

C/CAG

CITY/COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS OF SAN MATEO COUNTY

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Resource Management and Climate Protection Committee (RMCP) Minutes of February 15, 2017 Meeting

In Attendance:

Dave Pine, County Supervisor*
Bill Chiang, PG&E*
Ortensia Lopez, El Concilio of San Mateo County*
Rick DeGolia, Town of Atherton*
Adrienne Carr, BAWSCA*
Beth Bhatnagar, SSMC Board Member*
Deborah Gordon, Committee Chair, Woodside Town Council*
Pradeep Gupta, South San Francisco City Council*
Maryann Moise Derwin, Committee Vice Chair, Mayor Portola Valley*
Robert Cormia, Professor Foothill-DeAnza*
Diane Papan, Councilmember, San Mateo*
Jacki Falconio, County staff
Michael Barber, Supervisor Pine's Office
Kim Springer, County Office of Sustainability
Sandy Wong, C/CAG Executive Director

Not in attendance:

Don Horsley, County Supervisor*

* Committee Member (voting)

1. Introductions
2. Public Comment
3. Approval of Minutes from November 16, 2016 Meeting (Derwin/DeGolia)
(Kim Springer – Committee Staff) Action

Minutes passed with edit requested by committee member Carr.

4. Bay Area Water Supply and Conservation Agency update on current water supply and conservation (Adrienne Carr, BAWSCA) Presentation, Discussion

Committee member Carr delivered a presentation on the rainfall and snowpack today in relation to

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

the supply to the Hetch Hetchy system. Snow pack and rainfall are at historic record levels and very early in the season. Carr will find out what the actual measurement is for the snow pack conditions: water content or other indicator. Rainfall is also above average for the Bay Area.

New graph shows water available to San Francisco, over a million acre feet of water, enough to fill our entire water system. Entire system is 93% full. Water demand is almost the same as last year, with 2013 as the basis for comparison as the last no-drought year. It is likely the system will be spilling excess water down the Tuolumne River. Locally, all our reservoirs were filled in December, so they are spilling as well.

Repairs are underway at the Mountain Tunnel of the Hetch Hetchy system. Cracks were located several years ago, and it was decided that the tunnel should be re-inspected and repaired if needed. Failure was due to concrete that was originally installed in the early 1900's by hand, delivered to the tunnel walls between access points (9 miles apart). We have been using water from our local water supply system for about 30-60 days. Tunnel will re-open on or around March 4th. There may be another shut down of the tunnel in summer for three months if there are further repairs needed.

DeGolia: Do we put water into Don Pedro and then pull from there?

Carr: We cannot pull from Don Pedro, it's just a storage reservoir.

Gupta: Given we have had this exceptional year for water supply and rainfall, what do the water experts say. Do we need additional water storage?

Carr: There is no current plan to build more storage, but there may be more conjunctive use of groundwater.

Derwin: Isn't it a good practice to use spilled water to replenish groundwater?

Carr: It could be a good way to use spilled water, but much of it would be dependent on farmers and crops and damage to those crops.

Barber: I've heard that there is the potential that we can't get groundwater volumes back after a drought.

Carr: Yes, it's very common that subsidence can't be completely reversed. Most of that storage is gone. Fresno has installed infiltration ponds and other areas are going to infiltrate.

Springer: Is there anything in the data for rainfall that shows more extreme weather patterns?

Carr: There isn't enough statistical knowledge to answer that question. Storage is helpful under those potential future circumstances.

5. Update on San Mateo County Energy Watch goals and projects

(Jacki Falconio, County staff)

Presentation, Discussion

Jacki Falconio presented on the 2016 San Mateo County Energy Watch outcomes: See presentation posted on the C/CAG RMCP website for details of energy savings and additional outcomes for the program, and planned for 2017. The program met its goals but some of the savings did not get reported until this month of February.

Springer: 2016 was a good year, as the first year of a three-year program cycle, it's usually difficult to get the program off the ground and see the savings goals met. Allowable projects can change beginning and even mid program cycle and can affect saving.

Gupta: The total county energy savings are a sum of the total months or for each?

Falconio: They are cumulative.

Barber: Do we have a date set yet to look have ZNE speakers attend a meeting?

Pine: For County facilities?

Falconio: That meeting has been pushed back, but we are planning to have speakers come in. We have them identified. We plan to bring the capital projects team to the meeting.

Barber: Could we create a bigger audience?

Falconio: I don't see why not.

Pappan: IS there some sort of template for lease language?

Falconio: That is part of what we will be creating.

Gupta: Has any calculation been done on the cost for energy efficiency?

Springer: Yes, we do calculate that. The cost includes staff time, incentives, and engineering time, for our programs, simply divided by kWh. That is trending downward to about 27 cents per kWh.

Gupta: My point is that even at that level is that at this time, since we are trending at about six cents per kWh, we should keep an eye on the cost to society for the work we do.

Springer: This is definitely where the two programs meet.

DeGolia: What about the library kits?

Springer: We can provide a separate presentation on this project, which is under the San Mateo County Energy Watch.

6. Presentation on greenhouse gas emissions energy data challenges

(Kim Springer – County Staff)

Presentation, Discussion

Kim Springer presented on the current issues with getting energy data, especially natural gas, for our program's completion of GHG emission inventories for every city and town, and the County, in San Mateo County. The CPUC has rules that limit access to this data, new rules, which started in 2014 and affect getting data for 2014 and 2015 so far. The rules limit availability based on the percentage of the largest users' use of the resource. Every city has been, in some way affected, except for City of San Mateo. See C/CAG RMCP website for packet and presentation.

Cormia: Are you still able to get an aggregated number for all the natural gas meters?

Springer: No, if the rule is broken, we can't get the data for that sector.

Bahtnagar: How did the privacy rule get put into place?

Springer: I'm guessing that the new rule was never tested against the needs of local government for completing emission inventories.

Chiang: It's likely to have something to do with privacy of large users, not allowing data to be disaggregated down to where one business could tell what another is doing. It's kind of like why the County doesn't reveal how much sales tax is coming from one dealership.

7. Review of San Mateo County Energy Strategy 2012 document

(Kim Springer – County Staff)

Presentation Discussion

Kim Springer presented on the history of the San Mateo County Energy Strategy 2012 document

and how the committee might want to consider that it be updated. With the advent of PCE and ZNE and the PAEC Epic grant, microgrids, water and energy reliability, that it might make sense to update the document.

Carr: Did the document come out in 2012?

Springer: No, it was completed in 2008 and adopted by every city by the end of 2009. We have a contractor consultant that helped keep the original project on track.

Gupta: I would support a review and update, and there are other pressures such as housing and transportation interface. I think the environment has changed considerably.

Cormia: It certainly makes sense to do a refresh, especially since the group and environment have changed so much, so that some years down the road, a new group can review the perspective once again.

Pine: Considering all the change in climate action?

Springer: We definitely tried not to push climate change hard in the document in 2008, because we wanted to see it adopted by every city, but by the time 2009 rolled around some cities were critical that we hadn't gone far enough.

Pappan: So would the idea be that we would update the document and again have all the cities adopt the strategy?

Springer: Yes, I would think so.

Derwin: Do you see this process coming from this committee, or how do we decide?

Springer: I think we go through the document and see what's included and missing. I have also heard here about transportation and housing, and Ortensia, our newest committee member has the perspective of equity, being the ED of EL Concilio.

Pine: How would the document be used? Would it be a strategy document?

Cormia: This was a guiding document for the cities. At the time the cities had never even thought of this.

Pine: So we've kind of exceeded the vision in this document so we need a new vision?

Springer: Yes, I think we've moved along further and the playing field has changed.

DeGolia: Now all the cities have climate action plans, and I think there is value to the County providing leadership. PCE is taking leadership very seriously. If this document could give that kind of thought leadership, it would be really work the effort. The city's CAPs are very specific and different for every city. We need to have some consulting help to review the CAPs.

Springer: We developed the tools and know all of the CAPs in San Mateo County.

Cormia: We could add transportation into the mix of this document, since it's such a large part of the picture and that could help differentiate the document for the future.

DeGolia: I didn't want to discourage the idea of updating this document, just that there are so many thought leaders on this topic now, maybe we want it more at that level.

Pine: C/CAG is just working on a CTP, though there is some consideration of putting more metrics

into it.

Springer: The PAEC grant project will be looking at electrification of transportation and other aspects of the future of energy in an “advanced energy community” in San Mateo County, including infrastructure.

Pine: Speaking of PAEC, have they spoken here?

Springer: They could be invited to give an update.

Gupta: The title is Energy Strategy. I think the individual cities should be part of the overall strategy, and in addition, PCE was made feasible by the involvement of all the cities in the effort. There might be some activities for which the individual cities cannot have the capacity to undertake. Reviewing some of these issues maybe a way of exploring the need for an update and what that would look like. I wasn't suggesting we try and resolve transportation and housing, only that related to energy.

Cormia: To Jacki's presentation, a few years ago, ZNE wasn't even a concept. Now ZNE will be a code in 2020.

Falconio: Residential by 2020, Commercial by 2030, and even more important 50% of existing Commercial by 2030. This is a huge lift.

Lopez: It would also be good to look at the CPUC's long term energy strategic plan to see how we align to the state's goals.

8. Committee Member Updates

Bahtnagar: SSMC Indicators Launch (quarterly) and Sustainability Awards on April 6th.

DeGolia: Atherton is set to approve the completed plans of the new civic center this evening. Four years in the works.