



Metro

Metropolitan Transportation Authority

One Gateway Plaza
Los Angeles, CA 90012-2952

213.922.2000 Tel
metro.net

1

**AD HOC SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE COMMITTEE
APRIL 30, 2008**

SUBJECT: SUSTAINABILITY EFFORT UPDATE

ACTION: RECEIVE AND FILE

RECOMMENDATION

Receive and file this report on staff's progress regarding the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority's (LACMTA) sustainability efforts.

ISSUE

During the March 2008 Ad Hoc Sustainability and Climate Change Committee meeting, staff presented a work plan outlining the proposed path forward for continuing our sustainability efforts. Since the committee meeting, staff has continued the implementation and coordination of the following efforts:

- A Sustainability Summit has been organized and will be held on May 28, 2008 at One Gateway Plaza to bring together the various local governments and public agencies with the purpose of learning and sharing sustainability best practices, tools and other efforts;
- Continued development of the Sustainability Design Criteria for Bus Rapid Transit Systems. Additional Sustainability Design Criteria will be developed for Heavy Rail and Light Rail Systems and General Facilities;
- Staff completed preliminary engineering and preparation of procurement documents for the Division 3 Maintenance Annex and the Bauchet Street Warehouse/Facilities Maintenance Shop. These will be our second and third buildings to be built using the United States Green Building Council's (USGBC) Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) guidelines. These buildings are anticipated to be eligible for Silver LEED-certification once completed. The Division 3 project was issued for bid on March 26, 2008 and the Bauchet Street project will be issued for bid in late April 2008;
- Installation of one megawatt solar panel system at the Metro Support Services Center (MSSC) adjacent to our headquarters commenced on April 7, 2008. This project was approved by the Board in January 2008 and is scheduled to be completed in September 2008;

- Initial financial analysis of the concept to install and use wind powered renewable energy at Division 15 bus operations and maintenance facility in Sun Valley, CA appears promising. Staff plans to install a wind monitoring station at the Division for monitoring a minimum of six months the actual wind conditions to determine the feasibility of installing a one megawatt wind turbine at the site;
- Continued the Sustainable Management Systems Pilot Program at Division 10;
- Continued coordination with the American Public Transportation Association (APTA) Climate Change Working Group. The APTA working group met in Atlanta, Georgia on April 16-17, 2008. The group has been developing a transit industry standard of greenhouse gas emissions (GHGe) inventory and will present the completed protocol for review and approval to The Climate Registry and the California Climate Action Registry by July, 2008;
- Continued coordination with the California Air Resources Board's (ARB) AB 32 sub-committees on land-use and local initiatives. The Land-Use Subcommittee Climate Action Team (LUSCAT) submitted its recommendations to the ARB for consideration. Staff raised concerns that transportation planning agencies have not been included in the process. The California Climate Action Registry and the Local Governments for Sustainability are leading the Local Government Protocol working group. The working group had its kick-off meeting on April 22, 2008. The group is developing the GHGe inventory protocols for local government operations and community emissions which may include non city-owned transit agencies. A protocol is to be adopted by late August, 2008; and
- Staff met with our Clean Air Task Force (CATF). A Board Box is currently being prepared by CATF and will be presented to our Board. CATF has also been discussing the status of pending Zero Emission Bus regulations with ARB staff, and is helping lead a new Zero Emissions Transit Users Group (ZETUG) that will help represent all California-based operators of alternative fueled transit fleets.

Members of the Ad Hoc Committee also approved a motion by Director Yvonne Burke during the March 2008 meeting for staff to conduct a countywide survey of cities and other public agencies to better understand our countywide sustainability efforts, including awareness of the recently approved AB 32. Our staff worked with Los Angeles County and Local Government Commission (LGC) staff to develop the survey. The survey was sent out by e-mail to the various public entities on April 14, 2008. So far, 20 cities have responded. The results will be presented at the May 28, 2008 Sustainability Summit.

BACKGROUND

Staff had previously recognized the need to develop projects to advance our efforts towards sustainability. In staff's previous report to the Ad Hoc Sustainability and Climate Change Committee, staff presented a work plan outlining our various activities that staff will focus on for the rest of FY08. These projects are now on-going.

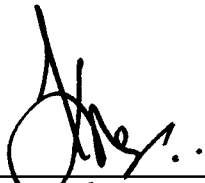
During the March 2008 meeting, staff also presented the results of an inquiry to various agencies throughout the world that have sustainability efforts similar to ours. After discussing the details of that effort, Committee members concluded that a separate Office of Sustainability with appropriate staffing needs be established within our agency to provide the needed focus and authority in implementing the ongoing and forthcoming sustainability projects beyond FY08.

Instead of the creation of an Office of Sustainability, management is recommending in the FY09 Budget the funding for one full-time equivalent (FTE) and \$500,000 to provide support and funding for the continuation of our Sustainability Program. This FTE will be housed within the Construction Division.

NEXT STEPS

Staff will provide updates on the progress of our sustainability program at the next Ad Hoc Sustainability and Climate Change Committee meeting.

Prepared by: Cris B. Liban, Manager of Environmental Compliance and Services
Tim Lindholm, Director of Capital Projects, Facilities-Operations
Tim Papandreou, Transportation Planning Manager IV



Krishniah N. Murthy
Deputy Chief Capital Management Officer



Roger Snoble
Chief Executive Officer