



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

SCOTT HAGGERTY
PRESIDENT
SUPERVISOR, FIRST DISTRICT

July 19, 2007

Dear Board President:

Subject: Invitation to Sign U.S. Cool Counties Climate Stabilization Declaration

On July 16, 2007 at the National Association of Counties Annual Conference in Richmond, Virginia, 12 pioneering counties representing 17 million people launched "Cool Counties." The Cool Counties initiative seeks to marshal the resources of all 3066 counties across the nation to address the challenges global warming poses to our communities. **Today, I invite you to join me in signing the U.S. Cool Counties Climate Stabilization Declaration.**

I was honored to represent Alameda County at the kick-off event for this major new initiative to combat global warming. As the first California county to sign the Declaration, I committed to inviting all 57 other California counties to join the campaign. **I challenge us to become the first 100% Cool Counties state, where all counties sign on to the Declaration. As California's county leaders, we have a unique opportunity to guide the direction of climate mitigation and adaptation measures if we assert our leadership now.**

Participating counties commit to four smart actions:

- To look at our own operations to assess what policy or program changes we can enact to lower the greenhouse gas emissions produced by county governments and other areas under county jurisdiction;
- To work with our communities to reduce countywide greenhouse gas emissions 80% below current levels by 2050, an achievable annual average of 2%;
- To identify local vulnerabilities to climate change and create a plan to address them;
- To work with our counterparts nationally to urge the federal government to adopt legislation to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to 80% below current levels by 2050, the level scientists agree is necessary to prevent catastrophic effects on human civilization.

These actions directly benefit counties and serve as a tremendous opportunity for us to demonstrate leadership. Our regional role and perspective as county government positions us to take action.

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We should be the first 100% Cool Counties state because the State of California has already committed to reduce emissions 80% below 1990 levels by 2050. State climate measures will affect general plans, regional transportation plans, agricultural regulatory practices, energy conservation investments, and other areas of county regulatory authority and operational practices.

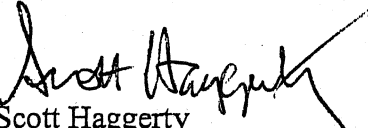
We can be the first 100% Cool Counties state because many of our jurisdictions have already demonstrated that greenhouse gas reductions make business sense. In addition, many measures offer additional benefits to our citizens such as energy security, dollar savings, cleaner air, and healthier lifestyles.

We must be the first 100% Cool Counties state because we as local governments are already experiencing climate change impacts. In California in particular, air quality degradation, sea level rise, and more frequent droughts, floods, and heat waves threaten food and water supplies, damage infrastructure, and strain our county resources.

The Cool Counties Initiative is a timely vehicle for counties to unite on global warming. Eight counties in California have already joined the ICLEI Cities for Climate Protection Campaign and many have taken action to address climate change. It was just two years ago that our counterparts in the nation's cities launched the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement, also known as Cool Cities. Participation now exceeds 600 mayors (including 94 from California), representing 67 million people. Cool Counties provides us with a framework to learn from each other's successes and to exercise a strong collective voice at higher levels of government.

Please join us in this partnership by adopting the attached U.S. Cool Counties Climate Stabilization Declaration. We are excited to move the initiative forward alongside the lead organizing government, King County, Washington, and national partner, the Sierra Club. When we meet together at the November CSAC Annual Meeting in Oakland, I am confident that we will have reached the goal of at least a majority of California counties participating in Cool Counties. Please contact my office at (510) 272-6691 for additional information. Alameda County looks forward to working with you on this collaborative effort.

Very truly yours,


Scott Haggerty
President, Board of Supervisors

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Attachment

cc: Other Members, Board of Supervisors
Susan S. Muranishi, County Administrator
Richard E. Winnie, County Counsel
Aki Nakao, Director, General Services Agency
Ron Sims, King County Executive