



**COUNTY OF SAN MATEO**  
Inter-Departmental Correspondence  
Department of Public Works



**DATE:** May 19, 2010  
**BOARD MEETING DATE:** June 8, 2010  
**SPECIAL NOTICE/HEARING:** N/A  
**VOTE REQUIRED:** Majority

**TO:** Honorable Board of Supervisors  
**FROM:** James C. Porter, Director of Public Works  
**SUBJECT:** County of San Mateo Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventories

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Adopt a Resolution approving the County of San Mateo 2005 Community-Scale Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory and the County of San Mateo 2005 Government Operations Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory, which will serve as the County's baseline greenhouse gas emission levels to measure future reductions.

**BACKGROUND:**

On October 16, 2007, your Board adopted Resolution No. 069053, supporting the U.S. Cool Counties Climate Stabilization Declaration. This Declaration includes three components: (1) County action - inventory, reduction activities, and impact measurement, (2) Regional targets – An 80% regional Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emission reduction target by 2050 to be attained with flat emissions by 2010 and 10% reduction every five years between 2010 and 2050, and (3) Federal advocacy.

On May 6, 2008, your Board adopted Resolution No. 069403, authorizing the execution of a grant agreement for \$75,000 between the County of San Mateo and the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (Grant No. 2008-107). The Grant funded staff time for grant deliverables including two GHG emission inventories, Community-Scale and Government Operations.

**DISCUSSION:**

Consistent with widely accepted government and industry standards, the GHG inventories are based on 2005 data. A copy of each report has been filed in the County Clerk's office for the Board's review. Summaries of the inventories are shown in Attachments A and B. The GHG emissions inventories, if approved, will serve as the County's baseline GHG emission levels to measure future reductions.

The County of San Mateo 2005 Community-Scale GHG Emissions Inventory indicates that the unincorporated area of our county generated 1,093,899 metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub>

equivalent emissions in 2005. Vehicle miles traveled on the State highways and on local roads were the largest contributor to these emissions, which, when combined, result in 43% of the total emissions. The next major sectors of emissions were commercial and residential energy use, which resulted in 30% of the total emissions.

The County of San Mateo 2005 Government Operations GHG Emissions Inventory indicates that the County government operations generated 41,517 metric tons of CO2 equivalent emissions in 2005. The largest contributor to the emissions was energy use at County buildings and facilities, at 46% of the total emissions. Emissions from the County employees' commute and from the County vehicle fleet were the next greatest contributors, at 37% and 12%, respectively.

The County is taking actions on a variety of fronts to reduce GHG emissions in the larger contributing sectors as identified in the inventories. The County Planning and Building Department is working to complete a General Plan update, which will include the development of a community-scale Climate Action Plan. The Plan will address strategies to reduce transportation emissions such as low-income housing, transit oriented development, and walking and bicycle access to services. Additionally, the County has been awarded stimulus funding to undertake a Regional Energy Action Program to support residential energy efficiency retrofits.

The Department of Public Works has also undertaken energy efficiency retrofit work on County buildings for the past several years. In the near future, the County will be installing a solar system on the County Center parking structure to address the buildings and facilities energy-related GHG emissions. Additionally, Public Works has improved the average miles per gallon of the County's vehicle fleet through the purchase of hybrid vehicles.

County Counsel has reviewed and approved the Resolution as to form.

Adoption of this Resolution contributes to the Shared Vision 2025 outcome of a Collaborative Community by completing the GHG Emissions Inventory phase of the Cool Counties Climate Stabilization Declaration, demonstrating to our community, the County's commitment to measurable climate action outcomes.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

The Solid Waste Fund and grant funding from the Bay Area Air Quality Management District funded staff time for the development of these emissions inventories. The cost of contracted support and tools for the inventory process was funded by C/CAG. There is no cost to the General Fund associated with accepting these reports.

Attachment A - County of San Mateo 2005 Community-Scale GHG Inventory Summary

Attachment B - County of San Mateo 2005 Government Ops GHG Inventory Summary