



# 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, June 25<sup>th</sup>, 2008  
2:00 pm

Monrovia Corporate Yard Building  
600 S. Mountain Avenue  
Monrovia, CA 91016

#### 1.0 Preliminary Business

##### 1.1 Call to Order

M. Lutz called the meeting to order at 2:05 pm.

##### 1.2 Self-Introductions

###### **Present**

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

###### **Absent**

None

###### **Other Agencies**

R. Yeung      AQMD  
D. Iwata      City of Monrovia  
B. Faustinos      Rivers & Mountains Conservancy  
T. Worley      Rivers & Mountains Conservancy  
H. Shaw      Southern California Gas  
R. Ketcham      Consultant to Michael Cacciotti  
A. Dávila      Los Angeles County Internal Services Division

###### **SGVCOG Staff**

M. Creter  
B. Cooke

#### 2.0 Public Communications

A member of the public from the City of San Gabriel joined the meeting due to her recent interest in the water crisis issues.

#### 3.0 Consent Items

##### 3.1 May 28<sup>th</sup> Minutes

##### 3.2 Correspondence

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

#### 4.0 Discussion Items

##### 4.1 Presentation: Drought-Tolerant Landscaping

Ellen Mackey, Ecologist from the Metropolitan Water District, gave a presentation regarding native and drought-resistant landscaping in public areas. She discussed the many advantages of landscaping with native plants including the plants ability to adapt to local wildlife, resist natural pests and diseases, and tolerate drought conditions. All of these advantages equate to an economic benefit and result in lower maintenance costs. In a comparison study in Santa Monica, results indicated that a native garden produced substantially less green waste, required labor hours, and water consumption. Ms. Mackey shared a guidebook called "Care and Maintenance of Southern California Native Plant Gardens" with the committee. Committee members expressed interest in obtaining and distributing copies of this handbook to all San Gabriel Valley cities. She also presented a sample detailed maintenance plan that can be tailored to project-specific sites. The Committee Chair directed follow-up actions to the Watershed Coordinator in future weeks.

##### 4.2 Recommended Positions for Pending Legislation

Staff provided up an update of legislation that the COG has taken positions on already. AB 2640 and 2058 were heard by the Senate Environmental Quality Committee on Monday. Both bills were passed with amendments, however, the amended versions have not been published yet. It was requested that any committee member wishing the COG to consider specific legislation contact COG staff.

##### 4.3 Air Working Group Update

It was announced that the COG/AQMD Alternative Fuel Vehicle/Fleet Management Training flyer has been distributed to all member agencies, school districts, and four additional cities in the region. COG staff is taking reservations and compiling completed surveys. AQMD staff is developing a comprehensive handbook to be distributed with the presentations. A detailed agenda was distributed.

##### 4.4 Energy Working Group Update

It was announced that the San Gabriel Valley Energy Wise Partnership has scheduled its next EnergyWise training targeted to architects and designers for the month of July.

##### 4.5 Open Space Working Group Update

Rivers and Mountains Conservancy distributed information updating committee members on its Project Application Tier 2 applications. Evaluation teams have been set up and will make recommendations to the RMC Board in August.

##### 4.6 Solid Waste Working Group Update

The Solid Waste Working Group Chair reported that it held a successful June meeting prior morning. The draft agenda, incorporating recommended changes from working group members, was passed around. Staff reported that the agenda is modeled after Water Works 101 and is meant to be a basic, introductory course for elected officials. The Chair also reported that the Solid Waste White Paper will be completed after the workshop in order to incorporate ideas and consensus from that event. Staff shared that the Working Group will work with a private database management company to develop a hauling survey/database for the members agencies. This service will be provided free of charge.

##### 4.7 Water Working Group Update

The Water Working Group Chair reported that the working group held its first official meeting with 26 people in attendance from a diverse range of stakeholder groups. Everyone was asked to state one thing they wanted to get out of the working group and then a draft list of goals and objectives was developed. This will be finalized at the group's next meeting.

##### 4.8 Watershed Coordinator Update

Staff reported that the Watershed Coordinator Grant Agreement is expected to be executed by July 1<sup>st</sup>. Staff is working with RMC to finalize subcontractual and MOU arrangements. The Watershed Coordinator will be hired as soon as possible and will work closely with the Water Working Group.

**4.9 Strategic Plan Update**

All items are on schedule.

**4.10 Meeting Date, Time, and Location**

It was determined that future meetings will be held on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the month at 10:30 am.

**5.0 Items for Future Meetings**

None.

**6.0 Set next meeting date**

July 23<sup>rd</sup> at 10:30 am at the Monrovia Corporate Yard Building

**7.0 Adjournment**

M. Lutz adjourned the meeting at 3:30 pm.