

Background

The focus on climate change and the “carbon footprint” has caused many public agencies to consider ways in which their operations can have less of an impact on the environment. The SNC has taken initial steps in this regard and is currently a part of a process led by the Resources Agency identifying actions that can be taken to address this issue.

Current Status

The SNC has formed a “Green Team”, led by Brandon Sanders, to identify short-term and long-term opportunities to reduce and/or mitigate environmental impacts from our operations. This effort will include specific actions that can be taken by the SNC as well as the identification of potential opportunities as the SNC negotiates a new lease for the headquarters office.

Next Steps

SNC staff will implement actions that are feasible to reduce the environmental impacts of our operations and will work to measure the effect of such measures. Among the initial actions being considered at this time are the following:

Energy Efficiency

- Motion-sensing light switches and other lighting related actions
- Energy-miser for refrigerator
- Minimize energy use of personal electronic devices
- Conduct an energy audit with assistance from the local utility company

Recycling, Source Reduction and Reuse

- Set all copiers and printers to default duplex
- Use single-sided waste paper for desktop writing pads
- Purchase remanufactured ink cartridges
- Meet mandated levels of recycled content for office products
- Discourage use of disposable cups, plates, etc.

Water and Air

- Ensure HVAC filter cartridges are regularly checked and maintained
- Provide incentives for public transportation and carpooling
- Encourage alternate transportation where feasible
- Support alternative work schedules and telecommuting
- Utilize teleconferencing/Web conferencing for interaction with stakeholders

Recommendation

No action needed at this time by the Board. Staff will report progress to Board on an ongoing basis.