



CALAVERAS COUNTY PLANNING DEPARTMENT

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Planning Commission Staff Report

Hearing Date	October 27, 2022
Project Number/Name	Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory and Reduction Plan
Supervisory District Number	County-wide
Assessor's Parcel Number(s)	N/A
Planner	Gabriel Elliott, Director of Planning

Date: October 21, 2022

BACKGROUND: The Planning Commission completed their deliberations on the proposed Green House Gas (GHG) Reduction measures on June 9, 2022. At that meeting, the Commission directed staff to forward their comments and revisions to the consultants with the hope that a revised Greenhouse Gas reduction measure will be brought forward for review.

As part of the public participation/review process for the GHG Reduction measures, the County conducted a survey of members of the community. The survey was posted on the County's and Planning Department's web sites and was distributed to county department heads. The survey yielded 72 responses which was considered high compared to responses to similar public initiatives conducted by the county. The responses to the survey were ranked on a scale of 1 – 5, with 5 indicating the highest agreement mark. Most of the responses trended above 3, which was considered a passing score. Some of the survey results identified discrepancies with Planning Commission's recommendations. Specifically, there was support in the survey for reduction measures related to agriculture which the Planning Commission wanted to delete. This information was provided to the consultants who would include the results of the community survey in the next draft of the GHG Reduction measures. The table below summarizes some of the results of the responses to the survey related to agriculture.

AG-1: Increase crop production fertilizer efficiency to reduce associated GHG emissions	AG-2: Implement livestock manure management strategies to reduce associated GHG emissions	AG-3: Reduce methane emissions from livestock enteric fermentation	WF-1: Mitigate wildfire ignition risk in the wildland- urban interface areas	WF-2: Develop a community-based program to help identify wildfire risks associated with vegetation within the defensible space of PG&E infrastructure.	WF-3: Improve forestland health to reduce intensity of wildfire events and resulting GHG emissions through collaborative forestry and economic opportunity
4.16	4.16	4.15	4.76	4.64	4.78

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The County adopted a GHG reduction target consistent with SB 32, which is 40% reduction of the County's 1990 emissions level by 2030. The consultants are calculating our estimated 1990 emissions levels based on the 2018 data in the GHG Inventory and then calculating what 40% of that would be. Therefore, the input of the Planning Commission on the GHG reduction measures will influence what the resultant numbers would be. We are awaiting the results of that calculation and hope to have the numbers before the Planning Commission meeting on Thursday.

If we fall short of the 40% target, the Planning Commission may have to consider which additional reduction measures to achieve that goal

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that the Planning Commission take the following action:

1. Open public hearing
2. Discuss the results of the consultant's findings on the county's level of compliance with SB 32

ATTACHMENTS:

- (1) Planning Commission's comments on GHG Reduction measures
- (2) To be provided later – Revised GHG Reduction measures and compliance level with adopted SB 32 target.

PLANNING COMMISSION COMMENTS ON DRAFT GREENHOUSE GAS REDUCTION MEASURES

Beginning with the Planning Commission meeting of April 28, 2022, the Calaveras County Planning Commission has been reviewing the proposed Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Reduction Plan. The following is a summary of their comments identified by Category, Strategy, and Strategy Description to date. Additionally, you may have received directly comments by individual planning commissions. The comments identified here are based on opinions expressed during televised Planning Commission meetings.

Renewable Energy

RE:1 – Increase Community Renewable Energy – the commissioners wondered how the County’s General Plan supports the increase in Renewable Energy in the General Plan Implementation measures.

RE:2 – Transition to 100% Renewable Energy – Strategy Description – *Pursue Community Choice Aggregation ...* The Commission does not think this is a good fit for the county.

RE:4 – Promote On-site Renewable Energy Generation – Strategy Description – *Support efforts on available government-owned land to increase renewable and carbon-free energy generation.* The Commission believes this is not viable because there are no county funds to purchase land for this purpose. Perhaps some clarity is required in this regard.

Education and Outreach

EO:1 – Conduct Energy Conservation Outreach and Education – The Building Department will provide public outreach in conjunction with the triennial adoption of the California Building Code, which includes the California Energy Code and Green Building Standards.

EB:1 – Electrification – This region has a high volume of historic and remote occupied structures that are not designed to accept 100% electrical power without extensive retrofit that is not economically feasible and/or may damage the historic integrity of the structures. In addition, the power grid in several areas of the County is unreliable due to Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS) events as well as the distance from remote rural structures to the power grid. Therefore, a wholesale shift to electric power in this region does not appear to be feasible.

EB:3 – Low Income Programs – Strategy Description – *Promote and support low-income weatherization programs (DOE Weatherization Assistance Program, California’s Low-Income Weatherization Program, utility-offered Energy Savings Assistance Program, local program).* Pursue grants to fund/expand housing rehabilitation loan program.

New Construction & Zero Net Energy Standards

ZNE:1 – Pursue Reach Codes – Strategy Description – The Commission believes that exceeding minimum building energy performance by 15% is too excessive, and the construction to be fully electric is not reasonable or practical. The County has currently adopted the Green Building Standards code and is enforcing the Mandatory Measures. Considering the goals contained in the Housing Element of the County’s General Plan, implementing anything more restrictive may serve to act as a deterrent to housing availability and production.

TR-1 - Increase electric vehicle (EV)/ zero-emission vehicle (ZEV) adoption to X% for passenger vehicles and X% for commercial vehicles within the county by 2030(5). – TR-1:1 – Implement recommendations of the Central Sierra Zero Emission Vehicle Readiness Plan to increase availability of ZEV fueling/charging infrastructure. The Commission believes that this measure and similar ones below are already in the CS2EVRP.

TR-1.2 - Develop and adopt an electric vehicle charging infrastructure reach code to require 50% of total parking spaces in new or remodeled commercial development to install Level 2 EV chargers exceeding the 2022 California Green Building Standards Code. The Commission believes that the 50% mark is too high. They did not recommend a percentage, however.

TR-1.4 – The Commission would like to know what is required of the County under SB 1236.

TR-2 - Decarbonize the County municipal fleet and related commuter vehicles to achieve a X% ZEV fleet by 2030(5)

Strategy Description TR-2.3 – The Commission believes this is okay with funding.

Strategy Description TR-2:4 – Delete.

Strategy Description TR-2.6- Delete.

TR-3: Improve the availability of clean alternative transit options. The CCOG is responsible for this.

Strategy Description TR-4: *Increase active transportation mode share within the county by X% by 2030(5)* – The CCOG is responsible for this. However, the Commission would like to **delete** Strategy Description TR-4.5 – transportation subsidy, Strategy Description TR-4.7- ride-share/bike-share implementation programs, and Strategy Description TR-4.9 – paid parking at key visitation locations.

TR-4.8 – The Commission did not understand what the Calaveras County’s Green Streets Program is.

Water and Wastewater

WW-1 – Delete

WW-2 – Delete

WW-3 – The County needs to develop an ordinance for the use of Grey Water. The County’s EMA indicates that Grey Water has been found to be harmful to plants and the water table.

WW-4 – Delete. Already required in the Green Building Code. However, the Commission believes that the use of the word **encourage**, rather than **requires** may help.

Wildfire

WF-1: Mitigate wildfire ignition risk in the wildland-urban interface (WUI) areas.

Strategy Description WF-1.1 and Strategy Description WF-1.2 have already been adopted. The Commission recommends that the County should pursue funds for improvement of evacuation routes in the County’s fire management areas. This could also include a program to reduce brush.

Strategy Description WF-1.7 – WF-1.9- The Commission questions the use of goat herds for brush clearing but is open to learn more about it.

WF-2: Develop a community-based program to help identify wildfire risks associated with vegetation within the defensible space of PG&E infrastructure. – Strategy Description WF-2.1 – **delete**.

WF-3: Improve forestland health to reduce intensity of wildlife events and resulting GHG emissions through collaborative forestry and economic opportunity. The Commission would like to **delete** Strategy Description WF-3.1 and WF-3.2 and replace them with General Plan Policy 1.3 and associated Implementation Measures.

WF-3.4 – delete.

WF-3.5 – The Commission would like some clarification on what this means.

WF-3.6 – The Commission would like to see this Strategy Description expanded to include COS 1.2, COS 1.3, Implementation Measure 2B and 2C, and some General Plan references.

Solid Waste

SW-1 – **Delete.** SB 1383 already requires this.

SW-2 – The Commission believes an analysis should be done to analyze the efficiency of this Strategy Description.

SW-3 – The County Director in charge of Solid Waste indicates that the capacity is not there to satisfy capture rate. Also, the County is managing the landfill to mitigate generation of methane gas. The recommended capture rate for methane gas is 60%

Agriculture

AG-1: Increase crop production fertilizer efficiency to reduce associated GHG emissions X% by 2030.

Strategy Description AG-1.1 to AG-1.8 – Representatives from the Agricultural Commissioner's office feel that the County is not a dairy producing county but more of cattle grazing and agricultural community producing wine, olives, and hard wood. They believe that most of the Strategy Descriptions do not apply to the County and would like to see Strategy Descriptions that are more in line with Calaveras County's character.

AG-2: Implement livestock manure management strategies to reduce associated GHG emissions by X% by 2030.

Strategy Description AG-2.1 to AG-2.7 - Representatives from the Agricultural Commissioner's office feel that the County is not a dairy producing county but more of cattle grazing and agricultural community producing wine, olives, and hard wood. They believe that

most of the Strategy Descriptions do not apply to the County and would like to see Strategy Descriptions that are more in line with Calaveras County's character.

AG-3: Reduce methane emissions from livestock enteric fermentation X% by 2030.

Strategy Description AG3.1 to AG-3.4 - Representatives from the Agricultural Commissioner's office feel that the County is not a dairy producing county but more of cattle grazing and agricultural community producing wine, olives, and hard wood. They believe that most of the Strategy Descriptions do not apply to the County and would like to see Strategy Descriptions that are more in line with Calaveras County's character.