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**DATE:** October 15, 2014

**TO:** The Energy Council (EC)

**FROM:** Gary Wolff, Executive Director

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**SUBJECT:** Update on Commercial Sector and Water-Energy Nexus Priority Areas

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## **BACKGROUND**

In July 2013, the Energy Council adopted eight priority areas for programs in 2013-15. Staff has been following these priorities when seeking new funding opportunities and partnerships. Five of the priority areas were funded in existing contracts and three priorities represented new opportunities. Staff will provide an update on two of the new areas: integrated program services for small/medium commercial buildings and water-energy nexus.

## **DISCUSSION**

### *Commercial Sector*

On September 25, 2013 the Energy Council entered into a contract amendment with PG&E to support Climate Action Plan (CAP) implementation in Alameda County. As part of this project staff reviewed member agencies' local climate action plans and interviewed local government staff to identify common measures, challenges to implementation, best practices and lessons learned. As directed by the Energy Council when the grant was approved, the CAP findings and list of commercial sector strategies for reducing GHG emissions were agreed upon by all stakeholders, including the member agency Technical Advisory Group (TAG). Staff from ICLEI and the Sonoma County Regional Climate Protection Campaign also provided peer review. In keeping with the Council's priorities, the Energy Council Technical Advisory Group prioritized the strategies and selected three of these for coordinated implementation in 2014. They include business outreach and recognition, business technical assistance and additional outreach specific to the manufacturing sector.

### *Water-Energy Nexus*

The Bay Area Regional Energy Network includes an on-water-bill financing pilot called Pay-As-You-Save (PAYS). Staff promoted this program to all of the water suppliers in Alameda County. The City of

Hayward and the East Bay Municipal Utility District are two of the four utilities participating in the regional pilot program.

The Department of Water Resources (DWR) has just released a Water-Energy Grant solicitation that is due in mid-December. Staff is working with the Energy Council Technical Advisory Group and external partners to identify projects with significant water savings, energy savings, GHG reductions, and that benefit a Cal-EPA-designated Disadvantaged Community.

Municipal facilities, including schools, are one of the project types targeted for inclusion in the DWR water-energy proposal. Staff has been coordinating water-energy grant-seeking activities with the Alameda County Office of Education's (ACOE) Leadership in Energy Efficiency Program and is discussing a broader strategic partnership with ACOE regarding external funding.

**RECOMMENDATION**

This item is for information only.