



**SGVCOG EENR Committee Approved Meeting Minutes**

Date: October 21, 2020  
Time: 1:00 PM  
Location: Zoom Virtual Meeting

**PRELIMINARY BUSINESS**

1. Call to Order  
D. Bertone called the meeting to order at 1:03 p.m.
  
2. Roll Call  

|                            |                          |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| <b>Members Present:</b>    | <b>Members Absent:</b>   |
| Claremont – J. Stark       | San Gabriel              |
| Covina – M. Saint          | West Covina              |
| Duarte – L. Reilly         | Temple City (Ex-officio) |
| Rosemead – M. Clark        |                          |
| San Dimas – D. Bertone     |                          |
| Sierra Madre – J. Capoccia |                          |

  

|                      |  |
|----------------------|--|
| <b>SGVCOG Staff:</b> | <b>Guests:</b>                                 |
| A. Fung, Staff       | C. Sheppard, Los Angeles County DPW            |
|                      | K. Vazifdar, Los Angeles County DPW            |
|                      | D. Upadhyay, Metropolitan Water District       |
|                      | L. Cetina, Metropolitan Water District         |
|                      | Joe Gonzalez, Rivers and Mountains Conservancy |
  
3. Public Comment  
There were no public comments at this meeting.
  
4. Changes to Agenda Order: Identify emergency items arising after agenda posting and requiring action prior to next regular meeting.  
There were no changes to the agenda order.

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

5. EENR Meeting Minutes – September 16, 2020  
*Recommended Action: Approve.*
6. 2020 San Gabriel Valley Energy Champion Awards Progress Report  
*Recommended Action: Receive and file.*
7. Correspondence  
*Recommended Action: Receive and file.*

**There was a motion made to approve consent calendar items 6-7. (M/S: L. Reilly/M. Clark)**

**[Motion Passed]**

|                          |  |
|--------------------------|--|
| <b>AYES:</b>             | Claremont, Duarte, Rosemead, San Dimas, Sierra Madre |
| <b>NOES:</b>             |  |
| <b>ABSTAIN</b>           |  |
| <b>NO VOTE RECORDED:</b> | Covina   |
| <b>ABSENT:</b>           | San Gabriel, West Covina                             |

## LIAISON REPORTS

8. Clean Power Alliance  
There were no updates from the Clean Power Alliance.
9. San Gabriel Mountains Community Collaborative  
L. Reilly provided a written report on this item. The Collaborative’s Steering Committee and topical ad-hoc committees are working to enhance the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument’s management and accessibility for local communities.
10. San Gabriel Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District (MVCD)  
There were no updates from the San Gabriel Valley MVCD.
11. Trust for Public Land  
There were no updates from the Trust for Public Land.
12. San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy (RMC)  
J. Gonzalez provided a written report on this item. The RMC has issued a second round of Proposition 68 Call-for-Projects and eligible applicants can submit applications before December 16, 2020. Additionally, RMC has also issued a Call-for-Projects for a new Small Grants and Very Small Grants Program to support additional environmental and economic revitalization efforts that were delayed and worsened as a result of the COVID-19 Pandemic.
13. Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County  
M. Rosales provided a written report on this item. The Sanitation Districts are working to analyze novel coronavirus that are entering the wastewater system. The data collected may be useful in identifying trends of infection in the community and could help provide an early warning of the next wave of COVID-19.
14. Southern California Edison  
There were no updates from Southern California Edison.
15. Southern California Gas Company  
There were no updates from SoCalGas.
16. South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD)  
R. Yeung provided a written report on this item. The AQMD requests residents to participate in its “Check Before You Burn” Program by not burning wood in fireplaces when unhealthy air quality is forecasted. The AQMD may issue mandatory no-burn alerts from November 1<sup>st</sup>

through the end of February. No-burn alerts are issued for 24-hour periods for residential wood-burning fireplaces, backyard fire pits, and wood stoves when emissions and stagnant weather conditions raise fine particulate pollution to unhealthy levels.

## **PRESENTATIONS**

### **17. Los Angeles County Civil Grand Jury Report on Food Waste Reduction**

Los Angeles County Department of Public Works Senior Civil Engineer, Christopher Sheppard, provided a presentation on this item. The 2019-2020 Los Angeles County Civil Grand Jury was motivated to investigate how the County of Los Angeles will reduce organic waste sent to landfills by 75% by 2025 as a result of China's initiative to limit the allowable contamination levels in imported bales of recyclables and recent State organic waste laws. After conducting thorough investigations, the Civil Grand Jury discovered that only 4% of the County's organic waste recycling infrastructure can accept food waste and that the County faces a significant shortfall of food waste recycling facilities. Based on these findings, the Civil Grand Jury issued a report to recommend Los Angeles County jurisdictions to implement activities and programs to reduce food waste.

#### Key Discussions/Questions:

- D. Bertone inquired about garbage disposals' role in handling food waste. Mr. Sheppard responded that a majority of food waste ends up in the trash and not garbage disposals. Most food waste ends up in the black trash bins and they each contain an average of 40% to 60% organic waste.
- L. Reilly commented that most students in schools and campuses dispose food waste in trash bins and recommended schools to be involved with efforts to reduce food waste in the community.
- M. Clark commented that schools are not required to implement food waste programs and inquired about the possibility of working with CalRecycle or another agency to incentivize school districts to reduce food waste. Mr. Sheppard responded that there are some requirements for schools to comply with SB 1383 in the near future. Several schools implemented food waste reduction programs when AB 1826 was being implemented; however, those programs were extremely labor-intensive and eventually discontinued due to staff turnovers or waste hauler changes.
- M. Clark inquired about requirements for food waste curbside pick-ups. Mr. Sheppard responded that there are currently no requirements to implement food waste curbside pick-up programs; however, local jurisdictions can develop different methods to recycle organic materials.
- J. Stark expressed an interest in working with school districts to invest in programs that help students reduce food waste by discouraging students to discard leftover food and inquired about the possibility of implementing mandatory residential composting programs. Mr. Sheppard responded that mandatory residential composting is not a requirement; however, the County highly encourages cities to educate residents on composting. The County also hosts workshops to promote backyard composting and installs gardens in local schools.
- J. Stark inquired about the possibility of the County providing funding or support for local jurisdictions to implement compost educational programs. Mr. Sheppard responded

that the County currently does not have grants available for cities to promote educational campaigns; however, the County is exploring the possibility of establishing a grant program for recycling and processing facilities.

- L. Reilly inquired about the possibility of backyard composts counting towards a city's diversion requirements. Mr. Sheppard responded that the composts would not be calculated given that the composts do not appear in the waste stream. On the other hand, SB 1383 requires local jurisdictions to establish organic ordinance, which creates penalties for not signing up for organics collection services. Jurisdictions will have the ability to consider imposing a mandate for residents to report backyard recycling.

**18. Proposition 68 Call-for-Projects**

RMC Project Development Analyst, Joseph Gonzalez, provided a presentation on this item. RMC recently has opened a second round of call-for-projects for Proposition 68 projects and over \$20 million will be made available during this cycle. Of the \$20 million, at least 80% of the funds will be allocated towards implemented projects and the remaining funds will be allocated towards planning projects and technical assistance efforts. Grant applications for the second round of RMC Proposition 68 call-for-projects are due December 16, 2020. Questions and inquiries can be directed to [info@rmc.ca.gov](mailto:info@rmc.ca.gov).

Key Discussions/Questions:

- D. Bertone directed SGVCOG staff to share the Proposition 68 Call-for-Projects information with SGVCOG member agencies.

**19. Regional Recycled Water Program**

MWD Assistant General Manager/Chief Operating Officer, Deven Upadhyay, provided a presentation on this item. MWD is currently partnering with the Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County to develop a Regional Recycled Water Program. This program will purify wastewater to produce high-quality water that could be used again. Once completed, this program can become one of the largest advanced water treatment plants in the world. The process begins with wastewater discharged from homes, businesses, and industry facilities. After being cleaned and treated, the wastewater flows to an advanced water treatment plant where it is further purified. The water then subsequently replenishes groundwater basins and is eventually pumped up, disinfected, and used again. It is expected that this program will be fully operational as early as 2032.

Key Discussions/Questions:

- D. Bertone inquired whether recycled water is currently being used and channeled into underground basins in the San Gabriel Valley region. Mr. Upadhyay responded that the San Gabriel Valley and various other regions are currently using recycled water in both underground and above ground basins.
- M. Clark inquired about the program's role in sending stormwater to the Sanitation Districts for purification. Mr. Upadhyay responded that the MWD funded the development of concept papers that address stormwater captures. The cost of stormwater capture is highly variable; however, the Regional Recycled Water Program explores the possibility to funnel the first flush flows into wastewater capture systems that could feed into a recycle water facility during storm events. Understanding that the first flush flows

typically include various water pollutants, the MWD is currently discussing with the Sanitation Districts regarding the development of this program.

- M. Clark inquired about possible challenges that may halt the development of the Regional Recycled Water Program given that the showers-to-flowers issue has halted a project at the Miller Brewery in the past. Mr. Upadyay responded that the MWD is developing a major outreach and education campaign to obtain public support. Additionally, the recent drought events in the past decade motivated the public to support water purification as a water supply source.

#### **STAFF ANNOUNCEMENT**

**20. Upcoming Energy Work Group Meeting**

The Energy Work Group will reconvene on Tuesday, December 8, 2020 at 1:30pm.

**21. Next Committee Meeting**

The upcoming committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 18, 2020 at 1:00pm.

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There were no additional announcements.

#### **ADJOURN**

D. Bertone adjourned the meeting at 2:39 p.m.