

# C/CAG

## CITY/COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS OF SAN MATEO COUNTY

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## Minutes

### Resource Management and Climate Protection Committee (RMCP)

**Date:** Wednesday, June 17, 2020

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

## Agenda Items

### **Attendance:**

Janet Borgens, Councilmember, Redwood City\*

Doug Silverstein\*

Tom Francis, Water Resources Manager, BAWSCA\*

Bill Chiang, PG&E Public Affairs\*

Ortensia Lopez, Executive Director, El Concilio San Mateo County\*

Donna Colson, Mayor, City of Burlingame\*

Diane Papan, Councilmember, City of San Mateo\*

Rick DeGolia, Councilmember, Atherton\*

Sandy Wong

Kim Springer

John Allan

Belen Seara

Blake Herrschaft

Adam Zelezen

### **Not in Attendance:**

Maryann Moise Derwin\*

Don Horsley\*

Drew Combs\*

Kristen Jensen\*

Christine Zaugg\*

### 1. Roll Call - Introductions

### 2. Public Comment

No public comment

### 3. Approval of Minutes from May 20, 2020 RMCP Committee meeting - Action

Motion to approve: Janet Borgens

Second: Tom Francis

Yes: Tom Francis, Janet Borgens, Doug Silverstein, Donna Colson, Diane Papan

Abstain: Bill Chiang, Ortenisa Lopez

Motion Passes

4. Approval to shift RMCP Committee meeting time from 2:00-4:00 to 3:00-5:00 on same week and day of the month - Action

Discussion: Consensus among committee members

Motion to approve: Ortenisa Lopez

Second: Donna Colson

Vote: unanimous

Motion passes

5. Presentation on results of BAWSCA Annual Survey - Information/ Discussion

Tom Francis provided an update on the FY2018-19 BAWSCA Annual Survey. Tom provided an overview of BAWSCA's jurisdiction and mission. The Annual Survey has been produced every year since 1996 and provides detail on water sources, projected purchases, and usage. Key stats show that residential per capita consumption has decreased by 47%. The average monthly water bill in the BAWSCA service area is \$83. Despite increased conservation rates, overall demand is projected to increase over the coming decades due to population increases. The Annual Reports also provide individual, detailed profiles of each member agency.

Discussion:

Doug: Is this data available specifically for San Mateo County?

Tom: The Annual Report isn't built that way but BAWSCA can pull out key data requested

Doug: How often is this data updated?

Tom: We only produce these annually since the data is so time consuming to gather. You'll see that we're just now reporting on FY 2018-19.

Doug: It's a great report but it seems like it's more of a way to look back and can't be used for immediate planning.

6. Presentation on emissions from natural gas use not accounted for on typical emission inventories - Information/ Discussion

Blake Herschaft, DNV GL, provided an overview on the issue of natural gas (methane) leakage and why it should be factored into GHG emission inventories, including a comparison of emissions from different fuels and associated global warming potentials. Sources of methane leakage include during extraction, at processing plants, storage, transmission and end-use equipment. Studies attempting to quantify an average leakage rate vary wildly between 1% and 20%.

Discussion:

Doug – What is the leakage rate for San Mateo County?

Blake – We're trying to address this right now but 4.52% is the estimate we're using for now.

Diane – How do these methane emissions compare with other categories such as dumps or wastewater?

Blake – Generally, methane is a much larger piece of the pie since we use so much energy. If we take community emissions and apply a 4.52% leakage to methane consumption, total emissions increase by over 20%. A leakage rate of 10% increases total emissions by more than 50%.

Donna – If some gas lines are disconnected, is there a significant impact on leakage reduction?

Blake – It depends on the level of disconnect. Meter disconnects may provide some reduction, but larger mains can have more significant impacts.

Donna- Given that, doesn't this make much more sense to address at a higher policy level rather than take a piecemeal approach

Bill – There are some additional policy considerations that make this question very difficult. Comprehensive leakage data is also very difficult to find.

Doug – It seems like there is still an opportunity

7. Presentation on community resiliency needs and solutions with increased heat during shelter in place - Information/ Discussion

Belen Seara, County Environmental Health, provided an overview of resilience efforts in response to extreme heat. In particular, Shelter in Place orders have exacerbated issues for vulnerable residents that no longer have access to public cooling centers. Proposed solutions include lowering the threshold of heat days to trigger responses sooner, providing portable AC units, promoting weatherization efforts for low income customers, and increasing tree canopy.

Discussion:

Janet – Glad to see that minimum income thresholds are being raised since these need to track with wages. Regarding portable AC units, what will that do to their electric bill?

Belen – Electric bills would increase but we'd look into ways to provide some sort of discount for energy.

Ortensia – There are already discounts programs available and if the minimum income thresholds increase then more people can receive assistance.

Donna – Can affordable housing funds be used to convert existing low-income apartment buildings to A/C?

Kim – We can look into this.

Doug – It seems like this issue is part of a bigger long-term view of how we achieve resilience in our building stock. This is a great example of the many reasons for pursuing retrofits of existing buildings. For example, installing solar, EV charging and an A/C unit would be great.

Kim – We're still working with Sunworks to discuss the feasibility of solar-powered A/C units that are not grid-connected.

8. Committee Member Updates

Donna provided an update on reach codes for the City of Burlingame and the challenges around natural gas.

Tom – BAWSCA virtual classes and meeting have seen a huge increase in turnout since SIP. This could be the new normal for classes given the increased turnout.

Doug – We may want to consider moving RMCP to virtual meetings moving forward.

9. Next Scheduled Meeting Date: July 15, 2020

10. Meeting adjourned.