

**SUBMITTAL TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA**



**FROM:** Executive Office

**SUBMITTAL DATE:**  
December 16, 2008

**SUBJECT:** Water and Energy Conservation and Resource Sustainability

**RECOMMENDED MOTION:** That the Board of Supervisors receive and file the interim report regarding water and energy conservation and resource sustainability.

**BACKGROUND:** On March 11, 2008, the Board of Supervisors Adopted Resolution 2008-152 in support of energy conservation and resource sustainability for the Coachella Valley and regional efforts throughout Riverside County. Further, Resolution 2008-152 set forth the framework to develop goals that foster and promote water and resource conservation and resource sustainability through wise stewardship throughout the region. These goals are intended to be flexible and adaptable to meet the needs of the county of Riverside.

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Departmental Concurrence

*Lys Mendez*  
Lys Mendez  
Public Information Specialist

*Michael R. Shetler*  
Michael R. Shetler  
Senior Management Analyst

<b>FINANCIAL DATA</b>	Current F.Y. Total Cost:	\$ 0	In Current Year Budget:	N/A
	Current F.Y. Net County Cost:	\$ 0	Budget Adjustment:	N/A
	Annual Net County Cost:	\$ 0	For Fiscal Year:	N/A

<b>SOURCE OF FUNDS:</b> N/A	Positions To Be Deleted Per A-30	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Requires 4/5 Vote	<input type="checkbox"/>

**C.E.O. RECOMMENDATION:** **APPROVE**  
BY: *Gary M. Christmas*  
Gary M. Christmas  
**County Executive Office Signature**

- Policy
- Policy
- Consent
- Consent

Dept's Recomm.:  
Per Exec. Ofc.:

Prev. Agn. Ref.: 3.1 of 3/18/08, 3.52 of 3/17/2008  
District: ALL  
Agenda Number:  
ATTACHMENTS FILED WITH THE CLERK OF THE BOARD

**3.4**

**Background Continued**

In addition, the Board agreed to:

- Join the Coachella Valley Energy Conservation Initiative to advance regional energy conservation goals that include reducing per capita energy consumption by 10% by 2012; and
- Resolved that water and energy conservation, the development of sustainable and alternative energy technologies, and the use of "best practices" will be incorporated into planning and decision making policies for the County of Riverside.

On June 17, 2008 the Board of Supervisors directed the Executive Office to coordinate with county departments and guide the efforts for the development of a comprehensive strategy and action plan in support of energy and water conservation that promotes resource sustainability, alternative technologies and the use of "best practices" to be incorporated into planning and decision making policies for the County of Riverside. The Board also recommended that the county coordinate their efforts and work with cities that have made strides toward sustainability. Finally, the Board requested that the Executive Office report back within six months on energy and water conservation and sustainability efforts.

During the last six months the Executive Office has met jointly and separately with key county departments to discuss past, current and planned efforts related to water and energy conservation, and resources sustainability. Further the Executive Office has researched what selected cities and allied regional partners are doing toward achieving sustainability goals.

This endeavor is ongoing and the Executive Office is in the process of compiling the efforts of key county departments, cities, public and corporate regional partners to provide recommendations toward the development of a comprehensive water and energy conservation and resource sustainability action plan.

Highlights of this over-arching plan include work already acknowledged by the Board of Supervisors and include:

- Fleet Services progress and conversion to alternative fuels and purchase of hybrids and high mpg vehicles;
- Community Health Agency in coordination with the Planning Department and the Regional Parks and Open Space District work on livable communities;
- Flood Control and Water Conservation District progress on development of design criteria for low impact development and guidance for water quality management planning for new commercial and private development.
- Code Enforcement Department's work with selected communities within Riverside County in the development of an innovative community impact planning process that utilizes a multi-phased approach that combines education, community partnerships and enforcement as tools to achieve compliance, empower stakeholders, improve quality of life, and the establishment of sustainable, livable and healthy communities.
- Planning Department's implementation of the Wind Implementation monitoring Plan and Ordinance 859 Water Efficient Landscape requirements to help achieve water conservation efforts and help eliminate urban runoff and future revisions to the General Plan;
- Building and Safety Department's new industrial and commercial regulatory inspection program for urban runoff and stormwater management and ongoing efforts to protect water quality through it's inspection of new development as it relates to sediment and erosion control;

**Background continued**

- Facilities Management Department's goals including an energy audit, lighting study and conversion to energy efficient lighting, review of construction standards for capital improvement projects that promote energy conservation, enhance water quality and utilization of building materials from sustainable resources. Operation and Maintenance CSAC Challenge award entry-utilization of green cleaning products that are safer and require less, and use of recycled products to reduce waste ;
- Economic and Redevelopment Agency projects such as the Woodcrest Community Library that achieved LEED certification;
- Waste Management Department's efforts toward source reduction, reuse and recycling including it's award winning programs for the collection of Household Hazardous Waste, Load Check , Universal Waste, and Waste Recycling Park as well as management of existing and closed landfills to mitigate for water and air quality issues.
- Purchasing Department's formation of a committee to evaluate strategies for green and sustainable purchasing practices;
- Board of Supervisors and Clerk of the Board efforts to better use technology to conserve energy.
- Riverside County Water Task Force- a proactive regional forum to discuss water related issues and develop regional solutions. The Task Force was responsible for the development of the Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance Adopted by the County in December of 2006.

**Recent Efforts by Selected Cities**

**City of Riverside-** New Cogeneration plant to offset energy costs to operate it sewage treatment.

**City of Perris-** "Solar Shine Program" receiving the prestigious 2008 League of California Cities, Helen Putnam Award for the installation of solar panels on covered parking structures and credited with cutting the city's electrical consumption by 20 percent.

**City of Palm Springs-** Establishment of a green empowerment business zone to encourage the development of new technology in support of sustainability and use of renewable power resources.

**City of Palm Desert-** In a bold, new project facilitated by the Energy Coalition, the City of Palm Desert is working with its utilities, Southern California Edison and the Gas Company, to reduce the city's overall energy consumption and peak demand by 30 percent (adjusted for growth) over the next five years.

**Landmark Strides Taken by Public and Corporate Partners**

**Sunline Transit Agency-** Alternative fuel technology including conversion of bus fleet to CNG, demonstration project for use of hydrogen fuel cell technology

**Southern California Edison-** Announcement of plans for the installation of 65 million square feet of photo voltaic cells on commercial rooftops that will generate up to 250 megawatts of electricity, enough to power and estimated 162,000 homes.

**One Water One Watershed-** A tri-county partnership with Riverside, Orange and San Bernardino counties, the Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority and allied agencies to garner grant funding

**Background continued**

for projects related to water infrastructure and water quality through an integrated regional watershed management planning process.

**Tri-County Funding Area Coordination Committee-** A tri-County partnership with Riverside, Orange and San Diego counties and allied agencies to garner grant funding for projects related to water infrastructure and water quality through an integrated regional watershed management planning process.

A focus on conservation of water and energy resources, sustainable living concepts, and technological advancements establishes a renewed commitment by Riverside County on how we judiciously utilize and protect our finite natural resources. A sustainable future is the key to both a local and global community that is undisturbed by human impacts and passes on to future generations a philosophy and the technological where-with-all to be good stewards of our environment.

The Executive Office with support from county departments has made significant progress toward developing an action plan that will be flexible and adaptable, and that can be incorporated into planning and decision-making policies. Once this draft document is completed the Executive office will be better able to provide recommendations, deliverables and metrics to measure program effectiveness. The Executive Office will continue to provide periodic updates on this topic as it relates to water and energy conservation and resource sustainability to the Board of Supervisors.

See attached preliminary interim report.