



The Governor's Office Of Planning and Research

Climate Action Planning

Local Government Roundtable
June 20, 2011

Purpose and Introductions

- ▶ New Additions at OPR
- ▶ Purpose
 - ▶ Overview of Climate Action Planning
 - ▶ Discussion of Resources
 - ▶ Need for further guidance?



Climate Action Planning Background

- ▶ What is a Climate Action Plan?
 - ▶ Reduce GHG emissions over time
 - ▶ Respond to the effects of climate change
 - ▶ Integrate with General Plan and other regulations
- ▶ Are Local Governments Required to Have a CAP?

Climate Action Planning Background

- ▶ If not Required, What Benefits Come from a CAP?
 - ▶ Local control
 - ▶ Quantified benefits of agency actions
 - ▶ Saves money
 - ▶ Development certainty
 - ▶ CEQA Streamlining
 - ▶ Leverage for funding tied to climate goals
 - ▶ Fills gaps in SB375



Plans and Cumulative Impacts

- ▶ Section 15064(h)(3)
 - ▶ Plan Mitigates a Cumulative Problem
 - ▶ Project is Consistent with the Plan
 - ▶ Lead Agency can presume that the incremental contribution to the impact is not cumulatively considerable
 - ▶ Presumption is rebuttable

Plan for the Reduction of GHGs

New § 15183.5(b)

- ▶ Recognizes Wide Variety of Planning Efforts
- ▶ Plan should contain at least the following elements:
 - ▶ Quantify GHG emissions within a defined area
 - ▶ Establish a level where GHG emissions are not cumulatively considerable
 - ▶ Identify emissions from Plan activities
 - ▶ Specify measures to achieve the specified emissions level
 - ▶ Monitor progress and amend if necessary;
 - ▶ Adopt in a public process following environmental review
- ▶ Other considerations:
 - ▶ Adaptation, relationship with General Plan, SB375, AB32, etc

Plan for the Reduction of GHGs

New § 15183.5(b)(1)(A) – Establish a Baseline

- ▶ “Quantify [GHG] emissions ... resulting from activities within a defined geographic area”
- ▶ What is an appropriate baseline year?
- ▶ How can the baseline emissions be calculated?

Plan for the Reduction of GHGs

New § 15183.5(b)(1)(B) – Establish a Target Emissions Level

- ▶ “Establish a level, below which the contribution to [GHG] emissions from activities covered by the plan would not be cumulatively considerable”
 - ▶ Must be based on substantial evidence
 - ▶ Scoping Plan suggestion = 15% below today’s levels
 - ▶ Which metric?
 - ▶ Which target years?

Plan for the Reduction of GHGs

New § 15183.5(b)(1)(C) – Estimate Projected Future Emissions from the Plan

- ▶ “Identify and analyze the [GHG] emissions resulting from specific actions or categories of actions anticipated within the geographic area”
 - ▶ Plan Activities
 - ▶ Land Use Approvals
 - ▶ Utilities
 - ▶ Municipal Operations
 - ▶ Etc.
 - ▶ Methodologies to Calculate?



Plan for the Reduction of GHGs

New § 15183.5(b)(1)(D) – Measures to Achieve Reduction Target

- ▶ “Specify measures ... that ... would collectively achieve the specified emissions level”
 - ▶ This component is “necessary to demonstrate that the plan will actually avoid or substantially lessen the cumulative effects of ... emissions.” (Final Statement of Reasons.)
 - ▶ Goals, Policies, and Actions
 - ▶ Implement on a project-by-project basis
 - ▶ Specificity and enforceability
 - ▶ Who, what, when, how and where
 - ▶ Mandatory measures vs optional measures and visioning
 - ▶ Substantial evidence

Plan for the Reduction of GHGs

New § 15183.5(b)(1)(E) – Monitor Progress

- ▶ “monitor the plan’s progress ... and ... require amendment if the plan is not achieving specified levels”
 - ▶ Monitor and inventory at regular intervals
 - ▶ May need to amend for
 - ▶ New circumstances regarding statewide reductions
 - ▶ Improvements in technology
 - ▶ Adjustments to previously adopted measures
 - ▶ Changes in local circumstances

Plan for the Reduction of GHGs

New § 15183.5(b)(1)(F) – Environmental Review

- ▶ “Be adopted in a public process following environmental review.”
 - ▶ Why do environmental review if beneficial?
 - ▶ What type of review is necessary?
 - ▶ Visioning
 - ▶ “GHG Emissions Reduction Strategy” pursuant to CEQA:
 - Initial study to start
 - Environmental Impact Report (EIR)
 - Supplemental General Plan EIR
 - General Plan EIR Addendum



Plan for the Reduction of GHGs

New § 15183.5(b)(2) – Use with Later Activities

- ▶ Demonstrate Project is consistent with the CAP at project application
 - ▶ Application checklist (a la General Plan consistency analysis)
 - ▶ Identify those requirements specified in the plan that apply to the project
- ▶ During CEQA Review
 - ▶ If not otherwise binding and enforceable, incorporate those requirements as mitigation measures applicable to the project
- ▶ Fair Argument

Resources

▶ Financial

- ▶ Cool California Funding Wizard: <http://www.coolcalifornia.org/funding-wizard-home>
- ▶ Strategic Growth Council: <http://sgc.ca.gov/>

▶ Local Assistance

- ▶ Climate Change Portal: <http://climatechange.ca.gov>
- ▶ Cool California: <http://www.coolcalifornia.org>
- ▶ Energy Aware Planning Guide: http://www.energy.ca.gov/energy_aware_guide/index.html
- ▶ (New) CalAdapt: <http://climatechange.ca.gov/adaptation/cal-adapt.html>

▶ Technical

- ▶ CAPCOA, “Model Policies for Greenhouse Gases in General Plans”: <http://www.capcoa.org/>
- ▶ (New) AEP Community GHG Emissions Protocol White Paper:
http://califaep.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=101&Itemid=255

▶ Legal

- ▶ CEQA Guidelines Section 15183.5(b)
- ▶ Attorney General Resources: <http://ag.ca.gov/globalwarming/ceqa/resources.php>
- ▶ CEQA Guidelines Statement of Reasons:
http://ceres.ca.gov/ceqa/docs/Final_Statement_of_Reasons.pdf