

# C/CAG

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

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Millbrae • Pacifica • Portola Valley • Redwood City • San Bruno • San Carlos • San Mateo • San Mateo County • South San Francisco • Woodside*

### Meeting Minutes

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

**Date:** Wednesday, March 17, 2021

**Time:** 3:00 p.m.

**Location:** Remote meeting via Zoom

#### 1. Roll Call - Introductions

##### **In Attendance**

Maryann Moise Derwin - Portola Valley\*

Diane Papan – San Mateo\*

Francis – BAWSCA\*

Donna Colson – Burlingame\*

Christine Kohl-Zaugg – Sustainable San Mateo County\*

Jeff Smith – Sares Regis Group\*

Doug Silverstein – Thrive Alliance\*

Debbie Ruddock – Half Moon Bay\*

Ortensia Lopez – El Concilio\*

Rick DeGolia, Atherton\*

Bianca Liu – South San Francisco

Matt Ruble - South San Francisco

Robert Dusenbury – Lotus Water

Matt Fabry – SMCWPPP

Sandy Wong – C/CAG

Carol Steinfeld – Sierra Club, Loma Prieta Chapter

Robert Cormia – Foothill College

Kim Springer – Office of Sustainability

Susan Wright – Office of Sustainability

John Allan – Office of Sustainability

Alexandria Gallizioli – Office of Sustainability

##### **Not in Attendance**

Don Horsley, San Mateo County Supervisor\*

Drew Combs, Menlo Park\*

Bill Chiang, PG&E\*

## **2. PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Carol Steinfeld shared that the SMC Harbor District passed a resolution supporting the Bay Delta Plan.

## **3. ACTION: Approval of Minutes from February 17, 2021 RMCP Committee meeting.**

Motion to approve Debbie Ruddock, Second by Tom Francis  
As new member to RMCP, Jeff Smith abstained  
Action passed

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

Committee member Tom Francis provided an update on current water supply and storage. Francis started with an overview of the Hetch Hetchy System and statewide drought/storage conditions. As of March 1<sup>st</sup>, Hetch Hetchy is 56% capacity which is a little below the normal 65% capacity at this time of the year. Systemwide, we're at 77.4% of maximum storage which is just below the normal average of 80.3%.

In terms of precipitation, San Mateo County is having a dry year. Total precipitation is about half of the historical average through the end of February. Recent rain events in March have added to this total. We're currently on track to match rainfall levels in 2020 which was a dry year. Snowpack conditions are below average but we're still doing better than last year.

Looking to the future, NOAA is predicting a near-normal precipitation forecast in the short term but drier than average over the next three months.

Water usage remains lower than peak consumption in 2013. To date San Mateo County residents have been keeping consistent with the 5-year average. Bay Area Water Agencies are coordinating on possible Drought Messaging as we move into another dry year.

Zaugg – That's the data up to March 1, correct? There has been some more rain between March 1<sup>st</sup> and today, but how much difference (if any) will this make?

Francis – Every drop counts but the rains we're seeing right now won't be making a significant impact. We'd need some very large storms to catch up at this point.

Zaugg - After how many successive dry years does the lack of rain become a bigger issue?

Francis – Each successive year it becomes a bigger issue. Compared to last year, we're more concerned, and if we have similar conditions next year, we'll be more concerned and possibly may see voluntary rationing.

Smith- How are the local water agencies faring beyond just their water supply?

Francis – Generally they are doing well but COVID has created some financial challenges. Some infrastructure upgrades have been put off due to declining revenues, unpaid accounts and being unable to increase rates while so many are struggling.

## **5. INFORMATION: Presentation on the Orange Memorial Park stormwater treatment and reuse project in South San Francisco.**

Rob Dusenbury of Lotus Water provided a presentation on a regional stormwater capture project that will divert water from Colma Creek into Orange Memorial Park where the water will be treated through settling and infiltration and reused for irrigation onsite. The project is currently under construction and is anticipated to be completed in 2022. Dusenbury presented a detailed site plan of the project and described the individual components that work together to divert, treat and reuse stormwater.

About 16% of the annual flows from Colma Creek will be diverted. 9% of annual flows will be treated and re-enter the channel (and Bay), 6% will infiltrate and 1% will be reused as irrigation. This amounts to 640 acre-fee of water diverted and 15 million gallons of potable water offset (a savings of \$140,000 annually).

Multiple alternatives were considered when designing and siting this project and public input was essential to designing a successful project. Operations and maintenance of this project has also been an important consideration. Different parts of the project require specialized maintenance at different intervals and these details had to be approved by the Regional Water Board.

DeGolia – Atherton looked at an identical project and we visited two of these projects in operation in southern Cal. Very beneficial to both the local community and cleaning the water that goes into the Bay.

Ruddock – At what scale do projects like this become cost-effective?

Dusenbury– Generally speaking, these larger regional projects are always more cost effective than smaller parcel-based or street-based projects. Usually 10x more cost effective in terms of dollars spent for volume of water treated.

Francis – This could be considered a pilot project that can be shown to other jurisdictions considering similar projects. Regarding groundwater, other areas of San Mateo County may not be as well-situated to augment groundwater supplies with similar projects.

Carol Steinfeld – Question about why IAPMO was used here if it's subsurface distribution. Also, Santa Clara County is pursuing a One Water Program

Dusenbury– All of this happens largely underground but the water distribution for park irrigation isn't entirely underground and there are opportunities for public exposure. More stringent disinfection requirements were pursued to meet potential new state legislative requirements around projects such as this.

## **6. INFORMATION: Presentation on C/CAG's efforts to advance countywide collaboration on regional-scale stormwater management projects to help address climate resilience, water quality, and water supply.**

Matt Fabry with the San Mateo Countywide Water Pollution Prevention Program (SMCWPPP) delivered a presentation on C/CAG's efforts to promote regional-scale stormwater projects such as the one currently being installed in South San Francisco at Orange Memorial Park. Fabry gave an overview of stormwater regulatory requirements issued by the Regional Water Quality Control Board.

C/CAG has evaluated many scenarios on how jurisdictions in San Mateo County can meet implementation requirements for green infrastructure on behalf of all permittees in San Mateo

County. They've determined that collaborative regional projects are the most cost-effective approach to meeting Water Board requirements for green infrastructure and they're now exploring key area of collaboration. C/CAG is in the process of identifying drivers and objectives for regional collaboration. These include: Limited resources, infrastructure deficiencies, water quality regulations, climate resiliency, stormwater reuse, and equity.

## **7. INFORMATION: Update on BayREN single-family residential electrification case study project.**

Susan Wright with the County Office of Sustainability and BayREN, provided a status update to the previously-discussed residential electrification case study project. Wright provided an overview of the process, which includes multiple steps. Step 1 - the consultant will meet with the customer to discuss goals, specify equipment, etc. Step 2 – collect price estimates from contractors by multiple bids and figure out the costs for the projects. Step 3 - consultant writes up the case studies based on the data collected and analyzed from the contractor teams. Up to 10 case studies will be rolled up into a final report. Next step is releasing an RFQ to identify interested consultants and contractors, solicit submissions for interested homeowners with the project beginning in early May and wrapping everything up in September.

Robert Cormia – Living in a more rural community, we're more concerned about resiliency and Public Safety Power Shutoffs. Is this something that BayREN would be interested in?

Wright– We've talked about resiliency in past committee meetings and this is definitely something we can follow up on.

## **8. Committee Member Updates**

Silverstein - THRIVE Alliance is hosting another workshop on Thursday, March 25<sup>th</sup> - Water Access Gaps in San Mateo County: South Coast Challenges and Equitable Solutions

Zaugg - SSMC March Happy Hour: "Spring into Action: Local Governments & Residents nurturing Sustainability": <http://bit.ly/SSMCMarchHappyHour>

Awards Ceremony on Friday, May 14, 5:30-6:30PM and auction will also culminate then (starts April 30) – more info on our website: <https://sustainablesanmateo.org/2021celebration>

Francis – Water providers are having public meetings over the next month or two for their Urban Water Management Plans. Highly encourage the public to attend.

## **9. Next Scheduled Meeting Date: April 21, 2021**