



SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

RECORD OF ACTION FOR
November 9, 2020

Supervisor Federal D. Glover, Chair
Supervisor **John Gioia**, Vice Chair

Present: Federal D. Glover, Chair
John Gioia, Vice Chair

Staff Present: Jody London, Sustainability Coordinator; Nicole Shimizu, Climat Corps Fellow; Steve Kowaleski, Chief Deputy Director, Public Works; Frank DiMassa, Energy Manager; Joe Yee, Deputy Director, Public Works; Lisa Chow, District Representative, Office of Supervisor Mitchoff

Attendees: Howdy Goudey, Janet Callahan, Betty Robles, Laurie Talbert

1. Introductions
2. Public comment on any item under the jurisdiction of the Committee and not on this agenda (speakers may be limited to three minutes).

There was no public comment.

3. Staff recommends approval of the attached Record of Action for the September 29, 2020, meeting of the Sustainability Committee.

The Record of Action from the September 29, 2020, meeting of the Sustainability Committee was approved.

AYE: Chair Federal D. Glover
Vice Chair John Gioia

4. INTERVIEW applicants for the two vacant At-Large Seats on the Contra Costa County Sustainability Commission.

The Committee recognized the previous At-Large, Environmental Justice member Doria Robinson for her service to the County and expressed its gratitude for her work.

The Committee interviewed Isis Bastet, Felipe Solis, Darrell Taylor, and Isabella Zizi for the At-Large, Environmental Justice seat.

The Committee interviewed Chris Easter, Marisha Farnsworth, Renee Fernandez-Lipp, Lisa

Marshall, Angela Vincent, and Carrie Wright for the At-Large, Business seat.

5. RECEIVE REPORT and PROVIDE DIRECTION to staff as appropriate.

Frank DiMassa, County Energy Manager, reported on the current progress on solar projects within the county. There are four solar projects under construction and an effort to utilize existing car port projects to advance EV charger installation. DiMassa noted two main solar projects on which he sought guidance from the Sustainability Committee. The first was the 1305 Macdonald project in Richmond, which was encountering a challenge because the proposed project involves removing trees that would shade the proposed solar array. If left alone, the solar system would still work, but the electricity yield and savings would be reduced.

Supervisor Gioia recommended setting up a meeting with the City of Richmond to discuss the issue and identify a solution.

The second project on which DiMassa requested guidance was the substitution of the 30 Douglas project with 2500 Alhambra, both in Martinez. DiMassa stated that the 2500 Alhambra site was a strong economic project due to a grant the County received with help from SunPower to partially fund the project. He clarified that SunPower would do a cost feasibility study to evaluate the project and determine its technical feasibility moving forward.

The Committee approved the substitution of the 30 Douglas project with the 2500 Alhambra project.

During public comment, a member of the public requested that unincorporated Rodeo be kept in mind when thinking about these solar project efforts.

6. RECEIVE report from Sustainability Commission Chair.

Howdy Goudey, Sustainability Commission Chair, reported on the October 26, 2020 Sustainability Commission meeting which centered around a discussion on implementation of the Climate Emergency Resolution. The Sustainability Commission created an ad-hoc group led by Shoshana Wechsler that will come to the next Sustainability Commission meeting with suggestions. Goudey requested the Sustainability Committee's input for the preliminary work on a Just Transition.

Supervisor Gioia thanked the Sustainability Commission for its work on the Climate Emergency Resolution and emphasized that he wants more of the Just Transition discussion to be about bringing the necessary stakeholders to the table and broadening participation among community members as much as possible.

Jody London asked the Supervisors about a timeline for this discussion. Supervisor Gioia replied that the planning process for the proposed Office of Racial Equity and Social Justice that could play a role in a Just Transition will likely be drawing to a close in May.

During public comment, Betty Robles stated the Contra Costa County chapter of Citizens' Climate Lobby was interested in supporting the Just Transition effort.

7. PROVIDE DIRECTION re "Cut the Commute" Challenge.

Jody London requested clarification of the County's goal for the "Cut the Commute" Challenge. She asked whether this was a general solicitation in support of telecommuting or for the "Cut the Commute" Challenge specifically.

The Committee emphasized the complexity of the issue and equity component of telecommuting and the importance of discussing the issue with employers moving forward.

Supervisor Glover added that it would be valuable to look at Measure X from the Transportation Commission to inform decisions regarding transit systems and working from home.

The Committee concluded that there should be a joint effort and multi-party conversation about working from home that includes 511 Contra Costa, Contra Costa Transportation Authority staff, East Bay Leadership Council, labor unions, and transit.

Jody London said she would work with 511 Contra Costa to create a plan for a working group that could be brought to the next Committee meeting in January, and then the Board of Supervisors.

8. **DISCUSS and RECOMMEND** to the Board of Supervisors candidates for at-large seats on the Contra Costa County Sustainability Commission.

The Committee agreed to recommend Isabella Zizi for the At-Large, Environmental Justice seat.

The Committee agreed to recommend Marisha Farnsworth for the At-Large, Business seat.

These two recommendations will be put on the agenda for the Board of Supervisors to accept.

9. **RECEIVE REPORT** from County Sustainability Coordinator.

Jody London referred to the written report included with the agenda.

- 10.

11. Adjourn

For Additional Information Contact:

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