

MARIN CONSERVATION LEAGUE
Climate Action Working Group: February 20, 2015
San Rafael Corporate Center, Tamalpais Conference Room

Present: Co-chairs Pam Reaves and Doug Wilson; also Bob Bundy, Bill Carney, Joyce Clements, San Rafael Councilmember Kate Colin, Nona Dennis, Novato Mayor Pro Tem Pat Eklund, Tom Flynn, Rick Fraites, Heather Furmidge, Randy Greenberg, Ed Mainland, Pat Nelson, Vicki Nichols, Tamra Peters, Kate Powers, Marin County Supervisor Katie Rice, Roger Roberts, Susan Robinson, Bob Spofford, Sue Spofford, Sandy Wallenstein.

Guest Speakers: Debbie Raphael, Director San Francisco Dept of the Environment; Allison Quaid, Energy Efficiency Specialist, SFDE; and Jack Liebster, Marin County Planning, Manager;

Pam opened the meeting at 9:05.

Quick Intros: Attendee introductions.

Approval of the Agenda: Agenda was approved.

Program with Guest Speakers:

Debbie Raphael was asked to address:

- 1) What is San Francisco doing to reach its Energy Efficiency (EE) goals: How are programs funded and who administers them? Are there changes that could be made at the CPUC that would make EE programs more effective?**
- 2) How can we work across agency boundaries to tackle issues like sea level rise and other climate related vulnerabilities?**

Debbie said in addressing sea level and climate change, there are two halves of the puzzle 1) mitigation = how do we do less bad in the world, 2) adaptation = how do we deal with the fact that we already have done bad in the world. Building a bridge between the counties to learn from each other is important. Biggest challenge of adaptation is that it's multi-jurisdictional and there are many regional agencies (eg. ABAG, BCDC)

Unique to San Francisco, is the bridging across County departments in linking sea level rise to capital planning. Debbie shared two documents. The first had Table 1, Figure 2, and Table A3-1 from the document "Guidance for Incorporating Sea Level Rise into Capital Planning in San Francisco". The second was the Sea Level Rise Checklist in Appendix 5.

https://www.marinhhs.org/sites/default/files/files/SNR_CPSCMARIN_111814r3.pdf

With adaptation, need a sense of how big the problem is by taking a granular look at vulnerabilities in terms of sea level rise. Then need to do a risk assessment of all the County assets through the lens of sea level rise. Mean Higher High Water (MHHW) is high tide with sea level rise. For example, need to plan asset for life of project's sea level rise projections. SF is trying to be transparent about these assumptions when budgeting and planning for future projects. They use Checklist to do risk assessment for each asset. Capital Planning Committee and Board of Supervisors see what assumptions are being made about asset's exposure to sea level rise, its sensitivity to flooding, its adaptive capacity and a risk assessment in terms of anticipated damage,

disruption and costs. Checklist is a concrete tool that will move sea level rise out of theoretical and into reality, bringing transparency and accountability into the planning process.

Jack Liebster was asked to address:

- 1) Current progress Countywide**
- 2) Challenges we face for jurisdictions to work together to achieve coherent collaborative progress.**
- 3) Steps the community can take to help achieve progress**
- 4) Stakeholders, missing stakeholders**
- 5) County run energy efficiency programs in place. Who is in charge of these and how are they funded?**

Jack said Marin County needs to do what SF is doing. Jack described some of the steps in the process. Marinslr.org is County's webpage on sea level rise.

Evaluating science to get best projections: King Tide levels are going to be more frequent. Not only is sea level rising, but storms are becoming more frequent and energetic. Best practice is taking the best projections and assessing risks for each asset; then to come up with plan and subsequently see how the plan is working and how the environment is changing.

USGS made projections. The ranges in the projections are larger the further out in time. Our Coast Our Future website enables one to see how sea level rise is projected to affect their home or other area according to various scenarios. <http://data.prbo.org/apps/ocof/index.php?page=flood-map>

Sea level rise components include expected sea level rise projections, daily tides, expansion of seawater seasonally, water level rise from storm surge, and additional heights due to energy that waves carry.

There are two County planning efforts: the one on the coast side of Marin is about a year ahead, and there is one on the Bay side. Mapping and inventorying of assets includes public's input.

Potential impacts: Asset maps look at what's likely to be affected and under what conditions.

Adaptation options: County is looking at green solutions like horizontal levees and is including school-kids in planning process.

Allison Quaid addressed SF's mitigation efforts to reduce green house gas emissions (GHGs) through its energy efficiency (EE) programs:

Allison manages SF's team of energy auditors who encourage multifamily residences and businesses to upgrade to energy efficient technologies through financial incentives. Program is funded under CPUC through monies collected from PG&E ratepayers. Allison discussed how auditors get leads. The program relies heavily on face-to-face contact. Environment Now is a job development program that employs multi-lingual low-income residents to be initial ambassadors.

Financial incentives are limited to heating and cooling, computer network software, refrigeration and mostly lighting. Energy Watch has saved San Franciscans an estimated \$42 million, \$35 million of that saved by commercial businesses. The program has been in existence for 14 years and has paid out \$23 million. Bay Area Regional Energy Network is another program that focuses on multi-family retrofits. The key is to design energy efficiency programs that incent based on baselines for particular buildings. Want to be able to incent a whole bandwidth of capacity for energy efficiencies.

How much of a dent are these EE programs making? Don't know total energy load reductions. It's hard to get data from PG&E because of privacy laws around energy use.

Debbie mentioned SF energy benchmarking ordinance for commercial buildings over a certain size need to go through Energy Star certification so they understand their energy efficiency. It's hard to enforce.

San Francisco is looking at creating a Community Choice Aggregate. Currently in SF, PG&E does energy efficiency, as do SF's Department of the Environment and SF's CPUC. A CCA will change who will deliver EE services going forward.

Jack said that Dana Armanino of Marin County coordinates equivalent program outlined on County's Sustainability page. Marin focuses on commercial, especially public buildings like schools, County and City buildings, parking lots and on lighting.

<http://www.marincounty.org/depts/cd/divisions/planning/sustainability/energy-programs/energy-watch?p=1>

Debbie said energy efficiency will evolve in Marin. Jack said County works with MCE and sorts out who offers which programs.

With sea level rise, after analysis and risk assessments, need to start implementation and that will be expensive and will require political will by communities and businesses. That will be the largest nut to crack. What kind of leadership will electeds have? Advocates will need to light the fire. Kate Colin said a subcommittee of Marin County Council of Mayors and Councilmembers, led by Claire McCauliffe, is beginning to collaborate on what each City and the County are doing. Marge Macris is the group's consultant.

Roger suggested that adaptation efforts include the analysis of assessment district creations including predicted costs and how costs will be spread.

Pat Ekland serves on ABAG Board. She hopes cities and counties don't reinvent the wheel. Plan Bay Area 2017 (draft available in 2016) will have a chapter on climate change and sea level rise in the nine-county area with projections and implications. Highway 37 is projected to be flooded by 2030. Models and measurement efforts are underway by Cal Trans. Challenges are to know who is doing what and how to maximize everyone's efforts in a collaborative and integrated approach over time.

Resilient Neighborhoods gives info on both adaptation and mitigation and is creating climate

leaders.

Vicki pointed out that all cities and counties need to use the same assessment tools. Jack said Marinslr.org lists all the groups that the County knows of that are working on this. He said none of the models are 100% accurate. Pat Eklund said that climate action plans (CAPs) are critical for implementation.

Bruce Riordan is preparing report for Marin Community Foundation on who is doing what in the County. The report may or may not be public.

Sandy mentioned small pilot projects of adaptation strategies that will help inform what can be done. Sandy said Shore Up is seeing that because many low income residents don't own homes, sea level rise issues become emergency preparedness issues. Additionally, she is working with groups of students with Jack. They recently received a Whale Tale grant.

Debbie mentioned that typically resiliency is what happens when you have an emergency. Communities have greatest resiliency when they have connectedness and often communities of color have best interconnectedness.

Bill said the way to get the general public's attention is through money. Jack said the \$250,000 authorized by the BOS for adaptation is being budgeted within departments of the County that tend to be siloed. Of the grant that the County is about to receive, \$100,000 will be divided up among participating cities. The commitment is to work together to weave a strong fabric.

Rick brought up the issue of takings after catastrophes happen. Debbie said town of Goleta near Santa Barbara is the first she knows of that will allow the shoreline to recede even though there is a resort on the shoreline. It's called adaptive management.

In SF, Rockefeller Foundation funded Resilient Cities Project gave \$1 million for 3 years for a SF Chief Resilience Officer and for consultants to do mapping.

Bob Bundy mentioned an idea for baseline funding presented by the East Bay's Mitch Avalon to maintain stormwater as an assessment district where stormwater is dealt with as a utility.

Ed asked how to get energy efficiency and water efficiency simultaneously. Tamra said all new buildings should not only be energy efficient, but should be designed for gray water use as well. Debbie would like SF's PUC to have recycled water goals. Currently purple pipes don't go anywhere.

In closing, Debbie said government has a role to play and that government networks and meetings are already in place. She sees need in getting community-based activist groups learning from each other and business forums (Nona mentioned the Marin Economic Forum, the North Bay Leadership group and the Climate Protection Group) learning from each other. Government needs the support of that groundswell.

Next Meeting: March 20, 9:00–11:00 a.m. Location TBD. Meeting adjourned 11:06 a.m. Notes: KP