

**MINUTES OF THE
TRANSPORTATION AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**

SAN JOSE, CALIFORNIA MONDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2021

Consistent with the California Governor’s Executive Order No. N-29-20, Resolution No. 79450 from the City of San José and the Santa Clara County Health Officer’s March 16, 2020 Shelter in Place Order, the City Council meeting was not physically open to the public. Public comments were accepted via eComment, email, by phone/Webinar or online.

The Council meeting was teleconferenced from remote locations and convened at 1:30 p.m.

Present: Councilmembers - Davis, Cohen, Esparza, Peralez, Foley.

Absent: Councilmembers - All present.

Staff: Assistant City Manager, Lee Wilcox; City Attorney’s Office, Colleen Winchester; Mayor’s Office, Scott Green; City Clerk, Toni Taber; and City Clerk’s Office, Yasmin Johnson.

B. Review of Work Plan

1. City Roadmap: San José-Santa Clara Regional Wastewater Facility Capital Improvement Program Semi-Annual Report. (Environmental Services/ Public Works)

Action: Upon motion by Councilmember David Cohen, seconded by Councilmember Pam Foley and carried unanimously, the Committee approved the deferral of the City Roadmap: San José- Santa Clara Regional Wastewater Facility Capital Improvement Program Sem-Annual Report to the November 1, 2021 Transportation and Environment Committee meeting. (4-0-1. Absent: Peralez.)

C. Consent Calendar

1. Downtown Parking Board Annual Report and Work Plan. (Consent Calendar) (Transportation)

Public Comments: Caller '5140' spoke to the road infrastructures and construction in Downtown San José.

Action: Upon motion by Councilmember Pam Foley, seconded by Councilmember Maya Esparza and carried unanimously, the Committee accepted the Downtown Parking 2020-2021 Annual Report and 2021-2022 Work Plan. (5-0.)

2. Clean Energy Community Advisory Commission Annual Report and Work Plan. (Consent Calendar) (Community Energy)

Public Comments: (1) Tessa Woodmansee spoke to the climate crisis, fossil fuels, and the Bart system. (2) Blair Beekman spoke to the (CCEC) California Clean Energy Commission and goals regarding green sustainability.

Action: Upon motion by Councilmember Pam Foley, seconded by Councilmember Maya Esparza and carried unanimously, the Committee accepted the Clean Energy Community Advisory Commission 2020-2021 Annual Report and the 2021-2022 Work Plan. (5-0.)

D. Reports to Committee

1. Labor Policies and Community Benefits Best Practices for Long-Term Renewable Energy Contracts Report. (Community Energy)

Public Comments: (1) Tessa Woodmansee addressed her PG&E solar requests and spoke to "community batteries" for solar households. (2) Blair Beekman spoke to renewable energy and natural disaster emergency preparedness. (3) Caller '5140' spoke to natural gasses and renewable energy. (4) Roland spoke to having renewable energy contracts with companies such as Tesla and battery back-ups.

Director of Community Energy, Lori Mitchell and Deputy Director of Power Supply, Jeanne Sole offered the presentation and responded to questions.

Action: Upon motion by Councilmember Raul Peralez, seconded by Councilmember Maya Esparza and carried unanimously, the Committee accepted the report on labor policies and community benefits best practices for long-term renewable energy contracts. (5-0.)

2. **Draft Community Forestry Management Plan Report. (Transportation)**

Public Comment: (1) Tessa Woodmansee addressed the report, pollution, and air quality. (2) Giulianna Pendleton stated she supports the plans intent to protect and increase community trees but is disappointed with the plans lack of biodiversity goals. (3) Susan Butler-Graham spoke to the importance of engaging with community health organizations that represent underserved neighborhoods and communities regarding the plans developments. (4) Rhonda Berry stated the plan is fundamentally flawed and requested staff to pause the process. (5) Bob Levy, a member of the SCC Planning Commission stated the plan does not reflect engagement of the key stakeholders that manage or own significant land. (6) Christina, a member of Our City Forest cautioned staff about implementing a program that could have higher costs for taxpayers and wanted to further assist in the discussion and assist with planning. (7) Lillian spoke to the importance of prioritizing the planting of trees as opposed to paving the streets and saving trees near new developments. (8) Victoria Moore spoke on Cal Fires role, grant requirements, and stated that moving this plan forward is problematic. (9) Blair Beekman spoke to planting trees on the East Side and heat issues within different areas of the City. (10) Roland spoke to his concerns on where to plant trees, the importance of collaborating with other entities, and PG&E concerns. (11) Barbra Marshman, former editor for the San José Mercury News urged that staff to put this plan on hold until further community engagement and joint partnerships are made to help the City. (12) Hoi-An, with Mothers Out Front spoke to the lack of tress on the Eastside compared to other affluent neighborhoods in the City. (13) Roma Dawson spoke to climate change and equity regarding urban canopies. (14) Caller '5140' spoke to the water and maintenance of the tress discussed in the plan. (15) Richard Stuart, with Our City Forrest spoke to funding and collaborating with partners within the State, Federal, and County, the need for grants, and having an unbiased process. (16) Virginia Holtz spoke to the planting of trees, the disconnects with the implementation of the plan, and the importance of having collaboration and coordination within the various departments in the City.

Director of Transportation, John Ristow; City Arborist, Russell Hansen; and Dudek Consultant, Ryan Allen offered the presentation and responded to questions.

Action: Upon motion by Councilmember Maya Esparza, seconded by Councilmember David Cohen and carried unanimously, the Committee accepted the report on a draft Community Forestry Management Plan to establish City standards and practices that will help create and maintain a thriving community forest aiding in a healthy and sustainable community for residents and businesses, the item will also be referred to the full council after the Department of Transportation has had conversations with Cal Fire, also including a report of what the input process will be regarding the Advisory Group of Stakeholders. (5-0.)

• **Open Forum**

1. Tessa Woodmansee spoke to the paving of streets, the climate crisis, and the importance of planting trees.
2. Alex L. spoke to labor transparencies, accountability policies, getting the Joint Powers Authority and California to adopt permanent policies, and renewable energy.
3. Blair Beekman spoke to earthquake preparedness planning, parking concerns in the City, parking policies and practices, and surveillance technology.
4. Roland stated his support of having large canopy trees, palm tree root systems, and hydro energy.
5. Caller '5140' spoke his thoughts on "color-coded languages".

• **Adjournment**

Councilmember Dev Davis adjourned the Transportation and Environment Committee Meeting at 4:34 p.m.

Dev Davis, Chair
Transportation and Environment Committee

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