

Climate Action Advisory Committee MEETING AGENDA

The Climate Action Advisory Committee (CAAC) will be conducted pursuant to the provisions of the Governor's Executive Order, which suspends certain requirements of the Ralph M. Brown Act. CAAC members will be teleconferencing into the CAAC meeting. Members of the public who wish to listen to the CAAC meeting may do so via the following teleconference call-in number and access code:

Zoom meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84490011680?pwd=S05xOWtmeDJSbUJoMkNZMGRVORrUT09>

Meeting ID: 844 9001 1680

Password: 665565

Dial in: +1 (669) 900-9128

Instructions for Public Comment: Please submit any comments in writing to Drew Nichols at drew.nichols@scta.ca.gov by 9:30am on January 15 (please identify the agenda item related to your comment and indicate whether your comment should be read aloud or only submitted for the record).

January 15, 2021 at 11:30 a.m.

Sonoma County Regional Climate Protection Authority

Meeting location: Zoom, information provided above.

ITEM

1. Introductions
2. Public Comment
3. Administrative – Approval of the November 20th, 2021 meeting notes*
4. Report-out from CAAC members (as needed, 1 minute each)
5. Update on preparing the Final Draft of the Sonoma Climate Mobilization Strategy
6. Presentation of proposal to revise the CAAC Charter to increase equity and community participation **
7. RCPA update on activities
8. Announcements
9. Adjourn

*Materials attached.

**Materials to be handed out.

The next **SCTA/RCPA** meeting will be held **February 8, 2021**

The next **CAAC** meeting will be held **April 9, 2021**

The SCTA/RCPA Business Office is closed, and this meeting was conducted entirely by teleconference pursuant to the provisions of the Governor’s Executive Orders N-29-20 and N-35-20, suspending certain requirements of the Ralph M. Brown Act

Special - CLIMATE ACTION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING NOTES

Meeting Notes of November 20th, 2020

ITEM

1. Introductions

Meeting called to order at 11:30 p.m. by Brant Arthur.

Committee Members: David Leland; Pete Gang; Steve Pierce; Jane Elias; Kevin Conway; Merrilyn Joyce; Steve Birdlebough; Kerry Fugget; Judith Newton; Zeno Swijtink.

Guests: William Hart; Teri Shore; Ryan Johnson; Paulina Lopez; Mark Mortensen; Ana Horta; Janina Turner.

Staff: Brant Arthur; Suzanne Smith; Tanya Narath; Drew Nichols; Elliot Pickett.

2. Public Comment

N/A

3. Administrative - Approval of prior meeting notes – October 9, 2020

Steve Birdlebough moved for approval; Zeno Swijtink seconded.

The October 9, 2020 meeting notes were approved.

4. Report-out from attendees

Steve Birdlebough reported that Caltrans is making noise about reducing VMT and has asked the county planners how they are going to address that.

Mr. Birdlebough suggested to the committee to speak with their elected representative about the need to reduce VMT.

Merrilyn Joyce announced two new individuals have joined the Healdsburg City Council, Skyler Palacios and Ariel Kelly.

Pete Gang reported on a recent interview that looked at the first accomplishments of Petaluma’s Climate Action Commission. Essentially, the commission has reached a point where a draft framework of a Climate Emergency Plan will be submitted to the city council for input/approval.

Mr. Gang also expressed in this interview that we are not responding as if it were an emergency, but rather at the speed of government. There is a sense of urgency that all of us can keep in mind as we do this work.

David Leland recalled a question from the previous meeting about the percentage of the municipal operations represented in a city and its overall GHG budget. For the City of Sonoma, that percentage is 0.36%.

Mr. Leland described how the percentage was derived and said it was productive to use these as a model.

Jane Elias reported on the County’s five-year strategic plan update. The update is now in the outreach phase.

Ms. Elias described the process to the plan and how feedback will be incorporated.

Ms. Elias further reported that Measure R, Cloverdale’s user utility tax, funds are at the discretion of the city and are being sought for battery storage and resiliency work at the Cloverdale wastewater treatment plant.

Judith Newton announced two new individuals have joined the Cotati City Council.

Kerry Fugett announced Petaluma has two new council members.

Ms. Fugett further commented on the work in building communities to participate and provide input, and to collectively support government and communities to move this work forward.

Kevin Conway reported that Santa Rosa will have some new members join as well.

As far as the Santa Rosa Climate Action sub-committee, the next mayor will appoint the committee members. Mr. Conway encouraged the Friends of the Climate Action Plan to meet with the new council members.

Mr. Conway further commented on the upcoming municipal microgrid report from the City Council and the zero-waste ordinance.

Steve Pierce reported the Climate Action Subcommittee has been filled and the first meeting will be held in December.

Zeno Swijtink reported on a recent seminar, *A Just Transition for Labor*, from the Climate Center, which he attended and urged the plan to be sensitive to how it will impact the different demographics in the county.

Mark Mortensen spoke on the model zero waste ordinance that will be brought to the Santa Rosa City Council. The focus appears to be on restaurant's food- and service ware and is proposed to take effect in January 2022.

Mr. Mortensen further spoke on a recent webinar that discussed electrification and noted that our grid does not currently have capacity.

5. Presentation on the results of the Sonoma County Mobilization Strategy working groups

Tanya Narath provided an update to the Sonoma Climate Mobilization Strategy Update. This includes input since the previous meeting in October.

Ms. Narath provided a brief outline on the overview of the guidelines and strategies, and highlighted the areas of focus on the All-Electric Buildings campaign, Carbon-Free Electricity, and Drive Less Sonoma County Campaign.

Brant Arthur highlighted the key changes with the EV Access for All partnership. This includes a goal to develop over 10,000 public and workplace charging stations by 2027.

Ms. Narath further explained her thoughts on the Sonoma County VMT Bank idea. This strategy is focused on funding and a way to increase funding for solutions that we know we will need, and not so much a strategy – on its own – can reduce GHG emissions.

There were no changes to the Zero Waste by 2030 goal and in the Resilience and Adaption section.

The carbon sequestration piece continues to need work and refinement. Ms. Narath expressed her appreciation to the working group that has been meeting to discuss options available and organizing them in a way that makes sense.

Ms. Narath described the carbon sequestration campaign and supporting work to secure the funding, infrastructure elements, and to encourage the community to be engaged.

David Leland commented on forest, land management in the northern areas of the county that are increasing carbon sinks.

Zeno Swijtink asked about a needs assessment that would look at how many people are charging cars at home and the possible connections to ebikes.

Mr. Arthur responded the Drive Less Sonoma County campaign seeks to avoid unnecessary trips away from single-occupancy vehicles.

The 10,000 EV Charging stations goal comes from the RCPA *Shift Sonoma County* plan that was published in 2018.

Pete Gang raised the point on the issue of bioenergy plants being used to generate electricity.

Mark Mortensen commented on sustainably removing biomass that has been building up over the years.

Kerry Fugett commented in the engagement section, the “what we have to do” is very robust and the “how” is the critical part of this.

Ms. Fugett advocated to have the “how” ensure equity, create local jobs, and ensures indigenous voices are at the table. The process of the how should have sufficient time and energy, just as much as was put in the what.

Ryan Johnson announced an upcoming biomass competition and noted caution on the biochar idea in that it is cost-prohibitive for a small scale.

Steve Birdlebough commented the VMT issue will be difficult and there must have clear goals.

Mr. Arthur commented further that staff are looking for anyone who would be interested in reading the updated draft and provide input over the Thanksgiving holiday week.

6. Discussion on Equity and Community Engagement actions in the Sonoma Climate Mobilization Strategy

Brant Arthur discussed the idea to encourage more voices to participate and provide their voice on this effort; building the committee to be more representative of Sonoma County.

Mr. Arthur spoke on recent meetings with the working group that discussed how the CAAC can better focus on equity and building a broader coalition around climate, the business perspective and related advisory bodies county-wide, and talked about specific groups, such as Generation Housing.

Other conversations were held on equity. Some themes center around the request to circle back to communities to share what was heard in the community, changes made in response to COVID and disasters, and making sure frontline communities are involved in the planning process going forward.

Mr. Arthur further commented on potential changes to the CAAC committee, such as seeing how other climate mobilization efforts are organization.

Steve Birdlebough suggested involving agriculture and businesses, possibly even creating a separate group to handle the private sector.

Mr. Birdlebough said the public sector makes up less than 1% of GHG emission, and those in this committee tend to deal with the public sector. The real gains will be made by the sustainability officers at the wineries, the local industries, etc. and that is where attention should be focused.

Ana Horta referenced an article that highlighted farm workers who worked during the fires and asked if the committee has reached out to that community.

Mr. Gang added he has been in communication with a group in Marin who are looking to have Climate Emergency Resolutions in their community’s and wondered about collecting and/or consolidating efforts county-wide.

Ms. Fugett asked what happens after this is approved by the RCPA Board of Directors.

Ms. Narath responded that one of the first things to look at will be what structure needs to be in place in order to do the planning for these strategies. Other strategies might need more time, or be more dependent on other aspects.

Teri Shore asked about a climate-focused sales tax measure and if any of the elements and policies in this plan would lend themselves to becoming a climate measure in 2022.

Ms. Narath responded that one of the reasons in pulling this plan together is that it will provide a foundation of what we need in order to move the needle on climate change. One strategy for funding would be to go forward with a sales tax measure, though other less regressive options should also be considered.

7. RCPA update on activities

Tanya Narath spoke on the Water Bill \$ave Program. Staff had initially hoped to have the City of Sebastopol sign a master agreement that would be the key step in implementing the program. Implementation is likely to happen in early 2021.

8. Announcements

The next CAAC meeting is scheduled for January 8, 2021 at 11:30 AM.

9. Adjourn

The committee adjourned at 12:39 p.m.

Hi Tanya and Brant,

The question came up at the last meeting re a comparison of City of Sonoma GHG emissions vs. GHG emissions just from City municipal operations. The City's 2018 operations emissions were calculated to be about 312 MT CO₂e (from the SVCC report to the City), while 2018 GHG emissions for the whole city were calculated by the RCPA to be 87,594 MT CO₂e. That works out to 0.36%.

The City's operations GHG emissions estimate includes a number for employee commute (including for employees who live outside the City limits), and employee air travel (though this was a tiny number). These types of emissions are considered Scope 3 by the LGO Protocol, and I don't think are included in the RCPA county-wide calculation for 2018, so the percentage would be smaller on an apples to apples comparison.

Compared to other cities in the County, the City's operations emissions would be lower in several categories: fire, wastewater, and solid waste. Sonoma has delegated its fire services to a duly constituted separate entity. Its wastewater is treated by Sonoma Water, so we did not include a separate estimate of City municipal operations emissions associated with wastewater. We also didn't include a number for solid waste, since the City's municipal operations waste is not handled in a separate account, and there were no good estimates of waste volume from which to make a GHG estimate.

It would be great if you could include this in the minutes of the last meeting, since it was a member of the CAAC who asked the question. Thanks!

David Leland

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