

County of Sonoma Countywide Cost Saving Ideas		<u>FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY</u>
NAME OF ORGANIZATION		DATE RECEIVED
NAME OF PERSON SUBMITTING IDEA	WORK PHONE #	EMAIL
TITLE OR SUBJECT OF COST SAVING IDEA Discontinue Environmental Strategic Plan items and any other unfunded mandates. Environmental Strategic Plan items and other unfunded mandates (Sustainability, Citizens Energy Initiative, Climate change, Renewable Energy projects, Development of ISO9000 & ISO14000 standards, etc) need to be placed on hold for now during this economic crisis.		
EXISTING CONDITION (if more space is needed, please summarize and attach additional sheet/s) Should we really be spending money on these items while the budget is in a critical situation? NO. 1. Paul Kelly & Tim Anderson (SCWA) being sent to Bali, Indonesia Dec 7, 2007 – Budgeted Amount \$15000. 2. Valerie Brown, Jake Mackenzie (City of RP), Tim Anderson (SCWA), Dr. Robert Wilkinson (Consultant) being sent to Poznan, Poland Dec 5, 2008 – Budgeted amount \$19500. 3. New Position – Manager of Countywide Climate Change Coordination - \$95,000 - \$125,000/Annually. 4. Solar Panels, Heat pumps, with a 30-40 year payback (Great ideas when there is economic surplus). 5. Consultant fees in implementing these “go green” ideas. It’s time to say NO to the “Fancy Latte” in the morning and stick with a straight cup of “Home Brewed Coffee”.		
SUGGESTED COST SAVINGS IDEA (if more space is needed, please summarize and attach additional sheet/s) Concentrate on “Core Functions” within each County Division/Dept. While it is forward thinking to participate in global initiatives, our state is broke. Assess what services are critical to our County then maintain them! Quit spending money on items that are not critical. Just a few of many questions to ask: Does Law Enforcement have working vehicles? Does the Jail have adequate staffing? How are our County Roads? How are our wastewater treatment facilities and the pipes carrying sewage to them? What condition are our water transmission pumping facilities? Does Human Services have enough staff to handle the increased case load due to job layoffs? How will the state budget affect K-12 education services? How is funding obtained for the animal shelter and is it in jeopardy? How is Sonoma County’s earthquake preparedness? How are the smaller communities within the County faring during these times? Finally, how can we spend general fund money so freely when our health care (both retiree and active) is in such a dire condition?		
BENEFITS OF IDEA (Cash savings, revenue, labor, space, service) (if more space is needed, please summarize and attach additional sheet/s) Potential reduction in job loss, better public image and trust, County infrastructure remains strong during the current state crises and national economic downturn. When the economy rebounds, reassess the Environmental Strategic Plan items that were put on hold.		
ISSUES (legal, costs, MOU, space) THAT COULD POTENTIALLY LIMIT IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS IDEA Politically it’s very “boring” to concentrate on core functions. It’s politically advantageous to be in the “idea of the moment”. (Probably seen as a stepping stone in ones career) The biggest issue will most likely be the Board of Supervisors and General Managers of Departments not willing to step back out of the limelight and concentrate on core functions. (They will contend that this is not “forward thinking”) Remember, the interest in “Green Ideas” go away when people are losing homes and don’t have jobs.		

Send to Chris Thomas, at CAO’s office