

C/CAG

CITY/COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS OF SAN MATEO COUNTY

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Meeting Minutes

Resource Management and Climate Protection Committee (RMCP)

Date: Wednesday, August 19, 2020

Time: 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Attendance:

Diane Papan, San Mateo Councilmember *
Maryann Moise Derwin, Portola Valley, Committee Chair*
Janet Borgens, Redwood City Councilmember*
Tom Francis, BAWSCA*
Ortensia Lopez, El Concilio*
Doug Silverstein, Thrive Alliance, Committee Vice-Chair*
Rick DeGolia, Atherton Mayor*
Christine Kohl-Zaugg, Sustainable San Mateo County*
Donna Colson, Burlingame Councilmember*
Drew Combs, Menlo Park Vice Mayor*

Kim Springer, County Office of Sustainability
Susan Wright, County Office of Sustainability
Danielle Lee, County Office of Sustainability
Sandy Wong, C/CAG Executive Director
John Allan, County Office of Sustainability
Pradeep Gupta, Public
Alexandria Galliziola, County Office of Sustainability
Georgia Farooq, Thrive Alliance
Charles Ice, County Environmental Health

Not in Attendance:

Don Horsley, County Supervisor*
Bill Chiang, PG&E*

Agenda Items

1. Roll Call - Introductions
2. Public Comments: None
3. ACTION: Approval of Minutes from June 17, 2020 RMCP Committee meeting
 - Motion to approve: member DeGolia, second: member Borgens
 - All present approved, member Zaugg abstained.
4. INFORMATION: Update on San Mateo County Energy Watch 2020-2023 program launch (Susan Wright – County, OOS)

Susan Wright provided an update on the San Mateo County Energy Watch program (SMCEW) which recently entered a 3-year contract with PG&E to promote energy efficiency projects in San Mateo County. The presentation included a review of key partners, program objectives and target customers.

SMCEW will work with municipalities, special districts and school districts to identify energy efficiency opportunities and pass those projects off to 3rd party implementers (which have yet to be identified by PG&E). The program will be evaluated based on several KPIs including leads generated and data reports provided. The program will also be working with small/hard-to-reach businesses. Targeting businesses will be an iterative process which will leverage PG&E data and benchmarking services to identify project opportunities and refer them to the appropriate 3rd party program or trade professional.

SMCEW will also continue to support the Regionally Integrated Climate Action Plan Suite (RICAPS). The tools will continue to be developed and improved over the next years including a Climate Action Plan template, menu of reduction measures, GHG inventories and technical assistance. In addition to the PG&E SMCEW program, RICAPS is co-funded by C/CAG and Peninsula Clean Energy.

- Rick DeGolia – Request for CAP Template
 - Staff shared link to template in Zoom meeting chat and will follow-up via e-mail
 - Kim Springer – The new CAP template has done a great job of integrating climate adaptation in and consumption-based inventory information
 - Doug Silverstein – Question: Which cities are considering using community centers for resilience? Can this program help with that?
 - Wright – Answer: This isn't quite the focus of RICAPS but PCE and PG&E are working with cities on this.
 - Tom Francis – Comment: Currently participates in a microgrid group with PG&E. It may be helpful to add them to a future agenda.
 - Pradeep Gupta – Comment: Regarding EE and small businesses, it seems like the criteria should be expanded and look beyond electricity cost savings and explore additional benefits.
 - Janet Borgens – Comment: Would like to hear more about microgrids at future meetings.
5. INFORMATION: Update on regional and local projects focused on existing single-family home electrification (Kim Springer – Committee Staff)

Kim Springer provided an update on early decarbonization efforts in San Mateo County. The overview included key partners and innovators in the space and how they're promoting decarbonization.

Organizations include the RAPID Climate Action Network, Building Decarbonization Coalition, Fossil Free Buildings Silicon Valley, Blue Point, Silicon Valley Clean Energy, and BayREN. Each of these organizations are working on electrification and decarbonization at some scale whether its policy development, market transformation, single-appliance replacement or district/block-level decarbonization.

Springer discussed the plans for a BayREN residential electrification case study which will evaluate the costs of whole-house retrofits vs. individual systems. This also includes a resilience component for solar plus storage. Another initiative through BayREN is a systems-mapping exercise. Susan Wright provided a presentation on a study to be conducted by Presidio Graduate School which will identify key considerations for single-family home decarbonization and evaluate how to collaborate with partners and leverage efforts jointly.

- Maryann Moise-Derwin – Question: How will the homes for the BayREN residential electrification study be chosen?
 - Springer – Answer: We're still working on the details, but we expect a high level of coordination and reporting with the homeowners that are selected. Very specific criteria will need to be used in order to establish cost estimates that will be replicable.
 - Pradeep – To elaborate on PCE initiatives, they're providing subsidies for electrification planning and a subsidy to fix windows and leaking roofs.

6. INFORMATION: Presentation on proposed course for elected officials to increase knowledge of sustainability concepts and policy trends (Doug Silverstein, Committee member)

Doug Silverstein provided a presentation suggesting need for a Green Policy Curriculum for elected officials and local government officials. Recognizing the complex and dynamic nature of sustainability topics, there is an opportunity to provide local government decision makers with a deeper of understanding of the current state of sustainability and the tools that are available to them. The program would correlate social and economic challenges with sustainability issues and could consist of (as a suggestion) a biweekly course lasting 90 minutes for 4-8 sessions.

Discussion –

- Borgens – Comment: This is a great opportunity that I'd be very interested in.
- Francis – Comment: Would support this and wanted to draw attention to BAWSCA and SFUC program that provides a 2-day tour of the Hetch Hetchy system. This could be integrated.
- Silverstein – Clarifying that this is not a Thrive Alliance program and would lean heavily on the support of the County Office of Sustainability.
- Colson – Comment: The idea is very interesting but elected officials are busy and may find it difficult to join. Suggests that a regimented course may not be the best approach and would prefer a menu approach. It could be a better option to do a full day-long course as well. The curriculum should also provide room for different solutions and shouldn't prescribe specific solutions.
- Drew Combs – Would like relatable curriculum that looks at actual case studies for San Mateo County elected officials rather than high-level presentations from topic experts.
 - Doug – Clarifying: This could include cities from outside of the direct area but of similar size.
- Diane Papan – Concurs with an amended format suggested by Colson and some of the previous comments regarding content.
- (In Chat) Colson – Comment: Creating a source for conferences and education seminars on sustainability topics would be helpful.
- Ortensia Lopez – Comment: It would be helpful to add a dimension related to environmental justice and social justice. These issues can all be tied together.
- DeGolia – Comment: This is definitely a good idea because the many issues in this field are changing constantly and there's a need for regular updates. The menu option seems the most helpful to allow folks to dive specifically into the topics they need to know.
- Wright – Question: How much value would you find in co-learning and being able to discuss with other city elected?
 - Colson – We already get this level of coordination through the Council of Cities. This could be a good avenue to get these topics discussed.

7. INFORMATION: Presentation on Thrive, The Alliance of Nonprofits for San Mateo County's study on climate and water quality impacts of single-use plastics in San Mateo County (Doug Silverstein, Committee member)

Doug Silverstein provided a presentation on Thrive Environment & Sustainability Impact Groups report on single plastic use.

The report included an overview of the problem including upstream impacts related to fossil fuels, lack of recycling, and litter issues. The presentation also included a description of the organizations that are involved with this issue and an explanation of how the group was formed and met to identify possible solutions for further discussion. Key findings include a high upstream cost to plastics, the costs related to consumption and the downstream costs associated with disposal and litter management. Doug provided an overview of the County's Disposable Food Service Ware model ordinance and urged other jurisdictions to get involved.

Discussion:

- Borgens – Question: Great presentation, have we thought about the innovative use of plastics in road construction?

- Silverstein – The focus needs to be on plastic use reduction since there is so much we can't recycle into these projects.
- Danielle Lee – Comment: There are many restaurants we're working with through Great Plates that could be good partners to discuss a circular delivery model.

8. INFORMATION: Presentation on the County of San Mateo's COVID-19 Strategic Plan and Recovery Initiative (Danielle Lee – County, OOS)

Danielle Lee provided an overview of the COVID Recovery Plan including the individual committees that have contributed including the economic recovery, vulnerable populations, community infrastructure, and education and childcare committees. These committees have done a great job of identifying and quantifying community needs. Equity has been a real focus of the recovery planning and includes a guiding statement and equity assessment to ensure equity during the recovery. Specific equity recommendations include rent and income assistance, small property owner assistance, shelter for homelessness, food distribution, and many others.

Time did not allow for feedback from the Committee on the Recovery Initiative recommendations. Danielle Lee asked the committee members to provide comments via email on the recommendations in the presentation slides. Kim Springer will send out the presentation to committee members for comment.

9. Committee Member Updates

- a. No updates

10. Next Scheduled Meeting Date: September 16, 2020