

Board Inquiry Form

Board Member	
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Inquiry Number: 38

Department: Planning and Development
Date: June 12, 2013
Page(s) of Budget Book: Inquiry 01

Request/Question:

Please explain the difference between the estimated costs of the ECAP Adoption & Implementation (\$273k) and the County Costs in the Santa Barbara County Feasibility Analysis (\$5 million+) provided to Board offices in March.

(see 4.-Santa-Barbara-County-Feasibility-Analysis.xlsx)

Response Prepared by: Glenn Russell

Response:

The estimated costs of the ECAP Adoption and Implementation (\$273k) are those costs, including EIR preparation by a consultant, staff time necessary to prepare the plan and take it through the hearing process, implementation measures such as staff training and monitoring of the plan's success, and a feasibility study for implementation of Community Choice Aggregation.

The Santa Barbara County Feasibility Analysis is a preliminary draft document that contains very rough estimates in the form of a range of costs for implementing each of a series of Energy Reduction Measures (ERM's). This was provided to Board offices as a result of a request for the information and is a very large and complex document that does not include any total costs. Therefore it is difficult to know exactly how the figure of \$5 million+ was arrived at. The best way to answer this inquiry is to note what the document does and does not contain in terms of the costs of implementing the ERM's.

- The document contains rough and preliminary estimates of direct costs for implementing ERM's for both the County and the community.
- The costs are presented as ranges; High, Medium, and Low and will need significant refinement to be more accurate.
- The document includes all potential ERM's identified by staff. Some of these may not be selected to be part of the final plan and some may remain as voluntary measures.
- The document does not include any analysis of the potential benefits of implementing ERM's, such as increased property values, cost savings to property owners due to achieved energy savings, and the creation of jobs as a result of ERM's such as energy retrofits of homes.
- The document does not currently include any analysis of the length of time over which ERM's would be implemented. The costs of selected ERM's would be spread over many years, not all at once.
- The document is only the first step in a process to better understand what the costs and benefits of implementing ERM's will be.
- Once completed, the information will be presented to decision makers and the public to inform the process of consideration of an Energy and Climate Action Plan.