



County Administrator's Office
Office of Recovery and Resiliency

Climate Action Ad Hoc Update



August 11, 2020

Agenda

1. Climate Action Ad Hoc
2. Climate Resiliency Projects
3. Climate Staffing
4. Funding for Climate Resiliency Efforts
5. Recommendations



Climate Action

- County adopts Climate Emergency Resolution - September 17, 2019
- Climate Action Ad Hoc Committee - January 6, 2020
 - Chair Susan Gorin, District 1
 - Supervisor Lynda Hopkins, District 5



Climate Action Ad Hoc Charter

- To receive input from County department and agency staff, and to solicit input from stakeholders, including other public entities (e.g. cities, Regional Climate Protection Authority (RCPA), Sonoma Clean Power, local air districts, etc.) and community members on strategies to accelerate mitigation, adaptation, and resilience measures to equitably address climate change impacts and achieve zero net emissions as quickly as possible.



Climate Work Group

- Ag and Open Space
- Sonoma Water
- General Services Department
– Energy and Sustainability
Division
- University of California
Cooperative Extension (UCCE)
- Permit Sonoma
- County Administrator
- County Counsel
- Regional Climate
Protection Authority
- Sonoma Clean Power
- Zero Waste



Climate Resiliency Projects

- Review of climate goals, objectives, and proposed actions
 - County Strategic Plan Draft
 - County Recovery and Resiliency Framework
 - Regional Climate Protection Authority
 - Sonoma Clean Power
- Ensure alignment on climate priorities that affect the county at large
- Prioritization of some short-, mid- and long-term projects/initiatives with multiple benefits that could be implemented relatively quickly



Decarbonization

Resiliency/ Climate Adaptation

Carbon Sequestration

- **Green up airport:** install photovoltaic system; EV car rental fleet (TPW)
- **Build remote work capacity:** enhance **mobile communications** and **broadband** development (TPW)
- Strengthen **remote work organizational capacity:** Improve technology for employee telecommuting. (ISD)

- **Vegetation Management** - Reduce fires, sequester carbon on working landscapes – range and forest lands. Education. (UCCE)

- Incentives to **increase energy efficiency** in existing buildings
- **Upgrade Santa Rosa Veterans' Building** to be energy efficient and resilient (GSD)

- Adopt and operationalize **Climate Adaptation Plan** (Sonoma Water)

- **Regional Sequestration Market** - (RCPA, Ag + Open Space, Community)



Climate Resiliency Staffing

- Board resolution on February 4, 2020 to add a **Climate Analyst** position in the CAO to support Climate Action Ad Hoc Committee and climate resiliency coordination
- Recruitment on hold due to COVID-19
- Need for **central coordination, communication and leadership** of County-wide climate initiatives
- Also need staff with **climate policy, technical and scientific knowledge**, and staff support for grant writing for climate-related funding.
- What staffing resources and model will position County to be effective in leading climate initiatives countywide?



Climate Resiliency Fund

- How to fund climate projects?
 - Sinking fund similar to the Infrastructure Fund
 - Leverage grant opportunities and provide matching funds, similar to the Recovery and Resiliency set aside
- Climate Emergency Resolution, Recovery and Resiliency Framework, strategic planning currently underway, need to identify a funding source to support these priorities.



Recommended Actions

1. Receive an update from the Climate Action Ad Hoc Committee;
2. Consider directing staff to research and develop a range of climate staffing models for consideration, including the option and process to identify an interim climate lead; and
3. Establish a Climate Resiliency Fund.



Discussion

