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To: Lemoore City Council Study Session
From: John Tyler, Administrative Analyst Item #3
Date: December 15, 2006
Subject: Climate Protection Discussion

Discussion:

Council Member Martin requested that a discussion of climate protection be put on the agenda as part of a broad national campaign to raise awareness about the problem of global warming as well as provide direction for City staff to pursue in the future. The information presented in this packet comes primarily from Internet research, including the website www.coolmayors.com, the homepage for the national group of municipal leaders that are paving the way with this issue. According to the *Cool Mayors* site, the organization:

provides a blueprint for any city to follow to implement profitable solutions and reduce emissions. Cities for Climate Protection (CCP) is ICLEI's flagship program and has been designated as the official implementation mechanism for cities that are signatories to the US Mayors Climate Protection Agreement. (see attached draft resolution)

ICLEI—Local Governments for Sustainability is an international association of local governments and national and regional local government organizations that have made a commitment to sustainable development. More than 475 cities, towns, counties, and their associations worldwide comprise ICLEI's growing membership. ICLEI works with these and hundreds of other local governments through international performance-based, results-oriented campaigns and programs. Their website address is: <http://www.iclei.org>

The following is a quote from the Cool Mayors website:

America's cities know how to solve global warming, and they've begun.

The time has come for these mayors to share how cities are transforming the potential catastrophe of global warming into positive, profitable solutions. Global warming is a doorway to actions that enhance prosperity, secure the energy supply, improve the health of communities, and make our cities cleaner, better places to live.

Here – beyond divisive ideological debate -- you'll find:

- the good news about how to profitably curb greenhouse gas emissions, right now.

- the solutions that make sense to pursue – no matter what.
- the mayors for climate protection – who are a diverse group of politicians with great differences of opinion between them – coexisting in pursuit of a common, rational purpose.

They understand that the warming of the climate is a primary urban issue. They know that most energy is consumed by cities, and that most emissions come from cities. Even though the problem is called global warming, the solutions lie in cities.

They also understand that global warming is not merely, or primarily, an environmental issue. It is an energy issue; a business issue; an investor issue; a moral issue; a security issue; an agricultural issue; a coastal issue. It is an issue of universal concern that touches every facet of human existence and cuts across party lines, religious differences, class divisions, demographic distinctions and geographic location.

In the attached memo from Council Member Martin he says there should be “an effort to do our part and recognize that Global Warming, or Climate Change, is a serious issue that can have adverse effects on our world, our country, and our city.” He suggested that we conduct a discussion about the merits and the possibility of joining this coalition of cities that is attempting to do something about this growing issue. Council Member Martin further suggests that Council should:

1. Develop a city-wide plan for energy efficiency that takes into account global warming, including initiatives to incentivize public steps toward energy efficiency.
2. Pass a resolution recognizing the facts and science of global warming (see the attached sample resolution).
3. Join the Mayors for Climate Protection.
4. Make our residents more aware of the efforts of the City of Lemoore to fight Global Warming.
5. Make our elected representatives in Sacramento and Washington aware of our concern for this issue.

There is more information from the Environmental Protection Agency on Climate Change available at: <http://www.epa.gov/climatechange/basicinfo.html>

Budget Impact:

Unknown at this time.

Recommendation:

None, this is a discussion item. Should Council desire, an actual resolution can be drafted and brought before you at a later meeting.