

<h1 style="text-align: center;">County Of Sonoma</h1> <h2 style="text-align: center;">Agenda Item</h2> <h3 style="text-align: center;">Summary Report</h3>			Clerk of the Board Use Only Meeting Date Held Until / / / / Agenda Item No: Agenda Item No: _____ _____	
			<input type="checkbox"/> 4/5 Vote Not Required	
Department: Sonoma County Water Agency				
Contact: Cordel Stillman	Phone: (707) 547-1953	Board Date: 11/17/2009	Deadline for Board Action:	
AGENDA SHORT TITLE: Community-Scale Greenhouse Gas Emission Reduction Protocol				
REQUESTED BOARD ACTION: 1. Authorize General Manager/Chief Engineer to execute the Agreement for Community-Scale Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory Protocol Development Plan, Phase 1 between the Sonoma County Water Agency and ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability (\$83,000) in substantially the form as the draft presented to this Board, following review and approval by County Counsel as to form and by Risk Management as to insurance requirements. 2. Authorize the Agency’s General Manager/Chief Engineer to amend the Agreement provided amendments do not cumulatively increase the total cost to the Agency by more than \$25,000 (taking into account all prior amendments) and do not substantially change the scope of work.				
CURRENT FISCAL YEAR FINANCIAL IMPACT				
<u>EXPENDITURES:</u>		<u>ADDITIONAL FUNDS REQUIRING BOARD APPROVAL:</u>		
Estimated Cost	\$83,000	Contingencies (Fund Name:)		\$0
Amount Budgeted	\$83,000	Unanticipated Revenue (Source:)		\$0
Other Available Appropriations (Explain Below)	\$0	Other Transfers (Source:)		\$0
Additional Requested	\$0	Additional Funds Requested		\$0
Explanation (if required): Funding is available from the \$2,634,431 appropriation in the Fiscal Year 2009/2010 budget for the Fund entitled Recycled Water Fund (Account No. 674523-6570).				
Prior Board Action: 12/16/08 Actions in Support of Regional Climate Protection Coordination Plan (RCPCP) and the SCTA as the coordinator of county-wide programs.				
Alternatives – Results of Non-Approval: None.				

Background:History of Item

In December 2008, the Board authorized an agreement with Climate Action Partners and encouraged the Agency to work cooperatively with the Sonoma County Transportation Authority and the Sonoma County Agriculture Preservation and Open Space District to evaluate opportunities for obtaining a greenhouse gas emission (GHG) allocation for Sonoma County within the California Air Resources Board's (C.A.R.B.) AB 32 program. Under AB 32, C.A.R.B. is creating a policy to mitigate climate change and control greenhouse gas emissions through the development of a regulatory emissions trading system.

To this end, staff collaboratively developed a proposal to C.A.R.B. seeking the consideration of a cap on Sonoma County as a pilot community able to generate tradable emissions reductions in the carbon market. Sonoma County's emission reduction efforts to date have been praised and the proposal has been met by C.A.R.B.'s high-level policy staff with interest and support.

Local governments around the country have attempted to quantify their communities' emissions. Although these efforts have effectively informed local climate actions, they have been inconsistent in the sources of emissions considered and in the methods used to estimate the scale of emissions from these sources. The challenge for C.A.R.B. in treating a local government as a capped entity is that the accounting standards, tracking and verification methodologies have yet to be developed to account for community-scale greenhouse gas emissions reductions.

There is a need to establish a national standard to assist Sonoma County and local governments nationwide as they measure greenhouse gas emissions from their communities' actions. Staff has met with recognized leaders in protocol development and recommends entering into an agreement with ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability (ICLEI) to develop a framework for community reductions that are held to a standard that is real, additional, quantifiable, verifiable, permanent, and enforceable.

ICLEI is an association of local governments dedicated to improving global environmental conditions through cumulative local action. ICLEI has a wealth of local government and greenhouse gas emissions experience and knowledge and will be a strong partner in the development of a community-scale protocol. ICLEI provides local governments with analytical tools they can use to achieve their emissions reduction goals. Last year ICLEI released their Local Government Operations Protocol (LGOP.), an unprecedented collaboration between the California Air Resources Board, The Climate Registry and the California Climate Action Registry. The LGOP is now the official standard for all local governments who wish to prepare and report emissions within their operations. ICLEI has the experience, expertise and ability to develop partnerships with the nation's leading organizations in the development of greenhouse gas accounting protocols.

Staff recommends that ICLEI be retained to establish the foundation for a comprehensive and multi-stakeholder community-scale greenhouse gas inventory protocol development process. Specifically, the Agency proposes to execute an agreement with ICLEI (\$83,000) by which ICLEI would 1) identify key candidates for partnership (including, but not limited to, United States Environmental Protection Agency, the California Air Resources Board, The Climate Registry, and others), conduct an analysis of existing community inventories and protocols from the local, regional, state, national and international (IPCC) levels, and provide recommendations to establish the foundation for a community-scale protocol, and 2) investigate a range of voluntary and mandatory carbon markets, in the U.S. and internationally, to identify recommended best practice approaches. The Agency's General Manager/Chief Engineer would be authorized to terminate the agreement and to amend the Agreement provided amendments do not cumulatively increase the cost by more than \$25,000 and do not substantially change the scope of work. The SCTA and other stakeholders will continue to be involved in this effort.

The development of a community-scale protocol standard will be the basis for documenting carbon emission reductions from current and future climate protection programs and will help in the effort to secure offsets or allowances from these programs. Working collaboratively with ICLEI and their partners, the Agency and SCTA can strengthen the County's position in emerging carbon markets, which will assist the County in reaching its AB 32 goals and assist the Agency in its goal of producing "carbon free" water and potentially provide a financial benefit to the Agency.

Selection Process

The Sonoma County Water Agency (Agency) does not have the resources, expertise, skills, or established relationships required to conduct the work with in-house staff.

ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability was the only firm contacted and was selected to perform the work because they are already familiar with the project because of their work on emissions analysis software, emissions inventories, and technical assistance to local governments. Their team members have a great deal of experience in this type of work and they provided a reasonable schedule. In addition, ICLEI has been involved in the development of the following emissions inventory protocols: *International Local Government GHG Emissions Analysis Protocol and the Local Government Operations Protocol.*

Termination

The Agreement includes provisions for the Agency's General Manager/Chief Engineer to terminate the Agreement.

Insurance

The standard insurance requirements for the Agreement were modified at Consultant's request, and the modifications were approved by Risk Management.

Attachments:

None.

On File With Clerk: Draft Agreement (1 Copy).

CLERK OF THE BOARD USE ONLY

Board Action (If other than "Requested")

Vote: