

INTERDEPARTMENTAL CLIMATE ACTION TASK FORCE REPORT #1

March 30, 2021

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Brian Balbas, Director, Department of Public Works

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Supervisors of the County of Contra Costa declares a climate emergency that threatens the long-term economic and social well-being, health, safety, and security of the County, and that urgent action by all levels of government is needed to immediately address this climate emergency.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Contra Costa County supports the State of California’s recent goals to reduce greenhouse gases by 40% below 1990 levels by 2030 (SB 32, 2016); achieve net carbon neutrality by 2045 (Executive Order B-55-18, 2018); and provide 100% of the State’s electricity from clean energy sources by 2045 (SB 100, 2018); and intends to take actions to help achieve these goals.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Contra Costa County establish an interdepartmental task force of all Department heads, or their senior deputies, that will focus on urgently implementing the County’s Climate Action Plan – as currently adopted and as it may be amended by the Board – and identifying additional actions, policies, and programs the County can undertake to reduce and adapt to the impacts of a changing climate. This task force should report to the Board of Supervisors through the County Sustainability Commission and the Board’s Sustainability Committee on a semi-annual basis starting in March 2021. Reports to the Board of Supervisors shall be discussion items for the Board.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Supervisors and the County Sustainability Commission seek input from the community (with a special focus on highly impacted Environmental Justice communities), workers (especially impacted workers), and business/industry to help the County anticipate and plan for an economy that is less dependent on fossil fuels, helps plan for a “Just Transition” away from a fossil-fuel dependent economy, and considers how the County’s recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic can incorporate the County’s climate goals. As the State of California adopts policies and goals for

CLIMATE EMERGENCY RESOLUTION

SEPTEMBER 22, 2020

Interdepartmental Climate Action Task Force

- Convened by Departments of Conservation and Development and Public Works
- On average 25 people participated in first two meetings, most Department Directors or Deputy Directors
- High level of enthusiasm and ideas

Recommendations in Initial Draft Report

Continue Online Services

Supporting continuation of County services and meetings online where possible after the COVID-19 restrictions are lifted,

Invest in County Facilities

Establish a Sustainability Fund that is supported by an annual investment and/or is structured as a revolving fund.

Advocate

Advocate with the State that online advisory body meetings be permitted to continue after shelter-in-place orders are lifted.

Continue Providing Services Online

- Benefits of online services



- ❖ *Travel Time*
- ❖ *Traffic Congestion*
- ❖ *Pollution*
- ❖ *Transportation Costs*
- ❖ *County Operational Costs*



- ❖ *Convenience*
- ❖ *Quality of Life*
- ❖ *Can reach residents who have difficulty getting to in-person appointments*

- Considerations

- It will always be important to ensure services continue to be available in-person for those who need that option
- Continue working to bring internet technology, devices, and education to all residents

- Going Forward:

- How to allocate resources to providing services both online and in-person?

Department Success Stories: Veterans Services

- Virtual office and phone visits are exceeding in-person visits
- Remote services are allowing us to assist veterans otherwise unable to travel to our offices
- Other counties and community college districts are emulating Contra Costa! (i.e., Los Angeles, San Francisco)
- Zoom subscription is significantly less expensive than rent



Warm greeting at the Veterans Services Online Office

Reserve your Hotspot today.



Department Success Stories: Library

80 online events such as story time, author talks

1,500 library card sign ups and re-registrations

125 adult literacy tutoring sessions per week

4,100 e-books checked out per day (double pre-COVID)

And, there will always be a need to provide on-site services.

Tuesday, March 16, 2021	
ay	Library March Madness »
» event	
JPM - JPM	
» event	Lunch and Learn: Bleeding Management » 270 seat(s) remaining Accessibility Educati
PM - PM	Starting Seeds »
» event	71 seat(s) remaining Speaker / A
PM - PM	UC Master Gardeners: So You Want to Plant a Tree! »
» event	Registration closed Accessibility Education Speaker / A
Wednesday, March 17, 2021	
ay	Library March Madness » Part of M
» event	
JAM - JAM	Video Storytime Snippets »
» event	Storytime

March 30, 2021

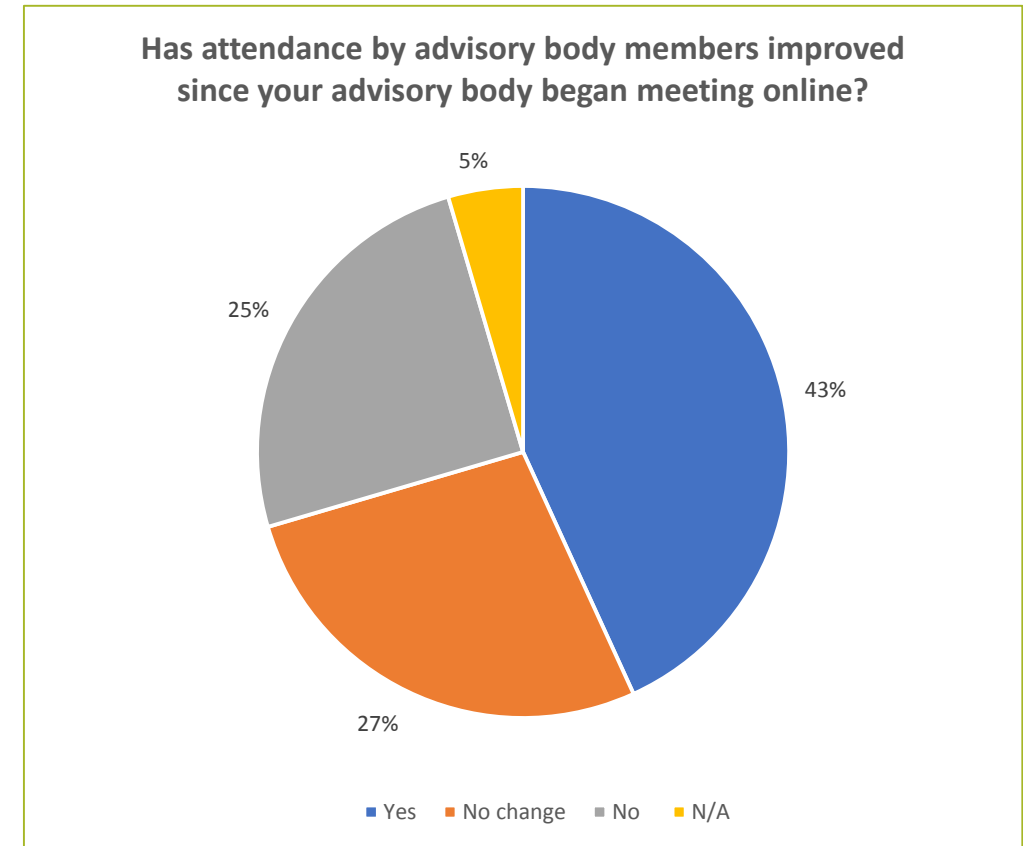


Invest in County Facilities

- Annual contribution to Sustainability Fund (and/or revolving fund that reinvests savings) to support GHG reductions and utility cost savings in County facilities and operations
- Potential uses of the Fund would include installation of solar panels, EV chargers, LED lighting retrofits and drought-tolerant landscaping at County facilities, and purchase of EVs for County fleet
- If the Board is supportive, staff will research options for implementing such a Fund and will report back with recommendations

Advocate to Continue Online Meetings

- Better attendance by advisory body members
- Greater community participation
- Advisory body meetings can be recorded and posted online
- On March 9, 2021, the Board amended the County's State Legislative Platform to support legislation that would enable virtual or teleconferencing public meetings, including advisory body meetings, to continue post-pandemic.



Direction from the Board



Continue providing County services online?



Ongoing sustainability investment in County facilities?



Preferred opportunities for the Task Force to explore going forward?