approximately \$100,000 per year, of which \$26,000 is associated with the General Fund. Staff is proposing that the General Fund savings be used to pay the annual Registry fee and for the third party verifier.

Fiscal Impact

The FY09 cost for joining the Registry is \$16,763. This includes \$14,263 (\$2,500 for 2008 annual fees [PG&E to fund 2007 annual fees] and \$11,762.46 for 2007 third party verification services). An additional FY09 fiscal year cost is \$2,500 for 2009 Registry fees that are due in January 2009.

Projected costs for FY10 are \$8,300 for Year 2 (2008) verification services by October 2009. The General Fund portion of the savings associated with the PG&E change in rate schedules will be used to fund this project. Anticipated FY09 savings are \$26,000 and FY10 savings are estimated at \$27,000. The PG&E savings and Climate Registry costs described herein will be addressed through Mid-Year budget adjustments brought to the Council at a later date.

Public Contact

Posting of the City Council agenda.

Council Committee Recommendation

Joining the Registry was discussed at the City Council Energy Committee meetings on May 13 and June 17, 2008 and is supported by the Committee.

Recommendation for Action

Staff recommends that the City Council approve membership and associated costs of joining the California Climate Action Registry and completing third party verification services to further the City's ongoing efforts to promote climate protection.

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Attachment: Energy Website Draft Outline

Energy Website Draft Outline

- Climate Change, Greenhouse Gas Emissions, and Energy Use Basics and Overview
 - Legislation
 - Definitions

- Actions the City of Woodland is Taking
 - Energy Committee
 - ✓ Membership
 - ✓ Purpose
 - ✓ Agenda

 - California Climate Action Registry
 - ✓ The Process, Implementation and Reasons
 - ✓ Link to the California Climate Action Registry Website

 - Yolo County Climate Change Compact
 - Other Current City Efforts

- Community Involvement: What You as a Citizen can Do
 - Community Involvement
 - Strategies for Reducing Emissions
 - Energy and Money Saving Tips
 - Success Stories
 - Carbon Calculator

- Links to Other Useful Websites