

**COMPREHENSIVE RENEWABLE ENERGY PLAN
TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
APPROVED MEETING MINUTES**

**August 17, 2016, 8:00 AM
5520 Overland Avenue, Campus Center Chambers
San Diego, California**

A. Call Meeting to Order at 8:10 AM

TAC members:

*Jason Anderson
Craig Benedetto
Peder Norby
John Reaves
Corinne Lytle Bonine*

County of San Diego:

*Stephanie Smith
Darren Gretler
Mary Kopaskie
Joseph Farace
Noah Alvey
Laurel Lees
Bulmaro Canseco
Emma Schoppe
Kelsie Holman*

Members of the public:

*Poonam Boparai
Jeff Hoyos
Anna Lowe
Erika Morgan
Donna Tisdale
Jim Whalen*

(TAC member Corinne Lytle Bonine attended via conference call. TAC members Richard Caputo, Ken Parks and Douglas Kot did not attend.)

B. Business

1. The January 9, 2015 Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Meeting Minutes were approved, with no members opposed.

C. Comprehensive Renewable Energy Plan Development

1. County staff provided an overview of the County's sustainability initiatives, CREP background including the direction from the Board of Supervisors direction from September 2013, TAC history, CREP Draft Phase I Report, and next steps.

2. County staff presented the sixteen recommendations included in the CREP Draft Phase I Report. TAC members asked questions on each measure and provided additional considerations (Agenda Item 4). ~~TAC members provided the following input~~The following comments were provided by TAC members, but do not indicate consensus:

(1) Amend the General Plan by Adding an Energy Element

- As a regional leader, the County should incorporate an Energy Element into the General Plan.
- The County should consider the unintended consequences of adding a potentially duplicative or redundant Energy Element.
- An Energy Element may be a low priority tool because it may provide little benefit.
- An alternative to an Energy Element is to incorporate and consolidate the energy policies into the County's Climate Action Plan (CAP) to ensure implementation.

(2) Establish a New Office of Sustainability

- A sustainability office can be a community resource or a "one stop shop" for the public to learn about sustainability information and programs; the County should provide a consolidated group of individuals with one point of contact for the public.
- The County should consider the financial implications of creating a new, separate office outside the County's existing organizational framework.
- The sustainability office should be able to work across different County departments while allowing specialists to be efficient and effective in their fields.
- PDS staff would be best suited for implementing a sustainability group instead of an additional, separate bureaucratic process.
- The County should consider the City of San Diego's new office of sustainability as a model.

(3) Establish Institutional Capacity (Community Choice Aggregation [CCA], Direct Access [DA], and Sustainability Energy Utility [SEU])

- The County should consider waiting for the City of San Diego's CCA feasibility study before pursuing a separate County-funded study.
- The County should research existing CCAs and the success rates.
- Support CCA but the County needs to proceed cautiously while the uncertainty around local and regional CCAs grows.
- CCAs may provide consumer confusion.
- The structure and layout of a CCA is not well understood.
- The County should consider the risks to the General Fund from administering a CCA, and ways to mitigate the risk.
- The County should partner with other jurisdictions on CCA feasibility studies to minimize costs.
- DA is a good tool to promote renewable energy; the County currently participates in Direct Access for County facilities and operations, but it is not available for residential consumers.
- SEUs do not provide a significant return on investment.

(4) Establish Financial Capacity (PACE, Bonds, Lending/Crowdfunding)

- Supporting financial mechanisms is a high priority measure, which should be implemented right away.
 - The Board of Supervisors has authorized PACE in the County, but the programs are run by private companies.
 - The County does not have a PACE program that is run and funded by County departments.
 - The County should research examples of crowdfunding efforts related to renewable energy.
 - Information about existing financial mechanisms can be distributed by the new sustainability office/group.
- (5) Develop a Solar Energy Workforce Development Initiative
- Several other groups are already providing these resources; as such, the County should not duplicate those efforts.
 - The County should focus on regional collaboration and leveraging existing efforts instead of leading a renewable energy workforce training program.
 - The new sustainability office/group could support existing non-governmental organizations that provide job trainings for local workers to construct renewable energy projects.
 - Information about existing training opportunities can be distributed by the new sustainability office/group.
 - The County should consider permit streamlining for projects that use local construction workers.
- (6) Build an Energy Assurance Plan
- This initiative recommends an “Energy Security Plan”, which is something that SDG&E is responsible for, not the County.
 - Energy assurance is a security issue, and not a tool that promotes renewable energy directly.
 - The County should avoid duplication of existing efforts.
- (7) Increase the County’s Percentage of Energy Derived from Various Renewable Energy Technologies
- This measure is related to the County’s Strategic Energy Plan, and can be used to inform the CAP analysis.
 - The County should be a regional leader by using renewable energy such as solar and wind at County facilities.
 - The County should increase the percentage from 2.3% considering other agencies that may use a much higher percentage such as 33%.
 - The energy efficiency in County facilities should meet the State’s net zero building requirements.
 - The County should avoid duplicating efforts with the Center for Sustainable Energy.
- (8) Establish a Renewable Energy Group Procurement Initiative
- This measure is a good tool to promote renewable energy if implemented in conjunction with other measures such as a CCA feasibility study, Regional Energy Network, County-led microgrid projects, and existing regional collaboration efforts.
 - This stand-alone tool is not a high priority measure; implementation of CAP measures is a high priority.
- (9) Participate in the Creation of a New Regional Energy Network (REN)

- This measure is a long-term collaborative effort that merits continued attention.
 - The County should continue working with regional partners to identify opportunities for a REN and funding for renewable energy projects and programs.
- (10) Develop a Renewable Energy Overlay Zone
- This measure may include a “pipelining provision” for existing projects.
 - This is a high priority measure with a high return on investment, which the County should pursue and incorporate into the CAP analysis as a high yield greenhouse gas reduction measure.
 - Overlay zones help the County identify priority areas and streamline the permitting process of renewable energy projects, which will reduce costs.
 - An overlay zone will help provide guidelines and framework for developers, which provides the community with predictable development scenarios.
 - An overlay zone will help SDG&E locate equipment.
 - The County should identify environmental impacts during the planning phase.
 - This measure will be highly controversial with some communities, and will require extensive outreach and public input during the planning phase.
- (11) Develop a Building Energy Disclosure Program
- This information is not readily available for residents in apartment complexes who do not control their energy sources; there is an unequal playing field.
 - This measure should be implemented at the State level and not locally; the County should consider lobbying for the state to take a leadership role.
 - This is a low priority measure, but may be more informed through the development of the CAP analysis.
- (12) Promote More Aggressive Building Standards Including the Significant Retrofit of Existing Buildings
- Consider the City of San Diego’s CAP as a model.
 - Take into consideration the added cost to new development when implementing building restrictions that are more stringent than Title 24, particularly with the housing shortage in San Diego.
 - Concentrate on cost savings efforts for existing buildings.
 - Renewable energy should be used to electrify the transportation system and not as much for buildings; transportation-related measures yield higher return on investment than measures that address energy in buildings.
 - Don’t pre-wire, but do require that conduits be installed to allow for EV charging and solar panels.
 - This measure may disproportionately affect retail and commercial property owners.

- The County should work with the PACE finance program to achieve the desired outcome.
- (13) Increase Renewable Energy Education and Outreach
 - Several organizations are already providing education and outreach.
 - The County should not duplicate education and outreach efforts; instead the County should coordinate and partner with those organizations.
 - The new sustainability office/group could “tell the story better” by doing better with what we have, and by being a point of contact for the public.
 - It is difficult to quantify the return on investment for outreach activities – have similar efforts in Sonoma or Alameda been effective in promoting renewable energy?
- (14) Starting a Community Solar Initiative
 - This measure should not be limited to solar; expand the initiative to include wind power.
 - The County should consider the rate structure compared to the investor-owned utility.
 - The County should research and be aware of the legislation, which dictates what utilities and agencies can or cannot do.
- (15) Establish a Microgrid and Develop Policies Related to Microgrids
 - Microgrids are an expensive frontier.
 - The County should partner with UCSD to explore successes and lessons learned.
 - The County should consider limiting their role to removing obstacles, and not being directly involved with the development of microgrids.
 - Not all microgrids are solar/renewable; there are also natural gas microgrids.
 - The County should research if the microgrids would be connected to an overall system, or if they can be a tool for onsite generation.
 - This measure may supplement the County’s hazard mitigation plan or other regional energy assurance plans.
 - The County should consider this measure for County facilities.
- (16) Establish Electric Vehicle Programs
 - This measure should be refined to include EV Charging Infrastructure Programs that include charging stations that are powered by renewable energy.
 - This is a high priority recommendation, as it offsets greenhouse gas emissions significantly; this measure should inform the CAP analysis.
 - The County is a car-centric region without mass transit to help reduce vehicle miles traveled and greenhouse gas emissions.
 - The County should consider the higher yield of electrifying the transportation system versus energy efficiency in buildings.
 - The County should consider prioritizing car share parking, and provide flexibility in meeting the parking standards (i.e., instead of requiring parking, replace some spaces with EV charging stations.)

- The County should consider requiring homes to be pre-wired to accommodate EV charging stations.
 - The County should identify which actions are duplicative with other efforts, and collaborate with regional partners to leverage existing resources.
 - This measure is an opportunity to position the County to obtain additional grant funding, which will provide a greater yield for the economy.
 - The County should consider the unintended consequences associated with property owner concerns.
3. The TAC members were asked to consider the sixteen measures provided in the CREP Draft Phase I Report, including a seventeenth measure added during Agenda Item C2 (see Agenda Item C4). The TAC was asked to identify those measures that are most effective in promoting renewable energy in the county. The TAC members were provided with five sticky dots they could use to identify the priority measures. Each member was restricted to providing up to two dots per measure.
- The TAC members identified the following seven measures as high priority for consideration (2 dots or more):
 - (10) Renewable Energy Overlay Zone
 - (17) *Added Item: Legislative Outreach (see Agenda Item C4)*
 - (7) Increase County's Renewable Energy Use
 - (4) Financial Capacity - PACE, Bonds, Lending, Crowdfunding
 - (2) Establish a New Office of Sustainability
 - (9) Regional Energy Network
 - (16) EV and Charging Programs
 - The TAC members identified the following three measures as a medium priority for consideration (1 dot):
 - (3) Institutional Capacity - CCA, DA, SEU
 - (12) Aggressive Building Standards and Retrofits
 - (14) Community Solar Initiative
 - No dots were provided on the other seven measures.
4. During Agenda Item C2, TAC members provided the following additional considerations:
- Add "Legislative Outreach" as a seventeenth measure, primarily focused on Renewable Energy and EV education, funding, net metering and priority programs related to these initiatives.
 - The "Legislative Outreach" measure should include a strategy of informing the OSIA to encourage legislation that promotes renewable energy programs, projects and funding.
 - Prioritization of renewable energy should focus on residential and non-residential rooftops, parking lots, and disturbed lands.

D. Public Comment

The public provided the following comments:

- Some communities will oppose overlay zones
- There is concern with water use of large scale wind and solar projects
- There is concern with environmental justice and the disproportional impact on low income communities
- The County needs to understand the financial risks associated with CCA as it relates to the County's General Fund
- The County can work with independent non-profits to administer a CCA, which would mitigate for potential financial impacts to the General Fund
- The County should prepare a CCA Feasibility Study
- The San Diego Energy District supports a CCA
- The County should pursue a CCA with caution
- EVs are more important in the County than the City of San Diego as the County is car-centric with no mass transit
- The County should be a regional leader and consider the electricity systems of the future such as CCAs and Microgrids
- Keep CREP as a separate plan from the CAP, but renewable energy measures should inform the CAP
- Renewable energy measures are also resiliency tools
- Consider microgrids as not only a tool to promote renewable energy, but as a hazard mitigation measure within the Hazard Mitigation Plan and a climate change resiliency measure in CAP
- A sustainability office can be effective; the City of San Diego has benefitted from this initiative and it has opened the door for additional funding
- The sustainability office should be a consolidated team, group or person to coordinate sustainability-related activities that are implemented in various County departments, and can be a point of contact for the public

During Agenda Item C3, the public attendees participated in the same dot exercise as the TAC, but used different boards.

- The public attendees identified the following seven measures as high priority for consideration (2 dots or more):
 - (2) Establish a New Office of Sustainability
 - (3) Institutional Capacity - CCA, DA, SEU
 - (7) Increase County's Renewable Energy Use
 - (6) Build an Energy Assurance Plan
 - (10) Renewable Energy Overlay Zone
 - (13) Renewable Energy Education and Outreach
 - (15) Establish a Microgrid and Microgrid Policies
- The public attendees identified the following three measures as a medium priority for consideration (1 dot):
 - (17) *Added Item: Legislative Outreach (see Agenda Item C4)*
 - (4) Financial Capacity - PACE, Bonds, Lending, Crowdfunding
 - (9) Regional Energy Network
- No dots were provided on the other seven measures.

E. Meeting Adjourned at 10:25 AM