

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY OF LA MESA
ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION
6:00 PM, CITY MANAGER'S CONFERENCE ROOM
8130 ALLISON AVENUE, LA MESA, CA 91942
TELECONFERENCE MEETING WEBINAR**

MINUTES
May 17, 2021

1. CALL TO ORDER (6:05 p.m.)
2. ROLL CALL (X indicates present)

Andrea Beth Damsky, Chair	X
Ricky Williams, Vice-Chair	X
Stephen Grooms	X
Trey McDonald	X
Jean-Guillaume Lonjaret	X
Mike Bourton	X
Eugenie Budnik (Youth Rep)	
Maggie Eggers (EDCO)	
Joe Garuba (Helix Water District)	X
Joe Britton (SDG&E)	X
Sebastian Sarria, San Diego Community Power	X
Vacant (La Mesa-Spring Valley School District)	
Vacant (Helix Charter High School)	

Others present: Lyn Dedmon, Senior Management Analyst; Hilary Ego, Environmental Program Manager

Public present: David Harris, resident; Jimmie Webb, resident; Karl Aldinger, San Diego Building Electrification Coalition; Dan, resident; Mairs Ryan, resident; Melissa W, resident; Wendy Mihalic, resident; Marie Chen, resident; Mark Gracyk, Elected Division 3 Director of Helix Water District;

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Five public comments submitted were moved to read for Item 6.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – April 19, 2021

Andrea Beth Damsky had a correction under item number four.

Approval of minutes from the April 19, 2021 meeting.

Action:	Motion to approve minutes by Stephen Grooms; second by Jean-Guillaume Lonjaret
Vote:	6-0
Ayes:	Damsky, Grooms, McDonald, Williams, Lonjaret, Bourton
Noes:	None
Abstained:	Bourton
Absent:	Budnik

5. CITY STAFF UPDATES

Hilary Ego gave updates on the following items:

- Urban Corp. has begun planting trees as part of the Cal-Fire grant and second round of planting to occur in the Fall. The draft Urban Forest Management Plan ("UFMP") is under review.
- Tree San Diego completed a seven tree planting effort at La Mesita Park that was sponsored by Toyota and Fox 5 News. Local recognition on Fox 5 News.
- San Diego Community Power roll out ongoing, with commercial businesses launching June 1
- Organics program started April 1st for residents. Commercial and multifamily to start in Summer.
- Proposition 218 process for the trash fee rate review. Letters were mailed to property owners and the public hearing is scheduled for June 22, 2021.
- Progress updates for CAP 2020 Annual Report and FY22-23 CAP Implementation Plan Update
- Today kicked off the icommute/SANDAG Bike Anywhere Week

Lyn Dedmon gave updates on the following items:

- Upcoming EV charging grant that Hilary is researching to identify application partners
- Community Garden opening on May 31 was well attended and Vice Chair Williams represented the Environmental Sustainability Commission

6. PRESENTATION BY SAN DIEGO BUILDING ELECTRIFICATION COUNCIL (CAP SUBCOMMITTEE)

Jean-Guillaume Lonjaret introduced the San Diego Building Electrification Coalition, speakers, and agenda.

Wendy Mihalic presented on the work that has been done since the last building electrification presentation to the ESC in November 2020. Over 44 cities have adopted ordinances for building electrification (BE). Regionally, Encinitas, San Diego, Carlsbad, and Chula Vista are exploring BE.

Karl Aldinger from the San Diego Building Electrification Coalition (SDBEC) presented on the steps for building electrification adoption. Title 24 is revised every three years and the state is considering including building electrification. Reach codes would seek permission from the CEC to pass a more restrictive building electrification code. Cities must refresh and repass a reach code every time Title 24 is revised. Karl listed steps to pass a reach code. Step 1: Form the idea for the reach code, Step 2: Work with stakeholders, Step 3: City commissions a cost effectiveness study, Step 4: Develop and draft ordinance, Step 5: Public process and revision, Step 6: Council vote and passage, Step 7: CEC approval. Karl listed some alternative approaches besides adopting a reach code: Gas ban using police powers, appliance specific reach codes (i.e. water heaters), electric preferred reach codes

Wendy Mihalic on presented on reach code examples from other cities with research completed by members of the CAP Subcommittee. A questionnaire was created and members interviewed sustainability staff. Wendy provided City examples and their adoption timelines: Cupertino, Santa Cruz, Carlsbad, and Encinitas.

Jean-Guillaume Lonjaret presented the cost benefit analysis for La Mesa. There are free programs/studies that can be utilized by the City to conduct the cost effectiveness study. Studies include cost effectiveness for on-bill (30 year customer based lifecycle costs) and time-dependent valuation and there are CEC studies that can be utilized. Jean-Guillaume Lonjaret continued to present calculations for cost effectiveness for new single-family homes, new multi-family up to 3 floors, new office building, and new hotels. La Mesa is located in climate zone 7 and that there are a few cost benefit scenarios that would fit La Mesa's climate zone.

Public comments from Marie Chen, Mary Yang, Anne Finnie, Suzanne Hume, and James Wang in support of building electrification in La Mesa and highlighted the climate emergency and the environmental and economic of benefits building electrification.

Andrea Beth commented on two letters that were received and sent to commissioners for this item from SDG&E and the United Association of Plumbers & Steamfitters Local 230 that were mailed to City Council and emailed to Commissioners.

Joe Britton commented on the letter highlighting SDG&E's commitment to help the City achieve CAP goals, SDG&E's efforts for clean energy, encourage a fuel neutral approach and consider all energy pathways, cost impacts on communities, and to conduct additional outreach.

The Commission discussed that this presentation is meant to be educational and what other cities are doing to address decarbonization.

Commissioners asked about the next steps and Lyn responded that since decarbonization is not currently in the Commission's Work Plan, decarbonization cannot be brought to Council until the next Work Plan update in February. Efforts may continue in an ad hoc subcommittee or it can be a Council initiated item.

Commissioners asked for what the process is to update the CAP and Hilary responded that she will reach out to CAP colleagues and address this in the next meeting.

Action:	Motion by Ricky Williams seconded by Stephen Grooms to consider adding decarbonization and related community outreach to the next ESC Work Plan.
Vote:	6-0
Ayes:	Williams, Grooms, Bourton, McDonald, Damsky, Lonjaret
Noes:	None
Abstained:	None
Absent:	Budnik

7. PRESENTATION BY SDG&E ON TREE PLANTING PROGRAM (Joe Britton)

Joe Britton introduced Jimmie Webb from SDG&E. Jimmie introduced SDG&E's new Tree Planting Program has a goal of planting 10,000 trees throughout the region starting in 2021. This will replace the trees that are removed by SDG&E. SDG&E is interested in partnering with the City of La Mesa to plant more trees in a large or small scale program.

Hilary to follow up with SDG&E to discuss partnership opportunities and bring ideas back to the ESC.

8. 2021 ESC WORK PLAN REVISIT AND DISCUSSION (Hilary Ego)

Chair Andrea Beth Damsky moved to the next agenda item.

9. MEMBER PARTICIPATION DISCUSSION (Lyn Dedmon)

Lyn Dedmon updated the Commission that Eugenie Budnik is unfortunately moving out of La Mesa and she will no longer be able to participate in the ESC. Lyn noted that he has reached out to LMSVSD and Helix Charter High School in the past with little to no response.

Andrea Beth Damsky suggested the ESC presents to the LMSVSD and Helix Charter High School Boards to encourage participation.

Stephen Grooms said he will reach out to Helix Charter High School.

10. CAP SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATE (Trey McDonald, Ricky Williams)

Andrea Beth commented it was 8:01 PM and confirmed the ESC would have quorum and extended the meeting.

Lyn Dedmon discussed that due to an oversight from staff, changes would need to be made to the CAP subcommittee. After discussing with the City Attorney and City Clerk, staff learned the public cannot participate in the CAP Subcommittee and that it cannot be an ongoing meeting due to Brown Act violations. It is recommended that the existing CAP Subcommittee dissolve and the ESC can create ad hoc subcommittees for a specific topic and time frame.

Lyn Dedmon recommended a presentation by the City Clerk at the next ESC meeting about the Brown Act and recommended this occur every year or every other year as a reminder for existing Commissioners and an orientation for new Commissioners.

Chair Andrea Beth Damsky and Vice Chair Ricky Williams recommended adding the presentation to the next meeting.

The Commissioners expressed frustration with the Commission's progress and asked how to continue the work of the existing CAP Subcommittee when topics are not in the existing Work Plan. Lyn responded that ad hoc subcommittees can be formed to address the Work Plan and that more questions can be addressed to the City Clerk during the presentation at the next meeting.

Trey McDonald commented that the CAP subcommittee will not meet until processes are outlined and questions addressed during the Brown Act presentation by the City Clerk at the next meeting.

Trey McDonald asked about Council members speaking at Commission meetings. Lyn responded that the Chair or Vice Chair can approach Council members.

11. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Chair Andrea Beth Damsky moved to the next agenda item.

12. NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, June 21, 2021.

13. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8 :32p.m.

Prepared by: Hilary Ego, Environmental Program Manager