



## NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF A DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT

# Climate Action 2020: Community Climate Action Plan

**PUBLIC REVIEW PERIOD: MONDAY, MARCH 21, 2016 – FRIDAY, MAY 6, 2016**

**Date:** March 21, 2016  
**To:** Responsible Agencies, Trustee Agencies, and Other Interested Parties  
**From:** Sonoma County Regional Climate Protection Authority  
**Subject:** Notice of Availability of a Draft Environmental Impact Report for Climate Action 2020: Community Climate Action Plan (SCH #2015092072)

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that the Sonoma County Regional Climate Protection Authority (RCPA), acting as lead agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), has prepared a Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Climate Action 2020: Community Climate Action Plan.

## A. Project Location and Project Area

The boundary of the proposed *Climate Action 2020: Community Climate Action Plan* (CAP) project encompasses Sonoma County (County). Sonoma County is the largest and northern-most county of the nine counties that comprise the San Francisco Bay Area (Bay Area). The County is located along the Pacific coastline, approximately 40 miles north of the City of San Francisco and the Golden Gate Bridge. Sonoma County is bordered by Mendocino County to the north; the Pacific Ocean to the west; Marin County and San Pablo Bay to the south; and Solano, Napa, and Lake Counties to the east.

The project area includes eight incorporated jurisdictions (Cloverdale, Cotati, Healdsburg, Petaluma, Rohnert Park, Sebastopol, Sonoma, and Windsor) and unincorporated areas within the County. Santa Rosa has already adopted a CAP and an associated supplemental EIR for the CAP and thus impacts associated with the Santa Rosa CAP are not the subject of the EIR for this project. However, as discussed in the CAP, the assessment of meeting the CAP's overall target is of a countywide target and includes Santa Rosa and its reductions from the Santa Rosa CAP. The project area consists of 1,500 square miles and encompasses the land within the city limits of each incorporated city, the existing sphere of influence (SOI) area of each city, and the boundaries of the unincorporated County.

## B. Project Description

The RCPA and participating jurisdictions are proposing to adopt the CAP in order to implement measures to reduce GHG and adapt to climate change within the eight incorporated jurisdictions and the unincorporated areas within Sonoma County. The proposed CAP would include both regional measures (to be implemented by the RCPA and other regional agencies with local government support) and local measures (to be implemented by local governments with RCPA and regional agency support and on their own) to reduce GHG emissions. The proposed objectives of the CAP are to:

- Identify specific actions that the RCPA, other regional agencies, each participating jurisdiction, and individual residents and businesses can implement to reduce GHG emissions consistent with and even

exceeding the goals established in Assembly Bill 32 (AB 32); **specifically, the CAP target is to reduce countywide GHG emissions by 25% below 1990 levels by 2020.**

- Promote consistency with the land use policy direction and growth anticipated in local general plans.
- Allow for continued economic growth to provide opportunities for businesses and residents.

The goal of the CAP is to identify specific actions that each community can implement to reduce GHG emissions. The CAP includes measures to reduce GHG emissions and reduce the County's vulnerability to climate change hazards. The GHG reduction element of the CAP involves an assessment of GHG-reduction strategies, engagement of the public in planning efforts, and creation of a framework to maintain reductions in the future. The climate adaptation element of the CAP involves an analysis of the vulnerability of the communities to the effects of future climate change and identifies broad-level policies and actions that would increase the resiliency of the communities to these changes. The Draft EIR analysis is limited to the GHG reduction measures and does not address the climate adaptation element of the CAP because the adaptation element of the CAP is a broad overview of climate vulnerabilities and general options for policy, not an implementation plan like that for GHG emissions.

The CAP reduction measures are grouped into the following six sectors that produce GHG emissions: building energy; transportation and land use; solid waste generation; water conveyance and wastewater treatment; and livestock and fertilizer. The project also includes advanced climate initiatives that would protect and enhance the value of open and working lands, promote sustainable agriculture, increase carbon sequestrations, and educate residents about GHG emissions from the consumption of goods and services.

The specific reduction goals for each sector are summarized below. There are 20 overall goals for the GHG-reduction measures in the CAP:

Sector		Goals
<i>Building Energy</i>		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Increase building energy efficiency</li> <li>2. Increase renewable energy use</li> <li>3. Switch equipment from fossil fuel to electricity</li> </ol>
<i>Transportation &amp; Land Use</i>		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4. Reduce travel demand through focused growth</li> <li>5. Encourage a shift toward low-carbon transportation options</li> <li>6. Increase vehicle and equipment fuel efficiency</li> <li>7. Encourage a shift toward low-carbon fuels in vehicles and equipment</li> <li>8. Reduce idling</li> </ol>
<i>Solid Waste Generation</i>		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9. Increase solid waste diversion</li> <li>10. Increase capture and use of methane from landfills</li> </ol>
<i>Water Conveyance &amp; Wastewater Treatment</i>		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>11. Reduce water consumption</li> <li>12. Increase recycled water and greywater use</li> <li>13. Increase water and wastewater infrastructure efficiency</li> <li>14. Increase use of renewable energy in water and wastewater systems</li> </ol>
<i>Livestock &amp; Fertilizer</i>		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>15. Reduce emissions from livestock operations</li> <li>16. Reduce emissions from fertilizer use</li> </ol>
<i>Advanced Climate Initiatives</i>		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>17. Protect and enhance the value of open and working lands</li> <li>18. Promote sustainable agriculture</li> <li>19. Increase carbon sequestration</li> <li>20. Reduce emissions from consumption of goods and services, including food</li> </ol>

The GHG reduction measures in the CAP would be implemented at three levels.

- **State** measures adopted and implemented by state agencies, including statewide fuel efficiency standards and renewable portfolio standards for electricity generation.
- **Regional** measures implemented by cross-jurisdictional agencies like the RCPA, SCP, transit agencies, and waste management and water supply agencies.
- **Local** actions implemented by the cities and the County. These local measures include voluntary, incentive-based, and regulatory approaches.

Appendix B, *CAP Measures*, of the Draft EIR summarizes the state, regional, and local measures included in the CAP to reduce GHG emissions. The measures are organized by GHG-reduction goals for the County as a whole, not including the City of Santa Rosa.

## **B. Potential Environmental Impacts**

The CAP is a planning document; therefore, its adoption would not directly result in any physical changes. However, the goal of the CAP is to facilitate reductions in GHG emissions. This is the chief anticipated environmental effect. While the actions called for in the CAP would result in a number of environmental benefits, some of the actions may also result in adverse secondary impacts on the environment, which are analyzed in the Draft EIR. Subsequent CEQA compliance would be required at a project level for any physical improvements necessary to implement the CAP measures, but the likely impacts are analyzed at a planning level in this EIR.

While state measures are discussed in the CAP, these state measures would apply whether or not the CAP is implemented. Thus, the Draft EIR is focused on the potential environmental impacts of regional and local measures, and not state measures.

As documented in the Draft EIR, and with the exception of cultural resources, physical changes related to actions proposed in the CAP are uncertain, but are unlikely to have significant effects on the environment if standard mitigation measures are adopted by responsible agencies. Because solar permitting is in many cases ministerial, the Draft EIR concludes that there may be significant impacts to historic resources.

It is currently unknown whether actions proposed in the CAP would be located on a hazardous materials/contaminated sites list compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5, but there is no basis to conclude that will be the case.

## **C. Availability of Draft Environmental Impact Report and CAP**

Copies of the Draft EIR and Draft CAP will be available for review at the following locations:

- RCPA offices at 490 Mendocino Avenue, Suite 206, Santa Rosa
- Santa Rosa Central Library, 211 E St. (corner of 3rd & E), Santa Rosa, CA 95404
- RCPA website at: <http://rcpa.ca.gov/projects/climate-action-2020/>

## **D. Public Meeting**

RCPA will hold a public meeting to receive comments on the Draft EIR. Verbal and written comments will be accepted at the public meeting. A court reporter/transcribers will be available to accept verbal comments. Written comments may also be made on comment cards that will be provided at the public meeting. The meeting will be held at the following time and location:

Sonoma County Permit and Resource Management Department  
Public Hearing Room  
2550 Ventura Avenue  
Santa Rosa, CA 95403  
Wednesday, April 20, 2016, from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.

## **E. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Report**

A 45-day public and agency review period pursuant to Section 150105 of the State CEQA Guidelines is scheduled from Monday, March 21, 2016 to Friday, May 6, 2016. Comments may be made on comment cards provided at the public meeting or submitted in writing by regular mail or email. Please send comments submitted in writing to:

Sonoma County Regional Climate Protection Authority  
Attn: Lauren Casey  
490 Mendocino Avenue, Suite 206  
Santa Rosa, CA 95407  
lauren.casey@rcpa.ca.gov

Comments on the Draft EIR must be received by the end of the review period, which is **Friday, May 6, 2016** at **5:00 PM**.