

C/CAG - Resource Management and Climate Protection Committee (RMCP)

Minutes of August 21, 2019 Meeting

In Attendance:

Doug Silverstein, Green San Mateo County*
Donna Colson, Mayor Burlingame*
Adrienne Carr, Committee Vice Chair, BAWSCA*
Maryann Moise Derwin, Committee Chair, Councilmember Portola Valley*
Christine Zaugg, Executive Director SSMC*
Diane Papan, Councilmember San Mateo*
Rick DeGolia, Councilmember Atherton*
Ortensia Lopez, Executive Director El Concilio*
Sandy Wong, Director C/CAG
Kim Springer (Staff)
John Allan (Staff)
Lisa Schmidt, Home Energy Analytics (Presenter)
James Tuleya, Home Energy Analytics (Presenter)
Lillian Mirviss, OhmConnect (Presenter)

Not an attendance:

Don Horsley, County Supervisor*
Drew Combs, Councilmember Menlo Park*
Janet Borgens, Councilmember Redwood City*
Bill Chiang, PG&E*

*Committee Member (voting)

1) Introductions

2) Public Comment

3) Approval of Minutes from May 15, 2019 RMCP Committee meeting

No quorum initially, this was moved to between Item 3 and Item 4. Motion to approve by Adrienne Carr, second by Dianne Papan. Motion passes with 1 abstention (Christine Zaugg)

4) Update on San Mateo County Energy & Water Strategy 2025 project

John Allan provided a progress update on the San Mateo County Energy & Water Strategy 2025. The Strategy is under revision after receiving feedback from a larger stakeholder group. Feedback is still being incorporated and a future version will be sent to elected officials for further feedback.

- Donna Colson requested the Strategy be sent to municipal public works staff.
- Christine Zaugg suggested we make sure safety in terms of water quality be included

Kim Springer explained that the scope of the SMC Energy and Water Strategy will be included in the document, and that flood and sea level rise are not wholly included, that some related to water supply will be included.

5) Presentation on HomeIntel residential energy efficiency Program

Lisa Schmidt and James Tuleya from Home Energy Analytics (HEA) delivered a presentation on the benefits of their PG&E-sponsored energy efficiency program which is available to all PG&E customers and focuses on using smart meter data to save energy without significant equipment upgrades or retrofits. HEA is paid based on the site performance savings they help customers achieve and approach each customer as a unique opportunity because they each have unique energy profiles and there is no “typical home”

Since the program launched in August 2017, they've had 1,448 participants and saved 11,960 MMBTUs.

- Rick DeGolia - Why doesn't PG&E allow this program for net energy metering (solar) customers?
- Schmidt - There are data constraints, PG&E doesn't necessarily have access to NEM data.
- DeGolia – This is an example of how PG&E doesn't support solar
- Ortensia Lopez - Is this program available in multiple languages?
- Tuleya – We are not specifically geared for this, but we try to make it work. Promotional materials are in Spanish and Chinese
- Lopez – This is a great product for low-income communities and customers that are just above the low-income threshold.
- Lopez - How are you working with CCAs?
- Schmidt - There are no issues with this but we don't necessarily work with PCE directly. We are involved in the analysis for the electrification pilot
- Maryann Moise Derwin – I've been familiar with this effort for a while and would like to encourage the program as much as possible.
- DeGolia suggested having municipal staff send out in weekly newsletters/blasts
- Donna Colson requested specific language on the program to share with her community.
- Papan – What percent of projects require more substantial fixes?
- Tuleya - The majority of problems (80%) are related to plug load and behavior and negligence.
- Doug Silverstein – Commenting that there's a few different ways to address energy efficiency. He prefers Ohmconnect's model and thinks policy change is the most effective.
- Tuleya – To be clear, this goes beyond what people are used to and helps people understand the problems you're pointing out.

6) Presentation on OhmConnect community demand response program

Lillian Mervis with OhmConnect government affairs presented an overview of the OhmConnect business model where customers are paid based on their savings during select hours.

- DeGolia – Does it work for NEM customers?
- Mervis - Yes, they're marked at 0 (no benefit) if they have negative use

Everything is based on an online platform that includes a dashboard to show savings, progress to goals, etc. Ohm connect makes money through demand response auction mechanism. OhmConnect essentially functions as a power plant but instead of adding energy to the grid, they reduce demand. During the summer of 2019, OhmConnect paid out over \$11M to customers and reduced electricity consumption by 855 megawatt hours. OhmConnect has a strong focus on DACs which account for 15-20% of user base.

- Papan – Can a customer lose money on this program?
- Mervis -You can lose profits, but you can't go below 0
- Lopez – What are your cultural competencies?
- Mervis - This is a priority for us right now
- Springer – How is a baseline calculated?
- Mervis - We create an updated baseline based on the past 10 days use.

7) Update on countywide Reach Code adoption effort

Springer provided background information on reach code effort including timeline, project partners and the adoption process. Springer provided an update on where each city and town is in the process. Springer emphasized that these are not the most exact details as things are moving quickly and each city is individualizing their approach.

- Zaugg – SSMC will likely be presenting awards to cities that pass reach codes.
- Silverstein – There's been a lot of investment in this effort but feels like we aren't getting the best return on investment. There is more opportunity for cities to take stronger codes. It's on the leadership of the cities to push for this. There have been two cities that have introduced codes (San Mateo and Menlo Park)
- Papan – How many cities are updating versus adopting brand new codes? It seems like it will be much easier for the cities that have already been through the process.
- Silverstein – There are still opportunities to push this further, but time is running short. I don't want to be sitting here 2 months later and wishing we could have done more. Looking at other jurisdictions around the bay area and recent news on reach codes, there are different types of codes based on fuels. Menlo Park has gone all electric by saying it's just easier to implement the codes.
- DeGolia – Clarifying which buildings are all-electric.
- Silverstein – Cities that have already passed reach codes have already done the work for the rest of the cities because the staff reports, and studies are completed. Timing will be the biggest issue for the cities.
- DeGolia - Timing is irrelevant, codes can be adopted later. In order to make this successful, the cities need to understand that the reach code doesn't need to be taken as is. For every city, there is some modification that will work. PCE needs to pitch this properly. Incremental savings are better than no savings at all.
- Colson – Cities should work on a bonus or incentive program rather than penalizing developers for not going all-electric.
- Silverstein - Incentives don't work as well because people aren't always concerned about costs. The consistency is better for city staff. There are also concerns that complex requirements create opportunities for loopholes.
- Silverstein – Is it appropriate to set an aspirational goal?
- Derwin – We can set a goal, but it won't necessarily be met
- DeGolia– We just need more staff and advocates that are bringing it to the council's attention.

8) **Presentation on San Mateo Plain Groundwater Basin water elevation monitoring project**

Springer delivered a short presentation on the groundwater situation in SMC and the history of groundwater use. Hetch Hetchy replaced the use of groundwater for the most part. There has been little historical monitoring of groundwater levels and data shows that the basins are full. Groundwater quality is poor currently but better than before. There are still some communities (EPA, Atherton, Menlo Park) that rely on groundwater.

- There were multiple questions clarifying areas and uses of groundwater which were answered by Adrienne Carr.

The Groundwater assessment completed in 2018. SMC not required to manage basin under SGMA. However, monitoring is still a good idea so extra money is being used for a new monitoring project. EKI Environment and Water, Inc was selected to conduct CASGEM monitoring and create a plan for monitoring including identifying specific wells and setting up a database portal. The hope is to put together a funding commitment for ongoing monitoring at 6-month intervals. EKI is working on finalizing stakeholders and reaching out to well owners

- Carr – This has been in the works for a while but has fallen apart without state requirements. It's great that the County is pulling this together. It won't be a large commitment.

9) **Committee Member Updates**

- Zaugg – SSMC Indicator Reports – Next effort launching Oct 31st @ Oracle
- Zaugg – SSMC Award Ceremony – April 2nd, 2020
- Silverstein – Land & Water Policy: Backing our Coastside Neighbors – August 28th

10) Next Scheduled Meeting Date – September 18, 2019