

C/CAG

CITY/COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS OF SAN MATEO COUNTY

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Committee Meeting Notice

Resource Management and Climate Protection Committee (RMCP)

Date: Wednesday, **November 17, 2021**

Time: 3:00 p.m.

Location: Remote meeting via Zoom link below

On September 16, 2021, the Governor signed AB 361, which amended certain provisions of the Ralph M. Brown Act in order to allow for local legislative bodies to conduct their meetings remotely via telephonically or by other electronic means under specified circumstances. Thus, pursuant to Government Code section 54953(e), C/CAG Committee meetings will be conducted via remote conferencing. Members of the public may observe or participate in the meeting remotely via one of the options below.

Join by Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81592976513?pwd=cExkVkl6d3N4ZzIjBTjViZiJTdzJlZz09>

Meeting ID: **815 9297 6513**

Password: **510953**

Join by Phone:

Call in Number: **(669) 900-6833**

Meeting ID: **815 9297 6513**

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kbevDz6xDd>

Persons who wish to address the RMCP Committee on an item to be considered at this meeting, or on items not on this agenda, are asked to submit written comments to kspringer@smcgov.org. Spoken public comments will also be accepted during the meeting through Zoom. Please see instructions for written and spoken public comments at the end of this agenda.

with disabilities who require auxiliary aids or services to participate in this meeting should contact Kim Springer (650)393-9359, five working days prior to the meeting date.

Written comments should be emailed in advance of the meeting. Please read the following instructions carefully:

1. Your written comment should be emailed to kspringer@smcgov.org with the subject line: "RMCP Written Comments."
2. Your email should include the specific agenda item on which you are commenting or note that your comment concerns an item that is not on the agenda.
3. Members of the public are limited to one comment per agenda item.
4. If your emailed comment is received at least 2 hours prior to the meeting, it will be provided to the C/CAG Board members, made publicly available on the C/CAG website along with the agenda., and read aloud by C/CAG staff during the meeting. Emails received less than 2 hours before the meeting will be provided to the RMCP Committee members and included in the administrative record of the meeting as soon as practicable.

Spoken comments will be accepted during the meeting through Zoom. Please read the following instructions carefully:

1. The RMCP Committee meeting may be accessed through Zoom at the online location indicated at the top of this agenda.
2. You may download the Zoom client or connect to the meeting using an internet browser. If using your browser, make sure you are using a current, up-to-date browser: Chrome 30+, Firefox 27+, Microsoft Edge 12+, Safari 7+. Certain functionality may be disabled in older browsers including Internet Explorer.
3. You will be asked to enter an email address and name. We request that you identify yourself by your name as this will be visible online and will be used to notify you that it is your turn to speak.
4. When the Committee Chair calls for the item on which you wish to speak, click on "raise hand." The Committee staff or Chair will activate and unmute speakers in turn. Speakers will be notified shortly before they are called on to speak.
5. When called, please limit your remarks to the time allotted.

If you have any questions about this agenda, please contact C/CAG staff:

Executive Director: Sean Charpentier scharpentier@smcgov.org

RMCP Committee Staff: Kim Springer kspringer@smcgov.org

C/CAG AGENDA REPORT

Date: November 17, 2021

To: Resource Management and Climate Protection Committee (RMCP)

From: Sean Charpentier, Executive Director

Subject: By motion, find that, as a result of the continuing COVID-19 pandemic state of emergency declared by Governor Newsom, meeting in person would present imminent risks to the health or safety of attendees.

(For further information contact Kim Springer at kspringer@smcgov.org)

RECOMMENDATION

That the C/CAG RMCP Committee, by motion, find that, as a result of the continuing COVID-19 pandemic state of emergency declared by Governor Newsom, meeting in person would present imminent risks to the health or safety of attendees.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact.

SOURCE OF FUNDS

Not applicable

BACKGROUND

On June 11, 2021, Governor Newsom issued Executive Order N-08-21, which rescinded his prior Executive Order N-29-20 and set a date of October 1, 2021 for public agencies to transition back to public meetings held in full compliance with the Brown Act. The original Executive Order provided that all provisions of the Brown Act requiring the physical presence of members or other personnel as a condition of participation or as a quorum for a public meeting were waived for public health reasons. If these waivers were to have fully sunset on October 1, 2021, legislative bodies subject to the Brown Act would have had to contend with a sudden return to full compliance with in-person meeting requirements as they existed prior to March 2020, including the requirement for full physical public access to all teleconference locations from which board members were participating.

On September 16, 2021, the Governor signed AB 361, a bill that formalizes and modifies the teleconference procedures implemented by California public agencies in response to the Governor's Executive Orders addressing Brown Act compliance during the COVID-19 emergency. AB 361 allows a local agency legislative body to continue to use teleconferencing under the same basic rules as provided in the Executive Orders, when certain circumstances occur or when certain findings have been made and adopted by the legislative body.

AB 361 provides that Brown Act legislative bodies must return to in-person meetings beginning

October 1, 2021, unless they choose to continue with fully teleconferenced meetings because a specific declaration of a state or local health emergency is appropriately made. AB 361 allows legislative bodies to continue to conduct virtual meetings as long as there is a gubernatorially-proclaimed public emergency in combination with (1) local health official recommendations for social distancing or (2) adopted findings that meeting in person would present an imminent risk to health or safety. AB 361 is effective immediately as urgency legislation and will sunset on January 1, 2024.

AB 361 also requires that, if the state of emergency remains active for more than 30 days, the legislative body must make findings by majority vote every 30 days to continue using the bill's exemption to the Brown Act teleconferencing rules. Specifically, the legislative body must find that the need for teleconferencing persists due to risks posed by the ongoing state of emergency. Effectively, this means that local agencies must either agendaize a Brown Act meeting once every thirty days to make these findings, or, **if a local agency has not made such findings within the prior 30 days, the local agency must re-adopt the initial findings if it wishes to conduct a remote meeting.**

Cities throughout San Mateo County and San Mateo County have made the findings required to continue remote meetings. On October 14, 2021, the C/CAG Board of Directors approved Resolution 21-79, which made the findings necessary for remote meetings for both the Board of Directors and its standing Committees, including the RMCP committee.

Unfortunately, November 17, 2021 is 34 days after the C/CAG Board of Directors approved Resolution 21-79. In November, the C/CAG Board of Directors meeting is one week later than is typical, because Veteran's Day, a holiday, falls on what would be the regular, second Thursday meeting date for the C/CAG Board, Thursday November 11th.

The November 18th C/CAG Board meeting will include a resolution similar to Resolution 21-79 that would make the findings necessary to continue with remote meetings for both the C/CAG Board and standing C/CAG Committees for another 30 days.

DISCUSSION

The County's high vaccination rate, successful implementation of local health measures (such as indoor masking), and best practices by the public (such as voluntary social distancing) have proven effective, in combination, at controlling the local spread of COVID-19.

However, the California Department of Public Health and the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have cautioned that the Delta variant of COVID-19, currently the dominant strain in the country, is more transmissible than prior variants of the virus, that it may cause more severe illness, and that even fully vaccinated individuals can spread the virus to others, resulting in rapid and alarming rates of COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/variants/delta-variant.html>).

Reducing the circumstances under which people come into close contact remains a vital component of the County's COVID-19 response strategy. While local agency public meetings are an essential government function, the last 18 months have demonstrated that conducting such meetings virtually is feasible.

Public meetings pose high risks for COVID-19 spread for several reasons. These meetings bring

together people from throughout a geographic region, increasing the opportunity for COVID-19 transmission. Further, the open nature of public meetings makes it is difficult to enforce compliance with vaccination, physical distancing, masking, cough and sneeze etiquette, or other safety measures. Moreover, some of the safety measures used by private businesses to control these risks may be less effective for public agencies.

These factors combine to make in-person public meetings imminently risky to health and safety.

Given that the RMCP Committee meeting is occurring 34 days after the approval of C/CAG Resolution 21-79, staff recommend that, in order to continue to have remote meetings, the TAC find, by motion, that conducting in-person meetings at the present time would present an imminent risk to the health and safety of attendees. Staff do not anticipate a need to agendize a similar item at future RMCP Committee meetings, because future meetings should occur within 30 days of the C/CAG Board of Directors approval of a resolution making the necessary findings on behalf of its committees.

ATTACHMENT

None

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Meeting Minutes

Resource Management and Climate Protection Committee (RMCP)

Date: Wednesday, October 20, 2021

1. Roll Call – Introductions

Staff completed the roll call of Committee Members with the following quorum:

Committee Members in Attendance:

Maryann Moise Derwin - Portola Valley
Rick DeGolia - Atherton
Tom Francis – BAWSCA
Christine Kohl-Zaugg – Sustainable San Mateo County
Diane Papan – San Mateo
Ortensia Lopez - El Concilio
Donna Colson – Burlingame
Deborah Ruddock – Half Moon Bay
Alex Fernandez - Filoli

Not in Attendance

Don Horsley - San Mateo County Supervisor
Drew Combs - Menlo Park
Jeff Smith – Sares Regis Group
Bill Chiang - PG&E

Additional Attendees

Nicole Sandkulla - BAWSCA
Sean Charpentier – C/CAG
Kim Springer – C/CAG
Susan Wright – Office of Sustainability
Drew – Member of Public
Carol Steinfeld – Sierra Club
Lena Silberman – Supervisor Horsley’s Office
Reid Bogert – C/CAG
Denise Lin – County OOS
Josie Gallaird - Presenter
Peter Dreckmeier – Toulumne River Trust
Misti Bruceri - Consultant

Tom Kabat - Presenter
Rebecca Lucky - Presenter
Veronika Vostinak - Presenter

A quorum of eight Committee members was achieved.

2. Public Comments on items not on the agenda

There were no public comments.

3. Approval of minutes of August 18, 2021 RMCP Committee meeting

Motion: Ruddock Second: Papan

Motion passes unanimously.

4. Update on BayREN single-family residential electrification case studies project.

Josie Gaillard & Tom Kabat, consultants to the County Office of Sustainability for completion of case studies for electrification of 10 single family homes of varying types and locations across the county. The case study project includes gaining a cost and implementation perspective for replacement of all fossil fuel appliances in a home (furnace, dryer, range, water heater) and adding solar with battery back up and electric vehicle charging. The effort will result in publishing of the case studies to help homeowners develop their approach to electrification. The project is funded by the BayREN program, which is implemented in San Mateo County by the Office of Sustainability.

5. Presentation from two San Mateo County cities on public meeting and study session feedback to draft single-family residential electrification policies.

Veronika Vostinak, City of Half Moon Bay, and Rebecca Lucky, City of Menlo Park, both city staff working on electrification policy, provided a presentation to share their early efforts as they vetted their policies through their councils and constituents. Though there is considerable support in their communities, there are several concerns, such as the reliability of the electric grid, cost of implementation, desire to keep gas cooking, need for understanding real costs, and concern about new technologies, all were top of mind for the public.

6. Presentation on equity perspectives of single-family decarbonization from the Regional BayREN Forum on September 1, 2021.

Denise Lin, from the County Office of Sustainability, provided a recap of Equity Perspectives on home electrification, presented at the September BayREN forum. The recap included two presentations: one given by Habitat for Humanity, and one from the City of Berkeley.

The major barriers to home electrification in disadvantaged communities is cost and home disturbance for electrical upgrades needed. Best approaches are to ask questions and listen, educate the communities, and ensure an understanding of the benefits, such as lower utility bills, healthier families, increased home value, and more resilient communities. It was also shared that it is important to include targeted outreach about electrification to insure disadvantaged communities receive the education. The presentation should help communities approaching electrification develop a strategy to do so equitably.

7. Presentation on model water conservation ordinances in development by the Sierra Club

Carol Steinfeld, volunteer with the Loma Prieta Chapter of the Sierra Club presented an early view of model water conservation ordinances being developed by the Sierra Club. In general, the Model targets integration of greywater into new development and additional examples of local policy were presented. The Sierra Club Water Committee is currently focused on approaches that are easier to implement, "Eco-Justice" around water, tours, and leak prevention; in general helping the public understand the

effects of not using water efficiently on the upstream populations, both fish habitat and agricultural needs.

8. Bay Area Water Supply and Conservation Agency update on Water Supply Reliability Roundtable and drought in San Mateo County.

Tom Francis, Water Manager at BAWSCA, provided an update. Statewide, the drought continues, even though we've had some rain, and 2021 has been the fourth driest year on record.

The state issued curtailments, requiring inflows to reservoirs from streams be released to the environment rather than being stored, throughout the state on most river systems. Though the SFPUC was going to declare a water shortage emergency and request a 10% voluntary water rationing on November 9, 2021, that was held off due to the recent rains. If implemented, the declaration could cause rate increases. The SFPUC has analyzed the impacts of drought, similar to the extreme drought of 1976-78, on water supply through 2024. With curtailments, and if we have a few more years of extreme drought, we will run out of water sometime around the end of 2023. However, a health and safety exemption will likely be established, allowing a maximum of 55 gallons per person per day.

Tom shared a short update on the previously discussed One Water Roundtable. BAWSCA is working on hiring a consultant to support the Roundtable effort. The intention is to launch the Roundtable in January.

9. Committee Member Updates

Christine Zaugg reminded the committee of the monthly happy hour events held by Sustainable San Mateo County

Sean Charpentier shared with the Committee that the C/CAG Board resolution supporting remote meetings for the Board and Committees only lasts 30 days. Therefore, since the new C/CAG Board meeting will occur after the next RMCP meeting (over 30 days) the RCMP Committee will need to make a finding of health risk in order to conduct the November meeting.

10. Next Scheduled Meeting Date: November 17, 2021

C/CAG AGENDA REPORT

Item 6

Date: November 17, 2021
To: Resource Management and Climate Protection Committee
From: Susan Wright, County Office of Sustainability
Subject: Update on San Mateo County Energy Watch Program.
(For further information contact Kim Springer at kspringer@smcgov.org)

RECOMMENDATION

Receive an update on the San Mateo County Energy Watch Program..

FISCAL IMPACT

None. Funds from the San Mateo County Energy Watch, PG&E local government partnership program cover the costs of the program.

BACKGROUND/DISCUSSION

The San Mateo County Energy Watch local government partnership program between C/CAG and PG&E launched over twelve years ago in 2009. The program focuses on energy efficiency, and may also promote electrification, EV charging, and energy resilience at customer sites.

C/CAG with PG&E, and the County Office of Sustainability with C/CAG, are in contract to manage and staff the Program through June 2023. As of this month, the SMC Energy Watch (SMCEW) program has completed 16-months of its 36-month program cycle. This program cycle, the SMCEW team has coordinated with both internal and external partners to provide technical and financial assistance in the small business, public school, and municipal sectors. The following paragraphs provide an update on progress made by sector served. The focus of the program is to identify projects at building sites and refer project opportunities to PG&E-contracted implementors to install.

The small business program is working with the County Information Services Department to build an outreach database. This database is estimated to be completed and ready for in-field use by January 2022. To prepare for this outreach, SMCEW has joined an Office of Sustainability-wide contract with El Concilio and Nuestra Casa, two community-based organizations (CBO) working throughout the southern and central regions of the County. For small businesses, the contract will leverage existing community relationships to increase outreach to hard-to-reach small businesses. The database will include a reporting feature, allowing the Program to collect and organize data to inform outreach efforts both in the current and future program cycles. Pending the success of the CBO-contracted approach, efforts will increase, adding additional CBO partnerships in 2022.

For the public-school sector, staff are partnering with the San Mateo County Office of Education (SMCOE) to provide SMCEW Program briefs for presentation at the upcoming Annual Schools

Summit. This summit will provide County-wide climate data and projections to school district officials to support sustainable decision making in the months and years to come. Program briefs will be shared during one-on-one outreach meetings hosted by SMCEW and SMCOE staff during the months of November and December.

Efforts in the municipal sector are focused on longer-term projects and, more recently, the launch of a Heat Pump Water Heater (HPWH) pilot program. This pilot program is serving buildings in four municipalities: County of San Mateo, Redwood City, Half Moon Bay, and the City of Brisbane. The limited pilot includes purchase and installation of domestic-sized HPWH units. These units will be sized between 50-70 gallons and installed free of charge to the municipalities. The goal of this pilot is to increase awareness of HPWH's and to help insure municipalities have a positive project implementation experience, and to encourage other cities to join the transition to electric water heating. The intention is to offer additional incentives in 2022, but the (post-pilot) terms of this program have not been finalized.

Susan Wright, Resource Conservation Programs Manager at the County Office of Sustainability, will present an update to the Committee describing the various efforts under way, 16 months into the Program.

ATTACHMENTS

None

C/CAG AGENDA REPORT

Item 7

Date: November 17, 2021
To: Resource Management and Climate Protection Committee
From: Tom Francis, BAWSCA, RMCP Committee Member
Subject: Bay Area Water Supply and Conservation Agency update on water supply and drought conditions in San Mateo County
(For further information contact Kim Springer at kspringer@smcgov.org)

RECOMMENDATION

Receive a Bay Area Water Supply and Conservation Agency update on water supply and drought conditions in San Mateo County.

FISCAL IMPACT

None

BACKGROUND/DISCUSSION

The Bay Area Water Supply and Conservation Agency (BAWSCA), which represents the 26 wholesale customers of the San Francisco Regional Water System, has been working with C/CAG staff on issues relating to water conservation and supply.

Tom Francis, who last presented to the RMCP Committee on October 20, 2021, will present an update on the current supply and drought situation in San Mateo County and a brief update on the SFPUC reliability study mentioned at the October RMCP Committee meeting.

ATTACHMENTS

None

C/CAG AGENDA REPORT

Item 8

Date: November 17, 2021

To: Resource Management and Climate Protection Committee

From: Andrea Shumer, PG&E Community Microgrid Enablement Program
Bob Cormia, La Honda resident and former RMCP Committee member

Subject: Presentation on PG&E Community Microgrid Enablement Program and La Honda engagement.

(For further information contact Kim Springer at kspringer@smcgov.org)

RECOMMENDATION

Receive a presentation on PG&E Community Microgrid Enablement Program (CMEP) and engagement between the Program and La Honda residents.

FISCAL IMPACT

None

BACKGROUND/DISCUSSION

In April 2021, PG&E officially launched Community Microgrid Enablement Program (CMEP), which is designed to provide communities in its service territory with assistance in creating multi-customer microgrids, under certain criteria. The CPUC approved the new Program in March 2021. The focus of the Program is on assisting in the development of microgrids that serve critical facilities and vulnerable customer groups, including those in disadvantaged communities.

The Program provides planning tools and assistance to communities, and funding for certain PG&E equipment upgrades necessary for “islanding” the microgrid, such as devices needed for isolation, controlling, and fault protection. Costs per project are called at \$3M.

The program is eligible to proposed projects in high fire threat districts (Tier 2 or Tier 3) or areas impacted by a prior Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS) event, or areas prone to outages. In addition, the project must meet the needs of at least one critical community facility and one additional customer, include an interconnected generation facility up to 20 megawatts, and have community, CCA, or jurisdictional support. The program also prioritizes disadvantaged communities, Tribal Lands, high-CARE-rate or “rural” areas.

A proposed project goes through several stages, including Vetting, Assessment, and Execution. Additional information on these stage is available on a PG&E website here:

https://www.pge.com/en_US/safety/emergency-preparedness/natural-disaster/wildfires/community-microgrid-enablement-program.page

Andrea Shumer, PG&E Resilience Coordinator in the PG&E Microgrid Strategy Implementation group, will lead of a presentation on the CMEP Program.

Resident of La Honda, former member of the RMCP Committee, and professor at De Anza College, Robert Cormia, reached out to Committee staff seeking energy data for the La Honda community, share concerns about potential fire risk from residential gas generator use during power shutoffs, and to discuss pathways to established a microgrid for the community.

Bob Cormia and La Honda resident, John Ellis, were connected by Committee staff to the PG&E CMEP and have begun scoping critical facility locations, electricity use, and community support, in the vetting stage of the process with PG&E. Both will share the goals of their proposed project and provide context to the discussion on the CMEP.

PG&E has developed a CMEP Resilience Planning Guide. The link the guide is provided as an attachment to this staff report.

ATTACHMENTS

Link to CMPE Resilience Planning Guide:

https://www.pge.com/pge_global/common/pdfs/safety/emergency-preparedness/natural-disaster/wildfires/pge-resilience-planning-guide.pdf