

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 4-15-2015 Meeting

In attendance:

Michael Barber, Supervisor Pine's office
Beth Bhatnagar, Sustainable San Mateo County
Michelle Bilodeau, San Mateo County Health System, Environmental Health
Adrienne Carr, BAWSCA
Andrea Chow, County of San Mateo
Rick DeGolia, Town of Atherton*
Maryann Moise Derwin, Committee Vice Chair, Portola Valley Town Council*
Peter Dreikmeyer, Tuolumne River Trust
Matt Fabry, C/CAG
Deborah Gordon, Committee Chair, Woodside Town Council*
Pradeep Gupta, South San Francisco City Council*
Deborah Hirst, Supervisor Horsley's office
Don Horsley, San Mateo County Board of Supervisors*
Charles Is, San Mateo County Health System, Environmental Health
Joe La Mariana, County of San Mateo RecycleWorks
Nick Pegueros, Town of Portola Valley Town Manager
Dave Pine, San Mateo County Board of Supervisors *
Jim Porter, County of San Mateo, Department of Public Works
Kyle Ramey, County of San Mateo and BAWSCA – CivicSpark fellow
Kim Springer, County of San Mateo RecycleWorks (staff)
Gordon Tong, County of San Mateo Office of Sustainability
Sandy Wong, C/CAG
Susan Wright, County of San Mateo RecycleWorks (staff)

Not in attendance:

Bob Cormia, Foothill De Anza Community College
Jorge Jaramillo, San Mateo County Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
Kathy Lavezzo, PG&E
Alex Palantzas, San Mateo County Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
Barbara Pierce, Redwood City City Council*
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.

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San Mateo County Transit District Office, 1250 San Carlos Ave., San Carlos, CA.

3) Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the March 18, 2015 meeting were approved.

4) Update on Current Water Supply and Drought Conditions (Adrienne Carr, BAWSCA)

During Adrienne Carr's presentation, she made the following points that weren't displayed on the slides:

- Slide 7 – When water agencies had the opportunity to provide comments on the State's new water cutback plans, BAWSCA requested that a category be added between "under 55 Gallons Per Customer Per Day" and "55-110 GPCPD". That category would be for a 15% cutback. This cutback would be for all use, not just residential use.
- Water agencies are asking for rate increases because customers are using less. There is a Prop 218 lawsuit that is waiting to be decided.
- The State will probably come out with rate structure suggestions.

5) Presentation on Bay Area Water Supply and Conservation Agency, Long Term Reliable Water Strategy (Adrienne Carr, BAWSA)

During Adrienne Carr's presentation, she made the following points that weren't displayed on the slides:

- A recent NY Times article pointed out that we've been in a wetter period in the last 100 years, but being drier is more natural to California.
(http://www.nytimes.com/2015/04/14/science/californias-history-of-drought-repeats.html?_r=0)
- This is the greatest four-year drought in 100 years as well as in 1000 years, as determined by tree ring data.
- Slide 20 - Brackish Desalinization would take water from under the Bay through the mud. Potential partners might be Cal Water and Cargill. Alameda County extracts this way. It would be a horizontal well under the bay. They're going after the last round of Prop 84 grants with Cal Water. Prop 84 is looking for recycled water projects.
- State Water Resources Control Board has been collecting data from all agencies in California. They're charged with enforcing the Governor's order. The February water use data just came out. The baseline for comparison was Feb. 2013, but that month was wet, the reduction didn't look good. Mandatory conservation will start in June. They will be looking on both a monthly and cumulative basis. Each agency will have their own target to reach.
- BAWSCA doesn't have the power to require agencies to participate in Lawn Be Gone. They're trying to encourage agencies to participate. The requirement of starting from a green lawn may be relaxed. There are some agencies that will approve rebates even if someone has let their lawn die. Foster City gives rebates for artificial turf. It's up to individual agencies; they're the ones that need to do the inspection. Menlo Park's Conserve-a-Scape program helps customers implement Lawn Be Gone.
- Data is kept on rebates for toilets, washing machines, and Lawn Be Gone. They don't have data on the number of showerheads given out.

Comments:

Dave Pine commented that he hadn't heard about desalinization under the bay before. He cautioned that some may be resistant to this type of project because of their interest in protecting the bay.

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There will need to be public input. He suggested starting a dialogue with the Coastal Conservancy and BCDC.

Beth Bhatnagar commented that Sustainable San Mateo County's key indicator this year is water. They're hoping to spread knowledge and be a part of the messaging.

Deborah Gordon commented that she's been hearing about water as the battery for water/energy storage and energy generation.

Adrienne Carr's responses:

- It would be a six-year timeframe from when a desalinization project would start. Right now, they're working on feasibility. Step 1 is to drill well to test that and deal with regulatory issues.
- Three wastewater treatment plants could use the higher salinity output as a benefit. Sometimes their outflow is too dilute; they could use the salt to help them. BAWSCA has had some initial discussions with the state board about this.
- They're not considering an open bay desalinization project, just a brackish groundwater desal project. Bay Area Regional desal project may be coming back, too, up by Vallejo. It stalled for a few years. They have now identified a site – Contra Costa water district. Zone 7 water agency is interested in another source of water.

6) Presentation on Changes to the Existing San Mateo County Flood Control District (Jim Porter, County of San Mateo)

Background:

- Current countywide flood control district has the same borders as the county. It only has three sub zones that generate revenue for flood control.
 - Colma Creek (Daly City, San Bruno, Colma, part of Pacifica, South San Francisco – the channel when you drive over 101) – only sub zone that generates any meaningful revenue
 - San Bruno sub zone (in grassy area west of SFO, earthen channel) - receives \$200,000 a year, barely capable of handling maintenance
 - San Francisquito Creek (border of San Mateo County and Santa Clara County) - This is part of a JPA, Santa Clara Valley Water District (SCVWD), Menlo Park, East Palo Alto, Palo Alto – formed after a 1989 storm.
 - Rest of county – no funding for flood control.
- 25% of the state's economic damage from sea level rise will occur in San Mateo County because we have built out along the bay. Sea level rise affects the ability to pass stormwater into the bay. The Bay Area Council is about to release a major study about what will happen with a 150-year storm. San Mateo County is highlighted as the most vulnerable county. The report has a lot of detail on mechanisms to deal with flooding.
- Current issues:
 - Trailer park flooding in Belmont and Redwood City in unincorporated areas.
 - Belmont Creek drains unincorporated Belmont and San Carlos and floods local businesses. Novartis has put in their own money to find a solution. They've identified a \$17 million project. It's tough to find funding for that.
 - Bayfront Canal (Redwood City by Cargill property) is undersized. County and Redwood City can't convey water into bay.
 - Coastside – as sea levels increase, storms become more intense and there's more

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bluff erosion. Highway 101 is getting closer to the ocean. In Half Moon Bay there's bluff erosion because it's near an old landfill. They will need to protect the landfill or excavate garbage and move.

- A need has been identified for more regional coordination to provide funding.
- San Mateo County is unique in coming together through C/CAG to deal with big-ticket infrastructure projects.
- C/CAG isn't currently dealing with sea level rise or flood control.
- Supervisor Pine has hosted two events on sea level rise.
- County got a grant from the Coastal Conservancy to do a vulnerability study of the county, including storm events and sea level rise. It will look at impacted infrastructure. It will put a dollar value on infrastructure and prioritize how it should be protected. That will provide a list of projects to work on. Consultant selection is happening now. It is being coordinated by the County Office of Sustainability.

Ground water:

- Prop 1 water bond focuses on Central Valley and overdrafting. High extractors need to come up with sustainable groundwater management plans.
- There's a groundwater management plan for the Westside Basin.
- Many little groundwater basins are small so they're not being managed.
- There's talk of beginning extractions from the San Mateo Plain on the Burlingame/Millbrae border. It's not currently being managed.
- East Palo Alto is going to pilot a well.
- There may be more pumping if the drought continues. The County thinks there will be a need to have an agency to manage the pumping.
- The State is looking to counties to manage the water.

Coordinating agency:

- The County thinks there's a need for an agency to take a holistic look at flood control, ground water, and sea level rise.
- Proposal: Expand county flood control district to handle unmet needs.
- C/CAG handles stormwater.
- C/CAG can be leveraged.

3 options:

1. New JPA – sole charge of flood control, sea level rise, clean water, and groundwater
2. C/CAG – staff up, and get member agencies to kick in to pay for staffing
3. Expand county flood control district – County Manager offered to fund staff for expanded flood control agencies for several years until it could fund itself. It would be structured in a way that it could take off outside County's umbrella.

Discussion on the options:

Pine: This effort needs to find its own funding structure. We could revisit governance later. We want to get going right away, not have to go around to all the cities to cobble together funding. With the County providing funding, the effort could get going right away. We could lose 18 months or more taking another approach.

Porter: The County is structured and staffed right now. We have personnel and contract administration. We're set up to take this on.

Pine: Funding could be contentious – who contributes what.

Maryann – Have C/CAG take groundwater.

Porter: County Environmental Health has info on well data. We can leverage their expertise. San Bruno has an existing groundwater management plan. We have talked to the City of San Bruno. The Westside basin is being managed fine. We're looking to fill in the gaps – the aquifers on coasts. We wanted to preview this idea with the RMCP Committee; the next step is to talk to the C/CAG Board (not on the agenda yet). Next step is to get feedback from all City Councils. Then make decisions on formation.

DeGolia: It's important to define the concept and spread it around first so people know what you're talking about. Lots of people came out for the sea level rise meetings. Adding other topics is a big deal. You need to manage it. Get ideas down. Budget dollars should be put in a summary so people can look at it and talk about it.

Porter: We're in the 12th revision of that document. We want something ready for public view.

Pine: City managers have been very involved. There has been enthusiastic backing by city staff so far. We wanted to put together something for elected officials to react to. We have been keeping Sandy Wong in the loop.

Wong: These big things need a lot more discussions countywide to decide what the structure and scope should be. C/CAG has an existing stormwater program focusing on removal of pollutants. Since it's a mature program, maybe it shouldn't be included.

Gupta: What is the ballpark financing amount?

Porter: There would be 5 to 7 new staff, plus consultants and materials/supplies. The estimated need would be \$1 to \$2 million a year to start the agency. The actual projects that would be identified would be multi-million projects. We will need assessment districts. Belmont Creek would benefit from an assessment district. Those that receive benefit should have some stake in the improvements. If it's countywide, it would be less of an impact on the residents. Discussion of Prop 218 to include stormwater in language. Stormwater would be considered as a utility. 2/3 of legislature, 51% of population would have to pass it. Funding would be for several years, but not forever. Several revenue sources in the county.

Gordon: So that's 5 years?

Porter: We want to get this to the Board of Supervisors as soon as possible. The full board hasn't talked about this. Budgets are 2 years. No agency is going to step up and do the work for sea level rise and flooding. We're trying to fill that gap. Sea level rise is like getting run over by a turtle. Groundwater got added in by the Prop 1 program. We're putting in everything that isn't potable water.

Pine: We need feedback. We need to act – Prop 1 money, regional money. We need to be in a position to compete for funding. We will seek countywide funding.

Porter: City managers that are in discussion as part of a sub-committee: Nick Pegrueros/Portola Valley, Pat Martell/Daly City, Larry Patterson/San Mateo, Lori Tinfow/Pacifica. This has been discussed at City Managers meeting. The next one is coming Friday.

Pine: Should this go to C/CAG on May 14?

Gupta: The need is urgent, but we need to look at the process. There are good reasons to do what Supervisor Pine has suggested. The C/CAG discussion should provide clarity.

Gordon: The need is not in question. We need to move forward on how to best address it. This forum isn't the place to decide a solution. C/CAG has moved quickly on other issues when needed.

7) Presentation on Future Planning for Green Infrastructure to Support Stormwater Management (Matt Fabry, C/CAG)

Matt Fabry completed his presentation.

- Gordon: One cost can cover many things. Matt went to Sacramento with us last week, and received a very positive response.
- Lawn Be Gone is in harmony with this. When we put in native, drought tolerant species, we can also keep water on site.
- Costs aren't going down, so we're still looking at a large shortfall. Hoping Prop 218 amendment will pass; won't know until 2016. Looking to integrate to reduce costs.
- There's a funding initiative steering committee of Public Works directors plus Larry Patterson. C/CAG got authority to sponsor a parcel tax fee. We need to talk about going forward from here.

8) Presentation on San Mateo County Health System, Division of Environmental Health, Non-Potable Water Supply Guidelines for Local Building Departments (Michelle Bilodeau, SMC Health System)

Charles Is runs the groundwater program at Environmental Health. Michelle works with water purveyors re: safe drinking water. They address the restrictions or requirements if someone wants to do on-site water recycling. With the drought, there's a lot of interest in what people can do. They've created a handout for local building officials. Everyone needs to give potential applicants the same story. The 2nd page is for residents. Environmental Health wants to be part of the solution, but needs to minimize public health problems.

- The topic of foundation drainage as a source gets a lot of calls.
- Burlingame Senior Living Complex wanted to reuse water onsite.
- SF has a nonpotable water program. SFPUC is building theirs. They're treating up to 5000 gallons per day of black water onsite. They have a series of tidal components to treat the wastewater.
- May want to consider process water, bay water.
- Don't want to have ongoing permitting with users. Having an ordinance in place gives enforcement action if necessary. Allows stop order if necessary.
- There are concerns about operation and maintenance of greywater systems. The installer may know how to keep them safe, but the future owner may not.
- The dirtier the water, the higher the level of dollars to maintain.

- Commercial requirements are more lenient than residential. Environmental Health would have an ongoing permit with them, including cross connection control program. EH has authority as health officer and ability to enter any facility in the county. High hazard building – hospitals are also a concern. Wouldn't need ordinance. Hopefully the facility would have adequate personnel.
- EH is trying to get the word out and is meeting with building officials. Trying to work with people, not just tell them what they can't do. We're working together to serve the public. Want to tell the public the same thing.
- AB1463 – SWRCB would have to establish onsite water recycling program.

Gupta: What is the answer if people want to reuse water onsite?

Michelle: People should contact us directly. Building departments can hand out these materials. Just send them to us. Cal Water wants to make sure public drinking water is maintained.

Maryann: High water users are facing 35% mandatory reductions. Conservation isn't going to be enough. Watersprout is going to give a proposal. The only way we're going to get reductions is mandate greywater use in ordinance for new construction.

Michelle: We could set up a pilot program. We don't want to move too quickly.

Carr: Direct potable reuse at the community scale is being discussed. There could be drinking water coming out of recycled water plants. This became possible 6 months ago. They're waiting on Dept. of Public Health at the State level.

9) **Committee Member Updates**

None

10) **Next Regular Meeting Date: May 20, 2015**

Attachments:

None.