



San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments

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Energy, Environment, and Natural Resources Committee

Mary Ann Lutz, Chair
Denis Bertone, Vice-Chair

MINUTES
Wednesday, April 30th, 2008
11:30 a.m.

Metropolitan Water District
700 N. Alameda Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

1.0 Preliminary Business

1.1 Call to Order

M. Lutz called the meeting to order at 11:46 a.m.

1.2 Self-Introductions

Present

S. Pedroza, Claremont
M. Lutz, Monrovia
D. Bertone, San Dimas

Absent

None

Other Agencies

R. Yeung AQMD
H. Shaw Southern California Gas
A. Heil L.A. County Sanitation Districts
D. Iwata City of Monrovia
E. Joffe Clean Fuel Connection, Inc.

SGVCOG Staff

M. Creter
B. Cooke

2.0 Public Communications

There was discussion to identify potential COG Governing Board Members or Alternates that may be interested in joining the EENR Committee.

3.0 Consent Items

3.1 March 26th Minutes

3.2 Correspondence

There was a motion to approve the consent calendar (M/S/C: D. Bertone, S. Pedroza, Unanimous)

4.0 Discussion Items

4.1 Strategic Plan Objectives: May - November 2008

Staff announced that the COG was recently awarded funding under the Watershed Coordinator Grant. There was discussion regarding the activities funded under this grant including watershed coordination efforts for two major subwatersheds: the Upper San Gabriel and Rio Hondo. Activities include water quality improvement, open space preservation and acquisition, natural habitat restoration, and increased recreational opportunities. A Watershed Coordinator will be hired to work closely with the Rivers and Mountains Conservancy and various stakeholder groups and cities surrounding these subwatersheds to coordinate efforts. Members noted the value of this program in bringing city representation to the integrated regional watershed management planning efforts.

Committee members discussed various potential objectives for the May 2008 – November 2008 Strategic Plan:

Conduct Low Emission Vehicle Training: There was extensive discussion regarding the possibility of organizing a low emission vehicle fleet training event in coordination with the Air Quality Management District. Cities are interested in acquiring expert advice for alternative fuel vehicles that will allow them to “go green” as well as adhere to AQMD fleet rules. Members expressed support of the objective to organize and execute such a training that would also incorporate discussion of possible joint purchasing coalitions. D. Bertone was selected to chair a subcommittee to plan this training and E. Joffe, R. Yeung, and D. Iwata volunteered to participate.

Committee members decided to postpone identifying any energy-related objectives until further developments with the CPUC Local Governments Call for Partnerships application.

Execute Trash 101: Trash 101 is tentatively scheduled to take place in September and the target audience are elected officials in the San Gabriel Valley. The purpose of Trash 101 is to educate elected officials on future solid waste needs, issues, and opportunities.

Committee members expressed interest in learning more about various “Zero Waste” efforts taking place in Burbank and the City of Los Angeles.

Monitor, Evaluate, and Distribute Information on Drought-Resistant and Native Plant Landscaping: The City of Los Angeles, as part of its green building initiative, is undertaking extensive research to identify options for drought-resistant and native plant landscaping. Staff will monitor this information in order to provide cities with any useful resources.

Develop a Solid Waste Policy Paper: Currently, the COG has a Water Policy, but does not have policy papers for solid waste, air quality, energy, or open space. Because the Solid Waste Working Group has been convening regularly, Committee members determined that this area would be the most logical topic area with which to develop a COG policy position.

4.2 Recommended Positions for Pending Legislation

i. AB 2829 (Plastic Bags)

Staff shared that the County of Los Angeles, a member agency of the COG, has requested the COG’s support of AB 2829. This legislation failed in the Assembly Committee on Natural Resources but reconsideration has been granted. There was discussion as to the content of the legislation and how it opens the door for local governments to implement a plastic bag fee but does not mandate cities to do so.

There was a motion to recommend to the Governing Board to take a position of “support” for this legislation (M/S/C: D. Bertone, S. Pedroza, Unanimous).

AB 2938 (De Leon)

Staff shared that the Metropolitan Water District has requested the COG’s support of AB 2938. This legislation would require all parties that divert water from the Delta to report baseline information and develop monitoring and sampling programs for their pumping activities to assess impacts on fisheries. This legislation has the support of the League of California Cities as it makes reporting activities fairly enforced across the state.

There was a motion to recommend to the Governing Board to take a position of “support” for this legislation (M/S/C: S. Pedroza, D. Bertone, Unanimous).

Committee members also discussed AB 2823, however, staff reported that this legislation will go directly before the Governing Board as it is of particular importance to the San Gabriel Valley Region.

4.3 Air Working Group Update
None

4.4 Energy Working Group Update
i. California Public Utility Commission: Local Government Partnerships
Staff continues to meet and work with Southern California Edison to refine their application for Local Government Partnerships. Staff discussed the likelihood of contracting with multiple vendors to work with cities on energy retrofitting projects as different firms have different specialties through which to meet each city’s unique needs.

4.5 Open Space Working Group Update
i. Funding Opportunities
There was discussion of the various funding opportunities presented in the agenda packet. A question was raised as to whether it is more appropriate for cities to apply for these funds or the COG. Staff was not sure if city staff was aware of or applying for these funding opportunities. Committee members recommended presenting these funding opportunities to the City Manager’s Technical Advisory Committee.

4.6 Solid Waste Working Group Update
i. Trash 101
None.

4.7 Water Working Group Update
None.

4.8 Strategic Plan Update
All objectives have been met.

5.0 Items for Future Meetings
Committee members directed staff to begin scheduling presentations again.

6.0 Set next meeting date - May 28th

7.0 Adjournment
M. Lutz adjourned the meeting at 1:34 pm.