

Meeting Notes  
MCL Climate Action Committee  
May 14, 2012

Attendees: J. Bunker, N. Dennis, M. Passero, R. Roberts, T. Rosenfeld, D. Schnapf, and R. Spofford.

Housekeeping Matters:

1) Meeting Date and Time: Susan Stompe, MCL President, has asked if the date and time of the CAC Meeting could be changed inasmuch as she cannot attend the usual Monday evening meetings. Upon discussion CAC member attendees indicated that evening meetings worked best, but that an alternative workable date would be either the 2d or 3d Thursday of the month on a bi-monthly basis. R. Roberts will check with Susan to see if this change of meeting date will fit into her schedule.

Action Item:

1) Follow-Up with Local Jurisdictions to encourage the adoption of Single Use Carry-Out Bag Ordinances:

R. Roberts raised the subject of supporting a reinstatement of \$50,000 in the JPA budget to complete a study/survey to help local jurisdictions to take a decision in support of proceeding with such an Ordinance. This request is being made by a sub-committee of the JPA led by the City of San Rafael which cannot fund the study on its own. After discussion, the CAC Committee declined to support this action without having more detailed information on what the study/survey would include.

Committee members recognized that the issue is not moving along as expected but felt this inaction was due to concerns over being involved in legal challenges even though Marin's Cities and Towns would be in the same position as Manhattan Beach whose adoption of its plastic bag ordinance has been upheld in the courts. Nevertheless, it was felt that MCL and the CAC should take steps to encourage Marin's Cities and Towns to take action on establishing Ordinances along the lines of the one adopted by the County of Marin. To that end, CAC Members will approach various City Council Members in several Cities and Towns (as follows) to encourage and locate Council Member "Champions" to take steps to move the Ordinances forward.

Mill Valley: Tim Rosenfeld and David Schnapf  
San Anselmo: Joe Bunker and Jon Elam  
Tiburon: Tim Rosenfeld (through the City Manager)  
Novato: Roger Roberts and Susan Stompe

In addition, David Schnapf indicated that he would investigate whether or not it would be legally possible for Marin to have a Countywide Initiative that would bind all jurisdictions since this has been accomplished in the counties of Alameda and Santa Cruz.

## Information Updates:

- 1) SB 375: Nona Dennis informed the CAC that ABAG and MTC will be having a Joint meeting on May 17<sup>th</sup> to adopt the Preferred (One Bay Area Plan) Sustainability Communities Scenario so that the CEQA EIR Process can be initiated. MCL has written a letter on problems in the economic (job creation) forecasts which drives the RHENA Housing needs assessment for Bay Area jurisdictions.
- 2) AB 32: Michelle Passero reported that The Air Resources Board (ARB) has issued a final Cap and Trade system to address global warming pursuant to AB 32, but that it has been challenged legally in two different lawsuits, one based upon CEQA violations, and the second on the proposed Offset Protocols. The first Emissions Permit Auction is scheduled for November and is expected to generate as much as \$ 2 billion next year and \$5 to 6 billion in 2015. The Cap and Trade system is expected to increase the cost of electricity and gasoline.

On May 24<sup>th</sup>, at 1:30 PM in Sacramento, CARB will hold a Public Consultation Meeting on Investment of Auction Funds from the California Cap and Trade Program. The money generated in the Auction(s) is proposed to be used for avoidance of Natural Resource Destruction, Energy Efficiency Upgrades for buildings, and Greenhouse Gas Sequestration projects. The CARB will be holding further hearing on the use of Auction proceeds in the fall. Utility Companies are pressing for the use of Auction proceeds to be used to offset all increases in electricity bills as a result. Other proposed uses of the Auction proceeds include sending \$ to the State of California General Fund, setting up a "Green Bank" for alternative energy projects and companies, helping to finance the state's proposed high-speed rail system.

- 2) MCE: Bob Spofford summarized the July MCE roll-out of its residential program for 75,000 additional customers in Marin. Opt outs are expected to be approximately 10%, but MCE has budgeted for a 20% level. He also reported that due to the collapse in natural gas prices, the required exit fees to be paid to P.G. & E. is expected to go up for stranded power supply. The PUC has established a separate exit fee schedule for renewable energy vs fossil fueled electricity generation. It is not clear at this point exactly what will be the impact of increased exit fees will be on MCE and its customers.  
He also opined that MCE needs to improve its Marketing program to focus on its long term vision and address the "purity" issue associated with its sourcing of power supply. In this connection, he reported that MCE will shortly announce the establishment of a dedicated 1 MW solar power facility on the Hangers at the San Rafael/Smith Ranch Airport at a total cost of about \$3 million before tax breaks. The total size is about 2 acres of panels which will make it the largest PV installation in the County. Because the airport is already meeting its own electricity needs from previously installed solar panels, the entire output of this new system will serve other MCE customers.

MEA has just under 50MW in new renewable power: 30MW in the Southern Central Valley by ENXCO, 15MW in Placer County via North American Power Group, 3.2 MW of Landfill Gas in Yuba and Solano Counties, and an additional 1MW of Solar power in Marin with a ENXCO contract the location of which is still to be determined. This will be coming online at various dates between this summer and the middle of 2014 contrary to what some critics of MEA have had to say about MEA's not providing new renewable power supply.

In this connection, it should be noted that P.G.&E's own "Green Option", which is to be marketed in due course, depends entirely on old existing renewable power supply obtained through "Green-e" Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs) most of which are not even Renewable Power Supply (RPS)-certified.

4) PACE (Property Assessment Clean Energy) Status: Roger Roberts reported that the PACE legislation in the US Congress (HR. 2599) is still active but is bottled up in the Committee on Financial Services, and will only be brought forward for action if the Republican Leadership of the Committee choose to do so. This Bill has been referred to two Sub-Committees, one on Capital Markets & Government Sponsored Enterprises, the other on and Insurance, Housing and Community Opportunity. There is no companion bill in the US Senate. The prognosis for passage is not good even though there are 53 cosponsors of HR.2599.

5) Other Discussion Items: The question of whether or not the CAC should consider supporting, in principle, the establishment of solar energy facilities on all public parking lots and facilities was raised. CAC members felt that this only made sense for Greenfield projects and for roofs of existing buildings due to the uncompetitive extra cost of installing them on specially constructed elevated structures.

However, it should be noted that placing PV solar on parking lot shade structures has worked well when tried, as in the Sacramento Municipal Utility District and other venues. The competitiveness of such facilities is up to particular developers, installers, and sponsoring agencies in particular locales for particular sites.

The CAC Meeting adjourned at 8:45PM.