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Measure X Climate Equity and Resilience Investment

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The Department of Conservation and Development has identified investments in community planning initiatives that would advance Contra Costa County's commitment to addressing climate change.

Climate Equity and Resilience Initiatives

What: Expand the County's impact on climate action and sustainability through an ongoing investment of \$500,000/year in initiatives that support climate equity and resilience goals. This work will be managed through the Department of Conservation and Development.

Why: Funds will be used for new community planning initiatives managed by the Department of Conservation and Development to design and implement additional programs that will advance the County's progress and leadership on climate equity and resilience.

How: An investment in climate equity and resilience would allow the County to undertake the following.

- Take action to address Sea Level Rise. The County has data from the Adapting to Rising Tides studies of east and west Contra Costa County, the Vulnerability Assessment prepared for the ongoing update to the County's General Plan, and other planning documents, including the preparation of a Groundwater Sustainability Plan for the East Contra Costa Groundwater Subbasin. Concurrently, State and Federal agencies, potential partners, are preparing planning documents the County may leverage to help our communities, infrastructure, and ecosystems thrive in the face of climate change. There is ample data outlining the threats to health, safety, and community well-being from sea level rise from the Bay to the Delta. Potential measures to improve resiliency are also being identified but must be implemented across jurisdictional lines on a multi-partner basis. We need resources for the County to lead work to address these challenges.
- Develop community facing clean energy projects and programs, including community solar installations for Impacted Communities, community resilience centers that serve as gathering spaces during disasters and public safety power shutoffs, and opportunities

to advance the deployment of electric vehicles. This work is expected to occur in collaboration with MCE, PG&E, and other stakeholders.

- Support ongoing work by the Board of Supervisors on the climate-related aspects of planning for a Just Transition away from an economy based on fossil fuels, as identified in the September 2020 Climate Emergency Resolution adopted by the Board of Supervisors. As the work proceeds, there will be ongoing need to research the many issues involved, track similar efforts in other areas, provide logistical support for meetings, monitor legislation, and support the work of elected officials to develop plans and programs to implement the emerging vision. Currently there is no one on County staff tasked with supporting this work.
- Financing programs for clean energy and energy efficiency, with emphasis on low- and moderate-income homeowners. Retrofitting existing buildings to use resources more efficiently and lower utility bills is complicated and expensive. The County can help by facilitating programs that are accessible to low- and moderate-income homeowners.
- Developing strategies to sequester carbon in the many land use types in Contra Costa County. The County is launching a feasibility study right now through a Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation grant from the California Strategic Growth Council. That study will identify opportunities for different actions the County can support in every community. A next step after the feasibility study is complete will be to develop and implement a Countywide tree master plan, and to collaborate on urban agriculture projects with other County departments and community stakeholders.

Potential Funding Source: Because these are ongoing initiatives, they could be supported by funds from the Measure X sales tax approved in 2020, which extends for 20 years.

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