



SGVCOG EENR Committee Regular Meeting Minutes

Date: November 18, 2020
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	Jennifer Stark
Covina	Michele Saint
Duarte	Liz Reilly
Rosemead	Margaret Clark
San Dimas	Denis Bertone
Sierra Madre	John Capoccia

Absent

San Gabriel
West Covina
Temple City (Ex-officio)

Guests

Cambridge Systematics	David Von Stroh
ESA	Jeff Caton
Nature for All	Bryan Matsumoto
Sanitation Districts	Maria Rosales-Ramirez
SCAG	Kimberly Clark
SCAG	Lorianne Esturas
SCAG	Sarah Patterson

SGVCOG Staff

P. Hubler, Staff
A. Fung, 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 – October 21, 2020
Action: Approve.

6. Correspondence
Action: Receive and file.

There was a motion to approve consent calendar items 5-6. (M/S: M. Clark/J. Capoccia)

[Motion Passed]

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

LIAISON REPORTS

No verbal report was given unless otherwise noted.

7. Clean Power Alliance
8. San Gabriel Mountains Community Collaborative
9. San Gabriel Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District (MVCD)
10. Trust for Public Land
11. San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy (RMC)
12. Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County
13. Southern California Edison
14. Southern California Gas Company
15. South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD)

ACTION ITEM

16. 2021 EENR Legislative Priorities
SGVCOG staff provided an overview presentation on this item. The SGVCOG Governing Board adopts various legislative priorities in concurrence with the Strategic Plan on an annual basis. The purpose of the legislative priorities is to outline the position of the Governing Board on priority issues and matters that impact the San Gabriel Valley. These legislative priorities were developed based on feedback and input from the SGVCOG policy committees and aim to address several regulatory, funding, and structural challenges faced by San Gabriel Valley cities. SGVCOG staff is currently working to develop a list of environmental legislative priorities to be presented to the SGVCOG Governing Board for adoption.

Key Discussions/Questions:

- J. Stark inquired about additional clarifications to promote zero waste objectives given that many restaurants are currently using single-use plastics in their establishments. SGVCOG staff responded that the SGVCOG tracks waste reduction and zero waste legislation on an ongoing basis; however, SGVCOG staff is willing to collaborate with member agencies to expand zero waste outreach to local communities and businesses.
- M. Clark expressed a concern regarding the proposed clause to “support regional, state, and federal efforts to implement laws, policies, and regulations that promote zero waste objectives” due to difficult laws and regulations for local jurisdictions to comply with. Ms. Clark suggested to change the clause to “support regional, state, and federal efforts to implement policies that promote zero waste objectives.”

- M. Clark expressed another concern regarding the proposed clause to “support efforts to strengthen curbside recycling programs and oppose efforts to weaken such programs” and suggested to change to language to “support efforts to improve curbside recycling programs.”

There was a motion made to recommend the SGVCOG Governing Board to adopt the 2021 EENR Legislative Priorities with the following changes:

- **Replace “Support regional, state, and federal efforts to implement laws, policies, and regulations that promote zero waste objectives” with “Support regional, state, and federal efforts to implement policies that promote zero waste objectives.”**
- **Replace “Support efforts to strengthen curbside recycling programs and oppose efforts to weaken such programs” with “Support efforts to improve curbside recycling programs.”**

**(M/S: L. Reilly/J. Stark)
 [Motion Passed]**

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

PRESENTATIONS

17. Food Waste Recycling Program

Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County Senior Engineer, Maria Rosales-Ramirez, provided a presentation on this item. After a decade of evolving economics and logistics to generate more renewable energy production using increased volumes of source separated organics, the Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County have pivoted to a full-fledged commercial operation by transitioning their pilot food waste digestion and biogas generating system into one of the nation’s largest integrated, food waste recycling programs. In addition to receiving competitive rates to process food waste from private sector generators, the Districts’ ability to effectively utilize an unlevered asset in the form of excess digestion capacity has led to additional environmental benefits, such as achieving climate change goals and creating greenhouse gas credits due to the ability to divert energy-rich food waste from landfills to generate renewable energy.

Key Discussions/Questions:

- L. Reilly inquired about the facility’s energy-generating capacity. Ms. Rosales-Ramirez responded that the facility generates 20 megawatts of energy every year, which is enough to power 20,000 residential homes.

- M. Clark inquired about whether plastic bags would be taken out before the food waste is shredded by the processing facility. Ms. Rosales-Ramirez responded that the facility automatically removes plastic bags and plastic utensils from the food waste.
- M. Clark inquired about the process to remove food waste from general trash bins. Ms. Rosales-Ramirez responded that some haulers have specific trucks and routes dedicated to collecting source-separated food waste from residential and commercial units.

18. San Gabriel Mountains Transit and Infrastructure Program

Nature For All Program Organizer, Bryan Matsumoto, provided a presentation on this item. Nature For All recently launched the San Gabriel Mountains Transit and Infrastructure Program to accelerate the planning and pilot demonstrations for Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority's (Metro) Gold Line rail connector shuttles, walk routes, and related programs to the San Gabriel Mountains and nearby natural spaces. The program aims to address critical regional needs by connecting "park poor" communities to open space and providing access for disadvantaged communities to visit the San Gabriel Mountains.

Key Discussions/Questions:

- J. Capoccia inquired about whether Nature For All would consider establishing a bus station near the Mt. Wilson trailhead in Sierra Madre. Mr. Matsumoto responded that Nature For All will reach out and follow up with Mr. Capoccia.
- L. Reilly commented that the program's support letters should be directed at Metro to obtain additional funding for the program.
- M. Clark inquired about whether Nature For All requires additional support letters from the SGVCOG. Mr. Matsumoto responded that Nature For All will reach out to SGVCOG staff after the meeting to request additional support letters.

19. Southern California Regional Climate Adaptation Framework

SCAG representatives provided a presentation on this item. The Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) developed the Regional Climate Adaptation Framework to assist local and regional jurisdictions to manage the negative impacts of climate change. The study explores how Southern California jurisdictions can collaborate and prepare for the impacts of sea level rise, extreme heat, increasingly frequent and damaging wildfires, and other climate-related issues. As part of this effort, SCAG has worked closely with local jurisdictions, advocacy groups, universities, and other stakeholders to assess the unique issues affecting the SCAG region, available planning tools and resources, scientific data, and outreach strategies.

Key Discussions/Questions:

- M. Clark commented that accessory dwelling unit (ADU) regulations from the State can possibly lead to a reduction of trees in residential areas, thereby causing heat island effects in the community.

STAFF ANNOUNCEMENT

20. Next Committee Meeting

The upcoming committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 20, 2021 at 1:00pm.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

L. Reilly and J. Capoccia announced that they will be retiring from the committee after this meeting given that they will be leaving their respective city councils next month. Committee members expressed their appreciation for Ms. Reilly and Mr. Capoccia for their dedication to serving the San Gabriel Valley.

ADJOURN

D. Bertone adjourned the Energy, Environment, and Natural Resources (EENR) Committee meeting at 2:57 p.m.