



City of Emeryville

INCORPORATED 1896

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SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

Special Meeting

February 8, 2021 – 4:00 pm

DRAFT MINUTES

1. Call to Order
2. Present: Councilmember Ally Medina, Chair; Councilmember Scott Donahue; Mary Grace Houlihan, Public Works Director; Nancy Humphrey, Environmental Programs Supervisor; Matt Anderson, Environmental Programs Technician; Lina Gonzales, Waste Management of Alameda County
3. Public Comment - None
4. Approval of November 9, 2020, Regular Meeting Action Minutes - Approved
5. Action Items
 - 5.1 Convert City Fleet to Electric - Matt Anderson reported on the fleet electrification working group we've been participating in, led by the City of Fremont with a BAAQMD grant. <https://evfleet.tools/about-this-project/> No motion was made, but members requested that staff come back when there's an update in the market or in grants, and advised Public Works to take opportunities that arise.
 - 5.2 Reach Code Proposal to Council 3/2/21 – Nancy Humphrey presented draft materials for Council on reach codes. Members provided feedback on the presentation, and recommended that staff continue to pursue opportunities to incentivize mass timber, A motion was made and passed that strawbale construction be addressed through the alternative means and methods process rather than by reach code.
6. Information Items
 - 6.1. Legislative Update and SB 1383 Review –
 - 6.1.1. SB 1383 (Short-Lived Climate Pollutants): Matt Anderson reviewed the presentation he will make to Council at a study session on 3/16/21.
 - 6.1.2. SB 68 (Alternate Management Standards of Treated Wood Waste): this bill was vetoed by Governor Newsom, and only one landfill is currently certified, so the waste is accumulating.
 - 6.1.3. AB 1826 (Mandatory Commercial Organics Recycling): the threshold for coverage by this requirement is now 2 cubic yards of service (reduced from 4 cy service). Staff is working with Waste Management of Alameda County (WMAC) and with StopWaste/regionally to ensure all customers are appropriately serviced. A discussion about data management ensued, as currently compliance is being tracked using excel sheets shared among jurisdictions/agencies. Staff mentioned that there is a data service called Recyclist that some jurisdictions are using. Mary Grace noted that WMAC has 1.5 FTE assigned exclusively to our contract, and that City staff are working with WMAC to determine what data can be managed with those staff.

6.2. Gas Index Study (www.gasindex.org) – Nancy presented information about the extent of leakage from the natural gas extraction and distribution system. She misstated the magnitude of the leakage, which is in the 5% range. Uncombusted natural gas has a greenhouse gas (GHG) impact about 100 times that of combusted natural gas, so even at 5% leakage it is a big problem for climate.

6.3. StopWaste Update – Executive Director Wendy Sommer is retiring this spring, and Deputy Director Timothy Burroughs will step into the Executive role.

Stopwaste is currently accepting applications for a range of grant opportunities with total funding up to \$475k available to both nonprofits and businesses, aimed at increasing individual, business, and community involvement in the prevention of waste in Alameda County. Areas of focus can be on waste prevention, reuse, and recovery of goods and materials, as well as development, marketing, and use of recovered products.

- Reuse & Repair Grants up to \$20,000 per request, non-profit and for-profit
- Food Waste Reduction Grants up to \$20,000 per request, non-profit and for-profit
- Surplus Food Donation Equipment Grants, up to \$10,000 per request, non-profit only
- Reusable Transport Packaging Grants, up to \$10,000 per request, non-profit and for-profit

6.4. East Bay Community Energy Update – EBCE, with eight other California Community Choice Aggregators (CCAs) has formed a new Joint Powers Authority for power procurement.

EBCE is also offering induction cooktops for loan to the community; we will be taking advantage of this program as soon as it's launched.

6.5. Grant Opportunities –

6.5.1. EV Charging

6.5.1.1. eVIP – a CEC grant program implemented by the Center for Sustainable Energy, provides incentives for publicly-available charger installations. This program is subscribed immediately when it's opened.

6.5.1.2. Charge! – a BAAQMD grant program, not currently open. It's competitive and focused on AB617 communities.

CM Donahue requested information about charging grants as they become available.

6.6. Check-Ins on Other Programs and Projects - None

7. Future Agenda Items

7.1. EV fleet (when there's an update)

7.2. Incentivizing low-carbon construction methods

8. Announcements / Member Comments

No announcements

9. Adjournment 5:04 pm