Sustainability Committee Meeting REPORT
Meeting held on July 1, 2019, 6:00, 2019, 5:30 - 7:30PM
San Pedro City Hall, Room 452
638 S. Beacon Street, San Pedro, CA 90731

Committee member attendees: Tom Maeder, Gwendolyn Henry, Peter Rothe, Carlos Garcia
Committee members not in attendance: All present
Visitors: Ethan Senser from Food & Water Watch esenser@fwwatch.org 847-494-0492

1) Welcome and Introductions.

2) Public Comment on Non-Agenda items. None

3) Discuss Sustainability Mission & Committee Name. Tabled

4) San Pedro (Gaffey Street) Community Gardens. UPDATES: The City of Los Angeles has reviewed the plans to put irrigation lines, and have now included

5) Discuss POLA Sea Level Rise report.

6) Discuss ECOFEST budget and potential microgrant for clean air related EcoFest activities via Coalition for Clean Air.
   ITEM #1 – ECOFEST Promotional Materials Request - $1160
   3 VOTE YES: Tom Maeder, Gwendolyn Henry, Peter Rothe
   NONE AGAINST, NONE ABSTAIN
   not present: Carlos Garcia (arriving late)
   ITEM #2 – SUSTAINABILITY Outreach Promotional Materials Request - $120
   3 VOTE YES: Tom Maeder, Gwendolyn Henry, Peter Rothe
   NONE AGAINST, NONE ABSTAIN
   not present: Carlos Garcia (arriving late)
   ITEM #3 – 1st Thursday #1
   3 VOTE YES: Tom Maeder, Gwendolyn Henry, Peter Rothe
   NONE AGAINST, NONE ABSTAIN
   not present: Carlos Garcia (arriving late)
   ITEM #4 – 1st Thursday #2
   3 VOTE YES: Tom Maeder, Gwendolyn Henry, Peter Rothe
   NONE AGAINST, NONE ABSTAIN
   not present: Carlos Garcia (arriving late)
   ITEM #5 – Potential Microgrant submission
   VOTE UNANIMOUS YES - Tom Maeder, Gwendolyn Henry, Peter Rothe, Carlos Garcia

7) Discuss letter for Assemblymember Patrick O’Donnell’s State Bill AB-1694 - This bill requires the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy to update the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Parkway and Open Space Plan to include the priorities for conservation and enhanced public use the Dominguez Channel watershed and Santa Catalina Island. (the Harbor Area) Letter was discussed. Tabled

8) Discuss POLA Waterfront Infrastructure regarding sea level rise and landscape design for resiliency & environmental sustainability Tabled. Possible suggestions and recommendations regarding innovative shore design/improvements that create Sea Level Rise resiliency - bolster wetland/marshland ecosystems which have been proven to create a natural defense from SLR. This could be partnered with funding generated from State Bill AB-1694, federal funding for wetland restoration.

9) Discuss letter to request a sales ban of non-biodegradable metallic/mylar confetti. Parades, parties, cascarrone, are often filled with non-biodegradable materials that end up in the storm drain, where it ends up in the marine ecosystem. There are many biodegradable products available. Tabled.

10) Discuss CIS & Letter for Council File #16-0243 on DWP study for 100% renewable energy.

VOTE UNANIMOUS YES - Tom Maeder, Gwendolyn Henry, Peter Rothe, Carlos Garcia
NCs that have signed on:
Coastal San Pedro Neighborhood Council
DEFINITIONS:

“Non-Renewable” resource: A natural resource (like coal, gas, or oil) that, once consumed, cannot be replaced. It took millions of years to turn rainforests and dinosaurs into oil. We can’t wait millions of years, again.

“Renewable” resource: An energy source that does not require years to create (sun, wind, hydro, hydrothermal, biomass)

“Net Zero Emissions” “Carbon Neutrality” “Climate Neutrality”: achieving zero SURPLUS greenhouse gases being put into the atmosphere by balancing the output with processes that clean carbon out of the air.

LADWP is the entity that supplies Los Angeles with electrical power. Currently, a significant amount of generators that produce electricity for Los Angeles are fueled by non-renewable, greenhouse-gas producing energy sources, such as natural gas, oil, and coal.

March 2016: Councilmembers Paul Krekorian and Mike Bonin submitted a motion that acknowledges that Climate Change is the most significant issue facing the globe today. They noted there is broad consensus with scientists that the climate is changing as a direct result of human activity that produces greenhouse gases. They also noted that if Los Angeles remains reliant on burning natural gas and oil - it makes all LADWP ratepayers vulnerable to runaway costs. They requested that LADWP study what it would take to transition away from fossil fuels – to a portfolio of energy sources that are 100% renewable.

AUGUST 2018: The Sustainability Committee submitted a request that the NWSPNC Board consider a CIS and letter in support of our City Council voting to approve that study. At the August NWSPNC Board meeting, the board decided to TABLE the issue. SEPTEMBER 2018, the City Council voted and PASSED the motion.

TODAY: LADWP is currently working on the study as described in the motion. The study is expected to be finalized in 2020. Food & Water Watch, the Sierra Club, the NCSA are part of an advisory group that receives updates on the progress. Recently, LADWP released seven preliminary scenarios on what combinations of energy sources they were preparing to study.

FWW & the NCSA are sharing information and making recommendations:

1) Request the recommended date be accelerated to 2030. The current goal date to achieve 100% renewable by 2045 is too late. The most current information on Climate Change has prompted the United Nations, the majority of scientific organizations to recommend that the entire globe needs to transition by 2050. Large cities with significant economic resources and global influence (like Los Angeles) are recommended to achieve 100% renewable by 2030. This is important in order to achieve the ultimate recommended goal of GLOBAL NET ZERO by 2050. Large cities in economically developed (wealthy) countries have been asked to step up the timeline in order to a) an example and b) achieve net negative emissions to help catch up from where we are.

2) To request that the LADWP look at additional portfolio proposals, which include “renewable energy” sources that achieve “NET ZERO EMISSIONS.” The seven scenarios currently being listed in the study does not go far enough. All seven scenarios include “renewable energy” sources that are not actually clean. The current portfolio proposals include technologies that create an impact local communities. Landfill burning, wood burning, biogas (capturing methane and waste from factory farming). It is still an environmental justice issue, communities in certain neighborhoods overly impacted with pollution. Biogas is generated from waste products from factory farming. Perpetuates pollution problems associated with factory farming.


12) Adjourn – next meeting at Location TBD - Monday, July 15, 2019 – 6:00PM-7:30PM
MO T I O N

Climate change is the most significant issue facing the global environment today.

There is a broad, overwhelming consensus among scientists that the climate is changing as a direct result of human activity that produces greenhouse gases. The city has already acted decisively and deliberately to reduce its emissions of greenhouse gases and thereby reduce its contribution to the changing climate. Among these steps are investing in LED street lights, developing electrical hookups for ships at the Port of Los Angeles, expanding the use of electric vehicles at the city and major investments in energy efficiency among all types of electrical customers.

The most significant reduction in greenhouse gas emissions that the city will achieve will be the elimination of coal-fired power plants from the Department of Water and Power’s electricity portfolio by 2025. In the period between 2005 and 2025, the utility will have reduced its greenhouse gas emissions by over 9 million metric tons each year. However, even after these investments in eliminating coal, the utility will still produce over 7 million metric tons of greenhouse gases, the equivalent of nearly 1.5 million cars on the road in Los Angeles each year. The remaining energy portfolio of the LADWP will be extremely reliant on natural gas, another source of greenhouse gases, and that portfolio will be susceptible to price and supply constraints of the gas market.

Clean energy and renewable technologies have developed significantly since the state began implementing renewable energy mandates in 2002 with the original Renewable Portfolio Standard legislation. Renewable projects, once viewed as a significant risk and potentially destabilizing for the electricity sector, are now readily available and adapted to the needs of utilities throughout the world. With advances in energy storage technology and distribution grid resilience, adopting greater quantities of renewables has become ever more possible and, in some cases, significantly more desirable than new fossil fuel generating stations.

On March 30, 1916, the Los Angeles Bureau of Power and Light constructed the first power poles to bring electricity from Pasadena and distribute it to customers in Los Angeles. Nearly a year later, its first hydroelectric generating station came on line to provide fossil-free electricity to even more customers. Today, with the LADWP on the verge of making significant investments in its infrastructure, and with that 100-year-old power system in need of significant upgrades, the city has an opportunity to re-create its utility in a way that recognizes the potential for a fossil-free future, demonstrates global leadership in its commitment to clean energy, and protects ratepayers from the increasing costs of carbon-based fuels.
I THEREFORE MOVE that the Council REQUEST that the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power report with a program to develop and implement a research partnership, utilizing relationships with the region’s universities, members of the Southern California Public Power Authority, the California Independent System Operator, neighboring utilities and other stakeholders, with the objective of determining what investments should be made to achieve a 100% renewable energy portfolio for the LADWP.

I FURTHER MOVE that the aforementioned research partnership should utilize the resources and develop in partnership with the efforts of the U.S. Department of Energy and its support of Mission Innovation and the Breakthrough Energy Coalition.

Presented by: Paul Krekorian
Co-Presented by: Mike Bonin
PAUL KREKORIAN
Councilmember, 2nd District
MIKE BONIN
Councilmember, 11th District

Seconded by: Marlo Cargill

ORIGINAL

Mar 02 2015