

CITY COUNCIL SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE MEETING
Remote Participation – Digital Zoom Meeting
September 14, 2020
4:30 p.m. – 5:48 p.m.
MEETING MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER: Meeting called to order at 4:30 p.m. by Chair Mendall.

ROLL CALL:

Members:

- Al Mendall, City Council Member/CSC Chair
- Elisa Márquez, City Council Member
- Francisco Zermeño, City Council Member

Staff:

- Alex Ameri, Director of Public Works
- Angel Groves, Administrative Secretary
- David Donovan, WPCF Manager
- Elli Lo, Management Analyst
- Erik Pearson, Environmental Services Manager
- Linda Ko, Senior Secretary (Recorder)
- Maria Hurtado, Assistant City Manager
- Nicole Grucky, Sustainability Specialist
- Suzan England, Senior Utilities Engineer

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments were made.

1. Approval of Minutes of the Council Sustainability Committee (CSC) Meeting held on July 13, 2020

The item was moved by Council Member Márquez, seconded by Council Member Zermeño, and approved unanimously.

2. Review and Comment on the Five-Year Performance of Cogeneration Engine at the Water Pollution Control Facility

Suzan England, Senior Utilities Engineer, presented the five-year performance of the cogeneration system as well as an update on the Water Pollution Control Facility (WPCF) Solar Phase 1 and Phase 2A.

Council Member Márquez expressed her appreciation for the report and inquired about how frequently the engine shut down. Alex Ameri, Director of Public Works, responded that shutdowns occur during quarterly scheduled maintenance that occurs every 2,000 hours and also during occasional instances where the engine overheats or breaks down. He also confirmed that there is room for growth for another engine if there is a need for additional power.

Council Member Zermeño expressed his appreciation to staff for the report and asked for clarification on the 37% of the energy produced by the plant that supplies the energy needs of the City. Director Ameri clarified that this percentage was in reference to the energy supplied to the City's total municipal operations. Council Member Mendall further commented that the plant exports 37% of the City's total power but produces more if the energy consumed on site was also considered.

Council Member Mendall asked for an estimate of the cost for the initial installation of the project. Direct Ameri informed him that the total cost of the project was about 14 million dollars and that the cost of the engine was about 2 million dollars. Council Member Mendall commented this project provides both environmental benefits as well as financial benefits in the long run. He proposed developing an agreement with EBCE in the future to purchase the solar produced from the Phase 2B project.

3. Review and Comment on the 2018 Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory and Preliminary 2019 Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory

Nicole Grucky, Sustainability Specialist, presented a report on the results of the 2018 greenhouse gas emissions inventory and provided comparisons to the previous four inventory reports. In addition, she reported on an estimate of the 2019 greenhouse gas inventory with assumptions to calculate electricity and waste-related emissions.

Council Member Zermeño commented that it would be ideal to investigate programs, grants and reimbursements that would incentivize switching from natural gas to electric. Director Alex Ameri mentioned that there were currently two grants for electric water heaters, one from EBCE and another from the manufacturers, that brought the price below the regular conventional water heaters.

Council Member Márquez commented that she was glad to hear about more rebates and grants that would allow the public to make electrification upgrades. She also thanked staff for the more frequent update reports on the greenhouse gas emissions inventory.

Council Member Mendall suggested considering an increase to the taxes on natural gas and using the proceeds to subsidize people converting from natural gas appliances to electric appliances. He also requested that staff include a comparison to other jurisdictions as part of the future annual reporting process and thanked staff for the presentation.

4. Review and Comment on the Proposed 2020 Agenda Planning Calendar

Director Ameri stated that staff would like to present an update for considerations on a new franchise agreement with Waste Management of Alameda County (WMAC). Council Member Mendall proposed adding the topic of "Single-use plastics" on the unscheduled items list.

COMMITTEE MEMBER/STAFF ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REFERRALS:

Erik Pearson, Environmental Services Manager, informed the Council Members that the compost giveaway would tentatively be in the Spring of 2021. He also announced that instead of the annual Bike To Work Day, there would be a Bike To Wherever Day on September 24th and that there would be a Drive Clean EV workshop on September 26th.

ADJOURNMENT: 5:48 p.m.

Attendance	MEETINGS			
	Present 09/14/20 Meeting	Present to Date This Fiscal Year	Excused to Date This Fiscal Year	Absent to Date This Fiscal Year
Elisa Márquez	✓	2	0	0
Al Mendall	✓	2	0	0
Francisco Zermeño	✓	2	0	0