M-3. Implement an Innovative Strategy for GHG Mitigation

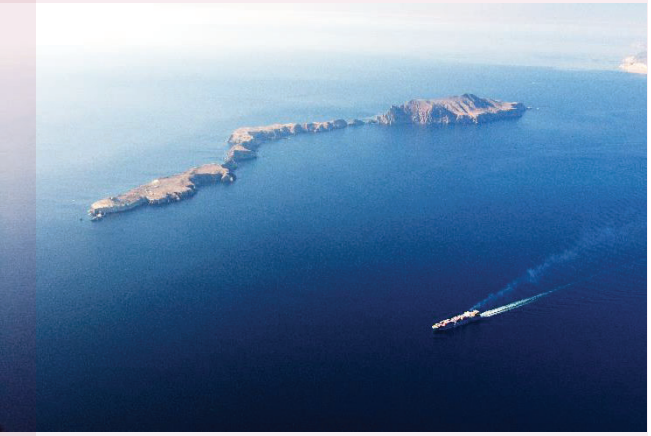

Photo Credit: Robert Schwemmer, July 2009

GHG Mitigation Potential

Varies

Variable reduction in GHG emissions

Co-Benefits (icon key on pg. 34)

Varies

Climate Resilience

Climate resilience benefits would vary by the strategy; however, any strategies that reduce costs; improve air, water quality, or public health; increase system redundancy or reliability; reduce water use; or reduce the urban heat island would have resilience benefits.

Health and Equity Considerations

Similar to climate resilience benefits, any health and equity benefits would depend on the specific strategy and actions taken.

Measure Description

This measure will develop and implement a novel strategy to reduce GHG emissions at the project site or off site. This measure may incorporate technologies which have yet to be developed at the time of the publication of this Handbook. Alternatively, this measure may also bring together multiple measures from this Handbook into a cohesive program or mechanism to facilitate the reduction of GHG emissions, such as development of a "VMT bank" that offers community-scale VMT measures that would not otherwise be available to individual land use projects.

It is recommended that all strategies or projects implemented under this measure meet the six criteria defined in *17 C.F.R. Section 95802*, which are used in the California Cap and Trade System, which are that the GHG reductions must be "real, additional, quantifiable, permanent, verifiable, and enforceable." Quantification of emission reductions achieved by new strategies or projects should be from sources that follow rigorous protocols and third-party verification.

Scale of Application

Project/Site and Plan/Community

Implementation Requirements

See measure description.

Cost Considerations

A GHG mitigation strategy may be a low-cost way for a local government to encourage emission reduction activities across many levels of a community. Costs from developing and implementing the strategy are primarily related to staff time and document production. Costs and savings achieved by the strategy would vary depending on the action.

Expanded Mitigation Options

Non-applicable.

GHG Reduction Formula

$A = -B$

GHG Calculation Variables

ID	Variable	Value	Unit	Source
Output				
A	GHG reduction from the strategy	[ ]	MT CO_2e	calculated
User Inputs				
B	Amount of CO_2e reduced	[ ]	MT CO_2e	user input
Constants, Assumptions, and Available Defaults				
	None			

Further explanation of key variables:

- (B) – The amount of the GHG reduction achieved by the mitigation strategy must be defined by the user. To take quantifiable credit for this measure, the user must provide detailed and substantial evidence showing the quantification and verification of the GHG emissions reduction.

GHG Calculation Caps or Maximums

None.

Example GHG Reduction Quantification

The user reduces GHG emissions by funding and implementing an innovative GHG reductions strategy. In this example, the lead agency for a new development project collaborates with a local air quality management district and CARB to fund a project that achieves an annual emissions reduction of 2,000 MT CO_2e.

$$A = -2{,}000 \ \frac{\text{MT } CO_2e}{\text{yr}}$$

Quantified Co-Benefits

Depending on the type, mitigation projects may result in none of the identified co-benefits or achieve several of them. For example, mitigation projects that involve removing or retrofitting combustion sources could achieve improved air quality, energy and fuel savings, and improved public health. This quantification methodology does not quantify the co-benefits from these projects.

Sources

- None.