UCLA Luskin School *of* Public Affairs

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PROGRESS REPORT

CLIMATE ACTION PLANNING IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

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PROGRESS REPORT

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CLIMATE ACTION

SUMMARY

The Southern California Climate Action Progress Report is an assessment of local climate action planning in Southern California. The Progress Report is based on the Southern California Climate Action Information Sharing Network, a new resource that provides cities and stakeholders with access to city climate planning information and allows cities to take credit for actions they've taken.

In this report, we show that roughly 1/3rd of Southern California cities have taken some step towards reducing greenhouse gas emissions. We list ten cities whose climate performance stands out. While Santa Monica is the region's definitive climate planning leader, many other cities will soon achieve similar levels of climate planning. One of the regions leaders, Apple Valley, is one of many cities in San Bernardino County which have engaged in climate planning activities since the state Attorney General sued the county in 2007 for failing to consider the effects of climate change in its general plan.

THE ROLE OF CALIFORNIA LOCAL GOVERNMENTS IN REDUCING GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

Local governments are "essential partners" in California's effort to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to climate change. The California Global Warming Solutions Act, AB 32 (2006), establishes a statewide greenhouse gas emissions target to reduce emissions to 1990 levels by 2020. The state's Climate Change Scoping Plan, which details the state's efforts to meet its AB 32 greenhouse gas reduction target, calls on local governments to reduce emissions by 15% from 2008 levels by 2020.

While policy debate often focuses on international and national efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, local governments also have influence over energy use and greenhouse gas emissions. For example, local amendments to and enforcement of state building codes can affect energy use and greenhouse gas emissions from new and remodeled buildings. Local policy decisions on land use and transportation can influence how residents and visitors travel, and resulting greenhouse gas emissions from their vehicles.

Recognizing local governments' unique influence over a portion of transportation emissions, in 2008 the state legislature passed SB 375. This law requires the Air Resources Board to set regional reduction targets for greenhouse gas emissions from transportation. Some Southern California local governments have already amended their general plans to address climate change. In the future, successful SB 375 compliance will require that many local governments change their general plans to facilitate infill development and invest in alternative transportation infrastructure.

METHODOLOGY

In the Winter and Spring of 2010, the UCLA Program on Local Government Climate Action Policies collected information on climate action planning in the 189-city Southern California Association of Governments region.[1] Through interviews and online research, researchers sought to verify and expand upon known information[2] about the region's climate actions. During this round of research, we sought information on:

- Greenhouse gas inventories (operations or community-wide)
- Greenhouse gas targets and goals
- Climate Action Plans
- Sustainability Plans
- General Plan elements which address climate change

Wherever possible, we sought to collect web links to these documents so that third parties would have ease of access. We also sought to verify a city's progress with its climate-related planning, whether documents were planned, under development, or completed and adopted. In some cases, researchers may have failed to locate climate planning documents that do in fact exist (false negatives). The UCLA Program on Local Government Climate Action Policies invites cities to update their information contained in the Southern California Climate Action Information Sharing Network at www.lewis.ucla.edu/climate/CAD.

EVALUATION CRITERIA

To evaluate each local government's climate action planning performance, we used a modified version of the Five Milestone Process outlined by the ICLEI Cities for Climate Protection Campaign. ICLEI is an organization of local governments that share best practices on environmentally related initiatives. ICLEI recommends that cities use the following framework to address greenhouse gas emissions reduction:

1. Conduct an inventory of greenhouse gas emissions for the community and local government's operations.

2. Set a greenhouse gas reduction target. A separate target may be set for emissions from local government operations (over which the local government has direct control) or emissions from the community (which the local government has some influence over, but does not control).

1. Imperial, Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, and Ventura counties

2. Mostly from the Governor's Office of Planning and Research's Annual Planning Survey in 2007, 2008, and 2009.

3. Develop an action plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from operations and the community.

4. Implement measures which will reduce greenhouse gas emissions from the Climate Action Plan and other documents

5. Monitor performance towards greenhouse gas emissions goals.

In practice, steps one and two can be interchangeable. A local government need not inventory its greenhouse gas emissions before setting a reduction goal. It may simply elect to adopt a goal based on a common agreement, such as the 7% below 1990 levels by 2012 specified in the U.S. Conference of Mayor's Climate Protection Agreement. However, in the long run, a local government must inventory its greenhouse gas emissions in order to monitor progress against its greenhouse gas reduction goals.

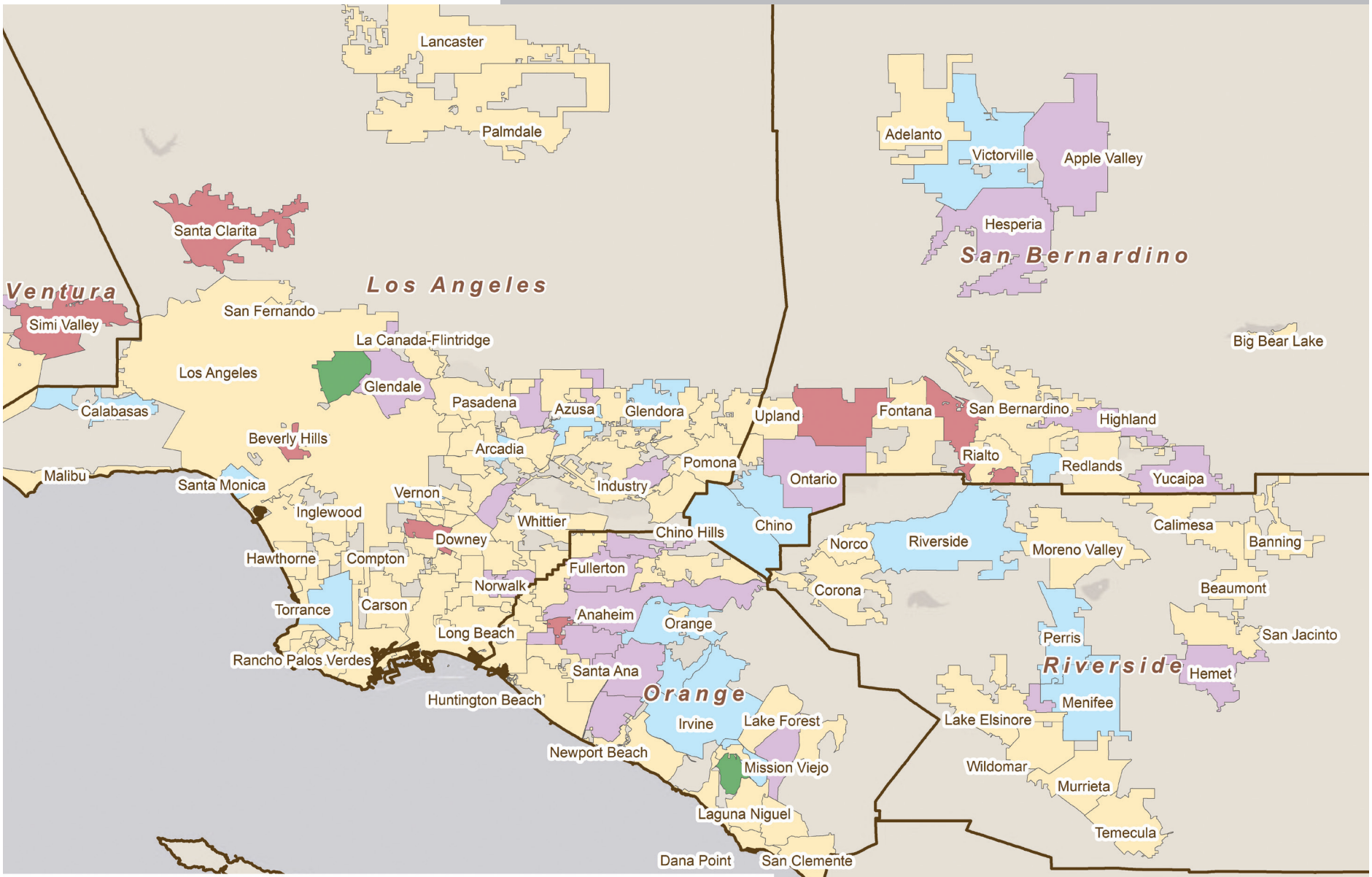
The data collected for the Southern California Climate Action Database allows for the evaluation of city performance on steps 1, 2, 3. Additionally, information on local government general plan elements which address climate change allows us to assess performance on step 4. Local governments may implement many measures in addition to general plan updates in order to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions. We hope to gather information on these measures in a future phase of this study.

FINDINGS

Most cities in the SCAG region have yet to engage in climate action planning. We were unable to find evidence of action for 125, or approximately two-thirds of the region's 189 cities. Of the 64 which have engaged in some climate actions, 35 have conducted inventories, and 49 have greenhouse gas reduction targets. Additionally, ten have adopted sustainability plans, seven have adopted climate action plans, completing step 3 of the ICLEI framework. Santa Monica was the only city which has adopted a general plan element which addresses climate change, in addition to completing steps 1 through 3. A list of cities which have achieved each step is presented below.

We found a number of opportunities for future actions. Twenty-nine cities have established a greenhouse gas target but have yet to calculate their greenhouse gas emissions for any year. Greenhouse gas emissions targets are often set using a base year, a future emissions year, and a percent reduction from the base year. Essential to evaluating to evaluating a city's performance against its GHG reduction target is knowing the base year emissions.

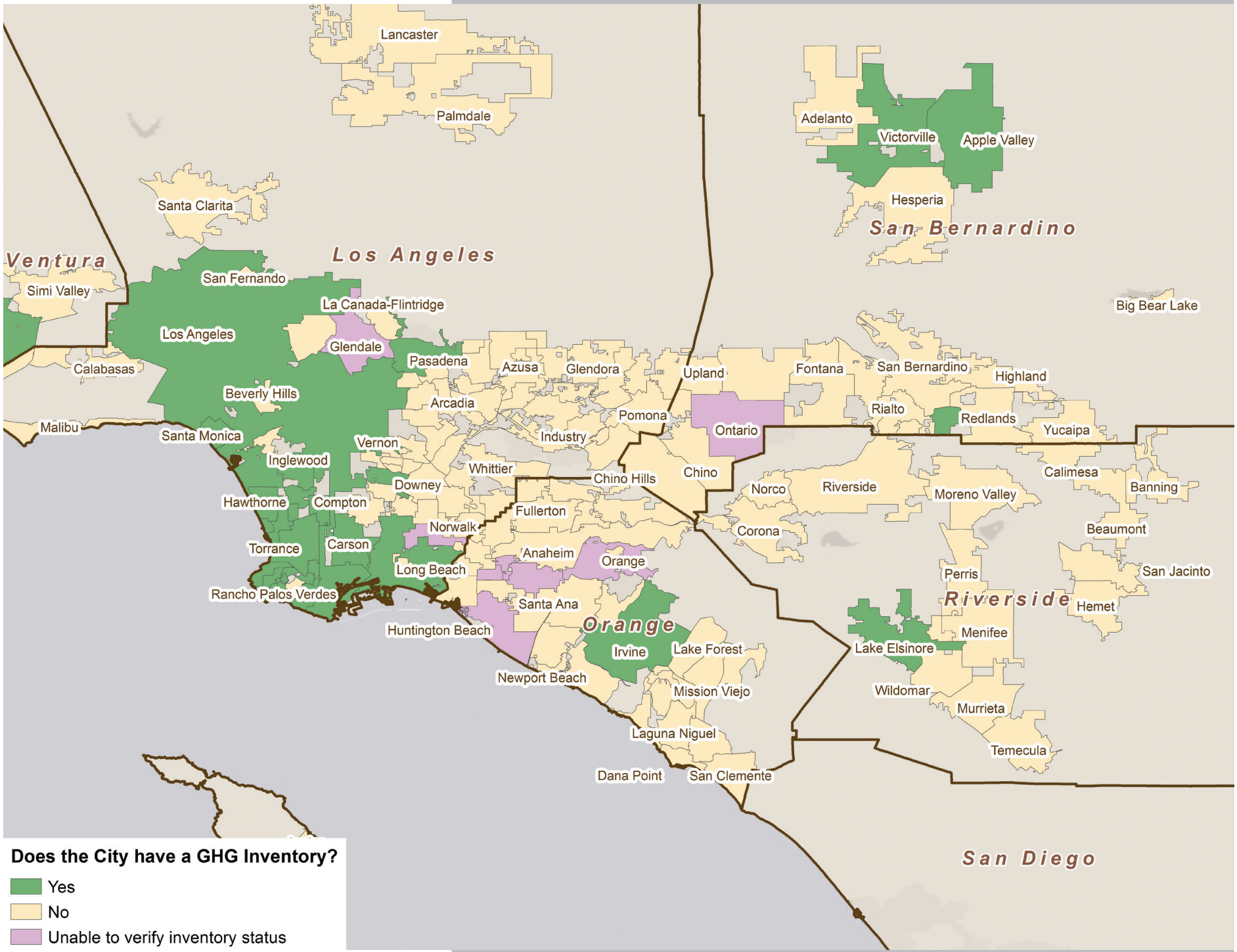
CITIES WITH CLIMATE CHANGE CONSIDERATIONS IN THEIR GENERAL PLAN



Does the City's General Plan Incorporate Climate Change Language?

- Verified Climate Change language in General Plan EIR
- Verified Climate Change language in Adopted General Plan
- Verified Climate Change language in Draft General Plan
- No Climate Change Language
- Unable to verify City's claims that General Plan incorporates Climate Change language

GHG INVENTORY STATUS BY CITY



SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CLIMATE ACTION

MILESTONE 1 City has conducted an Inventory OR adopted a target	MILESTONE 2 City has conducted an Inventory AND adopted a target	MILESTONE 3 Adopted Climate Action Plan, (in addition to steps 1 & 2)	MILESTONE 4 General Plan addresses GHG (in addition to steps 1-3)
Aliso Viejo Apple Valley Avalon Beverly Hills Burbank Calabasas Carson Chino Chino Hills Claremont Culver City El Segundo Garden Grove Gardena Glendale Glendora Hawthorne Hemet Hermosa Beach Huntington Beach Inglewood Irvine Laguna Beach Laguna Hills Laguna Woods Lake Elsinore Lakewood Lawndale Loma Linda Lomita Long Beach Los Angeles Malibu Manhattan Beach Monterey Park Moorpark Ontario Orange Palm Desert Palm Springs Palos Verdes Estates Pasadena Rancho Palos Verdes Redlands Redondo Beach Rialto Riverside Rolling Hills Rolling Hills Estates San Bernardino San Fernando Santa Ana Santa Monica Sierra Madre Signal Hill South Gate Thousand Oaks Torrance Ventura Vernon Victorville West Hollywood Whittier Yucaipa (64)	Apple Valley Gardena Hermosa Beach Huntington Beach Irvine Lakewood Loma Linda Long Beach Los Angeles Manhattan Beach Ontario Palm Desert Palm Springs Pasadena Rancho Palos Verdes Redondo Beach Rolling Hills Estates Santa Monica Thousand Oaks Torrance West Hollywood (21)	*Apple Valley* *Laguna Beach* *Long Beach* *Los Angeles* *Manhattan Beach* *Pasadena* *Santa Monica* *(7)* *In Progress:* *Irvine* *West Hollywood*	*Santa Monica* *(1)* *In Progress:* *Irvine* *Long Beach* *Pasadena* *West Hollywood*

Forty-two Southern California mayors have signed the U.S. Conference of Mayors Climate Protection agreement, which includes the following proclamation:

"We will strive to meet or exceed Kyoto Protocol targets for reducing global warming pollution"[3]

UCLA researchers were unable to find evidence of a 1990 emissions inventory for 34 of the 42 cities that have signed on to the U.S. Conference of Mayors' Climate Protection Agreement. These cities have an opportunity to further their climate action by calculating their 1990 greenhouse gas emissions inventory, and using this information to evaluate progress against their target in

3. The Kyoto Protocol target for the United States was 7% below 1990 levels by 2012. The United States Senate never ratified the Kyoto Protocol.

2012. Additionally, 14 cities have calculated a greenhouse gas inventory but have not set a GHG reduction target. These cities have the opportunity to set targets using known information about past greenhouse gas emissions levels.

City mayor has signed the US Conference of Mayors' Climate Protection Agreement		City has signed the US Conference of Mayors' Climate Protection agreement AND has calculated 1990 emissions	City has calculated an emissions inventory but has not adopted a GHG reduction target
Aliso Viejo	Monterey Park	Hermosa Beach	Carson
Avalon	Moorpark	Manhattan Beach	El Segundo
Beverly Hills	Palm Springs	Pasadena	Garden Grove
Burbank	Pasadena	Rancho Palos Verdes	Glendale
Calabasas	Rancho Palos Verdes	Redondo Beach	Hawthorne
Chino	Redlands	Rolling Hills Estates	Inglewood
Claremont	Redondo Beach	Santa Monica	Lake Elsinore
Culver City	Rialto	Torrance	Lawndale
Glendora	Riverside	(8)	Lomita
Hemet	Rolling Hills Estates		Palos Verdes
Hermosa Beach	San Bernardino		South Gate
Huntington Beach	San Fernando		Ventura
Irvine	Santa Ana		Vernon
Laguna Beach	Santa Monica		Victorville
Laguna Hills	Sierra Madre		(14)
Laguna Woods	Signal Hill		
Lakewood	Thousand Oaks		
Long Beach	Torrance		
Los Angeles	West Hollywood		
Malibu	Whittier		
Manhattan Beach	Yucaipa		
	(42)		

DISCUSSION

Three trends in climate planning are observable in Southern California. The first is that cities in the Inland Empire (Riverside & San Bernardino counties) have been addressing climate change in their general plan updates. The second is that a cluster of cities in the South Bay have conducted greenhouse gas inventories. The third is that there are a small number of leaders, most of which have adopted or are in the process of adopting a Climate Action Plan.

SAN BERNARDINO & RIVERSIDE COUNTIES

In 2007, California Attorney General Jerry Brown sued San Bernardino County because its general plan update failed to account for the impact of climate change. As part of the settlement, the county agreed to amend the General Plan to include a goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and to prepare a Greenhouse Gas

Emissions Reduction Plan within 30 months. The County expects to complete the GHG Emissions Reduction Plan in April of 2011, or 44 months after the settlement[4].

Several cities in San Bernardino and nearby Riverside counties have adopted general plan updates that incorporate climate change language. The two counties contain a quarter of all incorporated cities in the SCAG region. However, the two counties contain roughly half of cities that have incorporated climate change language into an adopted (10 of 21) or draft (4 of 10) general plan update.

SOUTH BAY CITIES

Of the 35 cities that have inventoried their greenhouse gas emissions, 14 are in the South Bay sub-region. The South Bay Council of Governments worked with ICLEI to perform a greenhouse gas emissions inventory for fourteen of its members. ICLEI provides members Clean Air & Climate Protection Software that facilitates the creation of a greenhouse gas and criteria pollutant emissions inventory, and the development and quantification of reduction measures. The South Bay Council of Governments chose used the software to complete the inventory process with their member cities. The cities and COG conducted an emissions inventory for 1990, 2005, and 2007 in accordance with the Air Resources Board's Local Government Operations Protocol.

Coordinating municipal greenhouse gas inventories for neighboring cities can be cost-effective and allow for more meaningful results. First, a group of cities can enjoy economies of scale in conducting the inventory. Neighboring cities can consolidate data requests for information from shared share electric and natural gas providers. Additionally, when an individual or group conducts the inventory for all cities, individual cities can avoid costs associated with learning proper inventory procedures. Second, by sharing inventory results, neighboring cities, which likely share many characteristics including climate, can learn more about their own inventories in the context of the region.

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CLIMATE ACTION LEADERS

Santa Monica is the definitive leader in climate action planning in the SCAG region. The city is the only one in the region which has conducted regular greenhouse gas emissions inventories, adopted a target, a Climate Action Plan, and a general plan Land Use & Circulation element which seeks to reduce the community's greenhouse gas emissions per capita. Santa Monica is also the only city in the SCAG region that ICLEI lists as having completed all five of its climate planning Milestones.

The following list details the climate planning achievements of 10 local governments that have taken the most steps towards reducing municipal and community greenhouse gas emissions. Additionally, a number of Southern California cities are planning individual Climate Action Plans or are participating in a regional climate planning effort and may soon achieve similar levels of climate planning.

In addition to Santa Monica, several other cities have shown leadership. Apple Valley, Laguna Beach, Long Beach, Los Angeles, Manhattan Beach, and Pasadena all have adopted climate action plans in addition to targets and greenhouse gas inventories. Long Beach and Pasadena are currently

4. http://www1.sbcounty.gov/landuseservices/general_plan/ Annual_Reports/2010GPAnnualReport-

TOP TEN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CLIMATE PLANNING LEADERS (IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER)

NAME	CLIMATE PLANNING ACTIVITIES
Apple Valley San Bernardino County	*In the year since adopting its General Plan, Apple Valley has developed a Climate Action Plan, greenhouse gas inventory, and reduction target of 15% below 2008 levels by 2020.*
Irvine Orange County	Irvine has conducted a community-wide greenhouse gas inventory and has a goal of reducing emissions to, 2000 levels by 2010, 1990 levels by 2020 and 80% below 1990 levels by 2050. Irvine has an Energy Plan, a Draft Climate Action Plan, and is currently developing several climate and sustainability planning tools to meet its greenhouse gas reduction goals.
Laguna Beach Orange County	*Laguna Beach adopted a Climate Action and Protection Plan to help it achieve its 2012 reduction goal of 7% below 1990 emissions. Included in the Plan is an estimate of 1990 emissions.*
Long Beach Los Angeles County	Long Beach has as comprehensive climate planning included within its Sustainable City Plan. The city has reported its municipal emissions to the California Climate Action Registry, and has a goal of reducing emissions to 7% below 1990 levels by 2012. It is currently developing a general plan update that will incorporate climate change considerations.
Los Angeles Los Angeles County	*ClimateLA is Los Angeles's comprehensive climate action plan. Los Angeles has a goal to reduce greenhouse gas emissions 7% below 1990 levels by 2012 and 35% below 1990 levels by 2030.*
Manhattan Beach Los Angeles County	Manhattan Beach adopted a Climate Action Plan in 2010. The city has its municipal GHG inventory for 1990, 2005, and 2007. Manhattan Beach's goal is to reduce GHG emissions to 7% below 1990 levels by 2012.
Pasadena Los Angeles County	Pasadena has a Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Plan to help the city achieve its goals of reducing emissions to 1990 levels by 2020, and to 80% below 1990 levels by 2050. The city has calculated community-wide GHG emissions for 1990 and 2007. It is currently developing a general plan update that will incorporate climate change considerations.
Santa Monica Los Angeles County	Santa Monica is the only city in the region which has conducted regular greenhouse gas emissions inventories, adopted a targets target, a Climate Action Plan, and a General Plan Land Use & Circulation Element which seeks to reduce the community's greenhouse gas emissions per capita. Santa Monica is also the only city in the region ICLEI lists as having completed all five of its climate action planning milestones. The city has a goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions 15% below 1990 levels by 2015.
Thousand Oaks Ventura County	Thousand Oaks reported greenhouse gas emissions from operations in accordance with the rigorous requirements of the California Climate Action Registry for 2000-2008 and has a reduction target of 7% below 1990 levels by 2012.
West Hollywood Los Angeles County	West Hollywood is currently developing a Climate Action Plan and a General Plan which incorporates climate change considerations. Reported emissions to the California Climate Action Registry for 2006-2008. Has a reduction target of 7% below 1990 levels by 2012.

updating their general plans, and will soon join Santa Monica, along with West Hollywood, which is in the process of developing a General Plan which addresses climate change and a Climate Action Plan. Irvine has completed a Draft Climate Action Plan, but is looking to adopt a Sustainability Strategic Plan, a revised CEQA Manual, and a Sustainability Framework as implementation measures.

FUTURE UPDATES

Those working for local governments may add or update their city's actions at any time by going to www.luskin.ucla.edu and following the instructions provided. In the future, we hope to include information on specific local policies across sectors.

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