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Planning, Building & Environmental Services

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Director

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF A DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT FOR THE NAPA COUNTY CLIMATE ACTION PLAN PROJECT

Date: May 10, 2019

To: Responsible Agencies, Trustee Agencies, and Interested Persons

From: Napa County Planning, Building, and Environmental Services Department

The Napa County Planning Division has completed a Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) analyzing the potential environmental impacts of the proposed Climate Action Plan (CAP), which consists of a comprehensive greenhouse gas reduction plan including strategies and measures that would apply to all property located within unincorporated Napa County. The DEIR has been prepared pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (Public Resources Code Section 21000 *et seq.*) and the State CEQA Guidelines (California Code of Regulations Title 14, Section 1500 *et seq.*) and our local CEQA Guidelines.

PROJECT LOCATION

Napa County is in the northern San Francisco Bay area, and approximately 50 miles due west of Sacramento, California. The County is bordered by Lake County to the north, Yolo and Solano County to the east, Sonoma County to the west, and San Pablo Bay to the south.

The planning area for the CAP is the same planning area that was considered by the 2008 GP, which encompasses all unincorporated land in the Napa County. The unincorporated County includes approximately 789 square miles.

PROJECT BACKGROUND

In June 2008, Napa County prepared and adopted the 2008 Napa County General Plan Update (2008 GP) and certified the Final Program Environmental Impact Report (2008 PEIR) (SCH# 2005102088), which assessed the potential environmental impacts of implementing the 2008 GP. Within the 2008 GP, Napa County adopted goals, policies, and action items aimed at reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. Further, the County adopted Action Item CON CPSP-2 which specifically called on the County to develop a GHG emissions inventory in a manner consistent with Assembly Bill (AB) 32 and then to develop an emissions reduction plan that included consideration of a "green building" ordinance and other mechanisms "shown to be effective at reducing emissions." Mitigation Measure 4.8.7a, which was included in the 2008 PEIR, implements 2008 GP Action item CON CPSP-2.

Subsequently, the County prepared a Draft CAP and presented it to the Board of Supervisors in 2012. However, the plan was not adopted.

In January 2017, a new Draft CAP was prepared and released for public review. The County received public comment on the Draft CAP and presented a Final Draft CAP to the County's Planning Commission in July 2017. Staff also prepared an initial study and findings that the CAP was within the scope of the 2008 General Plan Program EIR. Following the hearing, the County determined that additional revisions to the CAP, as well as the preparation of an EIR, would be required.

The County prepared additional revisions to the CAP and released a Revised Draft CAP for public review in July 2018 that included numerous changes to the previous 2017 versions of the CAP. A Second Revised Draft CAP, which

responded to comments received on the Revised Draft CAP, was prepared in April 2019 and is the subject of this Draft EIR.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Napa County is proposing to adopt a CAP, consistent with the County's 2008 GP and 2008 PEIR. Beginning in 2007, the County began implementing actions to address climate change and reduce the production of GHG emissions, both in the County's operations as well as the broader community which aligns with the State's broader efforts to reduce GHG emissions.

The following sections describe the project, including the contents of the CAP, the General Plan Amendment, and the CAP Consistency Checklist.

Climate Action Plan

The County's CAP is being developed to implement 2008 GP Action Item CON SPSP-2, satisfy the requirements of 2008 PEIR Mitigation Measure 4.8.7a, and to be consistent with State legislation and policies that are aimed at reducing statewide GHG emissions. This includes:

- ▶ AB 32, which established a target of reducing statewide GHG levels to 1990 levels by 2020;
- ▶ SB 32, which established a mid-term target of reducing statewide GHG levels to 40 percent below 1990 levels by 2030; and
- ▶ Executive Order (EO) S-3-05, which recommends a 2050 statewide longer-term GHG reduction goal of reducing GHG emissions 80 percent below 1990 levels.

The GHG reduction targets and goals for the County in the CAP are established consistent with guidance provided in the 2017 Scoping Plan for plan-level, communitywide GHG reduction analysis and target-setting that aligns with methods used to develop the State's goals. Consistent with the Scoping Plan targets and the State's 2014 GHG emissions inventory, the CAP aims to achieve the following community-wide GHG reduction targets:

- ▶ 2 percent below 2014 levels by 2020,
- ▶ 40 percent below 2014 levels by 2030, and
- ▶ 77 percent below 2014 levels by 2050.

To achieve these GHG reduction targets, the CAP accounts for actions taken by State and Federal agencies that will reduce emissions in the County (also known as "legislative reductions") and identifies several sector-based strategies and GHG reduction measures that can be adopted and implemented locally by the County or others. The CAP also includes implementation and monitoring procedures so that the strategies and measures will be continually assessed and monitored. Reporting on the status of implementation of strategies, periodic updates to the GHG emissions inventory, and other monitoring activities will help ensure that the CAP is making progress towards achieving the objectives and specific GHG reduction measures.

The CAP will also be used for future project-specific environmental documents by being prepared consistent with the tiering and streamlining provisions of Section 15183.5(b)(2) of the State CEQA Guidelines. The DEIR will provide the appropriate level of environmental review to allow future projects to tier from and streamline their analysis of GHG emissions pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15183.5(b)(2). This is described in detail in Chapter 1, Introduction of the DEIR.

General Plan Amendment

General Plan Policy CON-65 e) in the Conservation Element would be amended to require that all discretionary projects comply with the adopted CAP. This would be accomplished via implementation of the CAP Consistency Checklist discussed below. With adoption of the CAP, the General Plan Policy CON-65 e) is revised to the following:

Policy CON-65 e) Consider GHG emissions in the review of discretionary projects and require that discretionary projects comply with the County's adopted Climate Action Plan as substantiated through compliance with the CAP Consistency Checklist. Consideration may include an inventory of GHG emissions produced by the traffic expected to be generated by the project, any changes in carbon sequestration capacities caused by the project, and anticipated fuel needs generated by building heating, cooling, lighting systems, manufacturing, or commercial activities on the premises. Projects shall consider methods to reduce GHG emissions and incorporate permanent and verifiable emission offsets.

CAP Consistency Checklist

The CAP Consistency Checklist (Checklist) is included as Appendix D to the CAP. The Checklist provides a mechanism by which discretionary projects may be determined consistent with the CAP and, therefore, eligible for CEQA streamlining privileges under CEQA Guidelines Section 15183.5. All discretionary projects that are not otherwise exempt from CEQA and require environmental review pursuant to CEQA, no matter the size of the project, would be evaluated for consistency with the CAP.

POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS

The County determined through a review of Notice of Preparation (NOP) comments, analysis of project materials, and research that the following issue areas would not result in significant environmental impacts.

- ▶ Agriculture and Forestry Resources
- ▶ Geology/Soils,
- ▶ Mineral Resources,
- ▶ Population/Housing,
- ▶ Public Services, and
- ▶ Recreation.

Further, the DEIR analyzes the potential of the project to result in significant environmental impacts on the following resources:

- ▶ Aesthetics,
- ▶ Air Quality,
- ▶ Biological Resources,
- ▶ Cultural and Tribal Cultural Resources,
- ▶ Energy,
- ▶ Greenhouse Gas Emissions,
- ▶ Hazards and Safety,
- ▶ Hydrology and Water Quality,
- ▶ Land Use,
- ▶ Noise,
- ▶ Traffic, and
- ▶ Utilities.

The analysis in the DEIR explains that the project would have no potentially significant or significant impacts. All impacts related to the project were determined to be less than significant and no mitigation measures would be required.

DOCUMENT AVAILABILITY

Copies of the DEIR are available for public review at the following locations:

Napa County Planning, Building, and Environmental Services Department
1195 Third Street, 2nd Floor (Suite 210), Napa, CA 94599

Napa Main Library, 580 Coombs Street, Napa, CA 945999

The DEIR is available for public review online at: <https://www.countyofnapa.org/591/Current-Projects>

The public comment period for the DEIR begins on **May 10, 2019** and closes on **June 24, 2019**. Please submit written comments on the DEIR in person, by first class mail, or email to:

Napa County Planning, Building, and Environmental Services Department
1195 Third Street, Suite 210
Napa, CA 94559

Attention: Jason Hade, Planner III
Telephone: (707) 259-8757

Email: Jason.Hade@countyofnapa.org

All comments must be received by the Planning, Building and Environmental Services Department no later than 5:00 p.m. on June 24, 2019. Comments provided by email should include "Climate Action Plan DEIR Comment" in the subject line, and the name and physical address of the commenter in the body of the email.

PUBLIC HEARING

The Napa County Planning Commission will hold a meeting to conduct a public hearing during the comment period to receive verbal input from agencies and the public on the DEIR. The meeting time and location are as follows:

June 19, 2019 at 9:00 a.m.

Board of Supervisors' Room

1195 Third Street, 3rd Floor

Napa, CA 94599

The meeting space is accessible to persons with disabilities. Individuals needing special assistive devices will be accommodated to the County's best ability. For more information, please contact Jason Hade (at the contact information above) at least 48 hours before the meeting.
