



SGVCOG EENR Committee Approved Meeting Minutes

Date: June 17, 2020
Time: 1:00 PM
Location: Zoom Virtual Meeting

PRELIMINARY BUSINESS

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 1:02 p.m.

2. Roll Call

Members Present:

Claremont – J. Stark
Covina – M. Saint
Duarte – L. Reilly
Rosemead – M. Clark
San Dimas – D. Bertone
San Gabriel – C. Liao
West Covina – T. Wu
Temple City – J. Lee (Ex-officio)

Members Absent:

Sierra Madre

SGVCOG Staff:

A. Fung, Staff
A. Bordallo, Staff

Guests:

R. Garcia, Angeles National Forest
J. Clearwater, Angeles National Forest
D. Snow, Southern California Edison
M. Castro-Salvati, Southern California Edison
C. Novell, The Energy Coalition
N. Espinoza, The Energy Coalition
N. Manzanares, The Energy Coalition

3. Public Comment

There were no public comments at this meeting.

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 order.

CONSENT CALENDAR

5. EENR Meeting Minutes – May 20, 2020

Recommended Action: Approve.

6. Correspondence

Recommended Action: Receive and file.

**There was a motion made to approve consent calendar items 5-6. (M/S: L. Reilly/T. Wu)
[Motion Passed]**

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

LIAISON REPORTS

- 7. Clean Power Alliance
C. Cruz provided a written report on this item. The Clean Power Alliance will be holding a Sustainable Energy Incubator Workshop on Thursday, June 25, 2020 at 10:30am.
- 8. San Gabriel Mountains Community Collaborative
L. Reilly provided a written report on this item. The Collaborative and Nature for All have been awarded a \$7,000 grant from REI to assist efforts to develop a digital space to track and engage volunteers that serve the Angeles National Forest. The goal is to develop an online database of volunteers and match their skillsets with projects and opportunities available in the Angeles National Forest and the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument.
- 9. San Gabriel Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District (MVCD)
There were no updates from the San Gabriel Valley MVCD.
- 10. Trust for Public Land
There were no updates from the Trust for Public Land.
- 11. San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy
There were no updates from the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy.
- 12. Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County
There were no updates from the Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County.
- 13. Southern California Edison
There were no updates from Southern California Edison.
- 14. Southern California Gas Company
There were no updates from Southern California Gas Company.
- 15. South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD)
R. Yeung provided a written report on this item. The Small Business Assistance (SBA) Office is only providing assistance via telephone and e-mail due to public health concerns over COVID-19 transmissions. Additionally, AQMD shared additional resources for businesses and employees in the written report.

UPDATE ITEM

16. Angeles National Forest Updates

Angeles National Forest Fire Chief, Robert Garcia, provided a presentation on this item. With anticipated record heat and dry conditions in Southern California, the 2020 fire season is expected to be more intense compared to prior years' fire seasons. Fire use on national forests in California is generally prohibited outside of developed campgrounds and residents are recommended to abide to local brush clearance requirements. Visitors of the Angeles National Forest are also encouraged to report illegal fire activities to forest rangers.

Discussions/Questions:

- A committee member inquired about Angeles National Forest's mutual aid zones. Chief Garcia responded that mutual aid zones are zones that can immediately deploy resources to respond to fire incidents. When additional resources are needed, the Angeles National Forest will reach out to agencies around Southern California.
- Another committee member inquired about whether the National Monument designation in the San Gabriel Mountains affected the Angeles National Forest's firefighting operations. Chief Garcia responded that fire prevention and mitigation tactics were not affected; however, the designation did attract additional new visitors to the San Gabriel Mountains.
- A committee member inquired the Angeles National Forest's super scoopers and whether firefighting foams contain PFAS chemicals. Chief Garcia responded that water contaminants from firefighting foams that enter into the water streams can be mostly avoided and that the County of Los Angeles and the Angeles National Forest contract with third parties to obtain super scooper aircrafts.

PRESENTATION

17. Southern California Regional Energy Network (SoCalREN) Public Agency Programs

The Energy Coalition (TEC) representatives provided a presentation on this item. Administered by the County of Los Angeles, the SoCalREN utilizes comprehensive and customized methods to support the unique needs of public agencies and assist agencies to save energy. SoCalREN programs were designed to provide municipalities with tailored project delivery approaches, funding recommendations, and procurement pathways to support the implementation of energy efficiency projects. Additionally, the SoCalREN provides benchmarking and energy analytical services to assist cities to identify facilities that are high energy consumers and prioritize energy efficiency retrofits at these facilities.

Discussions/Questions:

- A committee member inquired about SoCalREN's programs for homeowners. TEC representatives responded that there are programs available for homeowners, but those programs are separate from the SoCalREN Public Agency Programs.
- Another committee member inquired about the loan programs' maximum amounts and interest rates. TEC representatives responded that the Revolving Loan Fund Program

offers 0% interest loans (with a 1% administration fee) and does not have a borrowing limit; however, there are only \$2 million in that program.

- A committee member inquired about SoCalREN's language accessibility guidelines for outreaching to homeowners in the community. TEC representatives responded that there are materials in different languages for multi-family homeowners.
- A committee member inquired about the funding sources of the SoCalREN Public Agency Programs. TEC representatives responded that the programs are funded by utility ratepayer dollars.

DISCUSSION ITEM

18. Discussion on Southern California Edison's Proposed Rate Increase

Southern California Edison (SCE) Director of General Rate Increase, Doug Snow, provided a presentation on this item. SCE recently submitted a rate increase request to the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) on August 30, 2019. This rate increase request, known as a general rate case (GRC), is typically submitted to the CPUC by large electric utilities every four years. GRCs are proceedings used to address the costs of operating and maintaining the utility system and the allocation of those costs among customer classes. Based on SCE's proposal, residential rates would be increased by 14.4% starting in 2021 if the proposal is approved by the CPUC. According to SCE, the bulk of the revenue requirement request in the GRC relates to the foundational work required to maintain and improve the grid and continue efforts to implement the State's policy objective of reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Mr. Snow stated that most of the increased revenue will be allocated towards crucial wildfire risk mitigation activities and wildfire insurance premiums. The CPUC will be holding public forums to discuss SCE's rate increase proposal before voting to approve or reject the proposal. The public forums are scheduled for June 30, 2020 and July 1, 2020 at 2:00pm and 6:00pm. Interested attendees can join the public forums by visiting [this link](#) and dial (800) 857-1917 with the password "1673482."

Discussions/Questions:

- A committee member inquired whether the rate increase proposal can be postponed given that many families and businesses are struggling due to the economic impacts from COVID-19. Mr. Snow responded that the rate increase is crucial given that SCE customers expressed the need for reliable services.
- Another committee member inquired about rates for customers that are from low-income families. Mr. Snow responded that residents could apply for SCE low-income programs and provide income verifications later. Residents that are not within the eligible income range will be removed from the low-income programs.
- A committee member expressed that residents who are teleworking from home are experiencing higher utility costs. Mr. Snow responded that SCE partnered with the CPUC to provide climate credits to assist customers to offset their electric bills. The credits are equivalent to approximately \$18.50/month for June and July.
- A committee member inquired about SCE's insurance costs. Mr. Snow responded that liability insurance premiums for SCE have increased due to wildfires. Approximately \$300 million from the total rate increase revenue will be allocated towards insurance costs.

- A committee member inquired about SCE's covered conductors on wires. Mr. Snow responded that SCE is currently working to cover wires with heavy-duty plastic to prevent fires. The wires must be completely removed in order to be retrofitted with wire conductors. These operations are conducted in high-risk fire areas that are designated by the CPUC.
- A committee member inquired about SCE's electric services for residents who owe up to a year of utility bills. Mr. Snow responded that SCE is not suspending services for non-payments at this time. It is likely that SCE will maintain this policy until next April.
- Another committee member inquired about the status of the San Onofre Nuclear Power Plant. Mr. Snow responded that the San Onofre Nuclear Power Plant is in the process of decommissioning and it will be completely dismantled.
- A committee member inquired about whether this rate increase, if approved by the CPUC, will be applied to cities that have opted into a community choice aggregate. Mr. Snow responded that the rate increase will apply to cities that are part of community choice aggregates if approved by the CPUC.

STAFF ANNOUNCEMENT

19. Next Committee Meeting

The upcoming committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, August 19, 2020 at 1:00pm.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no additional announcements.

ADJOURN

D. Bertone adjourned the meeting at 2:49 p.m.