CONTRA COSTA COUNTY
SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION
An Advisory Body to the Board of Supervisors

February 25, 2019
5:00 P.M.
30 Muir Road, Martinez

Victoria Smith, Member, District 2, Chair
Howdy Goudey, At-Large, Community, Vice Chair
Nick Despota, Member, District 1
Shoshana Wechsler, Alternate, District 1
Ryan Buckley, Alternate, District 2
John Sierra, Member, District 3
Gretchen Logue, Alternate, District 3
Wes Sullens, Member, District 4
Travis Curran, Alternate, District 4
Charles Davidson, Member, District 5
Mark Thomson, Alternate, District 5
Harry Thurston, At-Large, Community Group
Kathy Cutting, At-Large, Business
Nicholas Snyder, At-Large, Business
Doria Robinson, At-Large, Environmental Justice
Kim Hazard, At-Large, Education

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The Sustainability Commission will provide reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities planning to attend Commission meetings. Contact the staff person listed below at least 72 hours before the meeting.
Any disclosable public records related to an open session item on a regular meeting agenda and distributed by the County to a majority of members of the Commission less than 96 hours prior to that meeting are available for public inspection at 30 Muir Road, Martinez, CA during normal business hours. Staff reports related to items on the agenda are also accessible on line at www.co.contra-costa.ca.us.

Public comment may be submitted via electronic mail on agenda items at least one full work day prior to the published meeting time.

For Additional Information Contact:

Jody London, Commission Staff
Phone (925) 674-7871 · Fax (925) 674-7250 · jody.london@dcd.cccounty.us

Glossary of Acronyms, Abbreviations, and other Terms (in alphabetical order): Contra Costa County has a policy of making limited use of acronyms, abbreviations, and industry-specific language in meetings of its Board of Supervisors and Committees. Following is a list of commonly used abbreviations that may appear in presentations and written materials at meetings of the Ad Hoc Sustainability Committee:

AB Assembly Bill
ABAG Association of Bay Area Governments
ACA Assembly Constitutional Amendment
ADA Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990
BAAQMD Bay Area Air Quality Management District
BART Bay Area Rapid Transit District
BAYREN Bay Area Regional Energy Network
BGO Better Government Ordinance (Contra Costa County)
BOS Board of Supervisors
CALTRANS California Department of Transportation
AO County Administrative Officer or Office
CAP Climate Action Plan
CARB California Air Resources Board
CCA Community Choice
CCE Community Choice Energy Aggregation
CCWD Contra Costa Water District
CEQA California Environmental Quality Act
CSA County Service Area
CSAC California State Association of Counties
DCC Delta Counties Coalition
DCD Contra Costa County Dept. of Conservation & Development
DPC Delta Protection Commission
DSC Delta Stewardship Council
DWR California Department of Water Resources
EBEW East Bay Energy Watch
EBMUD East Bay Municipal Utility District
EIR Environmental Impact Report (a state requirement)
EIS Environmental Impact Statement (a federal requirement)
FTE Full Time Equivalent
FY Fiscal Year
GHG Greenhouse Gas
GGRF Greenhouse Gas Reduction Funds
GIS Geographic Information System
HSD Contra Costa County Health Services Department
IPM Integrated Pest Management
JPAGEPA Joint (Exercise of) Powers Authority or Agreement
LAMORINDA Area of Lafayette-Moraga-Orinda
MAC Municipal Advisory Council
MBE Minority Business Enterprise
MOA Memorandum of Agreement
MOE Maintenance of Effort
MOU Memorandum of Understanding
MTC Metropolitan Transportation Commission
NACo National Association of Counties
NEPA National Environmental Protection Act
PDA Priority Development Area
PV Photovoltaic
PWD Contra Costa County Public Works Department
RDA Redevelopment Agency or Area
RFI Request For Information
RFP Request For Proposals
RFQ Request For Qualifications
SB Senate Bill
SGC Strategic Growth Council
SR2S Safe Routes to Schools
TWIC Transportation, Water, and Infrastructure Committee
U.S. EPA United States Environmental Protection Agency
WBE Women-Owned Business Enterprise
Meeting Date: 02/25/2019
Subject: APPROVE Record of Action for December 10, 2018, Sustainability Commission Meeting.
Department: Conservation & Development
Presenter: Jody London, DCD
Contact: Jody London (925) 674-7871

Referral History:
County Ordinance (Better Government Ordinance 95-6, Article 25-205, [d]) requires that each County Body keep a record of its meetings. Though the record need not be verbatim, it must accurately reflect the agenda and the decisions made in the meeting.

Referral Update:
Any handouts or printed copies of testimony distributed at the meeting will be attached to this meeting record. Links to the agenda and minutes will be available at the Committee web page, to be announced.

Recommendation(s)/Next Step(s):
Staff recommends approval of the attached Record of Action for the December 10, 2018, Sustainability Commission Meeting with any necessary corrections.

Fiscal Impact (if any):
N/A

Attachments

12-10-18 Record of Action

Absent: John Sierra, Travis Curran, Nick Snyder

Staff Present: Jody London, Sustainability Coordinator; Will Nelson, Advance Planner; Demian Hardman, Senior Planner; Michael Kent, Hazardous Materials Ombudsman; Siu Sahn Foo, CivicSpark Fellow

Attendees: Jan Warren, Carol Weed, Joanna Jansen, Tammy Seale

1. Call to Order

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. PUBLIC COMMENT on any item under the purview of the Commission that is not on the agenda.

There was no public comment.

4. APPROVE Record of Action for October 22, 2018 meeting.

The Record of Action was approved unanimously.
Motion: Despota Second: Hazard


The Commission discussed and unanimously approved the annual report and work plan, with minor edits.
Motion: Goudey Second: Despota


Jody London described how the report has been modified from the version the Commission reviewed in October. London observed that the current Climate Action Plan does not have a good dashboard that can be easily accessed to measure progress toward numeric targets. The modified report being reviewed at this meeting includes a written narrative for the numeric
targets and updates to the spreadsheet.

Demian Hardman, Senior Energy Planner, provided an update on a greenhouse gas emissions inventory that the East Bay Energy Watch (a partnership between PG&E and all the jurisdictions in Contra Costa and Alameda Counties) is preparing for 2017. The database includes 90% of all the inventory greenhouse gas emissions data. EBEW would like PG&E to continue funding this inventory annually, as it is proving to be a cost-effective way to provide data that is standard across jurisdictions, many of which have not previously prepared emissions inventories.

The Commission discussed the progress report and asked questions about how some metrics, such as vehicle miles travelled (VMT) and energy efficiency awareness, are measured. The Commission also discussed whether metrics are revised, and asked that staff add language to the report that emphasizes ongoing improvement. The Commission expressed interest in approaches that solve for multiple measures, for examples green buildings, VMT and transportation, Styrofoam bans and composting. The Commission expressed frustration that there currently is not a steady way to obtain data on commercial buildings.

The Commission directed staff to update the report to reflect the Commission’s discussion, working with members Wes Sullens, Howdy Goudey, and Victoria Smith. The report will be attached to the 2018 Annual Report that is submitted to the Board of Supervisors.

The Progress Report was unanimously approved with the modifications discussed.
Motion: Despota    Second: Cutting

7. RECEIVE Presentation on Climate Action Plan Update.

Tammy Seale from PlaceWorks, the lead consultant for the Climate Action Plan Update, provided an overview of the approach and process for updating the County’s Climate Action Plan. The project will produce a standalone Climate Action Plan and integrate climate and sustainability priorities throughout the updated General Plan. Seale described the data collection and analysis tasks, and the changes in rules and regulations that will be included in the updated Climate Action Plan. Seale noted that measures employed to realize Climate Action Plan goals can change over time. The updated Climate Action Plan will integrate vulnerability assessments and data from the Adapting to Rising Tides studies in Contra Costa County.

The majority of outreach and community engagement for the Climate Action Plan update will be integrated with the outreach for the General Plan. The scope of work anticipates five meetings with Sustainability Commission. There will also likely be a focus group on sustainability as part of the General Plan outreach and engagement. There is a great opportunity for the Sustainability Commission members to be ambassadors for the Climate Action Plan update.

Commission members discussed their interest in a joint meeting with the Board of Supervisors Ad Hoc Committee on Sustainability on the Climate Action Plan. They also discussed the percentage of overall Countywide emissions the update Climate Action Plan will reflect and whether emissions from industrial sources will be included in the inventory, how public input will be incorporated, whether there will be a consumption-based inventory, how to have greater consistency across jurisdictions, and interest in seeing the County be an early adopter of new State requirements.

8. RECEIVE Presentation on Public Health and Climate Issues.

Michael Kent, County Hazardous Materials Ombudsman, provided an overview of his role. Kent
focused his presentation on the interaction of climate change and public health, including anticipated public health impacts and health inequities from climate change. He also described work ongoing to better integrate the County’s low income weatherization and related energy efficiency programs with public health nursing services performed by the Health Services Department. He also described a new project with MCE to develop a healthy homes program in Contra Costa County.

9. REVIEW Sustainability Commission Progress Tracking Tool and PROVIDE DIRECTION as needed.

The Commission discussed the tool provided with the agenda, and suggested the tool include a column to name accomplishments. Staff will look for a way to make the tool accessible online.

10. APPOINT Sustainability Commission Member to Represent the Sustainability Commission on the Technical Advisory Group for the General Plan Update.

Will Nelson, Advance Planner and staff lead for the General Plan update, explained that the Technical Advisory Group will be comprised primarily of staff and will be a detailed working group. The Commission unanimously designated Victoria Smith to represent the Sustainability Commission on the Technical Advisory Group for the General Plan Update.

Motion: Despota     Second: Hazard

11. RECEIVE Reports from Sustainability Commission members and alternates, and PROVIDE DIRECTION as needed.

There were no reports.

12. RECEIVE Report from Sustainability Coordinator.

Jody London summarized the written report included with the agenda.

13. RECEIVE Report from Sustainability Commission Chair and IDENTIFY TOPICS for next report to Ad Hoc Committee on Sustainability.

Howdy Goudey reported that the Ad Hoc Committee on Sustainability at its November meeting received a presentation on the County fleet, including bottlenecks with electric vehicle adoption in County operations and installation of charging infrastructure at County facilities.


The Commission noted the meeting dates for 2019. At the February 22 meeting, the Commission would like receive updates on: the Electric Vehicle Readiness Blueprint; the County’s economic development strategy and the Northern Waterfront Economic Development Initiative; the equity framework the Commission discussed at its August 2018 retreat; and any updates on the General Plan. The April 22 meeting may be repurposed for a workshop on the Climate Action Plan goals.

15. The next meeting is currently scheduled for February 25, 2019.

Meeting Date: 02/25/2019
Department: Conservation & Development
Presenter: Jody London
Contact: Jody London, DCD

Referral History:
On August 28, 2017, the Sustainability Commission adopted Bylaws. These Bylaws were approved by the Board of Supervisors on September 26, 2017. Section IV.A of the Bylaws regarding Organization states: “The Commission shall annually at its first meeting in the calendar year elect its Chair and Vice-Chair.” The duties of the Chair are defined in the Bylaws as conducting meetings, developing agenda, and serving as the official spokesperson for the Commission. The duties of the Vice-Chair are defined as acting for the Chair in the Chair’s absence.

Referral Update:
The February 25, 2019, meeting is the first meeting in the calendar year of the Sustainability Commission. It is therefore the meeting at which the Commission should elect its officers for 2019.

Recommendation(s)/Next Step(s):
ELECT Sustainability Commission officers for 2019.

Fiscal Impact (if any):
N/A.

Attachments
No file(s) attached.
Meeting Date: 02/25/2019
Subject: RECEIVE Presentation on Cleaner Contra Costa Challenge
Department: Conservation and Development
Presenter: Jacenda Davis, Sustainable Contra Costa
Contact: Jody London, DCD

Referral History:

Referral Update:
In October 2018, the County entered into a grant agreement with the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD) to sponsor the Cleaner Contra Costa Challenge. The Cleaner Contra Costa Challenge is an online platform that allows residents to register their household, find information about things they can do to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and take action. The platform allows participants to form teams, and provides data on greenhouse gas emissions by household and action.

This is the first time the platform has been launched on a countywide level. The two-year grant from the BAAQMD is allowing us to pilot outreach and marketing strategies in the cities of San Pablo, Walnut Creek, and Antioch. Sustainable Contra Costa is leading the outreach and marketing work.

The partners to this project are working to launch the web site in March. While the focus for outreach and marketing will be San Pablo, Walnut Creek, and Antioch, any resident of any Contra Costa community is encouraged to register and participate.

Recommendation(s)/Next Step(s):
RECEIVE Presentation on Cleaner Contra Costa Challenge

Fiscal Impact (if any):
None.

Attachments
The Cleaner Contra Costa Challenge.pdf
The Cleaner Contra Costa Challenge
Purpose

- Encourage County residents to take action to create a cleaner, healthier community and help reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
- Build stronger communities and empower residents to help stop damage to the climate.
Platform Walkthrough

Website Links:

- Demo site: [https://mycity.communityclimate.org/](https://mycity.communityclimate.org/)
- Backup site presentation slide deck
● Increase the number of users on the platform
● Increase participation by providing engaging and educational resources

● Add new community groups as affiliations
● Promote collaboration amongst teams by coordinating community events and outreach
- Identify interested community groups
- Coordinate soft-launch presentations and training sessions
- Train community groups on how to use the platform
- Provide additional support to community groups
- Identify successful engagement strategies to use for county wide expansion
Current Timeline

- Develop sample messaging & reach out to community groups in target cities *(March 8th)*
- Coordinate soft-launch presentations and platform trainings *(March 15th- week of April 19th)*
- Student internship coordination @ Alhambra High School in Martinez, CA *(Ongoing, Student “Launch” Event is Wednesday, April 24th)*
Questions?

Jacenda Davis
Community Engagement Coordinator
Sustainable Contra Costa
jacenda@sustainablecoco.org
(925)206-1821
Meeting Date: 02/25/2019
Subject: RECEIVE Presentation on Sustainability, Health, and Planning for the Built Environment
Department: Conservation and Development
Presenter: Richard Jackson, M.D., MPH
Contact: Jody London, DCD

Referral History:

Referral Update:
At the December 10, 2018, Sustainability Commission meeting, the Commission received a presentation from the County’s Hazardous Materials Ombudsman on the interaction of climate change and public health, including anticipated public health impacts and health inequities from climate change. Commission member Kim Hazard suggested the group also hear from Dr. Richard Jackson, Professor emeritus at the Fielding School of Public Health, UCLA. Dr. Jackson is a nationally recognized expert on the built environment and health.

Recommendation(s)/Next Step(s):
RECEIVE Presentation on Sustainability, Health, and Planning for the Built Environment

Fiscal Impact (if any):
None.

Attachments
Dr. Jackson - Preface Making Health Places
Preface

Richard Jackson

Ten years ago the editors of this book confronted a striking revelation: the manner in which we design and build our communities—where we spend virtually our entire lives—has profound impacts on our physical, mental, social, environmental, and economic well-being. Nations of the twenty-first century are caught up in a perfect storm of intersecting health, environmental, and economic challenges: escalating health care and social costs, environmental threats from resource depletion and climate change, economic impacts associated with the “end of oil” and an aging population and workforce, and an inadequate educational approach that rests on and perpetuates silos of knowledge and disciplines. Because these challenges are interconnected, none can be addressed in isolation. We need system-level approaches that cross many disciplines and populations. We must rethink the ways in which our physical environments, homes, offices, neighborhoods, regions, and transit systems are designed and constructed, understand how they impact health, and ensure that they foster equity and sustainability. The purpose of this book is to explore these interconnected issues particularly as they are affecting the United States and, through multidisciplinary collaborations, to develop solutions that promote the well-being and vitality of our society.

More than ever before, Americans today are faced with poor nutrition and a lack of physical activity, both of which are leading to serious health consequences. Over the past few decades, obesity has become a major public health issue.
Its prevalence has increased at a striking rate since the 1960s, when an estimated 45 percent of Americans were overweight or obese (CDC, National Center for Health Statistics 2009). Now, two out of every three American adults twenty years old or older are overweight or obese (Flegal 2010). Before 1985, among the states with data available, no state reported an adult obesity prevalence higher than 15 percent. In 2009, only one state—Colorado—had an obesity prevalence of less than 20 percent (CDC 2010a). Prevalence of obesity among US children and adolescents has tripled since the 1970s: between the late 1970s and 2008, obesity rates rose for six- to eleven-year-olds from 7 percent to 20 percent, and for adolescents from 5 percent to 18 percent (CDC 2010b). Overweight and obesity increase the risks of cancer, heart disease, stroke, high blood pressure, joint and bone disease, depression, birth defects, and other serious afflictions. From a population standpoint, the most fearsome complication of obesity is diabetes. Developing diabetes before the age of forty shortens life expectancy by about fourteen years, and diminishes one’s time with a good quality of life by twenty years (Narayan et al. 2003). Becoming morbidly obese (having a body mass index greater than 35) increases the risk of diabetes fortyfold for a man and one hundredfold for a woman. What is most striking is that if current trends are not reversed, today’s young people could become members of the first generation of Americans to have a shorter average life span than their parents.

In the last ten years, antidepressants have become the most prescribed medication in the United States, and the percentage of the population receiving them has doubled since the mid-1990s (Olfson and Marcus 2009). Our children are increasingly being medicated for inattentiveness or hyperactivity, with the percentage tripling between 1987 and 1997 (Olfson et al. 2003). Although exposure to regular physical activity in natural settings has been shown to be effective in reducing symptoms of childhood attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder, more and more children confront environments hostile to walking, bicycling, and independent play and have limited access to greenspace (Kuo and Taylor 2004). Many teens and others unable to drive live in isolated housing developments without shops, community centers, or public transportation and are at increased risk of boredom and depression. Some newer housing developments provide improved amenities for young families, although many people still face limited access to walkable neighborhoods with local schools, parks, and retail.

The health threats we face cannot be countered by medical science alone. Although there are medicines to help us lose weight, they will never be as safe or as cheap as a good diet and exercise, particularly the incidental exercise that was a routine part of earlier generations’ lives as they walked to shops, churches, and workplaces and climbed stairs in buildings. Bariatric surgery (sometimes called stomach stapling) and liposuction will never be cheap or totally safe. For
depression, psychotherapy and antidepressants are medically useful but will never be as inexpensive or beneficial as exercise and being with people who care about us. To decrease heart disease, cancer, osteoporosis, depression, and other diseases, we need convenient opportunities for regular physical activity. Exercise does not need to be done on a treadmill or “health club” machine; it is less costly and has the same benefits when spread throughout our day in the form of walking, stair climbing, and carrying packages. The trouble is that in the last half century, we have effectively engineered physical activity out of our daily lives.

Americans have made great strides in advancing technology and improving daily living conditions but are inefficient when it comes to health care. In 1960, the United States spent 5 percent of the gross domestic product on health care; in 2008, the portion was 16 percent—a staggering $2.3 trillion (Orszag and Ellis 2007). Paradoxically, high health care spending does not guarantee better quality; rates of chronic diseases, including obesity and asthma, are increasing even as our medical spending increases. These increasing rates of illnesses and costs cannot be addressed within the medical sector alone. It is more important than ever before to invest in preventive measures that focus on efficiency, effectiveness, and equity. Putting the fundamental tenet of prevention into practice, and thus intervening before disease occurs, not when it already has, prevents suffering and saves money. This is an especially important consideration as the US population ages. The proportion of Americans age sixty-five and over is expected to increase from 12 percent in 2009 to nearly 20 percent in 2030, portending increased medical costs (Administration on Aging 2010). To prevent disease and improve quality of life for Americans of all ages, we must look “upstream” to how our food is produced, how we lay out our cities, and how we design our homes and buildings. Those who work and have expertise in these domains typically do not think of their professions as health related. The fact is, however, that health is determined by planning, architecture, transportation, housing, energy, and other disciplines at least as much as it is by medical care. It is our shared duty to work together to build communities that are safe, affordable, lively, and healthy.

The modern America of obesity, inactivity, depression, and loss of community has not “happened” to us; rather we legislated, subsidized, and planned it. Our taxes subsidized the highways that turned the downtowns of most American cities into no-man’s lands (and certainly no-child’s lands) and the countryside into sprawl. The elderly and those without the option of driving (the young, low-income, or disabled) have often lacked the option of living in a lively town center because they have been unable to find affordable housing or needed services there. We can, if we choose, legislate, subsidize, and plan for health
promotion and disease prevention. For example, aggressive implementation of labor-intensive, urban, organic agriculture can create meaningful work, improve nutrition, reduce toxic chemical usage, lower greenhouse gas emissions, and offer green respite and good cuisine. However, we must have the master plans, the building codes, the tax policies, the knowledge, and the leadership to enact this kind of solution.

The challenges to the physical infrastructure of the United States are formidable. The United States accomplished its unspoken goal of a car for every driver in the 1970s. From 1960 to 2000, Americans’ per capita vehicle miles traveled doubled, from 4,000 to close to 9,000 miles per year, although this number has remained stable since 2000—perhaps because every urban area already feels full of cars (Litman 2010). Americans also spend more than one hundred hours per year commuting to work, which is more than the ten days of vacation time offered in many jobs (US Census Bureau 2005). Annual hours of highway traffic delay per person in urban areas increased from an average of twenty-one hours in 1982 to about fifty-one hours in 2007 (Texas Transportation Institute 2009). During that same time, rush hour increased from 4.5 hours of the day to 7 hours (US DOT, Federal Highway Administration 2008). Aspiring toward a future with a car for every driver makes little sense given that the US population will double by the end of this century. Nearly 600 million people will be vying for limited resources in our not-so-distant future, so we must undertake measures to develop a sustainable infrastructure now.

The editors of this book are physicians—one in family medicine, one in internal medicine, and one in pediatrics—and all three of us work in preventive medicine and public health. Our careers have been challenging; we have studied the health effects of air and water pollution, of infectious agents, of hazardous waste sites, and of pesticides and other toxic substances. As we examined the sources of air pollution, we noted that more than half of this pollution is related to energy use in buildings and more than a third to transportation. We investigated birth defects and other diseases related to contaminated water but have seen health leaders fail to examine how rapidly the water underground and in our streams is being polluted by the toxic materials that run off our parking lots into creeks, rivers, and eventually our drinking water. We have examined injury and death rates among bicyclists, pedestrians, and vehicle passengers from car crashes, yet only recently have public health leaders begun to study how the design of cities, suburbs, and rural areas impacts people.

At the turn of the millennium, conventional wisdom and marketing encouraged people to buy automobile-dependent tract homes distant from their workplaces. Though touted as a smart investment, this paradigm severely
undermined the population’s health and environment. When one of this book’s authors, Richard Jackson, wrote about this phenomenon in a publication called Sprawlwatch, he was condemned by the housing industry and berated by members of Congress. The suggestion that the obesity epidemic was due not only to bad nutrition but also to severe car dependency was even derided by some of our public health colleagues. Today these outlandish ideas are recognized as common sense and are regularly cited by the US president, major policy organizations, and in legislation as ways to address outcomes associated with the built environment. There is now good evidence showing that people who use public transit for their daily commutes weigh less and are healthier (MacDonald et al. 2010). Communities that support transit use, walking, and bicycling are associated with improved air quality (Frank, Stone, and Bachman 2000; Frank et al. 2006), reduced greenhouse gas emissions (Ewing et al. 2008), lower rates of traffic injuries (Ewing, Schieber, and Zegeer 2003; Dumbaugh 2005), more physical activity (LaChapelle and Frank 2009), and lower body weights (LaChapelle and Frank 2009), thus reducing the likelihood of chronic disease. The issue of neighborhood design dictating children’s physical and social development has become prominent; the American Academy of Pediatrics has issued clinical guidance to this effect (Committee on Environmental Health 2009). Banks and insurers are also increasingly aware of neighborhood “livability.” In the recent decline of the housing market, the places that best held their values were dense areas that offered walking, local parks, and nearby retail and transit. The high costs of gasoline and owning a car are leading many families to choose to own only one car or even no cars. Bicycling has seen a resurgence for reasons of health, economics, and sustainability, although the infrastructure for safe bicycling has not kept pace. Recent high-level commitments by the US Department of Transportation to provide more support for nonmotorized transportation options offer hope for an increase in safe routes to school, trails, bicycle routes, transit options, and other important ways to improve health and reduce pollution and traffic risks. Since we published the forerunner of this book—Urban Sprawl and Public Health—in 2004, enormous progress has been made in the field of healthy community design. Still, much work remains to be done.

Although we have a strong focus on health, our work is also fundamentally rooted in the notion of sustainability. Sustainability means leaving a planet at least as diverse, healthy, and beautiful as it was given to all of us. Just as a forest can occupy a place for millennia and yet leave the land richer, not poorer, our “footprint” should be a benefit not a detriment. We humans will forever need built environments and will always impact the places and ecosystems where we are located; our legacy must be an improvement in overall social and ecological
systems. By 2040, the majority of the buildings in America will have been designed and built in the twenty-first century. These buildings should be designed to require little outside energy or to produce net energy, to use local products and conserve water, and to be accessible by safe, healthy transit. We have huge tasks ahead in repairing the degradation that has already occurred to this planet’s wetlands, forests, oceans, atmosphere, and people. Giving our grandchildren a ruined planet could in some ways be considered a form of child abuse. Yet, it may be that all we can accomplish in our lifetimes is a redirecting of the current negative trajectory of human planetary damage. The care of the planet must start with sustainability—not just environmental but also social and economic.

We intend this book for students and other persons interested in obtaining a deeper knowledge of how the built environment affects health. Although we have used references and extensive data to substantiate our points, we have worked to keep the text free of technical jargon. When one is addressing the subject of built environment and health, much of the work—and a big part of the fun—involves crossing multiple disciplines. To incorporate knowledge from many disciplines in this book, we sought chapter contributions from colleagues with training and expertise in public health, epidemiology, urban planning, architecture, landscape architecture, law, psychology, public policy, political science, industrial hygiene, and other fields.

This book outlines the challenges the United States faces, and describes a vision of healthy, sustainable communities where people can walk to shops, schools, friends’ homes, and transit stations; where individuals can interact with neighbors and admire trees, plants, and other natural features; where the air and water are clean; and where there are parks and play areas for children, gathering places for teens and the elderly, and convenient work and recreation areas for all. We envision that every urban and suburban lake, stream, and river will be swimmable and fishable and its banks walkable. Children and adults will be physically active by choice when they have safe places to walk or bicycle or otherwise enjoy the outdoors. All Americans will have the opportunity to age in place, with dignity and surrounded by community. This is not a mere dream. This nation had places like this in many cities before World War II. We do not seek to reduce personal choices, rather we argue for more choices. The old US cities that people enjoy so much, such as Annapolis, Boston, and San Francisco, offer both density and quality of life. This book is our effort to lay out how the built environment affects everyone, and how by building with people’s health and future in mind, every community in America can improve its people’s quality of life.
References


Meeting Date: 02/25/2019
Subject: RECEIVE Update on EV Readiness Blueprint
Department: Conservation and Development
Presenter: Jody London, DCD
Contact: Jody London, DCD

Referral History:

Referral Update:
In 2018, the Contra Costa Transportation Authority, working in partnership with the County, received a grant from the California Energy Commission (CEC) to develop an Electric Vehicle Readiness Blueprint. CCTA has engaged the Cadmus Group to develop the Blueprint. The project is moving quickly to be completed by July 1, 2019, which will allow CCTA to compete for Phase 2 implementation funds.

To date, CCTA has hosted two of four stakeholder meetings. The first meeting in December was an introduction to the project and brainstorming with stakeholders on their priorities. The second meeting in January focused on the toolbox of best practices and policies, one of the project deliverables. The third meeting in March will focus on mapping, and the fourth meeting will look at shared mobility hubs. The project also includes developing a workforce training initiative for electricians and mechanics, as well as analysis of the electricity grid and constraints that may need to be addressed in order for greater EV deployment.

The attached presentation provides greater detail.

Recommendation(s)/Next Step(s):
RECEIVE Update on EV Readiness Blueprint

Fiscal Impact (if any):
None.

Attachments
CCTA EV Roadmap_Sustainability Commission.pdf
Contra Costa Electric Vehicle Readiness Plan
Project Overview
Contra Costa County EV Readiness Plan

- Kick-off Meeting and Visioning
- Stakeholder Engagement
- Workforce Training Initiative
- Online Interactive Maps
- Electricity Demand Analysis
- Shared Mobility Hubs
- Best Practices Toolbox
- Final EV Readiness Plan
Online Interactive Maps

Objectives:

• **Establish existing conditions** for EV and electric shared mobility deployment in Contra Costa County

• **Identify priority areas** for different types of EVSE (e.g. residential, public) and electric shared mobility investment

Overview of Maps:

2. Residential EVSE Index: Identifies areas with a greater need for residential charging investments

3. Electric Shared Mobility Index: Identifies areas to prioritize investment in electric shared mobility options

4. Public and Workplace EVSE: Identifies areas and specific locations with high potential for public and workplace EVSE
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title of Toolkit</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Audience</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Santa Clara County Toolkit</td>
<td>The resources offered through the Driving to Net Zero project in Santa Clara County can provide insight into the novel siting analysis developed for the project. The results of this analysis can serve as a useful guide to coordinating and prioritizing investments in charging infrastructure at a high level for engaged stakeholders.</td>
<td>Transportation Agencies; Municipalities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NYSERDA Best Practice Guides for Charging Stations</td>
<td>NYSERDA and its partners have compiled a series of best practice guides for charging station hosts, installers, and communities that help people navigate the process for permitting, buying, installing, and operating charging stations.</td>
<td>Municipalities; Consumers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AB 1238 Tool Kit: EV Charging Stations Ordinance</td>
<td>These resources provided by the California Building Officials are templates written for either City or County Jurisdictions which must adopt an ordinance with an expedited, streamlined process for permits for Electric Vehicle Charging Stations.</td>
<td>Municipalities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Atlas EV Hub</td>
<td>The Atlas EV Hub provides a set of downloadable tools to aid in financial analysis of fleet procurement, financial analysis of EV charging projects, and datasets for EV registration by state.</td>
<td>Transportation Agencies; Municipalities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community PEV Readiness Toolkit</td>
<td>This toolkit from the California Plug-In Electric Vehicle Collaborative provides information on five core actions local communities can take to get PEV ready.</td>
<td>Municipalities</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Workforce Training Initiative

Audiences:

- Electricians

### Lesson 1

**Key Goal:** Understand the underlying demand for Solar Chargers

- Task 1: Understand the underlying demand for Chargers
- Task 2: History of EVs
- Task 3: Link CO2 production differences between ICEVs and EVs with utility energy production relative to policy

**Handouts:** Handout of binder w/ course documents

### Lesson 2

**Key Goal:** Understanding the new challenges of EVs and EVSE

- Task 1: Outline the different types of chargers
- Task 2: Introduce between level 1, 2, and 3 chargers
- Task 3: Learn about DC charging
- Task 4: Wireless charging
- Task 5: Understand communications requirements
- Task 6: Introduce potential concerns
- Task 7: Outline power requirements

**Handouts:** Graph of Anticipated Growth

### Lesson 3

**Key Goal:** Understand how to size the system wiring

- Task: Wire sizing step by step instructions
# Project Timeline

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2019</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Oct</td>
<td>Nov</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Kick-off Meeting</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Stakeholder Engagement and Public Outreach</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Online Interactive Maps</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Workforce Training Initiative</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>EV Readiness Blueprint</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Thank you!
Meeting Date: 02/25/2019
Subject: RECEIVE Report from the Commission’s Environmental Justice Working Group
Department: Conservation and Development
Presenter: Nick Despota, Doria Robinson, Wes Sullens, Sustainability Commission
Contact: Nick Despota, Sustainability Commission

Referral History:
At the August 2018 retreat, the Sustainability Commission discussed its responsibility to advise the Board of Supervisors on opportunities to realize equity and fairness across the diverse communities of Contra Costa County in sustainability programs that support the Climate Action Plan. The Sustainability Commission had a presentation at its October 2018 meeting from Vivian Huang of the Asian Pacific Environmental Network on environmental justice.

Referral Update:
Nick Despota, Doria Robinson, and Wes Sullens have collaborated to better understand the history of environmental justice initiatives in Contra Costa County. Please see attached memo for details and recommended next steps.

Recommendation(s)/Next Step(s):
RECEIVE Report from the Commission’s Environmental Justice Working Group

Fiscal Impact (if any):
None.

Attachments
Draft Proposal for Environmental Justice Rubric
In 2007, Contra Costa County has passed an Environmental Justice Policy. The Sustainability Commission recommends adoption of a simple rubric, or assessment tool, which can be applied to any program or initiative to test its compliance with principles of the county’s EJ policy.

The purpose of the rubric (an example is attached) is to bridge the gap between broad statements of principles and day-to-day operations within each department.

Our recommendation is to incorporate this assessment tool within the General Plan. Rather than consigned to an appendix, separate from each of the document’s elements, we envision that the rubric be woven throughout the General Plan.

After reviewing the proposed rubric (next page), please consider these questions:

Framing: Does the reference to the County’s Environmental Justice policy tacitly exclude departments whose work is not “environmental,” such as the Probation Department or Veterans Services? Does framing this as “Environmental Justice” let some departments off the hook for inviting public participation and engagement? Should this rubric be framed and titled differently?

Positioning: How do we position this document on the mountain of policy statements that govern operations so they are most likely to be woven into a department’s standard operating procedures? How can we cultivate a disposition to think in the Justice perspective, not just a requirement to do so? We’re talking culture.

Timing: How can we insure that the public is engaged early on in the process of developing a project or initiative, and not after its most fundamental features have already been nailed down?

Accountability: Without adding to the burden of paperwork and reporting, is there a way to insure that this rubric is really being used to guide the development of policies and initiatives?

Do our county’s projects and policies meet environmental justice goals?

The following is a rubric for assessing the degree to which environmental justice goals are being met, or neglected, by a proposed project or policy.

1. Are public materials and workshops presented in the languages of residents who may be affected by a project or policy?
2. Are meetings and workshops scheduled at times and locations that enable participation by working people and those without cars? Are notices of these events distributed through diverse media, not just online media?
3. Do all neighborhoods have opportunities to engage in decision-making conversations?

4. Has data collection reflected the economic, gender and racial diversity of the affected population?

5. Are the costs and benefits of a project or policy shared equally by all who may be affected, or are there disproportionate impacts?

6. Are economic opportunities concentrated within one segment of a population or area, or are they available to all who may wish to take advantage of them?

7. What will be the indirect or unintended impacts on the quality of life of residents within different communities?
Meeting Date: 02/25/2019
Subject: RECEIVE Report from the Commission’s Outreach Working Group
Department: Conservation and Development
Presenter: Ryan Buckley, Travis Curran, Gretchen Logue, Sustainability Commission
Contact: Ryan Buckley, Sustainability Commission

Referral History:
At the August 2018 retreat, the Sustainability Commission discussed its interest in reaching more County residents and businesses on sustainability and climate action issues.

Referral Update:
A working group comprised of Ryan Buckley, Travis Curran, and Gretchen Logues formed to develop a strategy for this outreach on sustainability and climate action issues. Please see attached draft presentation.

Recommendation(s)/Next Step(s):
RECEIVE Report from the Commission’s Outreach Working Group

Fiscal Impact (if any):
None identified at this time.

Attachments
Sustainability Commission Outreach.pdf
Contra Costa County Sustainability Commission
Community Outreach

What we do and how you can help your community!
## Overview

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What is the County Sustainability Commission?</th>
<th>How does it impact me, my family and business?</th>
<th>What can I do to help?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

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The Sustainability Commission

- Advises the Board of Supervisors and staff on successful implementation of the Climate Action Plan, including suggestions on how that work can be performed more efficiently and effectively.
- Advises the Board of Supervisors on opportunities to realize equity and fairness across the diverse communities of Contra Costa County in sustainability programs that support the Climate Action Plan.
- Advises the Board of Supervisors and staff on how to better engage Contra Costa County residents and businesses on sustainability issues and implementation of the Climate Action Plan.
  - Here’s where you come in!
The Climate Action Plan

- Plan to reduce local greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) and improve community health
  - The impact of GHGs ranges from climate change to respiratory issues
- Identifies how the County will achieve the AB 32 GHG emissions reduction target of 15% below baseline levels by the year 2020
  - California Assembly Bill 32 is the California Global Warming Solutions Act
- Integrates with multiple sections of the county’s General Plan
- Provides energy use, transportation, land use, water use, and solid waste strategies to reduce community-wide GHG emissions
Community Impact

Helping the county meet its Climate Action Plan:

- Land use and zoning for renewable energy projects
- Installation of electric vehicle chargers
- Bike sharing and scooters
- Iron Horse Trail and other transportation improvements
- Cleaner Contra Costa online GHG reduction tool
- Renewable energy purchasing options
- Community education and simple behavior change
Community: How To Help on a Daily Basis

Lots of options!

1. **Bus, bike, or walk: Make fewer car trips when you have a choice**
2. **Refrain from purchasing bottled water**
   a. Did you know that it takes almost 2 gallons of water to make one bottle of water? Plastic production requires water!
3. **Always bring your own bags when shopping!**
   a. Help make sure there remain more fish in the ocean than plastic!
4. **Remember a reusable mug when getting coffee or tea**
   a. Insulated, reusable mugs will also hold your beverage's temperature longer
5. **Skip the disposable straw whenever you can**
   a. Save the sea turtles!
6. **Put food waste in your green compost bin**
7. **Use green cleaning products - limit use of toxic chemicals in your homes!**
Community: Looking for Larger Ways to Help?

Lots of options!

1. Plant trees on your property
2. Buy renewable energy: Sign up for MCE and go 100% green if you can.
3. Purchase high energy-efficiency washing machines and refrigerators.
   a. Look for the Energy Star logo
4. Install solar panels on your home if you can
   a. Make sure to ask about the 30% Solar Investment Tax Credit
5. Next time you buy a car, make sure it gets at least 32 miles per gallon
   a. Or go electric!
6. Go with drought-resistant plants over a green lawn
7. Install rain barrels and/or greywater systems
   a. Irrigate your yard for free!
8. Give us feedback: What else should the county do?
Restaurants: How To Help

Lots of ways to help, build business and improve your bottom line!

1. **Buy renewable energy:** Sign up for MCE and go 100% green if you can.
2. **Incentivize customers to bring their own drinking containers**
   a. Can be as simple as a small discount and a “thank you”
3. **Minimize use of disposable plates and utensils.**
   a. And save money in the process!
   b. Buy compostable if you can’t go reusable
4. **Purchase energy-efficient appliances, like dishwashers and ovens.**
5. **Put food waste in the green compost bin.**
6. **Make straws by request only, and use sustainable options**
7. **Sign up to be certified as a green business!**
   a. We can help you get there!
8. **Give us feedback:** What else should the county
Meeting Date: 12/10/2018  
Subject: RECEIVE Reports from Sustainability Commission members and alternates, and PROVIDE DIRECTION as needed  
Presenter: Sustainability Commission Members  
Contact: Jody London, DCD

Referral History:  
This is a standing item of the Commission.

Referral Update:  
Commission members and alternates will provide updates to the full Commission.

Recommendation(s)/Next Step(s):  
RECEIVE Reports from Sustainability Commission members and alternates, and PROVIDE DIRECTION as needed.

Fiscal Impact (if any):  
None.
Meeting Date: 02/25/2019
Subject: RECEIVE Report on Co-Hosting Workshop on Environmental Justice and General Plans, and PROVIDE DIRECTION as needed
Department: Conservation and Development
Presenter: Jody London, Sustainability Coordinator
Contact: Jody London, Sustainability Coordinator

Referral History:

Referral Update:
In 2016, the California Legislature passed Senate Bill 1000 (Leyva), which required local jurisdictions with disadvantaged communities to incorporate a separate environmental justice element into their general plans, or integrate environmental justice goals, policies, and objectives throughout their general plans. The County is in the process of updating its General Plan.

The Governor’s Office of Planning and Research (OPR) is developing a revised environmental justice chapter for the General Plan Guidelines it publishes, which guide local governments as they develop general plans. The County’s Hazardous Materials Commission will be hosting a workshop with staff from OPR to learn more about these requirements. The date being considered is Thursday, March 28, although that could change.

The Hazardous Materials Commission is inviting the Sustainability Commission to co-sponsor this workshop. Being a co-sponsor means the workshop would be noticed as a joint meeting of both bodies, and each would be expected to have a quorum of members present. It is not anticipated that any action will be taken at the workshop. The workshop will be open to the community.

Recommendation(s)/Next Step(s):
RECEIVE Report on Co-Hosting Workshop on Environmental Justice and General Plans, and PROVIDE DIRECTION as needed

Fiscal Impact (if any):
None.

Attachments
Referral History:
This is a standing item of the Commission.

Referral Update:
This report provides an update to the Sustainability Commission on the work of the County’s Sustainability staff since the Committee last met in December 2018. Key activities during this period are listed below.

- Presented to or met with the following groups:
  - Leadership Contra Costa
  - Team of journalists from Kyrgyzstan reporting on renewable energy in the United States
  - MCE Power Hour workshop on Electric Vehicle Service Equipment
  - East Bay Leadership Council, Environmental/Manufacturing Task Force

- Worked with members of the Sustainability Commission on environmental justice and outreach initiatives.

- Continued working with the Contra Costa Transportation Authority on the Electric Vehicle Readiness Blueprint.

- Presented the Renewable Resource Potential Study to the Board of Supervisors. The Board directed staff to prepare and analyze draft amendments to the County General Plan and Zoning Code that would expand the area within which an applicant could apply for a Land Use Permit for ground-mounted solar. Staff is preparing a final report to the Strategic Growth Council, whose initial support sponsored the project.

- Began working with a team from the UC Berkeley Goldman School of Public Policy who are developing recommendations on governance and finance options to implement the Adapting to Rising Tides studies.

- Presented a proposal at the January meeting of the Board of Supervisors Sustainability Committee for incorporating more electric vehicles into the County fleet. Staff is now working on recommended updates to County policies to facilitate this.

- Began developing an update on County green purchasing policies for the March meeting of the Board of Supervisors Sustainability Committee.

- Advertised the opportunity to apply for three at-large seats on the Sustainability Commission, which expire at the end of March 2019.

- Finalized agreements with partners in the Cleaner Contra Costa Challenge project. Began working with the team to build out and launch the platform, with a target release date of March 2019.
• Submitted and was awarded a grant application with MCE to receive technical assistance to develop a business plan for an in-home asthma trigger assessment program that we hope to grow into a healthy homes initiative in Contra Costa County.

• Transportation planning staff are working on a number of projects that fulfill Climate Action Plan goals around increasing bike/pedestrian access in the County. These include:
  o An **Accessible Transportation Plan** that is studying the state of paratransit operations in the County, identifying opportunities to improve mobility and access for the disabled and elderly;
  o A **Vision Zero policy** to reduce the number of severe/fatal traffic collisions to zero by a given year by radically changing our approach to traffic safety;
  o A **Bike Share and Micromobility** ordinance and potential license agreements with shared mobility operators that would will allow the County to run shared mobility pilots and fairly regulate and encourage shared mobility operations;
  o A **Marsh Creek Corridor Multi-Use Feasibility Study** that will study the feasibility of a proposed multi-use trail for active modes between Downtown Concord and Oakley; and
  o An **Iron Horse Corridor Active Transportation Study** which is analyzing how to improve active transportation connection to and within 18.5 miles of the Iron Horse Corridor. Staff recently completed a study of the I-680/Treat Blvd corridor that recommends installing buffered bike lanes to help improve bicycle safety and access to the Pleasant Hill BART station.

• Submitted six applications to PG&E for the Electric Vehicle Charge Network grant, after working with County Counsel on contractual and easement agreements. Public Works is working with PG&E to further vet the sites and prepare preliminary designs for County review.

• Received direction from the Board of Supervisors’ Transportation, Water, and Infrastructure Commission to bring to the full Board a recommendation for the County to participate in the Low Carbon Fuel Standard program administered by the California Air Resources Board.

• Public Works is continuing to work with SunPower, its solar partner selected through an RFP process, to identify the optimal solar photovoltaic portfolio of projects to be financed through a Power Purchase Agreement. Staff presented the initial proposed package to the Board’s Transportation, Water, and Infrastructure Committee in February.

• Collaborated with County staff working on topics including land use and transportation, hazardous materials, green business program, economic development, Planning Integration Team for Community Health (PITCH), codes, solid waste, and energy.

• Participated in regional activities.

**Recommendation(s)/Next Step(s):**

RECEIVE report from Sustainability Coordinator.

**Fiscal Impact (if any):**

None.

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**ATTACHMENT(S)**
Contra Costa County
Sustainability Commission

Meeting Date: 02/25/2019
Subject: RECEIVE Report from Sustainability Commission Chair and IDENTIFY TOPICS for next report to Ad Hoc Committee on Sustainability
Department: Conservation & Development
Presenter: Victoria Smith, Chair
Contact: Jody London, DCD

Referral History:
This is a standing item of the Commission.

Referral Update:
The Sustainability Commission Chair provides an update at each meeting to Commission members on the administration of the Commission, meetings of the Board of Supervisors Ad Hoc Committee on Sustainability, and other issues of interest to the Commission.

Recommendation(s)/Next Step(s):
RECEIVE report from Sustainability Commission Chair.

Fiscal Impact (if any):
None.

Attachments
No file(s) attached.