

# LAND USE SERVICES DEPARTMENT

## PLANNING DIVISION

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COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO

CHRISTINE KELLY  
Director

## NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY

### THE DRAFT SUPPLEMENT TO THE COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY GENERAL PLAN PROGRAM ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT (SEIR) STATE CLEARINGHOUSE No. 2005101038

APRIL 5, 2011

**LEAD AGENCY:** County of San Bernardino

**PROJECT TITLE:** County of San Bernardino General Plan Amendment and Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Plan

**PROJECT LOCATION:** The General Plan Amendment and associated Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions Reduction Plan address the reduction of GHG emissions in the unincorporated areas of San Bernardino County, California that are under the County's land use authority, as well as all County owned or operated facilities, whether within an incorporated city, town or within an unincorporated area.

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:** The County of San Bernardino has prepared a SEIR for a proposed General Plan Amendment and associated GHG Emissions Reduction Plan (GHG Plan). The project also includes a Development Code Amendment that provides specific procedures for implementing development related provisions of the GHG Plan.

**General Plan Amendment** - The proposed General Plan amendment includes a policy and programs addressing the County's intent to reduce GHG emissions that are reasonably attributable to: (1) the County's internal activities, services and facilities, and (2) private industry and development that is located within the area subject to the County's land use and building permit authority.

**GHG Emission Reduction Plan** - The GHG Plan addresses two distinct categories: (1) County's internal operations ("Internal") and (2) County's land use jurisdiction area ("External") operations. The Internal category simply covers those operational activities, services and facilities that the County has direct responsibility for and control over. Examples include County vehicles and equipment, as well as buildings and other County owned facilities such as airports. External operations are those that the County has indirect influence or regulatory authority over. External sources are essentially private sector development, industry and business in the unincorporated portion of San Bernardino County that are subject to the County's land use authority. The GHG Plan provides different emissions reduction goals, objectives and strategies for these two operations categories. External emissions are further differentiated into six sectors that include Building Energy, Transportation and Land Use, Solid Waste Management, Stationary Sources, Agriculture and Resource and Conservation, and Water

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Conservation. The Internal emissions are differentiated into Building Energy, Fleet/Fuel Emissions, Solid waste Management/Landfill Emissions, Employee Commute, Carbon Sequestration, and County Purchasing. The use of these sectors allows for application of more discrete reduction strategies.

The framework of the GHG Plan consists of: (1) an inventory of GHG emissions that identifies and quantifies existing emissions and projected future emissions; (2) a reduction target to reduce existing GHG emissions by 15% by 2020; and, (2) the goals, objectives and strategies that have been devised to reduce existing emissions to meet the reduction target. The County's GHG Plan and its reduction target are based on Assembly Bill (AB) 32 and the California Air Resources Board (CARB) recommendations to ensure that California emissions are reduced to 1990 levels by the year 2020. The CARB has recommended a greenhouse gas reduction goal for local governments of 15 percent below today's levels by 2020 to ensure that their municipal and community-wide emissions match the State's reduction plan. For the purpose of defining "existing" emission levels, the County chose the emissions in the year 2007 as the existing emissions conditions.

The GHG emissions reduction measures identified in the Plan include existing and proposed state, regional, county and other local measures that will reduce GHG emission in the Internal and External categories. Reduction measures have been organized into a classification system that recognizes both the origin of the measures, i.e. state, regional, local, and also whether the measure is quantifiable in terms of calculating a volume of emission reduction.

Upon adoption, the GHG Plan may be utilized in appropriate situations to determine the significance of the project effects related to GHG emissions, thus streamlining the CEQA analysis of future projects under CEQA Guidelines Section 15183.5.

**Development Code Amendments** - The project also includes amendments to the Development Code codifying some of the GHG emissions reduction measures, such as the development review process for new development projects.

**SIGNIFICANT ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS:** The environmental analysis in the Draft Supplemental EIR assesses whether the project would result in a new significant environmental effects impact not previously addressed in the San Bernardino County 2006 General Plan Program EIR (State Clearinghouse No. 2005101038) or a substantial increase in severity of previously identified significant environmental effects consistent with CEQA Guidelines Section 15162(a)(1). Environmental issues areas evaluated in the Supplemental Draft EIR include the following:

- Aesthetics and Visual Resources
- Agricultural and Forestry Resources
- Air Quality
- Biological Resources
- Cultural Resources
- Hazards and Hazardous Materials
- Hydrology and Water Quality
- Noise
- Public Services and Utilities
- Transportation and Circulation
- Climate Change

Listed hazardous waste sites, hazardous materials users and other associated hazardous material sites (including sites identified under Section 65962.5 of the Government Code) are known to be present in the unincorporated areas of San Bernardino County and are identified in Section 3.6 (Hazards and Hazardous Materials) of the Draft Supplemental EIR.

The entire version of the Draft GHG Emissions Reduction Plan (GHG Plan) is included as Appendix B to the Draft SEIR.

**PUBLIC REVIEW PERIOD/STATUS:** A **45-day public review period** will be provided to receive written comments on the adequacy of the Draft EIR. The comment period will start on **April 5, 2011**, and end on **May 20, 2011**. Written comments should be sent to the following address:

County of San Bernardino  
Land Use Services Department  
ATTN: Doug Feremenga, Project Planner  
Land Use Services Department  
385 N. Arrowhead Ave., First Floor  
San Bernardino, CA 92415  
Fax: 909.387.3223  
Email: dferemenga@lud.sbccounty.gov

**AVAILABILITY OF THE DRAFT SEIR:** Copies of the Draft SEIR are available for review at the following location:

**County Government Center**  
Land Use Services Department  
385 N. Arrowhead Ave., First Floor  
San Bernardino, CA 92415

**Jerry Lewis High Desert Government Center**  
15900 Smoke Tree St., Suite 131  
Hesperia, CA 92345

**Barstow Branch Library**  
304 E. Buena Vista St.  
Barstow, CA 92311-2806

**Big Bear Lake Branch**  
41930 Garstin Dr.  
Big Bear Lake, CA 92315-1809

**Crestline Branch Library**  
24105 Lake Gregory Dr.  
Crestline, CA 92325-1087

**Joshua Tree Branch Library**  
6465 Park Blvd.  
Joshua Tree, CA 92252-2371