

## **Global warming questions delay Yolo's climate plan**

Details needed to put other plans in place

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A vote on Yolo County's Climate Action Plan has been postponed for an additional month as a result of a complaint opposing the document.

Supervisor Duane Chamberlain proposed the board delay consideration of the climate plan Tuesday until the March 1 meeting after Capay Valley resident Vicki Murphy expressed opposition at the Jan. 14 meeting.

Initially, the Planning and Public Works Department had recommended supervisors go forward and vote for the plan, but Chairman Matt Rexroad said the board would take action March 1.

The 2030 General Plan contains more than 350 policies that deal with climate change, including a requirement to develop a climate action plan. The plan helps implement some of those policies, including increased energy conservation standards in new construction.

A climate plan approval is also necessary for Specific Plans, such as the one in Dunnigan, to move forward.

The plan also addresses Assembly Bill 32, which requires greenhouse emissions to be reduced in California to 1990 levels by 2020.

Murphy, along with several other people, spoke in opposition of the plan. While her concerns were addressed by Planning and Public Works after her initial complaint, she said none of her concerns had changed.

"A massive bureaucratic industry is being created by climate change," she said.

Brooks resident and farmer Charley Gordon said the supervisors have been poorly advised. He said UC Davis experts prepared the data used in the plan which "gives farmers a bad rap."

One statistic Gordon mentioned was that the report originally said agriculture produced nearly 50 percent of emissions in the county in both the 1990 and 2008.

But David Morrison, assistant director of Planning and Public Works, said earlier the information was looking at the unincorporated areas only, not the county as a whole. When including the incorporated cities, agriculture only accounted for 14 percent of total emissions in 1990.

Gordon continued by saying farmers have worked to reduce carbon emissions through more efficient machinery and less use of fertilizer.

He said the global warming issue might not last much longer and officials shouldn't give in to the "hysteria." Gordon ended his comments by quoting Thomas Jefferson and said if Jefferson were alive today, he would urge the board to vote against the climate plan.

The plan also calls for reductions in using nitrogen on crops when reasonable. Yolo County Farm Bureau President Chuck Dudley said alfalfa takes nitrogen from the air.

Frank Sieferman Sr., president of the Yolo County Landowners Association, said in a letter to the board that it is important to have a plan in place "prior to the possibility of the establishment of future mandates" by the state or Sacramento Area Council of Governments.

But Sieferman also said the plan needs to make sure agriculture is valued and certain requirements remain voluntary.

Several people spoke in favor of the plan, including some UCD students. But following the public hearing, Chamberlain said the students were being "idealistic" and not looking at the reality of being a farmer daily.

He also commended Gordon, saying his comments were "right on."

But in regards to cutting nitrogen, Chamberlain said "you're cutting your own throat."

He said he will not vote for the plan the way it has been represented and there are too many errors in it.

Supervisor Jim Provenza said those who still have concerns should suggest changes, so he said the county can have "the strongest possible document."