



SGVCOG EENR Committee Approved Meeting Minutes

Date: June 19, 2019

Time: 12:30 PM

Location: Monrovia Community Center: Monroe Conference Room (119 West Palm Avenue, Monrovia, CA 91016)

PRELIMINARY BUSINESS

1. Call to Order
The meeting was called to order at 12:36 p.m.

2. Roll Call

Members Present:

Claremont – J. Stark
Duarte – L. Reilly
Rosemead – M. Clark
San Dimas – D. Bertone
West Covina – T. Wu
L.A. County District #1 – H. Nguyen

Members Absent:

Covina
San Gabriel
Sierra Madre
Temple City (Ex-officio)

COG Staff:

P. Duyshart, Staff

3. Public Comment
R. Yeung of the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) provided Public Comment to the Committee. During this time, she talked about the SCAQMD's CLEANair Furnace Rebate Program, as well as the 31st Annual Clean Air Awards. She also mentioned that nominations for the Clean Air Awards are open from now through August 7th, and people can submit nominations at CleanAirAwards.com.

A member of the Committee asked Ms. Yeung which counties the SCAQMD covers. Yeung replied that the district covers the counties of: Orange, Los Angeles, Riverside, and San Bernardino.

4. Changes to Agenda Order: Identify emergency items arising after agenda posting and requiring action prior to next regular meeting.
There were no changes to the Agenda.

CONSENT CALENDAR

5. EENR Meeting Minutes – April 17, 2019
Recommended Action: Approve.
6. Joint EENR Committee and Public Works Technical Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes – May 15, 2019
Recommended Action: Approve.
7. Correspondence

Recommended Action: Receive and file.

There was a motion made to approve the entire consent calendar. (L. Reilly/D. Bertone)

[Motion Passed]

AYES:	Claremont, Duarte, Rosemead, San Dimas
NOES:	
ABSTAIN:	
ABSENT:	Covina, LA County District 1, San Gabriel, Sierra Madre, West Covina

PRESENTATIONS

8. EV-Ready Communities Paper

The speaker for this agenda item was unable to attend this meeting. Thus, this item was not discussed, and the EENR Committee moved forward to Item 9.

9. Los Angeles Countywide Sustainability Plan Overview

Kristen Torres Pawling, a Sustainability Program Director with the LA County Chief Sustainability Office, gave a presentation on the OurCounty Los Angeles Countywide Sustainability Plan. This comprehensive and detailed plan covers a plethora of topics and goals, and she provided examples of goals, strategies, and actions related to EV charging, urban heat island strategies, and solar power.

Members of the EENR Committee were then able to ask Ms. Torres Pawling questions about the OurCounty Sustainability Plan.

Questions/Discussion:

- One EENR Committee member asked about the enforceability of the document, and if it is rather just a tool or a blueprint. This member also asked if the County is going to ask cities to adopt this plan, too.
 - Ms. Torres Pawling replied that, originally, the County did not plan on asking cities to adopt this plan, but now that they have received so many inquiries about this, the County is considering encouraging cities to adopt the goals of this plan.
- Another member of the EENR Committee stated that she is passionate about a balanced energy solution, as long as the energy is clean, and she then asked: is there anything in this document regarding balanced energy solutions? She also added that, if you move to only electricity, then energy costs for residents will increase.
 - Ms. Torres Pawling responded by stated that energy specificity is not specified, just that the County aims for carbon neutrality by 2045. However, one of the implementation steps for this project is to draft a new Climate Action Plan for unincorporated communities.

- There was also a question about the last goal of the plan, related to coordinating funding and partnerships.
- A Committee member said how it is clear that the County wants to emphasize clean energy. This member then asked: what kinds of programs does the County want the cities to adopt so that cities can try to abide by and follow the County's sustainability plan? This member also stated how natural gas is cheaper than electricity, electricity infrastructure is sometimes not reliable, and energy infrastructure in general is very old.
 - Ms. Torres Pawling said that the County's Internal Services Dept. does have a property clean energy program. She also stated that cities You could also apply portions of the OurCounty Plan that could apply to cities as well as the County, if certain action items and goals work for cities. She also pointed out that the plan calls for more single-use generated power, such as solar panels on roof tops.
- Another Committee member said that we should think about how we produce some of our electricity right now. It's sometimes produced with gas and oil. This member also talked about how wind and solar are intermittent sometimes, and we need to have generation that's more reliable than that. The member added that we should also focus on clean energy and emissions in the transportation sector, too.
 - Ms. Torres Pawling reported that, yesterday, 83% of California's energy was from renewable resources. This shows how important energy storage is.
- A Committee member shared how this Committee recently went to CR&R in Perris, CA to take a tour of how they convert waste and organics into natural gas.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

10. Assembly Bill 1500 (Carrillo): Protecting Public Health from Hazardous Substances

Lauren Yokomizo, who is an Assistant Deputy for Los Angeles County Supervisor Janice Hahn's Office, led the discussion on this item. She explained how this bill would strengthen local authority to take immediate action against local threats to the public's health and safety, including the ability for local jurisdictions to direct a facility or a portion of a facility to temporarily discontinue the operations that caused an exposure.

Ms. Yokomizo also provided an example for how this bill could benefit public health and safety. This example was from 2016, when there was a fire related to magnesium metal that forced the evacuation of over 300 people. It was determined that a business on this site was operating without a proper CUPA permit, and was the cause of this fire. Despite them not having the permit, the business was not punished or penalized because there was no local authority to do so. Under this bill, local jurisdictions would be able to take immediate action.

She also pointed out that the LA County Board of Supervisors, including Supervisor Hahn, are in support of this bill. After Ms. Yokomizo's presentation on this bill, members of the EENR Committee were able to ask questions on this matter.

Questions/Discussion:

- A Committee member asked what authority CUPA has.
 - Ms. Yokomizo explained that CUPAs are local agencies that are certified by the CalEPA that enforce hazardous waste rules, but that they do not have strong penalty-making power.
- Another Committee member asked a question regarding clarification standards pertaining to current CUPA-related law, and if CUPA can actually enforce rules related to this.
- One Committee member asked: who would make the final decision on whether a business can re-open or not?
 - This is not quite clear yet, though it might be the Department of Toxic Substances Control.
- The following questions were also asked: how can it be proven that a business created an environmental and safety hazard? What could the procedure be here for a city? Can cities report problems related to this to the AQMD?
- A Committee member asked where this bill is in the legislature.
 - The bill recently passed in the Assembly on May 23 by a 49-0 vote. The bill will soon be heard in Senate committees.

There was a motion made to recommend that the SGVCOG Governing Board support AB 1500 (Carrillo). (L. Reilly/J. Stark)

[Motion Passed]

AYES:	Claremont, Duarte, Rosemead, San Dimas, West Covina, LA County District 1
NOES:	
ABSTAIN:	
ABSENT:	Covina, San Gabriel, Sierra Madre

ACTION ITEMS

There were no action items at this meeting.

UPDATE ITEMS

11. Clean Power Alliance

No report was given on this item.

12. San Gabriel Mountains Community Collaborative

L. Reilly announced that the San Gabriel Mountains Monument Plan has been recently approved and that it is available online. Four separate ad hoc committee are working on implementing this plan.

13. San Gabriel Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District

No report was given on this item.

14. Los Angeles County Parks and Recreation

L. Hancock of the LA County Department of Parks and Recreation announced that the County won its litigation case pertaining to Proposition A. Moving forward, there will no longer be language in the grant agreements pertaining to repayments. The County is also working on implementing a new grant management tracking system. Some new grants are now open for solicitation, too, such as for Development and Acquisition as well as Maintenance and Servicing. Online, you can see how much your City has been allocated annually. Funds replenish every year around September 15, and funds will increase year over year. Funds can be held and accumulated for up to five years. Cities can also collaborate together and share money. She then shared the annual funding allocations for a couple of these grants with Committee members.

15. Trust for Public Land

No report was given on this item.

16. San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy

S. Garcia and S. Gee both contributed to this update report. First, they mentioned how the Proposition 68 grant funding call for projects is now open, and the application deadline has been extended to July 15. They also announced that the RMC just recently funded a Prop. 1 grant program with Amigos de los Rios for the San Gabriel River Emerald Necklace. There is also a new park that is under construction in Pomona, and a new Duck Farm River Parkway project in La Puente. The RMC also plans to ask its Board to fund a San Gabriel River East Fork project near the Oaks Access Area. Additionally, there is still about \$9 million left in Prop. 1 funding for projects.

They also announced that the RMC is hosting an urban rivers summit on July 25 and July 26 in Downtown Los Angeles. The summit will feature river tours around the LA River. The RMC encourages city leaders to attend this summit.

RMC staff also quickly discussed AB 1694 (O'Donnell). This bill would expand the territory of the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy to include the Dominguez Channel watershed and Santa Catalina Island. The bill is currently set to be heard in the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Water. The RMC requested that the COG submit a support letter and adopt a resolution in support of this bill.

Members of the EENR Committee unanimously recommended that the Governing Board support this piece of legislation.

17. Southern California Edison

No report was given on this item.

18. Southern California Gas Company

H. Romero Shaw provided the SoCalGas update report. She gave an update on Energy Efficiency Programs. SoCalGas has invested half a million dollars into energy efficiency programs. She also announced that SGV cities saved over 8,000 Therms last year. Ms. Romero Shaw also mentioned how SoCalGas offers 0% on bill financing for EE projects related to gas. Through the Energy Wise Partnership, cities can receive more financial benefits, too. SoCalGas will continue this partnership into the next year.

COMMITTEE MEMBER ITEMS

M. Clark and L. Reilly asked for cities to spread the word about the citrus quarantine restrictions when traveling this summer in order to prevent the spread of a deadly citrus tree disease known as Huanglongbing (HLB). SGVCOG staff will send follow-up information on this matter to Committee members soon.

STAFF ANNOUNCEMENTS

19. Athens Services American Organics Recycling Facility Tour Logistics

P. Duyshart of the SGVCOG provided a quick update on this item. He announced that, in lieu of the July EENR Committee meeting, committee members will be touring the Athens Services American Organics Facility in Victorville, CA on Wednesday, July 17, 2019. He then provided the logistics and timing for this trip, and reminded Committee members to please RSVP for the tour, if they hadn't done so already.

20. Upcoming EENR Presentations and Meeting Dates

P. Duyshart of the SGVCOG announced that the EENR Committee will not be meeting in August if the Governing Board cancels its August meeting.

ADJOURN

D. Bertone adjourned the meeting at 2:00 p.m.