

NOTICE OF Availability

DATE: October 21, 2013

FROM: San Bernardino Associated Governments (SANBAG), Department of Planning, 1170 W. 3rd Street, 2nd Floor, San Bernardino, CA 92410-1715

TO: Interested Agencies, Organizations, and Individuals

SUBJECT: Notice of Availability (NOA) of an Environmental Impact Report

PROJECT TITLE: San Bernardino County Regional Greenhouse Gas Inventory and Reduction Plan

An environmental review of the San Bernardino County Regional Greenhouse Gas Inventory and Reduction Plan ("Project") was conducted under the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA") and a Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) is available for review. An EIR was needed for environmental review because implementation of reduction measures as part of the Project will require discretionary approvals from state and local agencies, which will result in physical changes within the Project Area. This NOA provides a description of the Project and solicits comments from responsible agencies, trustee agencies, federal, state, and local agencies and the general public, on the environmental analysis and content of the Draft EIR. Comments received in response to this Notice will be reviewed and considered by SANBAG in preparation of the Final EIR. Due to time limits, as defined by CEQA, responses should be sent no later than December 19, 2013. SANBAG seeks comments of interested agencies as to the adequacy of the environmental information that is germane to those agencies' statutory responsibilities in connection with the Project and Draft EIR.

Draft EIR Comment Period: October 21, 2013 through December 19, 2013

The Draft EIR, Draft SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY REGIONAL GREENHOUSE GAS INVENTORY AND REDUCTION PLAN, and all supporting documentation are available for review at the following locations:

SANBAG Offices:

1170 W. 3rd Street, 2nd Floor, San Bernardino, CA 92410-1715,

SANBAG Website: <http://sanbag.ca.gov/>

San Bernardino County/City Library Locations:

Victorville City Library
15011 Circle Drive,
Victorville, CA 92395

6078 Adobe Rd.
Twentynine Palms, CA 92277-2354

Twentynine Palms Branch

Big Bear Lake Branch
41930 Garstin Dr.

Big Bear Lake, CA 92315-1809

Chino Hills James S. Thalman Branch
14020 City Center Dr.
Chino Hills, CA 91709-5442

Hesperia Branch
9650 7th Ave.
Hesperia, CA 92345-3242

Yucaipa Branch
12040 5th St.
Yucaipa, CA 92399

Summit Branch
15551 Summit Ave.
Fontana, CA 92336

Ovitt Family Community Library
215 East "C" Street
Ontario, CA 91764-4111

Needles Branch
1111 Bailey Ave.
Needles, CA 92363

Due to the time limits mandated by State law, your response must be sent at the earliest possible date but not later than **December 19, 2013, 5:00 p.m.**

Comments on the Draft EIR should be sent to:

Steve Smith, Director of Planning,
SANBAG Planning Department
1170 W. 3rd Street, 2nd Floor,
San Bernardino, CA 92410-1715

Or by email to ssmith@sanbag.ca.gov

Please include in your response the name, phone number, and address of the contact person for the responding agency.

Public informational meetings have been scheduled during the comment period to assist interested parties in the review of the referenced documents. The meetings have been scheduled on the following dates and locations:

Wednesday October 23 and Wednesday November 20, 2013 from 4 PM to 6 PM at the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) office 1170 West Third Street, 1st Floor, San Bernardino, CA 92410. The public will be given the opportunity to present formal comments on the EIR through testimony during a specific part of the meeting. These comments will be responded to in the Final EIR. However, SANBAG strongly encourages people to instead submit EIR comments in writing during the public comment period directly to SANBAG by e-mail or mail.

PROJECT BACKGROUND

In 2006, the California legislature passed Assembly Bill (AB) 32. The law establishes a limit on greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions for the state of California to reduce state-wide emissions to 1990 levels by 2020. The law directed the California Air Resources Board (CARB) to develop a plan (AB 32 Scoping Plan) that charts a path towards the GHG reduction goal using all technologically feasible and

cost effective means. The AB 32 Scoping Plan recommends that California cities and counties seek to reduce their GHG emissions consistent with statewide reductions. Senate Bill (SB) 375, passed in 2008, requires regional transportation planning to promote reductions in passenger and light duty vehicle GHG emissions. In response to these initiatives, an informal project partnership, led by SANBAG, is cooperating in compiled an inventory of GHG emissions and an evaluation of reduction measures that could be adopted by the 21 Partnership cities within San Bernardino County. The 21 Partnership cities participating in this Project are Adelanto, Big Bear Lake, Chino, Chino Hills, Colton, Fontana, Grand Terrace, Hesperia, Highland, Loma Linda, Montclair, Needles, Ontario, Rancho Cucamonga, Redlands, Rialto, San Bernardino, Twentynine Palms, Victorville, Yucaipa, and Yucca Valley. Because SANBAG is leading this effort, SANBAG is the Lead Agency under CEQA. The County of San Bernardino (County) adopted a GHG Reduction Plan for unincorporated areas of San Bernardino County that includes a set of GHG inventories and reduction measures. This Project built upon the work completed by the County with specific GHG inventories and proposed reduction measures for the 21 Partnership cities.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Environmental Setting

The Project is a plan for the reduction of GHG emissions within San Bernardino County. As such, the Project site includes the entire County, which occupies approximately 20,100 square miles. San Bernardino County is located within Southern California (Figure 1, Regional Location Map). The twenty-one Partnership cities are located throughout San Bernardino County (Figure 2, Project Area).

The informal partnership led by SANBAG began in January of 2010 and the GHG inventories initiated that same year. The year 2008 was chosen as the baseline year for the Project because that was the most recent year a complete data set of GHG emission sources was available at the time the inventory was initiated and was consistent with the County's baseline year. The population of the 21 Partnership cities was 1,562,363 with an employment base of 596,744 jobs and 455,595 households in 2008. Total GHG emissions, excluding stationary sources, associated with the activities of the population and jobs of all Partnership cities in 2008 were 12,858,269 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalents (MTCO_{2e}).

Plan Purpose, Project Goals, and Description

The Purpose of the Plan is to reduce GHG emissions within the region. To fulfill that purpose, the Partnership has committed to undertake the following actions that will reduce GHG emissions associated with its regional (or countywide) activities as a whole:

SANBAG and the Participating Cities developed the San Bernardino County Regional Greenhouse Gas Reduction Plan (Regional Reduction Plan or proposed project) to:

1. Prepare a current year (2008) GHG emissions inventory for the 21 Partnership cities in the County.
2. Prepare a future year (2020) GHG emissions forecasts for each of the cities.
3. Develop a tool for each city to develop its municipal inventory (i.e., emissions due only to the city's municipal operations and sometimes referred to as municipal inventory) and municipal reduction plan.
4. Develop GHG reduction targets and measures, and City selection of targets and measures

appropriate for each jurisdiction. The GHG reduction measures provide the mechanisms that will reduce GHG emissions regionally and within each city. Note that the comprehensive list below shows all GHG reduction measures under consideration. Each city is determining for themselves which GHG reduction measures will achieve the reduction target for their jurisdiction. The Candidate GHG reduction measures under consideration by the Partnership cities include:

- Implementation of the Sustainable Community Strategy in land use design and location,
- Smart Bus Technologies for local transit,
- Energy efficiency retrofits for existing buildings,
- Energy efficient outdoor lighting for commercial and industrial uses,
- Green Building Ordinance,
- Solar installation for new housing,
- Solar installation for new commercial/industrial uses,
- Solar energy for warehouse/logistics facilities,
- Solar installation retrofits for existing housing,
- Solar installation retrofits for existing commercial/industrial uses,
- Renewable Co-generation facilities,
- Carbon sequestration through urban forestry enhancements,
- Green roofs and rooftop gardens,
- Energy efficient equipment upgrades at wastewater treatment facilities,
- Methane capture and recovery systems at wastewater treatment facilities,
- Recycled water systems,
- Voluntary CALGREEN water conservation design in new buildings,
- Water efficient retrofits of existing buildings,
- Water efficient landscaping practices,
- Construction equipment Idling Restriction Ordinance,
- Landscaping equipment efficiency,
- GHG Performance Standards for new development.

The anticipated GHG reductions of the measures being chosen by each city is quantified for year 2020 and included in the projected 2020 Reduced GHG emission inventories to demonstrate achievement of the reduction targets.

5. Develop “the basis for” community climate action plans (CAPs) for each jurisdiction meeting jurisdiction identified reduction goals.

This San Bernardino County Regional Greenhouse Gas Reduction Plan (Plan) satisfies the Partnership

goals 1, 2, 4 and 5 listed above. A tool for inventorying municipal GHG emissions and planning for their reduction was developed and provided to the Partnership cities separately in 2011.

The Project Goals include:

- Determine feasible GHG reduction measures for each Partnership City that fulfill the reduction targets cost effectively;
- Provide GHG reductions that build upon and are complementary to the GHG reductions implemented by the State and County;
- Provide a collaborative planning process that accounts for and facilitates the SANBAG administered programs that will reduce GHG emissions within each of the Partnership cities;
- Provides regional support for each Partnership City in the reduction of GHG emissions;
- Provide foundational data, analysis and planning that can be used by each Partnership City in the development of their own Climate Action Plan (CAP) that fulfills the requirements of CEQA Guidelines §15183.5.

To fulfill these goals, the Project includes the actions that each city has selected in order to reduce GHG emissions, state-mandated actions, GHG emissions avoided in 2020 associated with each local and state action, and each city's predicted progress towards their selected GHG reduction goal. Within the Plan each city has its own section which details the city's 2008 GHG emissions inventory, 2020 GHG emissions forecast, reduction goal and City-selected GHG reduction strategies, and related General Plan policies or other ongoing programs in the city. The GHG reduction plans developed for each Partnership City as part of this Plan are intended to serve as a foundation upon which each individual jurisdiction may decide to develop its own customized and comprehensive climate action plan. This effort leveraged work efforts that would be common to all jurisdictions and allowed each city to select its own individual programs and policies, which differ from city to city. SANBAG anticipates that individual cities may choose to utilize the information in this document to complete and adopt their own CAPs.

Potential Environmental Impacts

The Draft EIR addressed the following topics: aesthetics, agricultural resources, air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, geology and soils, greenhouse gas emissions, hazards and hazardous materials, hydrology/ water quality, land use/ planning, mineral resources, noise, population and housing, public services, recreation, traffic and circulation, and utilities and services and determined that with mitigation all potential impacts are less than significant. This determination was made after careful consideration of potential environmental impacts that could be associated with implementation of the San Bernardino County Regional Greenhouse Gas Inventory and Reduction Plan (Regional Reduction Plan). Details of the environmental analysis can be found in Chapter 4 of the Draft EIR. Because the Regional Reduction Plan does not include the development of land uses, implementation of the Project is not located on a site listed as a toxic site on the State, County, or City database of toxic sites.

Figure 1 – Regional Project Location

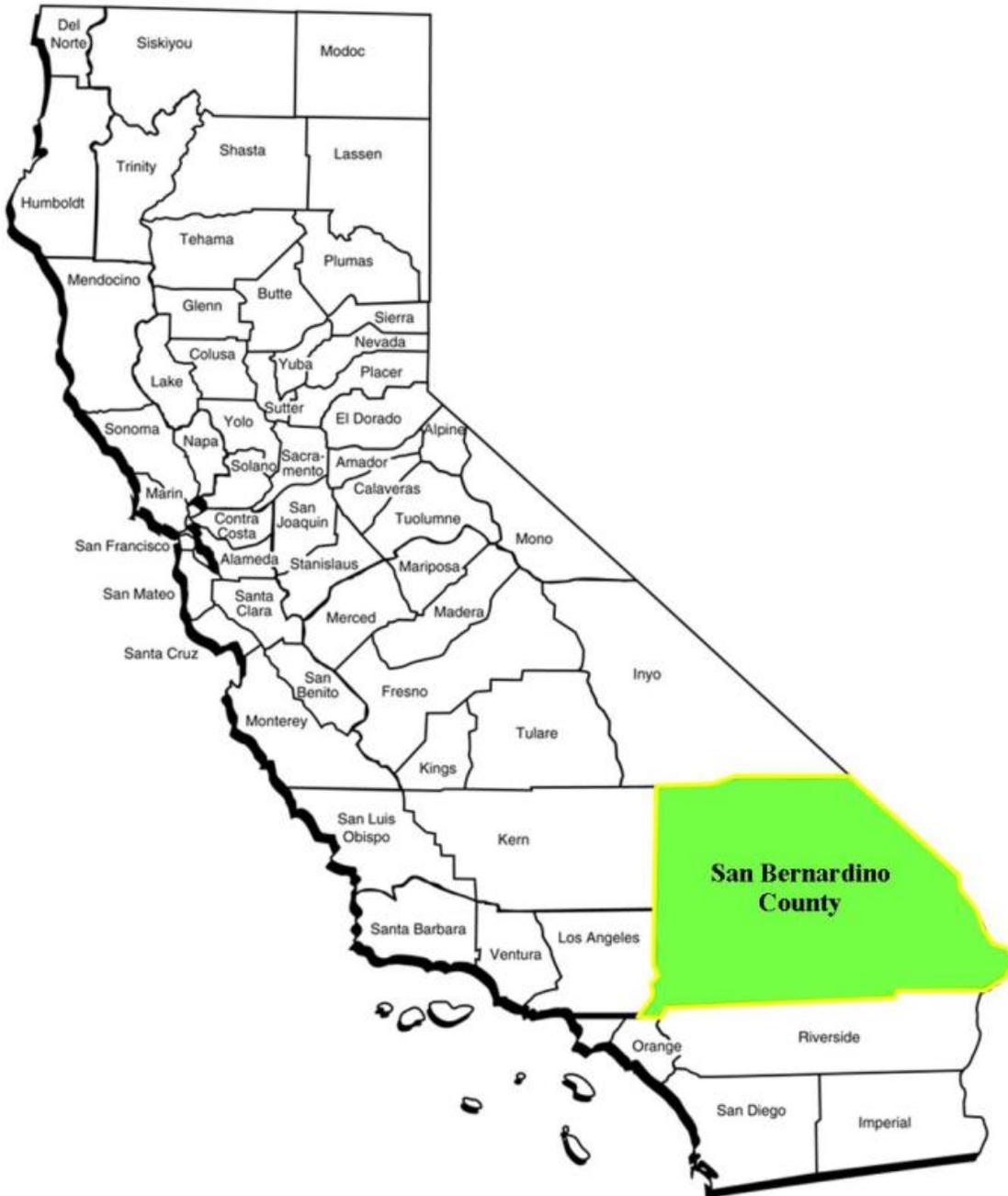


Figure 2 – Project Area

