



## MINUTES

### SUNNYVALE SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION

APRIL 16, 2012

The Sustainability Commission met in regular session in the West Conference Room at 7:00 p.m. with Chair Harrison presiding.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

#### **ROLL CALL**

##### **Commission Members Present:**

Commission Chair Sue Harrison  
Commission Vice Chair Regina Wheeler  
Commissioner Barbara Fukumoto  
Commissioner Gerry Glaser  
Commissioner Dan Hafeman  
Commissioner Joe Green-Heffern

##### **Commission Members Absent:**

Amit Srivastava (Excused)

**Council Liaison:** Councilmember Tara Martin-Milius (Present)

**Staff Present:** Melody Tovar, Regulatory Programs Division Manager  
Rebecca Moon, Assistant City Attorney  
Dustin Clark, Environmental Sustainability Coordinator, Staff Liaison

**Other:** Councilmember Jim Davis

#### **SCHEDULED PRESENTATION**

Rebecca Moon, Assistant City Attorney, gave a presentation on the Brown Act to the Commission. The presentation was requested staff as a result of the Commissions interest in creating a Commission maintained Google calendar to post sustainability related events of interest to the Commission, including seminars, webinars, meetings and other public events. Staff felt it was appropriate to have the City Attorney's office provide feedback due to Brown Act issues that could potentially arise. Assistant City Attorney Moon discussed Brown Act issues related to the calendar and provided scenarios and feedback to Commissioners about appropriate interactions and conduct should multiple Commissioners attend the same event. As a result, staff will look for alternatives to the Google calendar while helping the Commission stay informed about upcoming events. One scenario is to create an events box accessible to the Commission and public that staff will populate with events submitted by Commissioners.

#### **PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Chair Harrison opened the public hearing to public announcements.

There were no announcements.

Chair Harrison closed the public hearing.

### **CONSENT CALENDAR**

1.A. Approval of draft minutes of Sustainability Commission meeting of March 19, 2012.

**Commissioner Hafeman moved and Vice Chair Wheeler seconded a motion to approve the meeting minutes from March 19.**

**VOTE: 6-0 (Vote to approve was unanimous; Commissioner Srivastava absent)**

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Chair Harrison opened the public hearing to public comments.

There were no comments.

Chair Harrison closed the public hearing.

### **PUBLIC HEARINGS/GENERAL BUSINESS**

1. DISCUSSION: Community Choice Aggregation

The Commission had a lengthy discussion on Community Choice Aggregation (CCA). CCA is a system adopted into law in California which allows cities and counties to secure alternative energy supply contracts and sell the green energy to customers within their jurisdiction. A CCA does not change the energy distribution, rather the supply.

Commissioner Glaser commented that if the City is going to achieve what the City is mandated to achieve as far as the Climate Action Plan (CAP), in order to achieve the CEQA gains that the City is looking for in industry and other places and even if the City accomplishes every other measure, the City cannot satisfy the dictated measures that the state is looking for in order for the City to put the plan together, without a CCA. Commissioner Glaser commented that the City just doesn't have enough in the CAP to achieve the necessary emission reductions without a CCA. Commissioner Glaser offered to volunteer his time and assistance in researching the feasibility of a CCA for Sunnyvale should staff make that request.

Commissioner Green-Heffern expressed a need for a one page summary related to the CCA process.

Environmental Sustainability Coordinator Clark provided the Commission an update on the process currently underway in Richmond. Richmond is studying the possibility of joining the

CCA currently establish in Marin. Richmond's study, which has been underway for over 13 months and with a \$50,000 budget, is scheduled to come back to their City Council on April 24 for a full staff report. The staff report is expected to be their most complete to date and will be very informative of the entire CCA process they have undertaken. Sunnyvale staff believes Richmonds report will answer many questions about the CCA process and help guide the discussion and efforts in Sunnyvale, should a CCA be of interest.

Commissioner Harrison commented on the issue of power reliability and whether a CCA would help address the reliability issues in the City. The reliability issues experienced by the city are due to energy transmission infrastructure and not a lack of electricity. A CCA would not address reliability issues because it is only a mechanism to acquire alternative energy and not transmit it. PG&E retains ownership and responsibility for infrastructure and delivery of the energy sourced by the CCA.

Commissioner Hafeman commented as to whether a CCA promotes private financing for building renewable energy projects and if it does that's exciting. Commissioner Hafeman commented that that is really what we are talking about; how can we get more renewable power on the grid. Commissioner Hafeman commented on personal experience regarding his family farm in Nebraska. There is a company with full funding and shovel ready for a 500 MW wind farm and nothing is happening because no utility will buy the electricity. If there was a CCA able to buy the energy that project would move forward. Commissioner Hafeman commented that if that kind of thing is happening in California Commissioner Hafeman can really see the purpose for the CCA.

Chair Harrison opened the public hearing to public comments.

There were no comments.

Chair Harrison closed the public hearing.

## 2. ACTION: Proposal of Study Issues

During this year's study issue process, the study issue forwarded to Council for the establishment of a Sustainability Fund was dropped. Commissioner Glaser proposed the Sustainability Commission send the study issue back to Council for reconsideration with some modifications. Commissioner Glaser commented that the study issue previously forwarded did not capture the intent of the proposal which was not just a rebudgeting item for the City, but a way of demonstrating that if there are sustainability projects in the City, either public or private, that once funded show savings, those project savings would pay back the Sustainability Fund with recovery costs and a bonus to be carried to the next project. Commissioner Glaser views the LED streetlight conversion as the quintessential example of the type of project the Sustainability Fund is intended.

**Commissioner Glaser moved and Commissioner Green-Heffern seconded a motion to reconsider a study issue to establish a Sustainability Demonstration Fund.**

**Vote 6-0 (Vote was unanimous; Commissioner Srivastava absent)**

Commissioner Glaser proposed a study issue to identify sites at public facilities that would be appropriate for electric vehicle (EV) charging stations. Electric vehicles are becoming more prevalent on the road and many cities are installing EV charging stations at various public sites. Commissioner Glaser commented that at every park he has visited in Los Gatos he has been able to locate and use an EV charging station.

**Commissioner Glaser moved and Commissioner Harrison seconded a motion to propose a study issue to identify appropriate sites at City facilities to install electric vehicles (EV) charging stations for use by the public.**

**VOTE 6-0 (Vote was unanimous; Commissioner Srivastava absent)**

Chair Harrison opened the public hearing to public comments.

There were no comments.

Chair Harrison closed the public hearing.

## **NON-AGENDA ITEMS AND COMMENTS**

### Commissioner Oral Comments

Commissioner Glaser commented on a Bay Area Climate Collaborative (BACC) webinar in which he participated. One informative piece of information from the webinar was the number of changes that are occurring for EV charging stations. Commissioner Glaser commented that the BACC stated that one of the major things with electric vehicles has been an attitude shift from “range anxiety” to concerns about how fast one can charge up.

Commissioner Glaser commented that there is a Bus Rapid Transit meeting in Sunnyvale on April 17<sup>th</sup>.

Commissioner Fukumoto commented that the Drive Less Challenge will be going between April 22 and May 5. The Drive Less Challenge is a friendly social competition encouraging individuals to do less solo driving. Participants keep track of how they get from place to place, and take opportunities to bike, walk, carpool and take transit instead of driving alone in a car. Prizes will be awarded for most green travel, greenest group, least driving/greenest travel and greatest green improvement.

Commissioner Fukumoto commented that she fully supported Commissioner Wheeler’s idea last meeting about hoping the Green Building Ordinance (GBO) pushed further next time. Commissioner Fukumoto sympathized with Commissioner Glaser’s dissenting vote and his supporting comments for his vote. Commissioner Fukumoto commented that the State Energy Plan strives to get all existing buildings 40% more efficient by 2020 and suspects the proposed GBO did not rise to that level and therefore hopes Planning will really take a stronger look at remodel energy efficiency in the next round.

**INFORMATION ONLY ITEMS**

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dustin Clark, Environmental Sustainability Coordinator

Reviewed by: John Stufflebean, Director of Environmental Services  
Melody Tovar, Regulatory Programs Division Manager

DRAFT