

Date of Hearing: June 15, 2016

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Susan Talamantes Eggman, Chair

SB 1030 (McGuire) – As Introduced February 12, 2016

SENATE VOTE: 27-8

SUBJECT: Sonoma County Regional Climate Protection Authority.

SUMMARY: Removes the sunset date on the Sonoma County Regional Climate Protection Authority (RCPA), thus making the RCPA permanent. Specifically, **this bill:**

- 1) Removes the existing sunset date of December 1, 2019, contained in the statutes for the RCPA.
- 2) Declares that no reimbursement is necessary because the only costs incurred by a local agency are the result of a program for which legislative authority was requested by that local agency, as specified.

EXISTING LAW:

- 1) Establishes the RCPA, and authorizes it to perform coordination and implementation activities within Sonoma County to assist agencies that choose to participate in meeting their greenhouse gas emission reduction goals as set forth in resolutions and adopted plans. The RCPA may also develop, coordinate, and implement programs and policies to comply with AB 32 and other state or federal mandates and programs designed to respond to greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and climate change.
- 2) Sunsets the RCPA on December 1, 2019.

FISCAL EFFECT: According to the Senate Appropriations Committee, pursuant to Senate Rule 28.8, negligible state costs.

COMMENTS:

- 1) **Bill Summary.** This bill removes the existing sunset date of December 1, 2019, for the Sonoma County RCPA, and by doing so, will allow RCPA to continue on permanently, with no need for legislative approval.

This bill is sponsored by the author.

- 2) **Author's Statement.** According to the author, "California's diversity of geography, infrastructure and natural resources make it difficult to use a one size fits all approach to greenhouse gas mitigation. And, while overarching regulations and guidelines are necessary, and serve the state in developing targets and goals for emissions reductions, greenhouse gas mitigation strategies must be implemented at the local level. Local government agencies like the RCPA have the necessary knowledge to execute climate action plans provided the uniqueness of varying localities.

“The RCPA has a proven track record of achieving more ambitious goals than are required by AB 32’s Scoping Plan. According to the climate action strategies set forth by the RCPA, Sonoma County climate action efforts will complement the State’s efforts to nearly a 1 to 1 match. Their collaborative approach ensures communities with limited resources are not left out because of budget constraints.”

- 3) **Background and Previous Legislation.** Existing law establishes, pursuant to AB 881 (Huffman), Chapter 375, Statutes of 2009, the RCPA. The RCPA is a stand-alone agency, but governed by the same board as the Sonoma County Transportation Authority. AB 881 authorized the RCPA to apply for funds and receive grants to carry out its functions, required it to conduct meetings under the Ralph M. Brown Act, and required a financial audit. The RCPA coordinates with other agencies within the county to implement programs and policies relating to GHG reduction goals pursuant to AB 32. AB 881 established the RCPA until December 1, 2015. AB 693 (Huffman), Chapter 599, Statutes of 2012, extended the sunset until December 1, 2019.

The RCPA, in cooperation with local agencies, elects to participate, develop, coordinate, and implement activities within Sonoma County to comply with local, state, and federal mandates and programs designed to respond to GHG emissions and climate change. In addition to the County of Sonoma, the RCPA’s current members include nine cities within Sonoma County. Seven other local entities, including Sonoma County Water Agency, Northern Sonoma County Air Pollution Control District, Sonoma Clean Power, Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District, Sonoma County Energy Independence Program, Sonoma County Health Action, and Sonoma County Solid Waste Management Authority, also serve as partners to support the RCPA.

- 4) **Arguments in Support.** Supporters argue that deleting the sunset will enable the RCPA to work long-term on the climate challenges ahead.
- 5) **Arguments in Opposition.** None on file.

REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:

Support

Bay Area Regional Energy Network
Center for Climate Protection
Cities of Cloverdale, Cotati, Petaluma, Santa Rosa, Sebastopol
Northern Sonoma County Air Pollution Control District
Sierra Club California
Sonoma Clean Power
Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District
Sonoma County Board of Supervisors
Sonoma County Water Agency
Town of Windsor
The Nature Conservancy

Opposition

None on file

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