



November 28, 2022

Members of the Sustainability Committee
Contra Costa County

RE: November 28 Agenda Energy Items

Dear Supervisors Glover and Gioia,

We are glad to see that your November 28 meeting agenda contains the following proposed actions which can help further the County's push to take responsible environmental and climate actions:

- Participation in EV charging equipment incentive programs to help pay for additional EV chargers at County properties.
- Environmentally Preferable Purchasing Policy (EPP) for County purchases.
- Adding a whole building battery system and EV chargers to the West County Detention Facility (WCDF).

Comments on the EPP:

1. Item 3.3 reads "3.3 BIO-BASED PRODUCTS 3.3.1 Vehicle fuels made from non-wood, plant-based contents such as vegetable oils are encouraged whenever practicable." There are a host of issues with the production and use of "bio-based" fuels. Many studies indicate that producing and using bio-fuels results in a net increase in global heating emissions. And growing the crops necessary to produce the amount of fuel that the U.S. envisions this industry producing will have negative environmental and food cost impacts.¹

We anticipate a revision of current state policy on biofuels after the California Air Resources Board has undertaken an investigation of the current state of biofuel production and consumption, to which the Board recently agreed. We therefore suggest that the County purchasing policy not encourage the use bio-fuels, but instead commit to the rapid electrification of the County transportation fleet.

2. Item 3.3.5 reads "Contra Costa County shall purchase and install all electric space and water heating, when appropriate for County facilities." Title 24 Part 6 (CA building energy code) generally requires nonresidential and residential electric space heating to be heat pumps. And residential water heating to be heat pumps. This ought to be clarified.
3. The EPP numbering system uses the 3.3 series twice.

1 Here are a couple of references about bio-fuel production and use impacts: <https://theicct.org/publication/impact-renewable-diesel-us-jan22/> <https://studybiofuels.com/disadvantages-of-biofuels/>

Comment on the WCDF project: Tying battery systems to building PV systems and tying battery systems to PV systems for EV charging, are exactly what needs to happen to facilitate renewable energy, a resilient grid, and resilient EV charging capability. We look forward to the County doing these types of climate positive installations across all types of County facilities.

Please feel free to contact us should you have any questions about this requested information.

Gary Farber garyf8642@gmail.com and Lisa Jackson 67jacksonl@gmail.com
for 350 Contra Costa Action

cc: Jody London, Sustainability Coordinator
cc: Contra Costa County Sustainability Commission