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Conservation, Development and Planning

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Hillary Gitelman
Director

January 28, 2011

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC REVIEW:
CLIMATE ACTION PLAN FOR UNINCORPORATED NAPA COUNTY**

TO: Sustainable Napa County, c/o Jeri Gill
Napa County Sierra Club, c/o Tyler York
Napa County Farm Bureau, c/o Sandy Elles
Napa Valley Vintners, c/o Rex Stults
Napa Valley Grape Growers, c/o Jennifer Putnam
Napa Valley Winegrowers, c/o Michelle Benvenuto
Napa Valley Chamber of Commerce, c/o Lisa Batto
Henry Hilken & Abby Young, BAAQMD
& All Other Interested Parties

The Napa County Department of Conservation, Development & Planning, working with the Napa County Department of Environmental Management and consultants at ICF, is pleased to provide the enclosed draft Climate Action Plan for unincorporated Napa County. Many of you provided valuable input and advice during preparation of this plan, and we are now requesting specific comments and questions on the draft document and the enclosed environmental evaluation by the close of business on March 7, 2011.

Written comments may be submitted by email to Hillary.gitelman@countyofnapa.org or by US Mail to the address shown above. The Planning Commission will also conduct a public hearing to discuss the draft plan and receive oral comments at 9AM on February 16, 2011 in Suite 305 at 1195 Third Street in Napa.

The proposed plan, incorporating changes and additions based on public comments, is tentatively scheduled for consideration by the Commission at their meeting of April 6, 2011, at which time the Commission will consider whether to recommend the plan to the Board of Supervisors for adoption. The plan will not become effective until it is adopted by the Board of Supervisors in May of this year or later.

Once adopted, the Climate Action Plan is intended to provide a baseline inventory of green house gas (GHG) emissions from all sources in unincorporated Napa County as well as strategies for reducing those emissions to 1990 levels by 2020 consistent with California Assembly Bill 32 from 2006 (AB 32). Proposed emission reduction strategies would require specific actions by the County and would require applicants seeking approval of discretionary projects from the County (i.e. certain

development projects and vineyard projects) to meet specific targets. Worksheets are included in the plan to assist project applicants in calculating project emissions and reduction requirements.

Preparation of a GHG inventory and emission reduction plan for unincorporated Napa County implements Action Items CON CPSP-1 and 2 from the Napa County General Plan (2008), and builds off of the non-binding Climate Action Framework that was developed and adopted by the Napa County Transportation & Planning Agency (NCTPA) in 2009. The draft Climate Action Plan has been developed in conformance with the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD) guidance (2010), and is intended as a “qualified plan” that will serve to streamline environmental review of subsequent projects pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Once adopted, the plan will not be static, but will be reviewed and revised as needed to reflect changes in circumstances over time. This will be particularly important as the AB 32 horizon year of 2020 approaches, and after any new General Plan amendments that are adopted by the County.

In accordance with CEQA and the State CEQA Guidelines (Sections 15168), the County is proposing to use the program level Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the General Plan Update (SCH# 2005102088, certified June 2008) as the EIR for the Climate Action Plan. As discussed in a separate memorandum and checklist (initial study) dated January 28, 2011, this approach is consistent with CEQA and the State CEQA Guidelines because (1) the proposed plan is within the scope of the General Plan approved in 2008, and (2) the program EIR prepared for the General Plan Update adequately describes the activity for purposes of CEQA. In addition, (3) the County has not identified any changes in the General Plan, changes in circumstances under which the General Plan Update was adopted, or new information of substantial importance that would necessitate subsequent environmental review pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15162.¹ Comments and questions regarding the CEQA document are welcome. Key issues to consider are whether the General Plan Update program-level EIR should be used for this project, and whether there are any additional, reasonable alternatives or mitigation measures that should be considered as ways of avoiding or reducing the significant effects of the project.

A copy of the General Plan Update EIR may be reviewed during business hours at the offices of the Department of Conservation, Development and Planning, 1195 Third Street in Napa, or on the County’s website at <http://www.countyofnapa.org/Pages/DepartmentDocuments.aspx?id=4294967660>. Reviewers are particularly directed to Section 3.4.4 of the Final EIR (on the website, see the document called “FEIR Responses Intro” and scroll to p. 3.0-49).

During the public review period, County staff is available to answer questions or to present a summary of the proposed Climate Action Plan to your organization or community service group. Please contact Hillary Gitelman at hillary.gitelman@countyofnapa.org.

cc. Napa County Board of Supervisors
Napa County Planning Commission

¹ Please see the final section of the initial study checklist for a discussion of the pending General Plan amendment application for Napa Pipe. Approval of the pending application (as proposed or with modifications) would necessitate adjustments to the Climate Action Plan.