

**Proposed Amendment between California Energy Commission  
and  
The Regents of the University of California, Davis**

**Title:** Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions Through Local Government Action:  
Case Studies of Eight California Cities  
**Amount:** \$0.00  
**Term:** No term change  
**Contact:** Sarah Pittiglio  
**Committee Meeting:** 3/16/2011

**Recommendation**

Approve this amendment to grant PIR-08-007 with the University of California, Davis to reallocated funds within the contract to add three additional case studies, additional technology transfer activities and make changes in personnel. The proposed amendment will not change the contract term or overall budget amount. Staff recommends placing this item on the consent calendar of the Commission Business Meeting.

**Issue**

Most of the dialogue regarding climate change has taken place at the national and international levels. However, action by local governments is clearly needed in California if the state is to meet its greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reduction targets for 2020 and 2050. Local governments can and should play an important role by linking state-level priorities to the community-scale actions to achieve individual behavior change. The effectiveness of local strategies to reduce GHG emissions is highly context-specific. For local government climate strategies to be effective, they must be tailored to the situations of the communities where they are implemented. Unfortunately, we cannot yet easily predict how effective strategies will be in a given context.

A budget reallocation is needed due to the addition of three more case studies, changes in personnel and additional technology transfer activities.

**Background**

The state of California is in the process of putting together policy packages aimed to induce local action both at the level of the individual and at the level of local government. It is not a question of if, but rather a question of when local governments in California will be required to take action to reduce GHG emissions. The proposed project is taking a close look at eight cities in California that have started down the path of exploring local policy initiatives to reduce GHG emissions in order to highlight achievements and barriers. The lessons learned from these case studies have provided important guidance for cities currently developing climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies. The researchers have already presented their preliminary results from this project at the 2010 Behavior, Energy and Climate Change Conference in Sacramento on November 17th, 2010.

**Proposed Work**

The researchers are in the process of conducting in-depth case studies of the GHG emission reduction opportunities in eight California cities. The focus is on the transportation and buildings sectors. The case study cities have voluntarily joined ICLEI's Cities for Climate Protection and/or the California Climate Action Registry. The in-depth case studies include extensive contextual background, an analysis of the political drivers of and barriers to local action to reduce GHG emissions, standardized inventories of the

GHG emissions from light-duty vehicles and building energy use, and a critique of the current climate action plan. In addition, the researchers are producing a "lessons learned" paper, highlighting the opportunities and challenges that are common to all the cities.

Initially, the project was going to include reports on five California cities, including Sacramento, San Francisco, Fresno, Stockton and Los Angeles. A reallocation of the budget will allow for the addition of the case studies on Berkeley, Davis and Ventura. In addition, the original project proposed emissions calculations for each case study city that used a simpler methodology than the revised plan.

## **Justification and Goals**

This project "[will] advance energy science or technologies of value to California citizens..." (Public Resources Code 25620.(c)), and is part of a "full range of research, development, and demonstration activities that . . . are not adequately provided for by competitive and regulated markets (Public Resources Code 25620.1.(a)).

This project also addresses AB32

This will be accomplished by:

- Examine case studies of GHG emission reduction opportunities in 8 CA cities to determine how local governments can move toward a lower-carbon future.