



# San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments

3452 East Foothill Blvd. Suite 810, Pasadena, California 91107 Phone: (626) 564-9702 FAX: (626) 564-1116 E-Mail [SGV@sgvcog.org](mailto:SGV@sgvcog.org)

## Energy, Environment, and Natural Resources Committee

Mary Ann Lutz, Chair  
Denis Bertone, Vice-Chair

### MINUTES

Wednesday, January 23<sup>rd</sup>, 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 11:46 a.m.

##### 1.2 Self-Introductions

###### Present

S. Pedroza, Claremont  
M. Lutz, Monrovia  
D. Bertone, San Dimas  
M. Cacciotti, South Pasadena  
E. Joffe, Sierra Madre

###### Absent

None

###### Other Agencies

T. Whorley RMC  
R. Yeung AQMD  
L. Cetina MWD  
H. Shaw Southern California Gas  
A. Heil L.A. County Sanitation Districts  
J. Smith L.A. County Dept of Parks and Recreation

###### SGVCOG Staff

M. Creter  
B. Cooke

#### 2.0 Public Communications

Three subsequent need items were indicated as updates regarding new MWD Program funding, RMC Call for Projects, and Regional Water Quality Control Board came to the attention of board member's during its January meeting. Action on these items would require finding a subsequent need consideration to be added to the agenda. A motion was made specifying subsequent need due to time constraints. (M/S/C: D. Bertone, M. Cacciotti, Unanimous)

### **3.0 Consent Items**

#### **3.1 November 21<sup>st</sup>, Minutes**

#### **3.2 Correspondence**

SGVCOG staff distributed several additional articles.

There was a motion to approve the consent calendar (M/S/C: M. Cacciotti, S. Pedroza, Unanimous)

### **4.0 Discussion Items**

#### **4.1 Presentation by the California Wild Heritage Campaign**

Mr. Jim Blomquist of the California Wild Heritage Campaign presented to the committee concerning the future of the San Gabriel Mountains. The first major objective of the campaign relevant to this region is to encourage legislation that will protect uneroded sections of federal land as “protected wilderness” and certain areas that are eligible for “wild and scenic river” designations. The designation of “wilderness” requires an act of Congress, and will be a powerful step towards preserving natural landscape. The second objective he discussed was encouraging the advancement of developed recreation in support of the US Forest Service. Mr. Blomquist explained that the US Forest Service is facing severe budget cuts and in response, is planning to close many of its facilities. He highlighted the uniqueness of the San Gabriel Mountains in that nowhere else in the country is a national forest so close to an urban area, and the benefit of creating a San Gabriel National Recreation Center as a resource for nearby communities.

Committee members discussed the following issues:

- Many of the cities along the foothills have taken aggressive stances to preserve land that borders the San Gabriel Mountains.
- Cities have been buying land to buffer the interface between cities and forest area, but have not realized in full what is taking place up in the mountains.
- Los Angeles Co. Parks and Recreation plans may not be paying enough attention to the recreation opportunities afforded by the San Gabriel Mountains. This is an opportunity to collaborate to find overlap and opportunities for residents to benefit from.
- Watershed protection is part of water conservation message

Possible action: Letter of Support for this campaign should be discussed and formulated in working groups and then move to the committee and governing board levels.

#### **4.2 SGVCOG Strategic Plan Update**

There were no comments or changes to the adopted SGVCOG Strategic Plan.

#### **4.3 Draft EENR Working Group Descriptions**

Committee members were satisfied with the working group descriptions and objectives. Committee members suggested several additional potential partners for all working groups.

Committee members discussed the composition of the working groups and who the COG would invite to participate. Staff was directed to consult with the chairs of each working group individually to get suggestions for who to invite in addition to contacting all city staff departments directly. It was agreed that the SGV Economic Partnership as well as private industry should be invited to participate.

#### **4.4** SGV Cities' Model Environmental Ordinances Update

Committee members approved the letter to be sent out to city managers requesting environment-related ordinances for this data collection effort. Committee members suggested adding solid waste, traffic congestion management (i.e. bikeability, walkability), and General Plan elements to the list of ordinances being collected. Staff reported that they have begun collecting model ordinances.

M. Lutz reiterated that the purpose of this effort is not to craft ordinances, but rather to be a clearinghouse for those that already exist. E. Joffe suggested also including in this effort a list of possible barriers to implementation (i.e. permitting processes).

L. Cetina announced that the San Gabriel Valley Coalition of Chambers would like to recognize cities who adopt model ordinances such as low emissions for vehicle fleets.

#### **4.5** Legislative Matrix

Committee members decided that because there is not much activity in the legislature right now surrounding the listed legislative bills that all members review these bills and come prepared to the next meeting to recommend to “support”, “oppose”, or “watch” the bill. Staff was directed to list positions taken by other agencies on the legislative matrix.

#### **4.6** L.A. County Plastic Bag Study Update

Staff shared that the L.A. County Board of Supervisors voted to adopt an ordinance in unincorporated areas to promote voluntary reductions of plastic bag consumptions to achieve a 30% reduction by 2010 and 65% reduction by 2013. If these thresholds are not met, the Board of Supervisors will then discuss again a possible ban on plastic bags.

Committee members were disappointed that the County chose to adopt the weakest of the proposed alternatives, and pointed to the fact that this will be a weak model for cities to follow. Committee members discussed the possibility of taking a formal position on this issue.

Recommended Action: The solid waste working group was tasked to investigate the appropriate position for the COG.

**4.7 Metropolitan Water District Water Conservation Program Funding**

Committee members discussed the new MWD program funding for conservation projects. M. Lutz explained that one of the objectives is to encourage those cities that have not implemented water conservation strategies to do so in order that cities that have taken measures do not bear all the burden.

L. Cetina recommended that staff from MWD present to the City Manager's Association and Technical Advisory Committee about the rebate opportunities with purpose to get this information out to the city managers and create a unified message among jurisdictions.

MWD staff shared with the committee many of the features of the program that will help the public sector increase avoided cost through technology. Public sector incentives are 2 ½ times the private sector incentives being offered. Additionally, MWD will do a free audit of a public sector building as well as contract with cities to pay for recycled water.

It was suggested that MWD staff present this information to the Governing Board as well.

**4.8 Rivers and Mountains Conservancy Call for Projects Update**

RMC staff shared that RMC Projects have been prioritized into Tiers 1 and 2. Next month RMC staff will present a more detailed briefing about the projects.

**4.9 Regional Water Quality Control Board Open Seats**

Committee members agreed to ask the Executive Director to send a letter to city managers announcing openings on the board. The important qualification for membership is that the individual cannot have more than 10% of income from a permitted agency.

**5.0 Items for Future Meetings**

RMC will present a call for projects update.

Presentations to come include solar energy initiatives, the Los Angeles and San Gabriel Rivers Watershed Council sustainable landscaping initiatives, and Los Angeles County's Green Building Program.

**6.0 Set next meeting date**

The next meeting will be held on February 27<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 a.m. at the Metropolitan Water District.

**7.0 Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 1:30 p.m by M. Lutz.