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UNTIL APPROVED BY THE
CULVER CITY
SUSTAINABILITY SUBCOMMITTEE
OF THE CITY COUNCIL

REGULAR MEETING OF THE
CULVER CITY SUSTAINABILITY
SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE CITY COUNCIL
CULVER CITY, CALIFORNIA

May 14, 2019
4:00 p.m.

Call to Order & Roll Call

Council Member Eriksson called the meeting of the Sustainability Subcommittee of the City Council to order at 4:00 p.m. in the Patacchia Conference Room at City Hall.

Present: Göran Eriksson, Council Member
Daniel Lee, Council Member

Staff Present: Charles Herbertson, Public Works Director
Kim Braun, Environmental Programs and
Operations Manager
Helen Chin, Management Analyst

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Public Comment for Items NOT On the Agenda

Council Member Eriksson invited public comment.

No cards were received and no speakers came forward.

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Order of the Agenda

Council Member Eriksson suggested that Item A-3 be moved before Item A-2 as the presenter for Item A-2 was not yet present.

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Agenda Items

Item A-1

Approval of Minutes for the January 29, 2019 Sustainability Subcommittee Meeting

MOVED BY COUNCIL MEMBER ERIKSSON, SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER LEE AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED, THAT THE SUSTAINABILITY SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE CITY COUNCIL APPROVE MINUTES FOR THE JANUARY 29, 2019 SUSTAINABILITY SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING.

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Item A-3
(Out of Sequence)

Discussion on Balanced Energy Solutions from SoCal Gas (Mike Harriel, SoCal Gas)

Mike Harriel, Public Affairs Manager for SoCal Gas, provided background on himself; presented a video on natural gas; discussed balanced energy; local control; creating a viable path to achieve climate goals; challenges to electrifying everything; increased costs; those living on fixed incomes; construction; disruption; consumers; providing choice; costs to retrofit; natural gas generators; renewable natural gas use for residential properties; waste streams; research; moving to a plant-based diet; infrastructure; legislative resistance; carbonization efforts; the carbon to gas power facility set up by Audi; carbon black; CNG use by buses; other comparable cities that have a balanced energy resolution; and he asked that the City consider a balanced energy resolution to provide the City with a choice.

Council Member Eriksson invited public comment.

The following member of the audience addressed the Subcommittee:

David Haake discussed conflicts of interest and questioned the validity of the research; asserted that bio-methane was not a smart strategy to become carbon free; he discussed the Clean Power Alliance; the fastest and best way to meet

goals; providing incentives for electrification of buildings; SoCal Edison's incentive programs; the California Energy Commission; the statewide energy policy report; essential strategies to curb climate and air pollution; he asserted that gas appliances are a major source of pollution; discussed priority policy reforms to consider; zero emission building goals; funding; new building codes focused on reducing emissions; support for smart electrification and clean energy; the scalability of bio-methane; out of state sources; safety and health risks; and ensuring that Culver City provides clean, affordable, safe energy and acts as a model for other cities.

Discussion ensued between Mr. Harriel, staff and Subcommittee Members regarding the number of existing homes that are all electric; renewable natural gas (RNG) vs. traditional natural gas; use of hydrogen; availability of RNG; infrastructure; permission to emit hydrogen; state legislators; sources of methane into the atmosphere; safety; leakages in pipelines; the San Bruno incident; the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC); capturing methane; procedures in Europe; money spent by the California Energy Commission on RNG; regulations; interconnect fees; standby power; fluctuating supply but constant demand; stabilizing the grid; making faster progress toward goals at a lower cost; and support for discussing the matter with the full City Council.

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Item A-2

Discussion About Nature-Based Solutions for Stormwater Projects (Melanie Winter, The River Project)

Melanie Winter, The River Project, provided background on herself and on the organization; discussed nature-based solutions for stormwater; the Water LA pilot program; measuring benefits; resident engagement; loss of species; the timeline to reduce emissions; land use; watershed planning; working with nature rather than controlling it; addressing multiple issues simultaneously; the health of the watershed; the need for an integrated approach; green infrastructure; comparing cost benefits of various projects; typologies and scales; single-purpose projects vs. multi-benefit projects; Measure W; regional funding; benefits of nature-based solutions; healthy soils;

regenerative processes; increased disasters; investing money before disasters to adapt to the climate; integrated planning to capture more benefits; the difficulty of working with private property; factors that go into choosing an area; soil infiltration rates; workshops; capture facilities; costs vs. savings; average costs; flood management; challenges to meet quickly; the pilot project in Panorama City; site assessments; the stewardship agreement; maintenance; workshops; water savings; real life experience provided by pilot programs; measured benefit reports; metrics; other critical steps for moving forward; and she indicated that reports were available on their website.

Discussion ensued between Ms. Winter, staff and Subcommittee Members regarding Measure E funds; leveraging opportunities; development of relationships; amplification of benefits; quantification of benefits and reporting; methodology; exploring possibilities; presenting to the City Council; use of parks as a stormwater catch basin; grading rather than use of underground storage; taking a multi-pronged approach; resident participation; and next steps.

Council Member Eriksson invited public input.

No cards were received and no speakers came forward.

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Item A-4

Discussion on a Clean Energy Future from Southern California Edison (Diane Forte, Southern California Edison)

Diane Forte, Southern California Edison, provided an presentation on a Clean Energy Future; discussed working together to meet goals; development of future energy policy; providing safe, reliable, affordable and clean energy; the annual sustainability report; community investment; the Utilities Users Tax (UUT); franchise fees; fossil fuels; decarbonizing the private sector; air pollution; health issues; electrifying all new development; state goals; the Clean Power Alliance; electrifying the transportation sector; range anxiety; programs and incentives; rebate programs; powering the world by clean energy sources; and she provided copies of their reports.

Discussion ensued between staff and Subcommittee Members regarding existing multi-family units; consideration of comments on the charge rating program; comments on the resolution; consideration of the letter by the CPUC; providing a letter of support if the CPUC rejects part of the resolution; use of heat pumps; and energy storage.

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Public Comment for Items NOT on the Agenda

Council Member Eriksson invited public participation.

The following member of the audience addressed the Subcommittee:

David Haake discussed recycling bins on public sidewalks; divided bins; modeling; and incentivizing waste reduction.

Discussion ensued between staff and Subcommittee Members regarding removal of the dividers in the recycling bins on public sidewalks; the container replacement program; pricing differentiation; single family and multi-family containers; shared containers; route optimization; automated trucks; reduced costs; credits; grants; instituting a three-strikes program; locked containers; outreach and education; and reducing contamination levels.

David Haake requested a more formal discussion of financial incentives to reduce trash.

Additional discussion ensued between staff and Subcommittee Members regarding attaching a device to the top of trash cans that can be activated to request emptying and is used for billing, and revisiting the issue during budget discussions.

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Items from Subcommittee Members

None.

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Adjournment

There being no further business, at 6:09 p.m., the Sustainability Subcommittee of the City Council adjourned its meeting.

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Jeremy Green
SECRETARY of the Culver City Sustainability Subcommittee of
the City Council Culver City, California

APPROVED

Goran Eriksson
COUNCIL MEMBER, Sustainability Subcommittee of the City
Council Culver City, California