



SGVCOG EENR Committee Regular Meeting Minutes

Date: February 17, 2021
Time: 1:00 PM
Location: Zoom Virtual Meeting

PRELIMINARY BUSINESS

1. Call to Order
D. Bertone called the meeting to order at 1:00pm.
2. Roll Call
A quorum was in attendance.

Committee Members Present

Claremont	J. Stark
Covina	S. Gallant
El Monte	P. Garcia
Pomona	J. Carver
Rosemead	M. Clark
San Dimas	D. Bertone
San Gabriel	C. Liao
Sierra Madre	R. Arizmendi
West Covina	T. Wu

Absent

Duarte
Temple City (Ex-Officio)

Guests

City of Duarte	V. Rocha
City of Pasadena	J. Guess
Clean Power Alliance	C. Cruz
L.A. County DPW	C. Sheppard
L.A. County DPW	C. Wartman
L.A. County DPW	C. Skye
L.A. County DPW	K. Lilley
L.A. County DPW	M. Beltran

SGVCOG Staff

A. Fung, Staff

3. Public Comment
S. Ramesh submitted a written public comment regarding concerns of a housing proposal at Mater Dolorosa in Sierra Madre. A full copy of the written comment can be found in Attachment A.
4. Changes to Agenda Order
There were no changes to the agenda.

CONSENT CALENDAR

5. EENR Meeting Minutes – January 20, 2021
Action: Review and approve.

**There was a motion to approve consent calendar item 5. (M/S: C. Liao/J. Carver)
[Motion Passed]**

AYES:	Claremont, Covina, El Monte, Pomona, Rosemead, San Dimas, San Gabriel, Sierra Madre, West Covina
NOES:	
ABSTAIN:	
NO VOTE RECORDED:	
ABSENT:	Duarte

LIAISON REPORTS

No verbal report was given unless otherwise noted.

6. Clean Power Alliance
7. San Gabriel Mountains Community Collaborative
8. San Gabriel Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District (MVCD)
9. Trust for Public Land
10. San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy (RMC)
11. Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County
12. Southern California Edison
13. Southern California Gas Company
14. South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD)

PRESENTATION

15. Clean Power Alliance Overview

Clean Power Alliance (CPA) Community Outreach Manager, Christian Cruz, provided a presentation on this item. The Alliance serves as a community choice aggregate (CCA) that purchases and sells power and administers programs and operations. Residents and businesses of participating cities are automatically enrolled in the CPA, at a default rate - based on the level of renewable energy provided - chosen by their respective cities. Customers have the choice to opt-up or opt-down to different rates based on the level of renewable energy provided or to opt-out and return to Southern California Edison service at any time. Within the San Gabriel Valley, the Cities of Alhambra, Arcadia, Claremont, Sierra Madre, South Pasadena, and Temple City are currently enrolled in the Alliance.

Key Discussions/Questions:

- R. Arizmendi inquired about the CPA's workforce development program. Mr. Cruz responded that the Alliance is currently exploring anti-recidivism programs, which provide training to formerly incarcerated individuals and help them to enter into the renewable energy industry. Additionally, the Alliance operates a scholarship program with six community colleges.
- D. Bertone inquired about rates for customers who choose to select the 100% renewable energy option. Mr. Cruz responded that those customers would receive a 7% to 9% increase in energy bills for selecting the 100% renewable plan. Certain families are eligible for incentive programs to reduce the bills.

16. Los Angeles River Master Plan

Los Angeles County Department of Public Works (DPW) Civil Engineer, Christine Wartman, provided a presentation on this item. The Plan, which was originally adopted in the 1990s, serves as a guideline for the Los Angeles River to become 51 miles of connected public open space that provides landmark opportunities to reduce flood risk and improve resiliency, support healthy and connected ecosystems, address potential adverse impacts to housing affordability and individuals experiencing homelessness, and create jobs that foster opportunities for arts, culture, and community engagement, and is currently being updated. The draft 2020 Los Angeles River Master Plan is currently available for public comment until March 14, 2021.

Key Discussions/Questions:

- D. Bertone commented that the Plan appears to emphasize more on housing, environmental, and arts benefits. Ms. Wartman responded that the Plan includes nine specific goals that are equally important in the development of the Plan. These goals reflect the priorities of the communities that surround the Los Angeles River.
- D. Bertone also inquired about collaborations with the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy (RMC) to update the Plan. Ms. Wartman responded that RMC's feedback is included in the engagement process and that projects in the Lower Los Angeles River are included in the updated Plan.

17. Los Angeles County Solid Waste Legislative Updates

Los Angeles County Department of Public Works (DPW) Senior Civil Engineer, Christopher Sheppard, provided a presentation on this item. Mr. Sheppard provided updates on AB 1 (Cristina Garcia & Santiago), AB 51 (Quirk), AB 96 (O'Donnell), AB 246 (Quirk & Mathis), AB 318 (Levine), AB 322 (Salas), AB 332 (Assembly Committee on ESTM), AB 478 (Ting), AB 504 (McCarty), AJR 4 (Cristina Garcia), SB 37 (Cortest), SB 38 (Wieckowski), SB 54 (Allen, Stern, & Weiner), SB 207 (Becker), SB 240 (Eggman), SB 244 (Archuleta), SB 289 (Newman), and SB 343 (Allen). Questions or inquiries regarding these bills can be directed to Mr. Sheppard at csheppard@dpw.lacounty.gov.

Key Discussions/Questions:

- C. Liao inquired about cities' responsibilities for ensuring local school districts to comply with SB 1383 regulations. Mr. Sheppard responded that school districts are addressed separately in SB 1383 regulations. Instead of being issued penalties for violations, non-compliant school districts are listed on a CalRecycle enforcement list.
- C. Liao also inquired about the County's efforts to handle food recovery. Mr. Sheppard responded that there are various challenges of managing and collecting organic waste. The County recognizes the existing challenges and is exploring community composting options, mixed-waste processing operations, and education campaigns.
- C. Liao inquired about the possibility of establishing an anaerobic digestion facility that is similar to the CR&R facility located in Perris, CA. Mr. Sheppard responded the funding required to construct and manage the facility is extensive;

however, several private developers are proposing organic waste processing plants and that the County Sanitation Districts also has food waste processing facilities.

- M. Clark inquired about enforcements on individuals who irresponsibly place items in bins that do not correspond with those items. Mr. Sheppard responded that SB 1383 requires local jurisdictions to pass ordinances to levy fines and fees on those irresponsible individuals. A lot of educational campaigns would soon be required to ensure that individuals understand the enforceable incidents.
- D. Bertone inquired about the County's role in the legislative process. Mr. Sheppard responded that the DPW staff analyzes solid waste legislation and the County as a whole takes positions on bills based on its adopted state legislative agendas. The Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Committee/Integrated Waste Management Task Force also takes positions on the bills.
- D. Bertone also inquired about the Basel Convention and actions that individuals should take regarding toxic waste material disposals. Mr. Sheppard responded that the Basel Convention recommends participating nations to send materials that meet certain contamination standards to other participating nations and creates the need to process materials in a cleaner manner. States acknowledge that participating in the Basel Convention serves as a motivator for local jurisdictions to develop the infrastructure to process the materials in a cleaner manner instead of sending them overseas.

STAFF ANNOUNCEMENT

18. Next Committee Meeting

The upcoming committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 17, 2021 at 1:00pm.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

C. Liao requested staff to coordinate a tour for committee members to visit the BYD Bus Manufacturing Plant in Lancaster, CA.

ADJOURN

D. Bertone adjourned the Energy, Environment, and Natural Resources (EENR) Committee meeting at 2:30 p.m.

**San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments
Energy, Environment, and Natural Resources (EENR) Committee
Wednesday, February 17, 2021 at 1:00 PM
Written Public Comments**

**Written Public Comment #1: Syga Ramesh
Submitted: Wednesday, February 10, 2021 at 1:13 PM**

Dear EENR,

I'm concerned about the housing proposal at Mater Dolorosa in Sierra Madre. That field is the home to countless living beings who already live there: plants, birds, fungi, and so on. Despite my emails to those in charge of it, the immense momentum that's built around the proposal, seems to have, for financial reasons, overwritten any and all empathy for those lives that would be killed by the construction of the houses and park. This is especially sad since it's been proven that plants are intelligent and that they feel pain: <https://youtu.be/iKs8Cmn9qUs>. Not only would the proposal mean their death but it'd more specifically mean their painful death. I asked Mater Dolorosa if that was a Christian thing to do, if that's what Jesus would do: <https://youtu.be/pctUWyf4RLQ> But, I received no response. I have, however, also provided them with a valid reason as to why the project would affect *those involved directly*: every part of a vortex is everywhere within that vortex; every part of a galaxy is everywhere within that galaxy. Each organism, nonhuman and human, is the entire movement. What one does to it they do to themselves. And I mean that literally: https://youtu.be/-lHn4_Le5wI Cease the project immediately, as it regards the wellbeing of all of those involved. Don't ignore this warning! Make the bold decision that may be difficult to make but that's *truly respectable* given what I've brought to light here.

Sincerely,
Syga