



## BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

SCOTT HAGGERTY  
PRESIDENT  
SUPERVISOR, FIRST DISTRICT

CORRESPONDENCE 1  
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October 5, 2007

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

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
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Dear Board President:

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

It has been two and a half months since we launched the effort to make California a **100% Cool Counties State**. Our goal is to ensure counties have a strong voice in the policies that will affect us and shape our communities for generations to come.

As you will recall from my letter of July 19, participating counties commit to **four smart actions**:

1. Reducing our own contributions to climate change through our internal operations, at a target level we determine;
2. Demonstrating regional leadership to achieve climate stabilization and protect our communities;
3. Helping our community become climate resilient; and
4. Urging the federal government to support our efforts.

**Current Signatories**

I am pleased to report that several pioneering boards have already positioned their counties for the 21<sup>st</sup> century economy and gained recognition for their current efforts by officially passing the Cool Counties Climate Stabilization Declaration. Each county who joins contributes an added diversity of knowledge and expertise to the group. Hats off to these early signatories!

**Alameda County** – July 31  
**Lake County** - August 28  
**Santa Clara County** - September 25

**Yolo County** - September 11  
**Contra Costa County** - October 2

## Benefits

Taking action on climate also results in a range of benefits, from financial savings to quality of life improvements. Why join Cool Counties?

- **Save money.** For example, Alameda County is saving taxpayers over \$6 million annually as a result of energy efficiency retrofits in our buildings.
- **Mitigate local impacts on vulnerable populations.** Our county budgets will bear the impacts of severe climate change such as public health. For example, we will be providing the emergency teams to respond to increasingly-frequent extreme weather events. Water shortages and heat waves most affect those with limited mobility, health care, and funds.
- **Build green economies.** Green collar jobs which cannot be exported, from alternative energy to reuse industries, are available for our citizens if we prepare and position ourselves. Rural counties, for example, have the opportunity to provide the biofuel resources to help us move out of the fossil fuel economy and achieve energy independence.
- **Position counties for the new economy.** As we experience global economic growth, competition for energy resources will only continue to put financial demands on county governments and our citizens. Counties that look ahead with land use and transportation plans appropriate for a fossil-fuel limited scenario will be in much better positions in the future.
- **Build adaptive capacity.** We are already observing effects associated with climate change such as drought, flooding, increased forest fires, and expanded range of insect pests affecting crops and trees. By joining Cool Counties, you gain the resources of a powerful national network to plan for and adapt to changes affecting infrastructure.
- **Share information.** Climate change is an issue that affects almost all areas of county responsibility so we need to work together to share best practices. Larger counties and counties who have already begun taking climate-protecting actions can partner with smaller counties and counties who are just beginning.
- **Shape AB 32 implementation.** All California counties will be affected by the provisions of AB 32, the Global Warming Solutions Act. Together with CSAC, we can have a voice in shaping these regulations to help us achieve our climate and other goals.
- **Obtain needed federal dollars.** Cool Counties will lobby together to direct federal dollars back to the local level for key projects in water supply, emergency preparedness, coastal impacts, forestry, land use, and transportation.

**Events at CSAC Annual Conference**

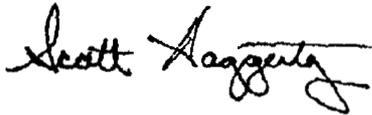
We will be celebrating our partners in this effort at the CSAC Annual Conference in Oakland on November 13 – 16, 2007. Details will be available on our new Cool Counties website [www.acgov.org](http://www.acgov.org) which will go live on Monday, October 15.

**60-Second Survey Request**

Many of you have begun the process of taking regional leadership on this issue by looking at Cool Counties. **Please fax back the attached status form regardless of your plans.** It will just take a moment to fill out and will provide valuable information as we build our coalition, share resources, and develop a California Cool Counties website.

As always, we welcome the opportunity to address questions or put you in touch with your peers at other counties to share resources. Please contact us at [coolcounties@acgov.org](mailto:coolcounties@acgov.org).

Very truly yours,

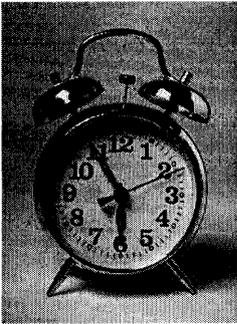


Scott Haggerty  
President, Board of Supervisors

Attachment

cc: County Administrators

FAX TO: Alameda County Administrator's Office: (510) 272-3784



## CALIFORNIA COOL COUNTIES 60-SECOND SURVEY

**Please take one minute to fill out and return this form.  
This information helps shape Cool Counties to meet the needs of  
all counties.**

*No information from this form will be shared beyond the Alameda County and King County Cool Counties teams. (Of course, if your county has officially adopted the Cool Counties Declaration, we will add you to the list of California signatories.)*

Name of County: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Fax: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

### Has your county adopted the Cool Counties Declaration?

STATUS	COMMENTS
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Adopted* / In final review</b> *We will contact you to see if you have resources or press to share.	Date of board agenda:
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Under review</b>	Questions remaining:
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Not signing at this time</b>	Concerns:

## Questions About Making California a 100% Cool Counties State

### 1. What would adopting the Cool Counties Climate Stabilization Declaration commit us to do?

#### 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 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.

### 2. Why does it make so much sense for California be the first 100% Cool Counties state?

**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. As you may be hearing from CSAC, 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.

### 3. Where can we find out more?

For more information and the full text of the Declaration, please visit:

<http://www.kingcounty.gov/exec/coolcounties>.