



# COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

## BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

1600 PACIFIC HIGHWAY, ROOM 335, SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA 92101-2470

### AGENDA ITEM

**DATE:** March 12, 2013

**07**

**TO:** Board of Supervisors

**SUBJECT:** UPDATE TO THE COUNTY STRATEGIC ENERGY PLAN (DISTRICTS: 2 and 3)

#### **SUMMARY**

##### **Overview**

For the region, putting solar on every feasible rooftop, exploring alternative renewable energy systems and capitalizing on better energy efficiency and sustainability are goals that both the private and public sector should not only embrace, but be sprinting towards. The County of San Diego has already demonstrated a strong commitment to this effort by adopting our own Strategic Energy Plan in 2009.

This comprehensive plan provides the framework to achieve the County's energy goals by outlining specific objectives and strategies in the areas of energy and water conservation, energy efficiency, renewable energy, sustainability and reduced emissions. While the success of the plan has been tremendous, we must continue our efforts. Our achievements have demonstrated tremendous savings to taxpayers and lasting, positive environmental impacts. This alone is justification for a further investment of our resources.

Today's board letter directs the Chief Administrative Officer to update the Strategic Energy Plan with an emphasis placed on reviewing the benefits of fuel cells, microturbines and other renewable energy systems, and to continue working with the City of San Diego and other public agencies to coordinate regional objectives, principles, strategies and policies.

#### **Recommendation(s)**

##### **VICE-CHAIRWOMAN JACOB AND SUPERVISOR ROBERTS**

1. Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to update the County's Strategic Energy Plan, with an emphasis placed on reviewing the benefits of fuel cells, microturbines and other renewable energy systems, and to continue working with the City of San Diego and other public agencies to coordinate regional objectives, strategies and policies.

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2. Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to provide a presentation to the Board of Supervisors after the Strategic Energy Plan has been updated.

**Fiscal Impact**

There is no fiscal impact associated with this action.

**Business Impact Statement**

N/A

**Advisory Board Statement**

N/A

**Background**

Putting solar on every feasible rooftop, exploring alternative renewable energy systems and capitalizing on better energy efficiency and sustainability are goals that both the private and public sector should not only embrace, but be sprinting towards. The County of San Diego has already demonstrated a strong commitment to this effort by adopting our own Strategic Energy Plan in 2009.

This comprehensive plan provides the framework to achieve the County’s energy goals by outlining specific objectives and strategies in the areas of energy and water conservation, energy efficiency, renewable energy, sustainability and reduced emissions. While the success of the plan has been tremendous, we must continue our efforts. Our achievements have demonstrated tremendous savings to taxpayers and lasting, positive environmental impacts. This alone is justification for a further investment of our resources.

The County has focused on an energy management system both on a large and small scale. We now install energy efficient light bulbs in our buildings, street lights and parks. We have expanded our green building inventory. In fact, our County Operations Center has received platinum LEED certification. Since our plan’s inception, our overall electricity usage is down 9%, resulting in a taxpayer savings of over \$2 million annually. We are also purchasing 90% of our electricity outside of San Diego Gas & Electric through Direct Access. This has provided the County with \$3 million in taxpayer savings over the last four years.

It’s important to remember the County of San Diego is a consumer just like any other member of the public. We believe it’s paramount that the County lead by example and seek ways to provide the public and other government agencies with the same opportunities, including enhancing the PACE program, expanding Direct Access and exploring Community Choice Aggregation. We are confident that today’s action will enhance the discussion on renewable energy and work towards a regional goal of energy efficiency, sustainability and independency.

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**Linkage to the County of San Diego Strategic Plan**

N/A

Respectfully submitted,

DIANNE JACOB  
Vice-Chairwoman, Second District

DAVE ROBERTS  
Supervisor, Third District

**ATTACHMENT(S)**

N/A

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**AGENDA ITEM INFORMATION SHEET**

**REQUIRES FOUR VOTES:**  Yes  No

**WRITTEN DISCLOSURE PER COUNTY CHARTER SECTION 1000.1 REQUIRED**  
 Yes  No

**PREVIOUS RELEVANT BOARD ACTIONS:**  
N/A

**BOARD POLICIES APPLICABLE:**  
N/A

**BOARD POLICY STATEMENTS:**  
N/A

**MANDATORY COMPLIANCE:**  
N/A

**ORACLE AWARD NUMBER(S) AND CONTRACT AND/OR REQUISITION NUMBER(S):**  
N/A

**ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT:** Vice-Chairwoman Dianne Jacob and Supervisor Dave Roberts

**OTHER CONCURRENCE(S):** N/A

**CONTACT PERSON(S):**

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