

## **General Plan to see air quality update**

Alex Cantatore

Turlock Journal, Wednesday, June 16, 2010

The Hughson General Plan will be updated to account for new state legislation, following City Council action Monday evening.

Assembly Bill 170 requires cities to amend their general plans — documents which guide the growth of cities — to account for air quality concerns. While the Hughson General Plan already contains some feasible air quality mitigation measures, the discussions of the current air quality attainment status and plans are out of date.

Hughson will pay Pacific Municipal Consultants \$6,760 plus a contingency of \$3,000 for the update. The cost would have been much higher had the Hughson General Plan not already been in such good shape, city staff said.

The document should be completed by September.

## **Senate Dems expected to indicate new direction on climate**

By Wes Sander

Capital Press Ag Weekly, Wed., June 16, 2010

Democratic leadership in the U.S. Senate is expected to indicate in the next few days what direction it will take on climate legislation.

Democrats are said to be reconsidering their plans while a persistently bad economy continues souring voters on a cap-and-trade program. Such a program raises the possibility of long-term costs to agriculture, among other industries.

A cap and trade system would limit greenhouse-gas emissions while allowing emitters to meet a portion of the cap through government-supplied allowances and offsets produced by third parties.

Democratic leadership signaled in May that a proposal by Sens. John Kerry, D-Mass., and Joe Lieberman, I-Conn., could be addressed this summer.

The proposal includes a cap-and-trade program, which would reduce emissions over several decades by capping emitters. Those emitters could meet their targets partially by buying and selling allowances distributed by the government and offsets generated by third parties.

Meanwhile, the ongoing Gulf of Mexico oil spill is spurring more interest in renewable fuels than in cap-and-trade, a version of which the House of Representatives approved last year.

In an apparent effort to alter perceptions, Kerry and Lieberman kept the term "cap and trade" out of their proposal when they released it in May. Rick Krause, senior director of congressional relations with the American Farm Bureau Federation, said signs have since grown that Democrats are shying from the concept.

Among them was President Barack Obama's lack of reference to the concept in his Tuesday speech addressing the gulf spill. Obama called only for legislation promoting alternative energy sources.

"I would be surprised if they decided to move ahead with cap and trade as a base bill," Krause said.

Obama has said he wants comprehensive climate legislation, which would contain incentives along with restrictions. But his Environmental Protection Agency is moving forward with a plan to regulate carbon dioxide emissions next year, and ag interests fear the strict limits that would eventually befall many producers and processors.

A resolution by Sen. Lisa Murkowski, R-Alaska, that would have stopped EPA was killed by the Senate on June 10. But another bill, by Sen. Jay Rockefeller, D-W.Va., would delay EPA's enforcement on stationary sources for two years.

While any such effort is given slim chances -- it must pass both houses and receive Obama's signature -- the Rockefeller effort at least stands a better chance, Krause said.

Rick Frank, director of the Center for Law, Energy & the Environment at University of California-Berkeley, said cap-and-trade "is becoming one of the more politically unpopular components of energy legislation."

But Democratic lawmakers as a group are not yet ready to abandon the concept, Frank said. That's because some still want it, and the party must find its own common ground before moving forward.

"My own view of it is that we're kind of caught between conflicting and competing pressures," Frank said.

[Fresno Bee Earth Blog, Wed., June 16, 2010:](#)

### **Did you know there are 2.2 million dairy cows in Valley?**

By Mark Grossi

Dairy rule amendments are coming up Thursday at the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District, and there are some interesting numbers in the district report.

If you didn't know, dairies apparently are a big source of reactive organic gases -- yeah, you have the right idea, but maybe the wrong end of the process.

Such gases help make summertime ozone. Until just a few years ago, nobody knew there were more of these gases coming from the barnyard than the freeway.

But the biggest problem is not cow waste or various animal gaseous releases. It's the feed. At the meeting, which starts at 9 a.m., the board will be talking about more rules to control gases from the feed.

Back to the numbers: There are 1,331 dairies in the Valley, the air staff says. Including the support stock -- such as dry cows -- there are 2.2 million cows.

The value of these dairies? The air district estimates show that it's nearly \$5 billion.