



CORRESPONDENCE 3

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

SCOTT HAGGERTY
PRESIDENT
SUPERVISOR, FIRST DISTRICT

July 19, 2007

William O'Brien
District 1 County Supervisor
Stanislaus County
1010 10th Street, Ste. 6500
Modesto, CA 95354

Dear Board President:

Subject: Invitation to Sign U.S. Cool Counties Climate Stabilization Declaration

On July 16, 2007 at the National Association of Counties Annual Conference in Richmond, Virginia, 12 pioneering counties representing 17 million people launched "Cool Counties." The Cool Counties initiative seeks to marshal the resources of all 3066 counties across the nation to address the challenges global warming poses to our communities. **Today, I invite you to join me in signing the U.S. Cool Counties Climate Stabilization Declaration.**

I was honored to represent Alameda County at the kick-off event for this major new initiative to combat global warming. As the first California county to sign the Declaration, I committed to inviting all 57 other California counties to join the campaign. **I challenge us to become the first 100% Cool Counties state, where all counties sign on to the Declaration. As California's county leaders, we have a unique opportunity to guide the direction of climate mitigation and adaptation measures if we assert our leadership now.**

Participating counties commit to four smart actions:

- To look at our own operations to assess what policy or program changes we can enact to lower the greenhouse gas emissions produced by county governments and other areas under county jurisdiction;
- To work with our communities to reduce countywide greenhouse gas emissions 80% below current levels by 2050, an achievable annual average of 2%;
- To identify local vulnerabilities to climate change and create a plan to address them;
- To work with our counterparts nationally to urge the federal government to adopt legislation to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to 80% below current levels by 2050, the level scientists agree is necessary to prevent catastrophic effects on human civilization.

These actions directly benefit counties and serve as a tremendous opportunity for us to demonstrate leadership. Our regional role and perspective as county government positions us to take action.

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We should be the first 100% Cool Counties state because the State of California has already committed to reduce emissions 80% below 1990 levels by 2050. State climate measures will affect general plans, regional transportation plans, agricultural regulatory practices, energy conservation investments, and other areas of county regulatory authority and operational practices.

We can be the first 100% Cool Counties state because many of our jurisdictions have already demonstrated that greenhouse gas reductions make business sense. In addition, many measures offer additional benefits to our citizens such as energy security, dollar savings, cleaner air, and healthier lifestyles.

We must be the first 100% Cool Counties state because we as local governments are already experiencing climate change impacts. In California in particular, air quality degradation, sea level rise, and more frequent droughts, floods, and heat waves threaten food and water supplies, damage infrastructure, and strain our county resources.

The Cool Counties Initiative is a timely vehicle for counties to unite on global warming. Eight counties in California have already joined the ICLEI Cities for Climate Protection Campaign and many have taken action to address climate change. It was just two years ago that our counterparts in the nation's cities launched the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement, also known as Cool Cities. Participation now exceeds 600 mayors (including 94 from California), representing 67 million people. Cool Counties provides us with a framework to learn from each other's successes and to exercise a strong collective voice at higher levels of government.

Please join us in this partnership by adopting the attached U.S. Cool Counties Climate Stabilization Declaration. We are excited to move the initiative forward alongside the lead organizing government, King County, Washington, and national partner, the Sierra Club. When we meet together at the November CSAC Annual Meeting in Oakland, I am confident that we will have reached the goal of at least a majority of California counties participating in Cool Counties. Please contact my office at (510) 272-6691 for additional information. Alameda County looks forward to working with you on this collaborative effort.

Very truly yours,


Scott Haggerty
President, Board of Supervisors

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Attachment

cc: Other Members, Board of Supervisors
Susan S. Muranishi, County Administrator
Richard E. Winnie, County Counsel
Aki Nakao, Director, General Services Agency
Ron Sims, King County Executive

U.S. Cool Counties Climate Stabilization Declaration

WHEREAS, there is a consensus among the world's leading scientists that global warming caused by human emission of greenhouse gases is among the most significant problems facing the world today;

WHEREAS, documented impacts of global warming include but are not limited to increased occurrences of extreme weather events (i.e., droughts and floods), adverse impacts on plants and wildlife habitats, threats to global food and water supplies – all of which have an economic impact on communities and their local governments;

WHEREAS, leading scientists have projected that stabilization of climate change in time to minimize such impacts will require a reduction of global warming emissions to 80 percent below current levels by the year 2050;

WHEREAS, currently the United States is responsible for producing approximately 25 percent of the world's global warming pollutants;

WHEREAS, many leading U.S. companies that have adopted greenhouse gas reduction programs to demonstrate corporate and operational responsibility have also publicly expressed preference for the federal government to adopt precise and mandatory emissions targets and timetables as a means by which to provide a uniform and predictable regulatory environment to encourage and enable necessary and long-term business investments;

WHEREAS, state, regional and local governments throughout the United States are adopting emissions reduction targets and programs and that this effort is bipartisan, coming from Republican and Democratic leadership;

WHEREAS, the U.S. Conference of Mayors has endorsed the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement, which commits cities to reduction of global warming emissions to 7 percent below 1990 levels by 2012, and calls for a federal limit on emissions;

WHEREAS, the State of California has mandated statewide reduction of greenhouse gas emissions to 80 percent below 1990 levels by 2050;

WHEREAS, more than 100 county leaders signed a letter written by Dane County, Wisconsin, that was sent to the President in March 2006 calling for increased energy investment and development of jobs focused on clean energy technologies;

WHEREAS, counties have a unique role to play in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and preparing for the impacts of climate change through their regional jurisdiction over policy areas such as air quality, land use planning, transportation, zoning, forest preservation, water conservation, and wastewater and solid waste management;

WHEREAS, the economic arguments for implementing climate solutions are compelling, from the near-term economic gains of energy efficiency to the long-term climate stabilization that can prevent irreparable harm from catastrophic climate change impacts;

WHEREAS, many counties throughout the nation, both large and small, are reducing global warming pollutants through programs that provide economic and quality of life benefits such as reducing energy bills, preserving green space, implementing better land use policies, improving air quality, promoting waste-to-energy programs, expanding transportation and work choices to reduce traffic congestion, and fostering more economic development and job creation through energy conservation and new technologies;

NOW, THEREFORE WE DECLARE,

We as Cool Counties will take immediate steps to help the federal, state, and our governments within our county to achieve the 2050 climate stabilization goal by making the following commitments:

- i. Create an inventory of our county government (operational) greenhouse gas ("GHG") emissions and implement policies, programs and operations to achieve significant, measurable and sustainable reduction of those operational GHG emissions to help contribute to the regional reduction targets as identified in paragraph ii;
- ii. Work closely with local, state, and federal governments and other leaders to reduce county geographical GHG emissions to 80 percent below current levels by 2050, by developing a GHG emissions inventory and regional plan that establishes short-, mid-, and long-term GHG reduction targets, with recommended goals to stop increasing emissions by 2010, and to achieve a 10 percent reduction every five years thereafter through to 2050.
- iii. Urge Congress and the Administration to enact a multi-sector national program of requirements, market-based limits, and incentives for reducing GHG emissions to 80 percent below current levels by 2050. Urge Congress and the Administration to strengthen standards by enacting legislation such as a Corporate Average Fuel Economy ("CAFE") standard that achieves at least 35 miles per gallon (mpg) within 10 years for cars and light trucks.

We will take immediate steps to identify regional climate change impacts; we will draft and implement a county plan to prepare for and build resilience to those impacts.

July 23, 2007