



Record of Action

CONTRA COSTA COUNTY SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION

An Advisory Body to the Board of Supervisors

August 23, 2021, 5:00 P.M.

Wes Sullens, Member, District 4, Chair	Chris Easter, Alternate, District 2	Luz Gomez, At-Large, Community Group
Sarah Foster, At-Large, Environmental Justice, Vice Chair	Mike Moore, Member, District 3	Howdy Goudey, At-Large, Community Group
Nick Despota, Member, District 1	Samantha Moy, Alternate, District 3	Chuck Leonard, At-Large, Business
Shoshana Wechsler, Alternate, District 1	Brandon Matson, Alternate, District 4	Marisha Farnsworth, At-Large, Business
Victoria Smith, Member, District 2,	Charles Davidson, Member, District 5	Isabella Zizi, At-Large, Environmental Justice
	Renee Fernandez-Lipp, Alternate, District 5	Kim Hazard, At-Large, Education

Agenda Items

Items may be taken out of order based on business of the day & preference of the Commission.

Present: Wes Sullens, Member, District 4, Chair
Sarah Foster, At-Large, Environmental Justice, Vice Chair
Shoshana Wechsler, Alternate, District 1
Victoria Smith, Member, District 2
Chris Easter, Alternate, District 2
Mike Moore, Member, District 3
Samantha Moy, Alternate, District 3
Brandon Matson, Alternate, District 4
Charles Davidson, Member, District 5
Renee Fernandez-Lipp, Alternate, District 5
Marisha Farnsworth, At-Large, Business
Chuck Leonard, At-Large, Business
Luz Gomez, At-Large, Community Group
Howdy Goudey, At-Large, Community Group
Kim Hazard, At-Large, Education

Absent: Isabella Zizi, At-Large, Environmental Justice
Nick Despota, Member, District 1

Staff Present: Jody London, Sustainability Coordinator, Dept. of Conservation and Development
Lauri Byers, Field Representative, Office of Supervisor Andersen
Stephanie Kellogg, Dept. of Conservation and Development
Maureen Toms, Dept. of Conservation and Development

Attendees: Carol Weed, Jan Callaghan, Jan Warren, Joe Kovalick, Mimi Meahouchi, Paul Seger, Gail Chesler

1. Call to Order and Introductions

Wes Sullens welcomed Samantha Moy, newly appointed Alternate for District 3. Members and Alternates introduced themselves.

2. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

3. APPROVE Record of Action for June 28, 2021 meeting.

Victoria Smith noted a correction to Item 7. She then moved adoption of the Record of Action; this was seconded by Mike Moore. The Record of Action was approved unanimously.

4. RECEIVE presentations from Contra Costa water and wastewater providers and PROVIDE DIRECTION to County staff, as needed.

Lisa Borba, President, Contra Costa Water District (CCWD), provided an overview of CCWD's governance, water supply, and delivery system. The Contra Costa Canal is the backbone of the water system. The Los Vaqueros Reservoir provides storage. CCWD would like to expand Los Vaqueros from 160,000 acre feet to 270,000 acre feet.

CCWD is watching the drought and continues to invest in water efficiency. Overall water use dropped 22% between 1990 and 2020, while population grew by about 42%.

CCWD is engaged in a 10-year capital improvement program, 2021-2030. It is anticipating more public safety power shut offs. CCWD has on-site generators at each pumping station; currently they are all diesel generators, which CCWD finds to be most reliable. CCWD continues to evaluate alternate supplies like water reuse. Right now 10% of water is reused. They are looking at desalination.

CCWD coordinates with regional networks on climate issues and provides data to national efforts.

Dan Muelrath, Diablo Water District, General Manager reviewed Diablo Water's service territory. Diablo Water is a retailer; CCWD is their wholesaler, providing typically 80% of water. The other 20% comes from District-owned wells. Since 2014, Diablo Water is also a groundwater sustainability agency.

Muelrath discussed the role of the changing climate in the current drought. He said Diablo Water understands the importance of reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. The District knows that reducing GHG from operations will lessen effects of climate change.

Muelrath discussed the Diablo Water 360 Degree Planning Cycle, an aggressive planning cycle that is influencing investments and projects. He said Diablo Water is actively planning for sea level rise, possible levee breaches, increased salinity and impacts on aquifer. They need to think about where and how new facilities are constructed.

Muelrath reviewed new initiatives in 2021 to address drought and climate change: environmental pro-activeness, groundwater sustainability, recycled water use, carbon neutrality. There is a new focus on recycled water. Diablos is also working on supply side conservation efforts. The District has a goal of carbon neutrality by the end of 2027, all time resources within Contra Costa County.

Mike Tognolini, Director of Water and Natural Resources, East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD). Tognolini reviewed the EBMUD water supply and conveyance system. During dry years, EBMUD accesses the Freeport Water Facility and will be turning that on September 15. EBMUD serves 1.4 million customers on water system side, 740,000 on the wastewater side.

Tognolini noted that 2021 is second driest year recorded on the Mokelumne River. EBMUD will end this season with storage well lower than normal. He discussed what triggers a drought declaration, and water conservation initiatives and tools. These include a rebate program for a variety of customer actions as well as recycled water programs in several communities.

EBMUD's 2020 Urban Water Management Plan includes a water storage contingency plan. The District needs a diversified portfolio. Climate change is a major part of planning for an uncertain future, but not only factor. The goal is to protect long term water supply.

Sustainability Commission members asked about CCWD conservation efforts; water recycled from refineries in Contra Costa County; water agency fleet conversion to electric vehicles; backup diesel generators; goals for EBMUD and CCWD to be net zero like Diablo Water; evaporation, energy storage, and renewables; desalination; and recycled water.

5. RECEIVE UPDATE on and DISCUSS Implementation of Climate Emergency Resolution.

Jody London reviewed the information submitted with the agenda.

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

Brandon Matson provided more context for his suggestion for the Commission to develop a definition of "sustainability." The goal would be a shared standard for assessing options and advising the Board of Supervisors. In the research Matson has done, most of the definitions have three pillars: environmental, social, economic. the Commission agreed that Matson, Chuck Leonard, and Renee Fernandez-Lipp will work on developing a potential definition of sustainability.

Mike Moore provided a report on tours of the Marathon and PBF refineries that he, Howdy Goudey, Charles Davidson, Jody London (Marathon only), and Chuck Leonard (PBF only) attended. See attached notes.

7. RECEIVE Report from Sustainability Coordinator.

Jody London describe the potential requirement for the Commission to resume meeting in person in October. She noted that the October meeting will focus on reviewing the draft goals and strategies for the Climate Action Plan update.

8. RECEIVE Report from Sustainability Commission Chair and IDENTIFY TOPICS for next report to Sustainability Committee.

Wes Sullens said he will report to the Committee on what they discussed this evening. Renee Fernandez-Lipp suggested the Commission look at the EBMUD master plan for ideas.

9. The next meeting is currently scheduled for October 25, 2021.

10. Adjourn

7:27.