

# 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, November 18, 2020

#### **In Attendance:**

Janet Borgens, Councilmember Redwood City\*  
Bill Chiang, PG&E\*  
Maryann Moise Derwin, Portola Valley, Committee Chair\*  
Ortensia Lopez, El Concilio\*  
Tom Francis, BAWSCA\*  
Christine Kohl-Zaugg, Sustainable San Mateo County\*  
Doug Silverstein, Thrive Alliance\*  
Donna Colson, Burlingame Councilmember\*  
Diane Papan\*  
Rick DeGolia\*  
Kim Springer  
Susan Wright  
John Allan  
Sandy Wong

#### **Not in Attendance**

Don Horsley\*  
Drew Combs\*

1. Roll Call - Introductions
2. Public Comment  
No public comments.  
Committee member Borgens announced that this will be her last meeting as a member of this committee.
3. ACTION: Approval of Minutes from October 21, 2020 RMCP Committee meeting  
Motion to approve – Kohl-Zaugg – 2<sup>nd</sup> by Lopez  
Bill Chiang abstained. All other approved. Passed
4. ACTION: Review and approval of RMCP Committee meeting dates through January 2022.  
Motion to approve: Francis - 2<sup>nd</sup>: Chiang  
All present approve. Passed
5. INFORMATION: Update on Presidio Graduate School-led single-family home electrification

systems mapping project.

Susan Wright provided a brief overview of the benefits of electrification and the landscape of organizations involved in electrification efforts. She included specific efforts around a “systems mapping” study funded by BayREN and in partnership with the Presidio Graduate School.

Stakeholder workshops began in October and included a mix of homeowners and trade professionals. All workshops and focus groups were held virtually. Key research questions focused on financing, the role of contractors and relators and how equity factors into residential electrification. Upcoming workshops in December will look at the barriers and opportunities to residential electrification, especially heat pump water heaters.

Looking ahead to the next stakeholder workshop and the final report, there are a few options for how to present the results. Wright asked the committee for their input on the ideal outcome of this mapping project.

Kohl-Zaugg suggested that this effort could include a pilot project or neighborhood as a follow-up.

Borgens asked whether there was an opportunity to provide incentives to low-income communities from an equity perspective. Borgens further asked whether equipment manufacturers are on board and able to handle the change in demand.

Chiang suggested that individual cities in San Mateo County can work together to vet a list of reputable contractors to complete electrification projects. In addition, the first step should always be to engage PG&E early so that there are no difficulties further down the road.

Francis wanted to know whether this effort and any subsequent pilot projects would focus on individual equipment or whole-home retrofits

Ortensia Lopez mentioned that substantial retrofits may trigger Title-24 and would disproportionately affect low-income communities that generally live in older, less efficient homes.

6. INFORMATION: Presentation on Public Safety Power Shutoff grid improvements to reduce customer impacts.

Bill Chiang provided an overview of data related to the most recent PSPS events on October 14<sup>th</sup> through 16<sup>th</sup>. The outages affected 19 counties and 40,574 service addresses (on average multiply service address by 3 to get number of people affected. The PSPS events are in response to weather, winds of 38mph in SMC near Sears Ranch, and Santa Clara County 53 mph at Mt. Madonna.

Prior to these events, PG&E has been working to ensure that PSPS events are smaller shorter and smarter. They’ve installed over 600 devices to help sectionalize the grid and allow for more targeted PSPS events. The October event was 82% smaller with their new tools and improvements compared to the 2019 events. In SMC 1,680 addresses were affected primarily in the hills.

The second event happened on October 25<sup>th</sup> through 28<sup>th</sup>. This was a much larger event, which affected 35 counties and 34,5470 total addresses. For SMC, 4,458 service addresses in a very similar geography yet somewhat expanded from the previous event. The highest wind gust was 50 mph at Sears Ranch. Santa Clara County recorded 65 mph in Poverty. This event was 46% smaller compared to 2019 totals, which would have affected over an estimated 600,000 addresses.

In addition to updated tools, substations were prepared with backup power in case there was a need

to reduce power at the transmission level.

Borgens asked for clarification the substation effort.

Chiang: This was an off-season effort to install equipment at prioritized substations. The generators needed to power the substations are the size of 20-foot shipping containers.

Francis asked how aware the public sector is of these improvements.

Chiang replied that cities and towns are close partners and are aware of the improvements but will work with Tom on reaching out to water districts.

Derwin thanked PG&E for their efforts in improving the PSPS events.

Bill Chiang next brought up CAISO rolling outages. August 14<sup>th</sup> was the first night in 20 years of rolling outages. CAISO gave PG&E 10-11 minutes to reduce large amounts of energy load. The Bay Meadows Substation was shutdown leaving residents on the peninsula without power. Additional warnings followed but there were no additional shutdowns, due to energy conservation measures.

The rolling outage was a result of widespread heat across the western United States with many people running A/C late into the evening and no available supply from surrounding states in similar situations.

7. INFORMATION: Bay Area Water Supply and Conservation Agency update on current water supply conditions and weather projections for the coming winter season.

Tom Francis provided an update on available water supply for BAWSCA member agencies including the SF Regional Water System which supplied two thirds of the water for member agencies.

Over the last 10 years, water use is down 19% overall. This is a result of conservation as well as recycled water use.

Tom provided a walkthrough of the local and regional reservoirs that contribute to our water supply. Statewide, reservoir storage levels are at or under their historical averages. Tom pointed out that under statewide drought conditions, the governor could take additional actions to require conservation and reallocate supply as necessary.

As of November 2020, total system storage is at 81.2% and the recent rains will drive this number up. Locally, Crystal Springs is at 88% of maximum storage.

Looking at precipitation in the upper Hetch Hetchy system, there was no rain in October and the small amount of rainfall so far in November isn't close to the historic 4+ inches usually experienced. Comparing the current precipitation patterns to historic trends, the pattern aligns with low-rainfall years. Locally in the bay area, precipitation is trending under historic averages and it's starting out to be a dry year.

Updated NOAA 1-month precipitation outlook forecasts an average amount of rainfall for November which we aren't seeing, and the updated three-month precipitation outlook predicts below-average rainfall. The NOAA seasonal drought outlook anticipates that drought will persist for most of California and additional portions of the state will enter drought status as well.

Tom also provided an update on total deliveries and how they may have been affected by the pandemic. On average it seems that any drop in commercial water use has been offset by residential use after initial pandemic impacts. There was significant use in late February and early March, most likely due to abnormally warm weather rather than the pandemic as the spike happened before shelter-in-place orders.

Water conservation efforts continue to be successful. While we're using more water than we were in 2015 during the peak of the drought, our consumption still hasn't returned to pre-drought levels and is likely to stay there until population increases raise the volume of water consumed.

Kohl Zaugg: Considering the lack of drop in usage during the pandemic, is it possible that large customers with cooling towers or other equipment kept demand up.

Francis: Speaking with water providers, it seems like it's really the residential use that's gone up drastically.

Silverstein: Question about snowpack and how that affects supplies.

Francis: Provided a description of how the snowpack serves as a natural reservoir to keep our reservoirs full into the summer months. With climate change and a reduced snow pack, we may lose that natural reservoir and our storage reservoirs will have release water during the winter to prevent overflow.

Springer: How many recycled water projects are there in San Mateo County?

Francis: BAWSCA is embarking on a new study for potable reuse projects to expand beyond existing operation at SVCW, Redwood City and Daly City. Daly City and Colma are working together to see if they can reduce the amount of groundwater that the cemeteries are using. Would be happy to explore future opportunities for collaboration

Borgens: Are the recycled water facilities treating to tertiary requirements?

Francis: There are some projects in place that treat water and re-inject into aquifers for additional treatment. There are also projects being explored to indirectly inject treated water into crystal springs reservoir.

## 8. Committee Member Updates

Silverstein provided an update on Thrive's effort on single use plastics. The new effort Circular SMC will bring together existing organizations to coordinate resources on single use plastic. Priority work will be pushing for reusable take-out containers in some cities. They'll also be looking at policy approaches to ban plastics in San Mateo County by the end of 2021.

Kohl-Zaugg announced that SSMC has an open call for nominations for sustainability and green building awards. Nominations are open now until Dec. 6.

## 9. Next Scheduled Meeting Date: December 16, 2020