



SGVCOG EENR Committee Regular Meeting Minutes

Date: August 18, 2021
Time: 1:00 PM
Location: Zoom Virtual Meeting

PRELIMINARY BUSINESS

1. Call to Order
D. Bertone called the meeting to order at 1:01pm.

2. Roll Call
A quorum was in attendance.

Committee Members Present

Claremont	J. Stark
Duarte	V. Truong
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

Absent

Covina
El Monte
Temple City (Ex-officio)

Guests

City of Alhambra	L. Garcia
City of Alhambra	R. Stover
City of Monrovia	B. Shevlin
City of Pomona	S. Dittman
City of South Pasadena	M. Cacciotti
City of South Pasadena	A. Kasparian
City of South Pasadena	H. Gerber
MSGB Watermaster	L. Augino
National Park Service	S. Elder
Nature for All	B. Bernal
Nature for All	B. Faustinos
RMC	S. Gee
SoCalGas	H. Shaw
South Coast AQMD	R. Yeung
The Trust for Public Land	P. Perrone

SGVCOG Staff

A. Fung, Staff
S. Sousa, Staff

3. Public Comment
There were no public comments at this meeting.

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

CONSENT CALENDAR

5. EENR Meeting Minutes – June 16, 2021

Action: Review and approve.

There was a motion to approve consent calendar item 5. (M/S: C. Liao/M. Clark)

[Motion Passed]

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

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)

R. Yeung provided a verbal report on this item. In addition to the two items included in the South Coast AQMD’s liaison report, the AQMD’s latest newsletter is available. There are several upcoming air quality events, including the ACT Expo and Drive Electric Week. Additionally, the AQMD’s 7th Annual Environmental Justice Conference is scheduled to be held in-person and virtually at the Ontario Convention Center on October 27th.

PRESENTATIONS

15. Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail

Landscape Designer/Planner at the National Park Service, Scott Elder, provided a presentation on this item. The 1,200-mile Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail commemorates the Spanish colonial Anza Expedition of 1775-1776. Part of the trail lies within the San Gabriel Valley, highlighting an opportunity for partnership between the SGVCOG and the Anza Trail. To accomplish this, the National Park Service would establish a partnership certification agreement, creating a certified segment of trail within the San Gabriel Valley. This certification can be used to leverage grants and other beneficial funding/partnership opportunities. Mr. Elder viewed the potential partnership as a way to provide historical meaning to recent efforts encouraging multimodal transportation in the San Gabriel Valley.

Key Discussions/Questions:

- M. Clark inquired about planning for cyclists on certain segments of the Anza Trail. Mr. Elder stated that while the ActiveSGV Network is proposing cyclists' use of the trail, fusing the two entities' (ActiveSGV and the National Park Service) goals together can be beneficial.
- C. Liao suggested that San Gabriel be included in Mr. Elder's partnership proposal for the Anza Trail and the ActiveSGV Network due to San Gabriel's relevant history. Mr. Elder assured Mr. Liao that San Gabriel is already included in the proposal.
- C. Liao inquired whether the City of San Gabriel could apply for grants regarding the City's annual event commemorating the 1781 settlers' walk on Mission Road from San Gabriel to Downtown Los Angeles. Mr. Liao also suggested partnership with the Anza Trail. Mr. Elder suggested further discussion outside of the committee meeting.
- J. Stark inquired whether the Anza Trail extends to Claremont. Mr. Elder suggested committee members visit the Anza Trail Map Collaborator for a more detailed view of the trails' boundaries.
- D. Bertone inquired about the percentage of the Anza Trail that is walkable. Mr. Elder estimated 1/10th of the trail is walkable. Mr. Bertone inquired whether the trail begins in Mexico or the United States. Mr. Elder affirmed that the trail starts in Mexico, but the National Park Service's jurisdiction over the trail begins in Nogales, Arizona.
- S. Gee highlighted the fact that the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works (LACDPW) is currently developing the San Gabriel Valley Freeway Network Study, and that the Department owns a portion of the Anza Trail. Mr. Elder stated that he has been in contact with the LACDPW and that they are enthusiastic about his proposal.

16. Governor Newsom's 30x30 Initiative

Southern California Project Manager at the Trust for Public Land, Paolo Perrone, provided a presentation on this item. Executive Order N-82-20, issued by Governor Newsom last year, directs state agencies to advance strategies that will conserve at least 30% of California's lands and waters by 2030. This effort is designed to help combat climate change, conserve biodiversity, and improve the overall wellbeing of communities in California. Reaching the goal of conserving at least 30% of the state's lands and waters can allow for more equitable public access to outdoor spaces, especially for low-income neighborhoods and communities of color. Senator Portantino recently acquired \$3.7 billion to address climate change, and a significant portion of these funds will be allocated to 30x30 initiative compliance efforts, providing additional funding opportunities for the SGVCOG and others.

Key Discussions/Questions:

- J. Stark announced that public land is available for everyone, regardless of its zip code or area.

UPDATE ITEMS

17. San Gabriel Valley Regional Food Recovery Program

SGVCOG Senior Management Analyst, Alexander Fung, provided updates on this item. At the SGVCOG Solid Waste Working Group meeting on March 25, 2021, several cities expressed an interest in participating in a regional endeavor to comply with SB 1383's edible food recovery regulations, which can include the hiring of an external consultant to conduct activities, such as assessing potential food recovery agencies and their capacities to utilize for SB 1383

requirements, assessing their Tier 1 and Tier 2 generators for current compliance with edible food recovery, preparing guidance, assisting with outreach efforts, and implementing inspection and enforcement programs.

Key Discussions/Questions:

- D. Bertone inquired whether the State reduced disposal of organic waste by 50% by January 1, 2020, in compliance with SB 1383's first target. Mr. Fung responded that the State did not accomplish this target.
- C. Liao stated that while public schools are large generators of food waste, cities do not have jurisdiction over them, and therefore cannot enforce food waste regulations. Mr. Liao inquired about reconciling this issue. Mr. Fung ensured that some level of collaboration between school districts and cities will be established. Mr. Liao requested Mr. Fung to share information about the Regional Food Recovery Program with the City of San Gabriel.
- C. Liao inquired whether food waste that is converted to animal feed is considered "food recovery." Mr. Fung highlighted the definition of SB 1383, which is to recover food for human consumption.
- T. Wu inquired individuals who are qualified to conduct inspections under the Regional Food Recovery Program. Mr. Fung responded that the hired consultants would conduct inspections.
- T. Wu inquired about how cities may join the Regional Food Recovery Program. Mr. Fung stated that the SGVCOG would need a statement of interest from participating cities.
- V. Truong inquired whether MOAs would only be issued to cities that have expressed interest to participate in the Regional Food Recovery Program. Mr. Fung stated that once the SGVCOG receives proposals from the consultants, then staff will execute an MOA with participating cities.

18. Solid Waste Advocacy Updates

SGVCOG Senior Management Analyst, Alexander Fung, provided updates on this item. On January 21, 2021, the Governing Board adopted Resolution 21-03 to affirm the SGVCOG's Legislative Agenda, which includes several solid waste advocacy directions. In addition, the SGVCOG reconvened the Solid Waste Working Group in February 2021 to provide city staff a platform to discuss solid waste topics and SB 1383 compliance efforts. Discussions from the Solid Waste Working Group meetings led to the formation of the Regional Food Recovery Program, which provides assistance to participating cities to comply with SB 1383's food recovery regulations. The SGVCOG is also coordinating with the County of Los Angeles to identify sites in the San Gabriel Valley that can be utilized for constructing recycling facilities.

Key Discussions/Questions:

- C. Liao noted that one CR&R facility that generated renewable natural gas cost \$50 million to construct. Mr. Liao recommended that solid waste be turned into bio char, which is more valuable than compost, and can be used for several purposes.
- C. Liao inquired whether there was a way to find out from CalRecycle if bio char is an acceptable form of food recovery. Mr. Liao also noted that creating bio char is easier and faster than composting, and the facility would only cost about \$3 million. Mr. Fung stated that he would contact CalRecycle and provide updates accordingly.

STAFF ANNOUNCEMENTS

19. Next Committee

The committee is scheduled to reconvene on Wednesday, September 15, 2021 at 1:00pm.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

C. Liao mentioned the EPA's report regarding copper and its ability to kill the corona virus. Mr. Fung suggested that the SGVCOG contact the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health for potential feedback and presentations regarding the EPA's report.

ADJOURN

D. Bertone adjourned the Energy, Environment, and Natural Resources Committee meeting at 1:34pm