



SGVCOG EENR Committee Regular Meeting Minutes

Date: April 21, 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	M. Saint
El Monte	P. Garcia
Pasadena	J. Guess
Pomona	J. Carver
Rosemead	M. Clark
San Dimas	D. Bertone
San Gabriel	C. Liao
Sierra Madre	R. Arizmendi
West Covina	T. Wu
Temple City (Ex-Officio)	J. Lee

Absent

Duarte

Guests

City of South Pasadena	A. Kasparian
South Coast AQMD	R. Yeung
ICF	B. Moncada
ICF	L. Penner
Main San Gabriel Watermaster	L. Augino
Nature for All	B. Bernal
RMC	S. Gee
SoCalGas	B. Cruz
SoCalGas	H. Shaw
SoCalGas	J. Huleis
SoCalGas	J. Kroh
SoCalGas	Y. Freedman

SGVCOG Staff

P. Hubler, Staff
K. Ward, Staff
A. Fung, Staff

3. Public Comment
S. Gee from the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy (RMC) provided a verbal public comment to report that the RMC recently received wildfire funds for projects in the San Gabriel Valley.

B. Bernal from Nature for All provided a verbal public comment to introduce herself as

the new Executive Director for Nature for All.

4. Changes to Agenda Order
There were no changes to the agenda.

CONSENT CALENDAR

5. EENR Meeting Minutes – March 17, 2021
Action: Review and approve.

There was a motion to approve consent calendar item 5. (M/S: J. Stark/R. Arizmendi)
[Motion Passed]

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

UPDATE ITEM

15. Legislative Updates: AB 33 (Ting)
SGVCOG Management Analyst, Alexander Fung, provided updates on this item. Originally introduced in December 2020 as a bill to limit the use of natural gas in new public schools and state buildings, AB 33 was gut-and-amended by Assemblymember Phil Ting (D-San Francisco) last month to state the intent of the California Legislature that the California Energy Commission (CEC) administer the State Energy Conservation Assistance Account to provide grants and loans to local governments and public institutions to maximize energy use savings, including technical assistance, demonstrations, and identification and implementation of cost-effective energy efficiency measures and programs in existing and planned buildings or facilities. Additionally, the bill further declares that it is the intent of the California Legislature that the CEC seeks the assistance of utility companies in providing energy audits for local governments and public institutions in publicizing the availability of State Energy Conservation Assistance Account funds to qualified entities. AB 33 has been referred to the Assembly Committee

on Utilities and Energy for review.

Key Discussions/Questions:

- M. Clark expressed that she supported the revised version of AB 33 given that balanced energy is important, provided that the gas is clean.

ACTION ITEMS

16. SB 343 (Allen)

SGVCOG Management Analyst, Alexander Fung, provided a presentation on this item. Introduced by Senator Ben Allen (D-Santa Monica) in February 2021, SB 343 would further declare that it is the public policy of California that claims related to the recyclability of a plastic product be truthful and that consumers deserve accurate and useful information related to properly handling the end of life of a plastic product. The bill would also require the California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle) to update certain regulations to include the types and forms of plastic products and packaging for which a claim of recyclability may be made. SB 343 was recently placed on suspense file by the Senate Appropriations Committee

Key Discussions/Questions:

- D. Bertone inquired about whether this bill would inhibit the producers' ability to produce non-recyclable plastics. Mr. Fung responded that SB 343 only focuses on ensuring that producers would not be able to claim non-recyclable plastics as recyclables.
- J. Stark commented that there should be additional efforts to emphasize on educating the public regarding the recyclability of products.
- R. Arizmendi inquired about the bill's fiscal implications given that additional monitoring efforts were proposed. Mr. Fung responded that the details of the fiscal implications were not available and commented that this was likely the reason for the Senate Appropriations Committee to place the bill on suspense file.

**There was a motion to recommend the Governing Board to support SB 343 (Allen).
(M/S: J. Stark/T. Wu)**

[Motion Passed]

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

17. SB 619 (Laird)

SGVCOG Management Analyst, Alexander Fung, provided a presentation on this item. Introduced by Senator John Laird (D-Monterey) in February 2021, SB 619 would provide additional flexibility and time for local jurisdictions to comply with existing SB 1383

(Lara, 2016) mandates. Until January 1, 2023, SB 619 would require CalRecycle to only impose a penalty on a local jurisdiction, and would require a penalty to only accrue, for a violation of the regulations if the local jurisdiction did not make a reasonable effort, as determined by CalRecycle, to comply with regulations.

Key Discussions/Questions:

- J. Stark inquired about possible rewards for jurisdictions that have made efforts to comply with SB 1383 mandates before the stated deadlines. Mr. Fung responded that the original version of SB 619 included language to reward cities and counties for early actions, but that language was removed in the recent amendments.
- J. Carver commented that some jurisdictions lack resources and staff capacity to comply with SB 1383. J. Stark added that CalRecycle should analyze each jurisdiction’s capacity to comply with the SB 1383 mandates and consider possible extensions to cities and counties based on their individual capacity and resources.
- M. Clark commented that the lack of infrastructure in the region to support jurisdictions to comply with SB 1383 may lead to the spread of diseases and inquired about the City of Claremont’s strategy for residents to discard food waste at curbside pick-ups. Ms. Stark responded that residents were instructed to discard food waste in their green bins.
- C. Liao commented that the City of San Gabriel’s waste hauler developed the American Organics Recycling Facility in Victorville, CA and expressed concerns for apartment and multifamily property tenants who may not have green bins to discard food waste for collection.
- C. Liao commented that jurisdictions that have not started working on SB 1383 compliance may need more than one year to develop the plans needed to comply with the regulations. M. Clark added that most jurisdictions are in the process of developing the plans needed to comply with SB 1383 and commented that a one-year extension of the deadline can assist jurisdictions to comply with the regulations appropriately and effectively.

There was a motion to recommend the Governing Board to support SB 619 (Laird) in concept. (M/S: M. Clark/J. Carver)

[Motion Passed]

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

PRESENTATIONS

18. SoCalGas Hydrogen Presentation

SoCalGas Senior Director of Market Development, Yuri Freedman, provided a

presentation on this item. A global shift to clean molecules and hydrogen plays a key role in meeting the future energy demand as communities move towards net zero emissions. According to SoCalGas, hydrogen is an energy carrier that can be used to store, move, and deliver energy. The element serves as a high efficiency and low polluting fuel that can be used for transportation, heating, and power generation given that it can be transported over long distances and can be suitable for long-term storage.

Key Discussions/Questions:

- D. Bertone sought additional clarification on energy carriers. Mr. Freedman responded that hydrogen is a chemical that is extremely difficult to find in nature. As a result, the most effective to locate hydrogen is to manufacture the chemical. Once manufactured, the hydrogen contains energy that can be carried and used as an energy source.
- C. Liao commented that the League of California Cities proposed building hydrogen cars several years ago and inquired about the energy sources needed to manufacture hydrogen. Mr. Freedman responded that green hydrogen can be manufactured from renewables and water and added that the technology of hydrogen cars has progressed tremendously since several years ago. Additionally, fuel cell electric vehicles have the potential to minimize the emissions' impacts on disadvantaged communities.
- C. Liao emphasized the importance of promoting the safety of driving fuel cell electric vehicles and expressed that additional charging stations in the region can help with fuel cell electric vehicle adoption. Mr. Freedman added that the use of hydrogen is common in various sectors and agreed that safety is a priority when using hydrogen as a fuel source.

19. Southern California Regional Energy Network Multifamily Program

ICF Account Manager, Brianna Moncada, provided a presentation on this item. Earlier this year, the SGVCOG launched a partnership with ICF to promote the Southern California Regional Energy Network (SoCalREN) Residential Program. This program offers multifamily communities throughout the San Gabriel Valley an opportunity to reduce energy use and provide a more comfortable and safer living environment for tenants through property improvements and upgrades.

Key Discussions/Questions:

- D. Bertone inquired whether property owners can apply to the SoCalREN Residential Program without working with their respective local jurisdictions. Ms. Moncada responded that the property owners can reach out to the SoCalREN Residential Program directly.

STAFF ANNOUNCEMENT

20. California Climate Investments Fire Prevention Grant Opportunity

The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) recently released the call-for-projects for the California Climate Investments Fire Prevention Grant Program. This program aims to reduce the risk of wildland fires to habitable structures and communities, while maximizing carbon sequestration in healthy wildland habitats and

minimizing the uncontrolled release of emissions emitted by wildfires.

21. Next Committee Meeting

The committee is scheduled to reconvene on Wednesday, May 19, 2021 at 1:00pm.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no additional announcements.

ADJOURN

D. Bertone adjourned the Energy, Environment, and Natural Resources (EENR) Committee meeting at 2:35 p.m.