

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

October 7, 2019  
3:00 p.m.

**Call to Order & Roll Call**

Council Member Lee called the special meeting of the Sustainability Subcommittee of the City Council to order at 3:00 p.m. in the Mike Balkman Chambers at City Hall.

Present: Göran Eriksson, Vice Mayor  
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 Lee invited public comment.

No cards were received and no speakers came forward.

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**Consent Calendar**

Item C-1

**Approval of Minutes for the May 14, 2019 Sustainability Subcommittee Meeting**

THE SUSTAINABILITY SUBCOMMITTEE APPROVED MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF MAY 14, 2019.

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**Order of the Agenda**

No changes were made.

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**Agenda Items**

Item A-1

**Microgrid Presentation from Ameresco**

Charles Herbertson, Public Works Director, introduced the item.

Ken Casey, Ameresco, discussed public/private partnerships; outages in California; deteriorating infrastructure; microgrid technology; resiliency; different types of contracting vehicles; energy as a service; the implementation plan; solar tax credits; energy efficiency; and he provided background on the company.

Discussion ensued between Mr. Casey, staff and Subcommittee Members regarding viability of the project without the pool; alternatives; using a heat pump rather than a combined heat and power unit; efficiency; maintenance; product preference; length of the design build; battery capacity; solar power; the reliability of gas; combining solar with gas; storage; avoidance of combustible fuel; the primary focus on resiliency rather than day-to-day operations; adding solar panels; length of the contract; falling energy prices; renegotiation and buy-out clauses; rate trends; excess energy generated; cost effectiveness of overproducing; the Clean Power Alliance; investigation of local sources for clean energy; estimated savings; the

unsuccessful grant request; AB 1144, the Self Generation Grant Program administered through the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC); moving things forward to take advantage of the tax credit; providing additional options when the item goes before the City Council; the timeframe for additional research; conducting an RFQ (Request for Qualifications); capital costs; the process; track record; next steps; City Council consideration; variation between companies; decision points; cost considerations; consideration of options; the Request for Proposals (RFP) process; solar thermal vs. combined heat and power; reliance on fossil fuel and natural gas; reductions with solar thermal; flexibility associated with combined heat and power; avoidance of using natural gas; and attaching the gas contract to the contract for the Renewable Natural Gas (RNG) buses.

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Item A-2

#### **Water Station Presentation from Aquaviable**

Rodney Loehr, Aquaviable, provided background on the company and a presentation on the bottle-less fill-up drinking water stations from the West Basin Municipal Water District grant; discussed atmospheric water generation technology; supply; limitations; resource flow; content of the water; the ecological and economic multiplier effect; providing access to clean water; conservation; the water footprint for California; he shared a video presentation on clean water provided by Aquaviable; discussed the reusable electro static air filter; and agricultural applications.

Council Member Lee invited public comment.

No speakers came forward and no comment cards were received.

Discussion ensued between Mr. Loehr, staff and Subcommittee Members regarding the grant from West Basin; treating existing tap water; making water more appealing so that people will drink more and be healthier; coordination with the City to receive the grant; water bonds; minimum humidity required to deliver water; maximum efficiency; internal storage tank capacity; length of time to generate 5 gallons of water; quality of tap water; help for

communities that have contaminated water; improved taste; placement of the two stations; infrastructure; bottle refilling stations to reduce the use of plastic; savings; drinking distilled water; optional alkalinity packs; air quality; cost to the City; and agreement to move forward.

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Item A-3

### **Discussion of Solutions to Ongoing Recycling Issues**

Kim Braun, Environmental Programs and Operations Manager, provided a presentation on emerging and challenging changes to existing recycling programs in Culver City and nationwide; discussed the reduced value of materials; contamination rates; increased costs for the processing of recycling materials; the volatile market; options for moving forward; outreach and education; the Environmental Compliance Inspector; the Recycling Right campaign; workshops through the Culver City Unified School District (CCUSD); the Recycle Coach; The Walking Man program; what is allowed in the blue recycling bins; green container outreach; infrastructure funding from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA); the Solid Waste Association of North America (SWANA); and major decisions to be made in the future.

Council Member Lee invited public input.

The following member of the audience addressed the Subcommittee:

David Coles asked that staff provide a report to the City Council on how the polystyrene program is going; he reported numerous restaurants still in violation; he discussed his attempts to alert the City and gain compliance; dissatisfaction with the City's response to his concerns and their enforcement efforts; repeat violators; the need for additional education; concern that restaurants are not following instructions for cutlery on request; and the need to hold people accountable.

Discussion ensued between staff and Subcommittee Members regarding staff resources; continued work on the ordinance; appreciation for information provided by the public regarding non-compliance; education; the process; due

diligence; making the ordinance stronger; improper recycling; enforcement; education; stickers on the bins; costs of contaminated recycling; the value of cardboard and the importance of separating-out cardboard; moisture content; metal; clean, dry paper; source separated systems; the need for additional trucks; increasing the carbon footprint with additional trucks; multi-family units; hauling fees; processing; the market for 3-7 plastics; alternative markets; landfill; disposal fees; ensuring that the City is not charged twice; community recycling; investigating alternatives; high value streams; ways to reduce contamination; the practices of cities in Europe; drop-off sites in the City; signage; illegal dumping; monitoring; and public health issues.

Sandrine Cassidy Schmidt discussed the polystyrene ban; urgency of the matter; actions of other cities; and she reported sending email and pictures of items collected during the cleanup.

Council Member Lee indicated that he was in favor of reconsidering the amendment to the polystyrene ban as soon as possible, and for working internally rather than issuing an RFP.

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Item A-4

### **Discussion on City's Plans for the Closing of RePlanet**

Kim Braun, Environmental Programs and Operations Manager discussed the closing of RePlanet; SB458 for municipalities without California Redemption Value (CRV) facilities; partnerships with recyclers; new recycling opportunities for residents; partnerships with processors; mobile recycling services; state regulated hours; Cal Recycle and SoCal Recycling; partnerships; a suggestion to have a pilot service at two grocery stores in Culver City; and the application to the state.

Discussion ensued between staff and Subcommittee Members regarding contracts with other places in the City; convenience zones; satisfying requirements; purchase points for aluminum, glass and bottles; machines located at the point of purchase; and the feeling that the store should be

part of the process to get items back to the recycling facilities.

Council Member Lee invited public input.

No cards were received and no speakers came forward.

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Item A-5

**Update of Pilot Project with Raintree Condominiums' Use of Smaller Recycle and Trash Container Sizes**

Kim Braun, Environmental Programs and Operations Manager, discussed trash operations for Beverlywood and Raintree; automation; improved safety; problems associated with collecting trash the old way; work with the Homeowners Association; concern with a lack of space for the containers; solving logistical issues; the timeline for the pilot program; the rate study; rate adjustments; and requests for smaller cans.

Discussion ensued between staff and Subcommittee Members regarding accommodating smaller cans with a special route; the reduction in price with a smaller can; concern with trash overflow; evaluation of the trial program; locked communal trash cans; and the LMU study.

Council Member Lee invited public input.

No cards were received and no speakers came forward.

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**Public Comment for Items NOT on the Agenda**

Council Member Lee invited public participation.

No cards were received and no speakers came forward.

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**Received and File Correspondence**

Helen Chin, Management Analyst, reported that no correspondence had been received.

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**Items from Subcommittee Members**

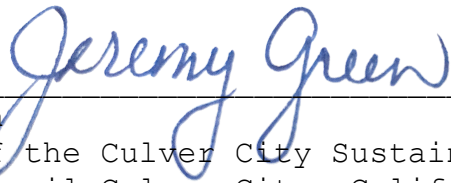
None.

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**Adjournment**

There being no further business, at 5:18 p.m., the  
Sustainability Subcommittee of the City Council adjourned.

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

APPROVED



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Daniel Lee  
COUNCIL MEMBER, Sustainability Subcommittee of the City  
Council Culver City, California