

DATE: November 7, 2013

TO: Executive/Administration Committee (EAC)
Regional Council (RC)
Community, Economic and Human Development Committee (CEHD)
Energy and Environment Committee (EEC)
Transportation Committee (TC)

FROM: Huasha Liu, Director of Land Use and Environmental Planning, (213) 236-1838

SUBJECT: Panel Discussion Regarding Climate Change

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S APPROVAL: 

RECOMMENDED ACTION:
For Information Only - No Action Required.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:
At the request of the Regional Council members, SCAG invited a panel of speakers to present and discuss a wide range of views on global climate change and associated policy responses. This discussion is prompted by the recent release of the United Nations International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Fifth Assessment Report, which was released on September 26, 2013 in Stockholm, Sweden. The Joint Regional Council and Policy Committees' meeting will begin at 10:30 AM.

STRATEGIC PLAN:
This item supports SCAG's Strategic Plan Goal 1: Improve Regional Decision Making by Providing Leadership and Consensus Building on Key Plans and Policies; and Goals

BACKGROUND:
On September 26, 2013 the IPCC released its Fifth Assessment Report on climate change concluding that the warming of the earth's climate is unequivocal and that human influence on warming is clear. At the same time, the State of California has clearly established policies related to climate change including AB 32 passed in 2006 and SB 375 passed in 2008 which creates direct requirements and responsibilities for SCAG to incorporate climate change considerations in transportation planning. The California Air Resources Board has recently released a draft AB 32 Scoping Plan Update which delineates the State's greenhouse gas emission reduction program by emitting sectors.

These recent actions have prompted interest and discussion on broad scientific and policy issues related to climate change. At the request of Regional Council members, SCAG has sought and invited speakers to present a broad range of viewpoints on the subject matter. The joint meeting of the Regional Council and Policy Committees will feature a panel discussion, followed by a brief question and answer period by the following speakers:

- **Dr. Louise Bedsworth, Governor's Office of Planning and Research:** Louise Bedsworth is the Deputy Director of the Governor's Office of Planning and Research (OPR). Prior to joining OPR in 2011, she was a Research Fellow at the Public Policy Institute of California where she focused on climate action at the local level; adaptation to

climate change; and transportation and air quality. She has also held positions at the Union of Concerned Scientists, Redefining Progress, and the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis. Dr. Bedsworth served on the Advisory Council for the Bay Area Air Quality Management District from 2003 through 2011. She holds a BS in Earth, Atmospheric and Planetary Sciences from MIT; an MS in Environmental Engineering; and a PhD in Energy and Resources from UC Berkeley.

- **Warren Duffy, Founder, Duffy and Company:** A radio broadcaster and author. He has written a book *The Green Tsunami: A Tidal Wave of Eco-Babble Drowning Us All* and several articles on the subject of climate change, seeking to educate the public that the current environmental policies and programs can create negative economic impacts for California. Mr. Duffy and his wife formed two foundations focused on California-specific climate change policy issues - CFACTSoCal and Friends for Saving California Jobs. Mr. Duffy travels and speaks extensively on the topic.
- **Dr. Robert Lempert of the Rand Corporation:** A senior scientist at the RAND Corporation and Director of the Frederick S. Pardee Center for Longer Range Global Policy and the Future Human Condition. His research focuses on risk management and decision-making under conditions of deep uncertainty, with an emphasis on climate change, energy, and the environment. His research group assists agencies including the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, the California Department of Water Resources, the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority of Louisiana, and the World Bank incorporate climate change in their resource management plans. Dr. Lempert is a Fellow of the American Physical Society, a member of the Council on Foreign Relations, a lead author for Working Group II of the United Nation's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Fifth Assessment Report, and a member of numerous study panels for the U.S. National Academies, including the Transportation Research Board's *Climate Change and U.S. Transportation*, and the National Research Council studies *America's Climate Choices* and *Informing Decisions in a Changing Climate*. Dr. Lempert was the Inaugural EADS Distinguished Visitor in Energy and Environment at the American Academy in Berlin. A Professor of Policy Analysis in the Pardee RAND Graduate School, Dr. Lempert is an author of the book *Shaping the Next One Hundred Years: New Methods for Quantitative, Longer-Term Policy Analysis*.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The costs to facilitate this panel discussion are included in the FY 13-14 OWP Budget.

ATTACHMENT:

[Presentations from guest speakers to be distributed under separate cover.]