

**SACRAMENTO METROPOLITAN AIR QUALITY
MANAGEMENT DISTRICT**

For Agenda of: March 23, 2006

To: Board of Directors
Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management district

From: Larry Greene
Air Pollution Control Officer

Subject: **Resolution Authorizing a District Climate Change Protection Program**

Recommendation:

That the Board approve the attached resolution directing staff to take action to implement a District Climate Change Protection Program to address climate change within the context of the District's air quality mission.

Background:

The scientific community is clearly convinced that global warming is occurring in the earth's atmosphere; that this warming is occurring at an increased rate influenced significantly by anthropogenic activities; and that the rate of change is, and will continue to impact many aspects of the global environment. The linkage to air quality is also clear. Not only do some greenhouse gases (GHG) directly impact ozone formation, but all models project higher temperatures for California and higher temperatures increase the potential for ozone formation. This trend will erode air quality improvements made in the Sacramento region and across California in the years since the fight against air pollution was began.

In order to respond to the environmental threats of global warming, many governments around the world have engaged in joint or individual programs to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases. The efforts related to the Kyoto

Protocols are well known, and these efforts continue with increased emphasis on another round, or reductions beyond those required by Kyoto. The Governor of California has established state targets for reduction of Greenhouse Gases (GHG) in Executive Order S-3-05, dated June 5, 2005, and the California Environmental Protection Agency is developing a draft Climate Action Plan on how to achieve these emission reduction targets: by 2010 to reduce GHG emissions to 2000 levels; by 2020 to reduce GHG emissions to 1990 levels; and by 2050 to reduce GHG emissions to 80 percent below 1990 levels. Independent analysis of these goals by the Center for Clean Air Policy and the California Climate Change Center at UC Berkeley indicate that the economic impact of these very aggressive goals will actually be positive for California citizens.

In addition, the City of Sacramento has joined other California cities, and cities around the world, in an effort to organize effective local response to climate change through the U.S. Mayors' Climate Protection Agreement and the ICLEI [International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives] Cities for Climate Protection™ Campaign.

As another response to this challenge, the California Climate Action Registry (the Registry) was established by California statute in 2002 as a non-profit voluntary registry for greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. The Registry helps companies and organizations with operations in the state to establish GHG emission baselines against which any future GHG emission reduction requirements may be applied. The Sacramento Municipal Utility District, the City of Sacramento, and the Sacramento Metropolitan AQMD are all members of the California Climate Action Registry.

Potential Elements of the District Climate Protection Program

A Sacramento Climate Change program would address climate change and climate protection issues through District activities including outreach and education, data collection and analysis, technical assistance, participation in

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the Climate Action Registry, review and comment on proposed legislation, and support and leadership for local efforts in Sacramento County and the region to reduce emissions and implement mitigation measures.

It is clear that air districts will have a role in the efforts related to greenhouse gases. Discussions are currently underway at Cal-EPA on a Climate Action Plan that envisions a more robust state role in monitoring and reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Districts must be engaged in these discussions to ensure that plans are realistic with regard to district capabilities, outreach efforts and interaction with emitting sources. Moreover there are continuing legislative and agency efforts to further refine and enhance California's response to climate change. With a long and successful history in air monitoring, permits, compliance and public outreach, Air Districts are uniquely positioned to add positive and practicable information to those efforts. The Sacramento Metropolitan AQMD will play an active role in this effort.

Respectfully submitted,

Larry Greene

Air Pollution Control Officer