



February 9, 2012

BAY AREA  
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DISTRICT  
SINCE 1955

Heather Fargo  
Executive Policy Officer  
Strategic Growth Council  
Sustainable Communities Planning Grant  
c/o Department of Conservation  
801 K Street, MS Floor 18-01  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Letter of Support for the Sonoma County Sustainable Communities Planning Grant and Incentives Program

Dear Ms. Fargo,

On behalf of the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (District), I am pleased to offer this letter of support for the County of Sonoma's (County's) proposal under the Sustainable Communities Planning Grant and Incentives Program. The County is seeking assistance to advance its *Greenhouse Gas Reduction and Implementation Program (GRIP)*. The District believes that this program will create a substantial benefit, not only for the people of Sonoma County, but for future generations as we seek to improve air quality, reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, and create more sustainable communities in the Bay Area.

The jurisdictions of Sonoma County are working in concert to develop coordinated local climate action plans that maximize resources and benefits. The City of Santa Rosa has recently developed its own climate action plan. Under the proposed project, the County will act as facilitator to use this plan as a model for the other nine jurisdictions in the county. Through formal MOUs, the remaining eight cities have already committed to work under the structure provided by GRIP.

Given the County's long-standing leadership in climate action and sustainability work, I am confident that with support from the Strategic Growth Council, the County and its partners will create a successful model of collaboration. This additional funding will enable accelerated progress in the implementation of existing climate action plans, help maximize limited resources, enable greater policy collaboration, and create a more effective and consistent process to achieve real emission reductions on a widespread basis.

Thank you for the opportunity to express support for this proposal.

Sincerely,

Henry Hilken  
Director, Planning, Rules and Research Division

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