

**C/CAG**  
**CITY/COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS**  
**OF SAN MATEO COUNTY**

*Atherton • Belmont • Brisbane • Burlingame • Colma • Daly City • East Palo Alto • Foster City • Half Moon Bay • Hillsborough • Menlo Park  
Millbrae • Pacifica • Portola Valley • Redwood City • San Bruno • San Carlos • San Mateo • San Mateo County • South San Francisco • Woodside*

**RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AND CLIMATE PROTECTION TASK FORCE**  
**Minutes from the 2-19-2014 Meeting**

**In attendance:**

Adrienne Carr, BAWSCA  
Bob Cormia, Foothill De Anza Community College  
Rick DeGolia, Town of Atherton  
Adrienne Etherton, Sustainable San Mateo County  
Cathy Fogel, CPUC (by phone)  
Stephen Francis, Assemblymember Perea's office (by phone)  
Deborah Gordon, Committee Chair, Woodside Town Council\*  
Pradeep Gupta, South San Francisco City Council\*  
Kathy Lavezzo, PG&E  
Susan McCue, City of South San Francisco  
Maryann Moise Derwin, Committee Vice Chair, Portola Valley Town Council\*  
Alex Palantzas, San Mateo County Hispanic Chamber of Commerce  
Barbara Pierce, Redwood City Council\*  
Dave Pine, San Mateo County Board of Supervisors  
Kim Springer, County of San Mateo RecycleWorks (staff)  
Gauri Vilash, Student at Foothill College  
Sandy Wong, C/CAG  
Susan Wright, County of San Mateo RecycleWorks (staff)

**Not in attendance:**

Beth Bhatnagar, Sustainable San Mateo County  
Michael Barber, Supervisor Pine's office  
Sapna Dixit, PG&E  
Jorge Jaramillo, San Mateo County Hispanic Chamber of Commerce  
Debbie Kranefuss, Ecology Action  
Erica Kudyba, Climate Corps Bay Area fellow for San Mateo County Energy Watch  
Nicole Sandkulla, BAWSCA  
Eric Sevim, A+ Japanese Auto Repair  
\*=elected official member

**1) Introductions**

Attendees introduced themselves and their organizations.

**2) Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

**3) Approval of Minutes**

The minutes from the November 20, 2013 meeting were approved.

**PUBLIC NOTICING:** All notices of C/CAG Board and Committee meetings are posted at:  
San Mateo County Transit District Office, 1250 San Carlos Ave., San Carlos, CA.

#### **4) Presentation on California Public Utility Commission Strategic Plan for Residential Zero Net Energy in 2020 (Cathy Fogel, CPUC – by phone)**

Cathy Fogel gave a presentation about zero net energy (ZNE) strategy. The following additional points were made:

- The definition of ZNE is that renewables need to be on site.
- The study – Technical Feasibility of ZNE Buildings in California – doesn't explore cost effectiveness.
- The chart on page 10 of the presentation is in increments of 9,000 gigawatts, which is the equivalent of three 500 megawatt power plants avoided.
- “ZNE ready” means the building is highly energy efficient, but there is no space for renewables on site.
- A feed-in tariff and/or net metering approach will be considered during the Net Energy Metering proceeding.
- SB43 is about community solar, and could allow the source of renewable energy to be offsite if it's a dedicated purchase. AB327 provides a fixed charge for meters in California.

Pradeep Gupta commented that as more customers have renewables, there will be more cost for energy from the grid. There needs to be more thinking about rate making, especially doing this as the market is driven.

Deborah Gordon commented that we keep looking at discrete problems to be overcome. Work needs to be done to redesign the whole energy system. PG&E needs to reinvent how it does business. Kim Springer commented that an alternative utility business model has been a topic at the CPUC. There was recently a CPUC meeting with the investor-owned utilities on this topic.

[http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/PUC/Oct\\_8\\_2013\\_En\\_Banc\\_The\\_Business\\_Model\\_for\\_the\\_Electric\\_Utility\\_of\\_the\\_Future.htm](http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/PUC/Oct_8_2013_En_Banc_The_Business_Model_for_the_Electric_Utility_of_the_Future.htm)

Susan Wright commented that research shows that daylighting in buildings increases productivity. (<http://www.nrel.gov/docs/fy02osti/30769.pdf>)

#### **5) Update on the San Mateo County Energy Watch program (Susan Wright)**

Susan Wright gave an update about assistance being provided to schools to help them use Prop 39 funds for energy efficiency retrofits and behavior change programming. SMC Energy Watch and the facilities director of the San Mateo County Office of Education are meeting with individual school districts to help them access no-cost audits (CEC's Bright Schools program and SMC Energy Watch's turnkey lighting program) and get into contract with a service provider to assist with audits and implementation.

Susan described the lunch SMC Energy Watch hosted for real estate professionals. The group discussed ways to collaborate to drive demand for energy efficiency homes. Cara Bautista updated the group about Energy Upgrade's single family and multi-family programs. Lisa Schmidt of Home Energy Analytics gave a presentation about their online home energy assessment tool. Realtors would like to have this free service for their clients. Realtors see education as the primary driver of energy efficiency. They are interested in receiving local, relevant, data-driven information about home energy strategies that they can pass along to clients. Realtors can help SMC Energy Watch and the Energy Upgrade program get in front of real estate group meetings to give presentations.

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There wasn't time to give an update about the community outreach events, which was continued to the next RMCP meeting.

**6) Presentation on AB 327 (Perea) Net Energy Metering Legislation (Stephen Francis, Perea's office – by phone)**

Stephen Francis from Assemblymember Perea's office in Fresno updated the group about AB327, which passed in October 2013. He made these points:

- Perea sees rates as geographic penalties. The goal of the law is to make the rate structure more flexible. It aims to incentivize energy efficiency but not penalize higher energy users. The rate structures are now being negotiated at the PUC.
- The law reforms net energy metering issues, the CARE program, and the Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS). It clarifies that the 33% RPS standard is a floor, not a ceiling. The law eliminates the limitation of the size of a renewable system. It allows for a fixed charge, but there doesn't have to be one.
- Net Energy Metering (NEM) allows customers to feed extra energy to the grid (meters run backward). The program has expired. The maximum is 5% of total energy. The law clarifies certain megawatts caps for each utility. Above that, it's optional, and utilities can decide if customers get credit for energy going back into the grid. The law provides certainty for investors – the number of years that energy can be fed back into the grid.
- NEM 2.0 is a program that will be designed by the end of 2015. Contracts won't need to be offered until the 5% cap is reached, or 2017. At that point, the new NEM 2.0 contracts will be offered to customers. Utilities can't require this until 2018. For now, they must opt in.

Bob Cormia commented that the timing of AB327 seems in contrast to ZNE goals.

Deborah Gordon commented that she is concerned that the law is a lot of individual things put together that don't make sense in the aggregate. She wondered if this has been modeled.

Stephen Francis explained that AB327 is broadly supported, including by utilities and environmental justice groups. It is an improvement from the status quo.

Pradeep Gupta asked what will happen to convince new solar customers to sign on, since solar customers are given a cost-benefit analysis based on net metering benefits? Stephen explained that everyone who signs a contract before the 5% is reached gets to keep their agreement; those afterward won't get that. NEM 2.0 won't have that same design flaw. It will give more certainty for long-term calculations.

**7) Presentation on Regional and Local Sea Level Rise Challenges in San Mateo County (Dave Pine)**

Supervisor Pine gave a presentation about sea level rise, and mentioned these points:

- At the sea level convening in December, John Englander recommended planning for sea level rise of three feet.
- A lot of tech companies will be affected by sea level rise, since their headquarters are close to the bay.
- At 55 inches of sea level rise, 40% of property will be at risk in San Mateo County.
- Healthy wetlands are important as they provide a natural defense. Horizontal levees are being considered wherever feasible. A test site will be near Facebook headquarters in Menlo Park.
- The airport has been armoring for decades. They are wrapping up a \$600,000 study about vulnerability to sea level rise.

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- The County got a grant for \$200,000 from the Coastal Conservancy to study options for San Bruno Creek and Colma Creek near the San Francisco airport. It will involve six jurisdictions.
- Cities formed a San Francisquito Creek JPA after severe flooding in 1998 and members are currently working on a number of projects related to the Creek.
- Because the City of San Mateo has areas of high flood risk, they formed an assessment district to strengthen their levees. This reduced their flood zone, and reduced high insurance rates.
- A county-wide parcel tax measure is being considered for the November ballot.
- Supervisor Pine would like to convene a working group/collaborative. It will need staff support. The group could look at models of countywide collaboration. The goal is to get city managers and elected officials informed about sea level rise. We need to be well positioned to get federal funding.

Rick DeGolia commented that once we get everyone's attention by talking about 55 inches of sea level rise, we need to show them what one foot will look like.

Pradeep Gupta commented that we need to have a clear understanding of how all this impacts housing, roads, etc. He wondered if there is a document where each sector is evaluated. We need one coordinated assessment.

This item will be continued at the next meeting so committee members can provide feedback to Supervisor Pine.

#### **8) Committee Member Updates**

Adrienne Carr gave an update about the drought. She will give a more detailed update at the next meeting.

Adrienne Etherton commented that Sustainable San Mateo County's Indicator's Report has new elements that will be helpful. The Indicator's Report launch is Thursday, March 19.

Pradeep Gupta suggested that some sort of reporting structure be established to serve as a history of accomplishments and source of background for future new committee members.

Bob Cormia mentioned that the "program review" process works well in academia.

#### **Additional Comments:**

Attendee Gauri Vilash commented that students are interested in getting involved. She pointed out the importance of explaining things in simple terms that everyone can understand.

#### **9) Next Regular Meeting Date – March 19 @ 2pm at BAWSCA, 155 Bovet Road, Suite 650, San Mateo**

Topics to cover:

- Sea level rise
- Water supply update

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- Community outreach campaigns
- Program progress report process/template

**Attachments:**

None.