



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, March 26th, 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 11:40 a.m.

1.2 Self-Introductions

Present

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

Absent

M. Cacciotti, South Pasadena
E. Joffe, Sierra Madre

Other Agencies

R. Yeung AQMD
R. Ketchum AQMD
L. Cetina MWD
A. Heil LACSD
J. Smith LA County Dept of Parks & Recreation
R. Aranjó Energy Solutions

SGVCOG Staff

M. Creter
B. Cooke

2.0 Public Communications

M. Lutz gave an update regarding scheduling a presentation to the Governing Board about their Plastic Bag Program. The SGVCOG Executive Committee met and recognized that due to the full Governing Board presentation schedule in the coming months, the information would be best utilized through distribution to member agencies for independent action. M. Lutz suggested that in the future, the Executive Committee determine if a presentation to the full Board is necessary, and if not, then the legislation should be included in the Governing Board packet as a staff report.

3.0 Consent Items

3.1 January 23rd 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 Environmental Model Ordinances Update

Staff presented the model ordinance collection to the Committee. In its current form, collected ordinances and supporting documents are posted in a matrix on the SGVCOG website where visitors can download the listed items.

Committee members suggested the following additions to the collection:

- Ahwanhee Principles
- MTA Bicycle Plan
- US Conference of Mayors Climate Action Plan

There was discussion about also adding links to organizations working on these issues including non-profits, businesses, and consultants that may act as resources to cities wishing to take action.

4.2 Recommended Positions for Pending Legislation

The Committee discussed the following legislative items:

- *AB 1646: Clean Fuels Program*

AQMD presented an overview of this legislation which extends the existing law funding the Clean Fuels Program by removing the upcoming sunset date set for December 31st, 2008. Support of this bill has no impact on the State budget. AQMD does not expect any opposition to this bill.

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 2347: Mercury Thermostat Collection Program*

Staff explained that this legislation would be an example of producer responsibility as discussed in last month’s presentation by the California Product Stewardship Campaign. Businesses selling thermostats would be required to act as collection points for the recycling of mercury thermostats. Currently, this legislation is supported by CPSC, the Sierra Club, a number of municipalities, and the California Retailers Association. 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).

- *HR 2847: Green Jobs Act of 2007*

Staff gave a brief description of this federal legislation sponsored by Congresswoman Hilda Solis. The request is for appropriations of \$125 million for the approved program. The program would target retraining

individuals who have traditionally worked in blue collar jobs that are now being shipped overseas in “green collar jobs” being developed in the renewable energy and energy efficiency industries. 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).

- *SB 1391 and AB 2938*
MWD staff presented an overview of these spot bills. SB 1391 would effectively remove the definition of recycled water as a type of “waste” in effect encouraging the development of a potential market for businesses of recycled water. AB 2938 would fund the state's share for the construction and installation of screens on conduits in order to mitigate negative impacts on fisheries, as required by existing law. Committee members determined that because the language of the bill is still being developed that it is too early to take a position. MWD staff agreed to distribute via email any updates on the bill’s development to the Committee.

4.3 Air Working Group Update

Staff distributed a proposal made to the City of Monrovia regarding a half-day alternative fuel workshop. City of Monrovia staff has requested the COG to distribute this information to member agencies in order to determine if any other cities would be interested in partnering for this workshop. Committee members recommended that staff distribute this information to the City Managers and Public Works Technical Advisory Committees as well. AQMD staff offered to research the potential for AQMD funds to sponsor this type of workshop.

4.4 Energy Working Group Update

- i. California Public Utility Commission Call for Abstracts: Local Government Partnerships

M. Lutz reported that staff was able to complete and submit its application for this grant. Staff gave a brief overview of the grant program which will provide workshops, energy audits, and retrofitting loans to San Gabriel Valley cities for the purpose of increasing energy efficiency.

4.5 Open Space Working Group Update

- i. Rivers and Mountains Conservancy Update

D. Bertone distributed maps depicting the RMC’s Rivers and Tributaries Program Area, Mountains, Hills and Foothills Program Area, and Urban Lands Program Area Tier 1 and Tier 2 Recommendations for funding. The maps were developed as a result of the RMC’s Green Visioning partnership with the University of Southern California. These projects were recently notified of the next steps for the application procedures.

4.6 Solid Waste Working Group Update

- i. Los Angeles County Conversion Technology Report

S. Pedroza, Solid Waste Working Group Chair, updated the Committee regarding its March 25th meeting. LA County Public Works staff gave a presentation on conversion technology, a topic that will also be featured in Trash 101. There was discussion on methods to encourage more elected officials to attend the Solid Waste Working Group.

ii. Trash 101

Trash 101 will focus on LACSD's waste-by-rail project and the conversion technology developments. The Committee recommended scheduling the Trash 101 program for September.

4.7 Water Working Group Update

No update.

4.8 Strategic Plan Update

- *Develop a legislative clearinghouse for all environmental ordinances adopted by SGV cities.*
This objective has been met.
- *Develop and present to all cities a menu of environmental funding opportunities.*
Staff was directed to coordinate with B. Faustinos to include this item on next month's agenda.
- *Ensure that Tim Jochem makes a presentation on water conservation and recycling to the SGVCOG Board*
Staff was directed to schedule this presentation for the Governing Board in the fall.
- *Report to the SGVCOG Board on RMC (Rivers and Mountains Conservancy) and SMMC (Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy) project priorities for the San Gabriel Valley*
This report has been presented to the EENR Committee and must now be including in the Governing Board packet as a staff report.
- *Develop and coordinate a Trash 101 training program for all SGVCOG members*
Staff was directed to coordinate with the Solid Waste Working Group Chair and SGVCOG Executive Director a September date for this workshop.

5.0 Items for Future Meetings

- Menu of environmental funding opportunities

6.0 Set next meeting date

The next meeting will be held on April 28th at 11:30 a.m. at the Metropolitan Water District.

7.0 Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 1:15 p.m. by M. Lutz.