



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, February 27th, 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 11:45 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

B. Faustinos RMC
R. Yeung AQMD
L. Cetina MWD
H. Shaw Southern California Gas
B. Doyle Titan Group
J. Garrison Titan Group
S. Collins California Product Stewardship Council

SGVCOG Staff

M. Creter
B. Cooke

2.0 Public Communications

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 Presentation by the California Product Stewardship Council (CPSC)

Ms. Collins of CPSC presented to the committee regarding the mission of CPSC to change the waste management paradigm and increase producer responsibility from “cradle to cradle.” She also presented options for cities’ involvement in the campaign by: (1) joining the CPSC and filling out a pledge of support, (2) adding producer responsibility to the cities established lobbying efforts, and (3) pass resolutions and/or ordinances in cities in support of increased producer responsibility.

Committee members discussed the following issues:

- Whether there are any current bills in state legislation related to the mission of CPSC.
- The potential for CPSC staff to present to the solid waste working group in order to further disseminate this information to San Gabriel Valley Cities. CPSC staff expressed pledges of support from cities as the number one priority of the campaign.
- The opportunity to use support of CPSC as an action step taken by cities to reduce carbon caps.
- The potential for CPSC to be involved in promoting beneficial purchasing processes. Many cities and districts are major consumers of product waste. CPSC staff reported that they are beginning to present to businesses as well in this vein.
- Possible action by SGVCOG in support of CPSC’s efforts.

Action: There was a motion to recommend to SGVCOG Governing Board and member cities adoption of a resolution to extend producer responsibility and support of the mission of CPSC (M/S/C: M. Cacciotti, S. Pedroza, Unanimous).

Four subsequent need item were indicated as updates and possible action regarding: a local government call for partnerships grant, the Los Angeles County plastic bag plan, AB 2640 (Huffman) – Alternative Daily Cover, and the Clean Water Restoration Act. These items were brought to the attention of SGVCOG staff or the Solid Waste working group on February 26th.

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: M. Cacciotti, D. Bertone, Unanimous).

4.2 Local Government Call for Partnerships Grant

Committee members discussed the possibility of applying for a partnership grant in order to achieve energy savings in municipal buildings through the installation of energy efficient measures and programs. The Chair of the energy working group volunteered to work with staff to complete and submit the abstract.

Action: There was a motion to request the Energy working group to apply for this partnership grant (M/S/C: M. Cacciotti, S. Pedroza, Unanimous).

4.3 Los Angeles County Plastic Bag Plan

Staff informed committee members that the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors is in the process of mailing letters to cities asking for their support of the recently adopted resolution to reduce plastic bag consumption. The letter encourages cities to adopt a similar resolution as the County ordinance is only in affect in unincorporated areas. Committee members expressed their support of this as a starting point with the option of making the resolution more strict in SGV cites in the future.

Action: There was a motion to recommend to the SGVCOG Governing Board to have a presentation by Paul Alva of Los Angeles County regarding the plastic bag resolution and subsequently adopt the resolution in support of the County's plan (M/S/C: D. Bertone, S. Pedroza, Unanimous).

4.4 AB 2640 (Huffman): Alternative Daily Cover

The Chair of the solid waste working group provided an update to committee members regarding pending legislation pertaining to alternative daily cover. This legislation would remove diversion credit for using alternative daily cover and consider this green waste part of disposal figures. One challenge for Southern California is the lack of composting sites to handle this green waste and the urbanized environment that would make it challenging to site a facility in the future. Feedback from recycling coordinators at the solid waste meeting showed that this legislation would likely lead to cities stopping source separation altogether rather than composting. The committee agreed that they were supportive of the idea of putting green waste to its "highest and best use," but that the proposed bill did not adequately address the related impacts imposed by its requirements.

Action: There was a motion to recommend to the SGVCOG Governing Board to send a letter to the State legislature with a position of "oppose unless amended" (M/S/C: D. Bertone, S. Pedroza, Unanimous).

4.5 HR 2421 (Oberstar): Clean Water Restoration Act

Staff informed committee members of a request by Congresswoman Napolitano's office to identify any concerns that it may have with HR 2421 (Obestar). Committee members and participants discussed the impact of this bill on the Southern California region which has very few standing water bodies. In addition, SCAG has voted to work with the author of the bill to refine definitions and exceptions used.

Action: The EENR Committee did not take a formal position on this bill but will continue to monitor responses to questions posed by SCAG (M/S/C: D. Bertone, S. Pedroza, Unanimous).

4.6 AB 938 (Caldron): Creation of Local Watershed Water Quality Committees.

B. Doyle of the Titan Group presented an overview of this bill and its intention to be a mechanism for watershed planning in relation to water quality. Committee members discussed the legislation and whether this effort would be helpful to water issues or created another layer of bureaucracy. It was noted that the legislation does not include funding for the planning component, and municipalities are not specifically identified as participants for the watershed committee. Committee members requested time to further review the bill and agreed to watch it during the coming weeks.

4.7 Update on MWD's Delta Improvement Efforts

MWD staff reported that there has been discussion regarding building consensus for collective action in response to water rationing in order that cities that have taken measures do not bear the entire burden.

5.0 Items for Future Meetings

The following items were moved to next month's agenda:

- Los Angeles County Conversion Technology Update
- Rivers and Mountains Conservancy Project Update
- Working Group Updates
- Environmental Model Ordinances Update
- Legislative Matrix
- Strategic Plan Update

6.0 Set next meeting date

The next meeting will be held on March 26th at 11:30 a.m. at the Metropolitan Water District.

7.0 Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 1:32 p.m. by M. Lutz.