

# Resource Management and Climate Protection Committee (RMCP)

**Date:** Wednesday, May 20, 2020

**Time:** 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

**Location:** Remote meeting via Zoom

## **In attendance:**

Maryann Moise Derwin, Councilmember, Portola Valley\* - Chair

Janet Borgens, Councilmember, Redwood City\*

Kristin Jensen, Community Bank of the Bay\*

Doug Silverstein, Green County San Mateo\* - Vice Chair

Tom Francis, BAWSCA\*

Diane Papan, Councilmember, San Mateo\*

Christine Zaugg, Sustainable San Mateo County\*

Donna Colson, Mayor, Burlingame\*

Rick DeGolia, Councilmember, Atherton\*

Kim Springer, County OOS

Sandy Wong, Executive Director, C/CAG

John Allan, County OOS

Hannah Doress, County OOS

Michael Barber, Supervisor Pine's Office

Jim Eggemeyer, Director, County OOS

John Galloway, SFO

Susan Wright, County OOS

## **Not in attendance:**

Bill Chiang, PG&E\*

Ortensia Lopez, El Concilio\*

Don Horsley, Supervisor, County of San Mateo\*

Drew Combs, Councilmember, Menlo Park\*

## **1. Introductions**

Introductions of members and new committee member, Kristin Jensen

## **2. Public Comment**

None emailed prior to meeting or made remotely

## **3. Approval of Minutes from February 19, 2020 RMCP Committee meeting**

(Kim Springer – Committee Staff) Action

Motion to approve: Diane Papan

Second: Donna Colson

Roll Call: All approve\*

\*RickDeGolia not present at time of vote

## **4. Election of RMCP Committee Co-Chair**

(Kim Springer – Committee Staff) Action

Doug Silverstein nominates self

Second: Donna Colson

Roll call: All approve

## 5. Update from Bay Area Water Supply and Conservation Agency

(Tom Francis - BAWSCA) Information/ Discussion

Tom provided an update on water supply conditions based on information made available by SFPUC and also provided info on BAWSCA and SFPUC operation in response to COVID-19.

To date, reservoir capacity in Tuolumne System is around 90% full. Local reservoirs are around 80% full. This puts San Mateo County in a good position to deal with future dry conditions. This situation is similar statewide. Precipitation for WY20 is low so far and not predicted to increase but water from prior years remains in reservoirs so we are not in drought condition. Snowpack is also much lower than average.

Water deliveries are unaffected by SIP orders. Field crews and staff continue to work and are practicing social distancing. Treatment plants remain isolated and are only allowing staff inside. Office staff are working remotely. BAWSCA continues to be fully operational and is working remotely. Some programs including school programs and contractor trainings have been adjusted for remote learning options. Board Meetings and committees have moved to a zoom format.

- **Doug Silverstein** – What is the split between residential and commercial water use? What are the biggest uses?
  - Tom Francis – Residential is the largest use in San Mateo County. Most large commercial users are fairly innovative with conservation, but I can follow up with additional data
- **Silverstein** – Is data on water conservation projects available?
  - Francis – We look at water use on a broader scale, but you may want to work with local cities for this data

## 6. Presentation on Equity Tools and Resources for Climate-related Programs

(Kim Springer – Committee Staff) Information/ Discussion

Susan Wright provided an overview of how equity is defined and placed it in the context of sustainability programs. Susan highlighted some of the challenges facing equity programs such as income verification or geographic selection to identify customers with need. A number of existing tools such as CalEnviroScreen, the California Energy Commission's Energy Equity Indicators or Department of Water Resources DAC Mapping Tool.

Hannah Doress introduced the San Mateo County Community Vulnerability Index (CVI), an initiative of the County Manager's Office that uses seven indicators of vulnerability mapped at the census tract level and provides a much clearer picture of need compared to statewide tools. Other local tools include the SF Bay Restoration Authority income map and the ABAG Community Vulnerability Indicators.

Climate Ready San Mateo County is putting together a viewer (currently in beta version) which will display CVI and ABAG data alongside climate risks and related data. Hannah walked through a demo of the viewer and showed its utility in identifying community need.

Additional resources in San Mateo County include the Youth Need Index and the SMC All Together Portal.

Discussion:

- **Springer** - Which tools and resources are directly relevant to the RMCP committee?
- **Donna Colson** - Provided an overview of Burlingame Cares which is offering support to low-income families. They leveraged PCE and School District programs to identify customers
- **Christine Zaugg** - Working with community groups such as churches should also be a way to identify individuals in need.

- **Silverstein** - Transportation costs are another challenge. EV prices are going down significantly and our programs around these should include consideration of trip length
- **Francis** - From a water perspective, a big challenge is who represents specific community areas (East Palo Alto makes this easy but other neighborhoods aren't as organized). With COVID-19, there's another issue of access to and knowledge of video conferencing technology. Income-basis is also tough with the high cost of living here in the bay area.
- **Janet Borgens** - Internet accessibility is also an equity issue that should be addressed.

## 7. Presentation on Convergence of Regional Efforts on Existing Building Electrification

(Susan Wright – County OOS Staff) Information/ Discussion

Susan Wright provided an overview of electrification efforts around the County and how Office of Sustainability efforts are converging with state and regional efforts. Currently the focus is on individual appliances but we need to look towards whole-home retrofits to get to zero net carbon. Harvest Thermal is an example of an innovative company that is looking at electrifying multiple appliances at once. In addition, there needs to be a stronger workforce around electrification which will include support from vendors and real estate agents to promote the benefits of electrification.

There are already a number of resources available such as the Fossil Free Buildings Campaign, City of Palo Alto Home Electrification Readiness Assessment and HomeIntel. Data will be important in order to identify the ideal customers for electrification upgrades. Moving beyond individual homes, there are programs and pilots that are looking at transforming entire blocks at once. The scale of impact can be larger but also requires significant coordination and buy-in.

Funding is ramping up around electrification. Grants opportunities are widely available, BayREN and BAAQMD are providing \$1,000 incentives for heat pump hot water heaters and Peninsula Clean Energy is actively working on new programs to incentivize electrification

- **Silverstein** - Stoves shouldn't be a focus, we need to focus on the highest use of gas in homes such as water and air heating. Harvest Thermal seems like a good solution since they package the equipment nicely.
- **Colson** - We need to focus on informing the building community. Stoves and fireplaces are things that people don't want to give up but that shouldn't hold up progress on other appliances.
- **Francis** - There's an innovative company called Span that is focused on smart panel upgrades which is very sleek.
- **Colson** - The workforce problem is huge and unions have been largely resistant. Non-unionized tradespeople from the central valley are being trained on these technologies and we need to work with them to promote these technologies.

## 8. Committee Member Updates

No updates

## Chat Log:

From Doug Silverstein to Everyone: 02:36 PM

Tom - Do you know 2019 water use (or typical year) in SMC by % residential v % commercial. and what are top uses in commercial (i.e. mfg vs landscape vs indoor operations)

From Doug Silverstein to Everyone: 02:42 PM

thanks tom

From Christine Kohl-Zaugg to Everyone: 02:42 PM

Great presentation, thanks!

From Donna Colson to Everyone: 03:15 PM

Libraries are another great way to do the block by block or individual identification.

From Doug Silverstein to Everyone: 03:47 PM

Susan - please provide more info on harvest thermal as you get it. their website is bare

I want to see the Tesla or Nissan Leaf of home space & water heat/cooling. smart, connected, elegant. if this is well marketed, I think it will succeed in higher end markets.

From Tom Francis to Everyone: 03:47 PM

Just in case you were not aware, there is a new company that was started by a former Tesla employee called "Span", that is focused on the development and production of a new "smart panel" to replace the technology for electric panels in homes ... this may be a technology breakthrough that homeowners in the future are interested in

From Donna Colson to Everyone: 03:48 PM

Agree Janet about the gas lines taken up. That is a very difficult conversation. I do love this idea of neighborhood conversion - it is really a sensible and collaborative concept.

From Doug Silverstein to Everyone: 03:52 PM

Span looks great too.

From Kristin Jensen to Everyone: 03:53 PM

Would restaurants also electrify? How would chefs deal with this? If chefs were on board it might help homeowners adjust.

From Christine Kohl-Zaugg to Everyone: 03:56 PM

An issue is that here we don't really have a concept of apprenticeship, that's an issue, also with ensuring quality work, etc. - is there even a chance this concept might be discussed?

From Donna Colson to Everyone: 03:59 PM

Love that - I am trying to figure out a way to do a prototype on a full electric house here in Burlingame. We will see!