



# MEMO

**To:** James Caruso  
COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO

**From:** Nora De Cuir

**Cc:** Tammy Seale

**Date:** September 20, 2010

**Re:** Climate Action Plan, Agricultural Stakeholder Discussion Summary from August 24, 2010

## Discussion Summary

The Agricultural Stakeholder Discussion began with an overview of the County's Climate Action Plan initiative from James Caruso, the County's project manager. Consultant project manager, Tammy Seale, presented an overview of a climate action plan's contents and additional details on how reduction measures are developed and how they related to existing policy and programs. Following these presentations, participants were asked to informally discuss the opportunities for reduction measures that were provided to them in their meeting packets. Participants discussed a broad variety of topics related to agriculture and local food production. However, the following key issues were prominent features of the discussion:

- Explore sequestration to reduce GHG emissions
- Education within the agricultural community to encourage better environmental practices. For example, provide local examples of what has worked, the costs involved, methods and benefits.
- Alternative energy production including bio-fuels, diesel and solar.
- More efficiency in transporting goods (related to energy efficiency)
- Costs involved to increase energy efficiency and reduce GHG emissions; funding sources, partnerships, collaboration and resource sharing

Participants also discussed exploring existing programs for reducing GHG emissions, funding incentives and energy efficiency in order to determine what has worked. Some programs included the Carl Moyer Program, Cattlemen's Association and the example of the Marin Carbon Project.

A more detailed record of the discussion is provided below. The Discussion Notes section provides the summary of the discussion as recorded from the facilitator's perspective. The section does not provide responses to or analysis of the stakeholders' comments. PMC's next step will be to use the stakeholder comments to inform the selection and refinement of draft GHG reduction measures.

## Discussion Notes

### Facilitator Question: What's missing? What needs to be taken a step further?

- Sequestration
- Program? What is the net emission & sequestration?
- Central Coast Wine Growers Association
- Permanent cover vs. lots of info, co-benefits
- Native grasses & rangeland
- Restoration
- Switching perennials
- Needs – inventory & assessment
  - What to grow in our habitats
- What sequesters fastest?
  - Pilot plots
  - Across habitats
- Cover crops
  - Recommend per climate zone
- Soil fertility programs
  - Change soil structure, improve permeability
  - More info
  - Same production
- Conflicts between water and sequestration
- Example: Monterey Oak Woodlands program
  - Chicago Carbon Exchange
  - Selling credits
- Forestry
  - Scientific certification services
  - Marin carbon project
  - NRCS
  - Program can mimic APCD program for ozone
- Protocols for composting
- Climate action reserve
  - Forestry
  - Urban forestry
  - Compost
- Some open to sustainable practices
  - Lack of information/education
- Model farms – see it in action
- Break out of the mold, incorporate new concepts
- Policies to protect land and AG
- Support regional food economy
- 1<sup>st</sup> research – strawberries/broccoli – water
  - Education
- Show a viable economic path – simple
  - “Hear it from your neighbors”

- Reach out to other growers
- Economic component ALAB
- Work through existing network
- Pilot projects
  - Show what works
  - Central coast vineyard team
  - UCD
  - Grant based projects, USDA/EPA/Packard Foundation
- Challenges?
  - Funding
  - Engage agricultural organizations w/successful track records
- Partner w/CAL Poly
  - Center for sustainability
  - Ecological services
  - Institute of Sustainable Agriculture at UC Davis
- Existing programs
  - Expand w/coop extension
  - Vineyard team as model
- What's happening now?
  - Energy generation
  - Efficiency for machinery
  - Economic driven
- Need holistic view
  - How much energy to manufacture production components?
- How does solar fit?
  - Portable mobile unit to replace diesel pump
- Grow energy?
  - Biofuel?
  - Press your own fuel
- Energy efficiency
- Night vs. daytime irrigation
- Chuck Pritchard is using solar to pump water
- Electrical Generation from biomass
  - Thinning
  - Sequestration
  - Fuels reduction
  - Peak power plants
  - Tree trimming
- Incentives for energy efficient items – commercial
  - Carl Moyer Program
- Embodied Energy – whole view of other power production
- Agricultural pumping?
- Transportation
- Livestock hauling
  - Can land use change to cut down on this?

- Food shed – local slaughterhouse food shed inventories – what is happening?
- Motors – 80% of electricity load
  - Food processing
  - Refrigeration
  - EPRI (Jean Pierre has info)
- Traffic patterns that reduce idling – roundabouts
  - Especially in agricultural areas—instead of stop signs, e.g. Morro Bay
- Solar
  - Transportation connection to solar generation
  - Technology will require more energy
- Example: hybrids – how to discard battery
- Impact of biodiesel fuel – high energy required
- Biodigesters/biomass
  - Lots of progress made
  - Common for water treatment
- Recycling of oil
- Biomass – don't grow to burn, but use waste
- Agricultural burning
- Biomass must be sustainable
  - Harvesting agricultural waste, be sure it is good for soils
  - Must be applicable to this area
  - Self-sustaining
  - Wine pumice example of what can work
  - No local biomass plant now
- Coal canyon composting facility closed (goes to Santa Maria now)
- Food distribution
  - Government – State, Regional, Federal – regulations
    - Crushing small farmer
    - County health department regulations regarding perishable products
    - Farmers markets/CSA's impacted
  - Draft plan for irrigated agriculture
    - Monitoring and required cost discharge order
    - Buffering – hard to comply, EIRs costly
- Youth
  - Cultural shifts
  - Victory gardens
  - Community scale gardens
  - Processing regulations are a challenge
- Perception of food safety
- Media scares
  - Few regulating many with very safe food system
  - Vulnerable to regulations
- Intensification of production
  - Evolving to use less nitrogen
  - Identify this

- Education of public and agricultural community
- Industrial agriculture scare example
  - Small scale lower risk?
- Land banking and cons. Easements – encourage this!
- New population coming to rural areas – redirect to communities
- More than encouragement...need willing buyers
- Incentivized – some may be coming
- Agricultural clusters
  - How do we calculate the amount of homes?
- Duplication of policies – already being done in private sector
- Sustainable ranch land program
  - Cooperative Extension
  - Cattleman's Association
- Manure management
  - Horses
  - Rural domestic management
  - Rural residential
- Need for local slaughterhouse but government regulations
- Need diversity in local agriculture, e.g. olives
- Methane emissions controversial
- Designations for crops are controversial
- Prohibition of crop types is problematic
- Education example
  - Grant funds for composting for equestrian facilities
  - Counties eligible
  - Challenge of distributing information, no single point for info
  - Lack of trust of government is challenge
  - Lack of local media to distribute info
  - Horses – example – Clark Valley Farm
    - Composting
    - Use on organic fields
    - Horse boarding business integrated
- Need single source for information
- Keep company on the 'path', lots of momentum here and at state level (roots of change)
- Collaboration
- Funding is needed
  - Grants
  - County help?

**Attendees**

Stakeholders

Joy Fitzhaugh, SLO Farm Bureau  
George Donati, Pacific Vineyards  
Sue Luft, RCD, WRAC, small vineyard  
Liesen Bonnier, ALAB, farmer  
Kevin Haubner, SLO Green Build, Mortgage House  
Steve Ela, County Native Tree Committee, Transition Towns  
Leslie Wyssa, Halter Ranch  
Lisa Bedrogi, Paso Robles Wine Country Alliance  
Jean-Pierre Wolff, Wolff Vineyards, CSLRCD, ALAB, CCWGA, SLO Vintners  
Hunter Francis, CalPoly CAFES

Long Range Planning Staff

James Caruso

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Tammy Seale  
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