

**CITY/COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS COMMITTEE ON CONGESTION
MANAGEMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY (CMEQ)**

**MINUTES
MEETING OF September 29, 2014**

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chair Pierce in Conference Room C at City Hall of San Mateo at 3:00 p.m. Attendance sheet is attached.

1. Public comment on items not on the agenda.

None.

2. Approval of minutes of June 30, 2014 meeting.

Motion: To approve the Minutes of the June 30, 2014 meeting, Bigelow/O'Neill. Motion carried unanimously.

3. Receive a presentation and update from the San Mateo County Energy Watch Program (Information).

Ms. Susan Wright, San Mateo County Energy Watch staff, provided an update on the San Mateo County Energy Watch (SMCEW) program. Her presentation highlighted the program's progress in several areas:

- **Support to public agencies for energy efficiency upgrades.** The program has helped 16 of the 21 jurisdictions in the county conduct energy efficiency audits for heating and cooling equipment. Additionally, the program has provided connections to PG&E rebates and facilitated streetlight projects in several local jurisdictions.
- **Support to schools for developing Proposition 39 expenditure plans.** The program is helping eight school districts in the county put together expenditure plans that list projects to improve energy efficiency and expand clean energy generation in schools. These plans are required to be eligible for Proposition 39 funds.
- **Support for Climate Action Plans.** The program has helped all 21 jurisdictions in the county develop Climate Action Plans. At present, all 21 jurisdictions have adopted or are currently working on a Climate Action Plan.
- **Support for greenhouse gas emission inventories.** The program has conducted countywide greenhouse gas emission inventories for energy use in years 2005 and 2010 and plans to conduct annual inventories in the future, contingent on available funding.
- **Public awareness and climate action plan implementation.** The program is starting a new countywide energy efficiency campaign to help meet long-term greenhouse gas emission reduction goals. Activities include outreaching to specific business segments, connecting cities to grant opportunities on alternative energy, collaborating with real estate professionals, and developing a zero net energy tool kit. In the future, the program may expand to also work on water-energy nexus projects.

CMEQ members asked several questions throughout Ms. Wright's presentation.

- Member Pierce asked about the criteria used to select the eight school districts that the program is supporting. Ms. Wright responded that the program identified school districts that faced bandwidth and expertise constraints and would need extra support to move forward.
- Member Aguirre asked how the progress of San Mateo County in reducing greenhouse gas emissions from 2005 to 2010 compares to that of other counties in the state. Ms. Wright responded that she did not have this data on hand and suggested that some of the reductions during this time period could be attributed to the downturn in the economy.
- Member Olbert asked about the availability of the countywide greenhouse gas inventory data on a per capita basis, suggesting that population growth would mask energy efficiency gains in reports that provide aggregate looks of the data. Member Pierce agreed and said that while new housing in the county necessarily entails more energy use, the new housing is much more energy efficient per capita. Ms. Wright responded that a per capita view of the data by city is available online on the SMCEW website.
- Member Lee asked about emissions credits available under the cap and trade program. Kim Springer, SMCEW staff, responded that staff could do some research on the cap and trade program and how to qualify for these credits.

4. Review and recommend approval of the guidelines and application for the C/CAG Priority Development Area Parking Policy Technical Assistance Program (Action).

Wally Abrazaldo, C/CAG staff, presented the draft program guidelines and application for the proposed C/CAG Priority Development Area (PDA) Parking Policy Technical Assistance Program. This program would provide technical support to local jurisdictions to conduct parking-related planning projects consistent with the local vision for growth and development in PDAs in the county. Sources of funding for the program include local PDA planning funds that remain unawarded from the C/CAG PDA Planning Program and the C/CAG Congestion Relief Plan Fund.

In general, CMEQ members responded positively to the draft guidelines. A few questions and comments were offered to refine the guidelines and application:

- Member Olbert asked why C/CAG would propose to take on the responsibility of administering consultant contracts rather than simply passing on the funds to project sponsors. Wally responded that few project sponsors would want to go through the administrative burden of following Caltrans processes and procedures in accessing and using the funds, which are federal funds, for relatively small planning projects.
- Member Olbert suggested that more points be provided to applicants that demonstrate a commitment to implementing the results of their planning projects.
- Ellen Barton, C/CAG staff, suggested that additional consideration be provided to projects that incorporate plans for active transportation elements and transportation demand management strategies. Member Pierce agreed and said that project sponsors should strive to incorporate and address additional mobility options in their projects.
- Member O'Connell suggested that some of the 15 points provided to applicants for demonstrating support be reallocated to other scoring criteria, such as incorporating innovative elements and demonstrating a commitment to implementation.
- Member Pierce asked if capital money would follow the planning money that has been made available by the region. Sandy Wong, C/CAG Executive Director, said that there is potential for additional funding and made reference to funding programs administered by the Strategic Growth Council at the state level.

Wally stated that staff would incorporate the comments provided by the Committee and update the program guidelines and application prior to bringing them to the Board for review and approval.

Motion: To recommend approval of establishing a PDA Parking Policy Technical Assistance Program in an amount of \$342,000 for Fiscal Years 2013-2014 to 2015-2016 as part of the Local PDA Planning Program, O'Connell/Lee. Motion carried unanimously.

5. Update of the San Mateo County US 101 Ramp Metering Implementation between State Route (SR) 92 and the San Francisco/San Mateo County Line (Information).

Sandy Wong, C/CAG Executive Director, provided an update on the ramp metering project on US 101. She stated that this phase of the project would complete ramp metering on US 101 from county line to county line. C/CAG is working with staff from the various jurisdictions along US 101 to establish metering rate plans, which will set the timing of the meters. If all goes well, the northbound meters will be turned on sometime in November, and the southbound meters will be turned on in early 2015.

Committee members asked how metering rates are established and calibrated. Sandy provided a brief explanation of the iterative modeling process that helps to establish initial rates and the field tests that Caltrans conducts to recalibrate the rates if needed. The metering rates are reviewed by a technical committee made up of city staff before they are implemented.

6. Executive Director Report (Information).

Sandy provided updates on a few items:

- Governor Brown signed AB 2170, sponsored by Assemblymember Kevin Mullin, into law. The legislation clarified that joint powers agencies in the state have the same taxation authority as their member agencies. This law allows C/CAG to move forward with a stormwater funding initiative in the future.
- The C/CAG Board approved a rain barrel rebate program, which will provide a \$50 rebate to county residents to purchase and install a rain barrel. C/CAG is partnering with the Bay Area Water Supply & Conservation Agency on this program.
- The California Transportation Commission recently held a meeting dedicated to road usage charges. Sandy explained that this is a new trend in transportation finance due to the decline in gas tax revenues associated with increased vehicle fuel efficiency and alternative fuels.

7. Member comments and announcements (Information).

Meeting adjourned at 4:15 pm.

The next regular meeting was scheduled for October 27, 2014.