

Willowbank County Service Area Advisory Committee

Minutes of the Meeting Held March 15, 2017

7:00pm

Marguerite Montgomery Elementary School Multipurpose Room

1441 Danbury Avenue, Davis, CA 95618

Committee Chair Cooluris called the meeting to order at 7:09 p.m.

COMMITTEE: Kent Calfee, John Cooluris, Bill Corliss, Marcia Kreith, Dick McCapes, Joanne Roy, and Olin Woods.

ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: Beth Gabor, of the County Administrator's Office (CAO), Maureen Poole, Secretary, Richard Reed, Deputy to Supervisor Provenza, Taro Echiburu, Director of the Yolo County Planning, Public Works & Environmental Services, and Willowbank Residents: Marybeth Buechner, Pam Eisele, Katie Flaherty, Clair King, Gary Matteson, and Mike and Kathleen Rockwell

INTRODUCTIONS: Committee members and guests gave self-introductions.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES: The minutes of November 16, 2016 were approved as amended.

MSC: Woods/ McCapes.

Note: January 18, 2017 meeting was cancelled due to traffic and weather. A quorum actually arrived but after the meeting had been cancelled.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Cooluris invited anyone interested to address the Committee. Cooluris read an email from Don Gueffroy, a community member regarding I-80 gridlock resulting in traffic on Mace Blvd. and makes exit from Montgomery Ave onto Mace Blvd. difficult and unsafe. In his letter, Gueffroy asked the County Service Area to request the County look into placing a stop sign at northbound Mace Blvd. and Montgomery Ave. Taro Echiburu, Director of the Yolo County Planning, Public Works, & Environmental Services briefly responded that increased traffic on county roads has been cropping up all over the county and other cities as well. It's an issue for SACOG and CalTrans. Echiburu stated the County is looking into this issue and is looking at what can be done. He added there are standards for where can put stop signs to reduce speed and in general, an existing speed limit cannot be reduced if more than 85% of traffic travel at that speed. Traffic on Mace Blvd. was proposed as a future agenda item.

MEMBER COMMENT: There was no member comment.

COUNTY REPORT: Supervisor Provenza introduced Beth Gabor, Manager of Operations and Strategy in the CAO's office. He stated that Beth is a longtime employee of the County who works closely with the County Administrator and has added supporting the community service organizations to her responsibilities. Beth addressed the group and highlighted her experience and responsibilities with the county and connection she has to the community. Gabor shared a draft fiscal report for FY ending 06/30/17 and asked for feedback.

After referring to the Sept 21, 2016 WCSA Advisory Committee meeting when a subcommittee was appointed to consider whether or not to recommend the BOS consider adding waste removal as an additional power of the CSA, Provenza said that the County Counsel advised that Provenza could create an ad hoc advisory committee that would look at the issues surrounding waste removal for Willowbank, El Macero and North Davis and report directly to him. Provenza said that the ad hoc group would be comprised of interested individuals from the community, the

homeowners associations and CSA Advisory Committee and would not be subject to the Brown Act posting requirements. Kreith indicated an interest in serving on such a committee. All but one of GWIA board members were in attendance at today's meeting and one member mentioned that waste management is a topic of discussion for the March 23 annual meeting.

Provenza also reported on the medical and recreational marijuana (cannabis) laws and the impact on the County. He stated that currently the only commercial cultivation of cannabis allowed in unincorporated Yolo County is under an interim ordinance that grandfathered-in roughly 90 medical marijuana growers. Over the next year, the Board of Supervisors will be reviewing this issue. It is likely the cities will allow marijuana dispensaries and the County would have a role to test the product for pesticides, etc. Whether the County would charge a tax has not been decided.

COMMUNITY CHOICE ENERGY (CCE) Taro Echiburu, Director of the Yolo County Planning, Public Works & Environmental Services gave the Advisory Committee a report on the Community Choice Energy (CCE) Alliance project. He explained that the County and the City of Davis have created an entity called Valley Clean Energy Alliance (VCEA). Once the Alliance has launched and is selling power, sometime in Spring 2018, the residents of Yolo County unincorporated area, the City of Davis, and perhaps Woodland, will be given a choice when it comes to purchasing power from PG&E or opting-out of the Valley Clean Energy Alliance. He talked about the benefits of participating in the CCE such as having a choice in programs, local control, increased transparency through public hearings (in contrast to PUC hearings), competitive energy prices, more renewables, and the ability to purchase a cleaner mix of electricity. He stated that currently twenty-four cities and counties are participating in California CCE programs – Marin Clean Energy, Sonoma Clean Power, Lancaster Choice Energy, Peninsula Clean Energy, and Clean Power of San Francisco. Yolo County is looking at how to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The Board of VCEA currently consists of Supervisors Don Saylor and Duane Chamberlain and Robb Davis and Lucas Frerichs from the Davis City Council. A CEO is being actively recruited, hopefully to be selected by April or May. Regina Espinoza, Yolo County Climate Action and Sustainability Manager, serves as County staff liaison.

Echiburu further explained that *the CCE is an opt-out program*. Although, as Marybeth Beuchner observed "opt-out" feels coercive, Echiburu explained that's the way the law was written. Residents who elect to participate in the VCEA program do not have to do anything. The CCE purchases electricity from another source for its consumers and PG&E will continue to handle the billing, meter reading, and distribution systems. However, if you would like to remain with PG&E, customers will have to choose to opt out of the CCE. PG&E is not happy with CCE. All rate payers will be billed a Power Charge Indifference Adjustment (PCIA) or "exit fee" to cover transmission and distribution.

Discussion ensued. Gary Matteson stated that as the county takes on elements of power sales, it takes on risks as do the usual investor-owned companies. Echiburu stated Yolo farmers want certainty and rate stability and will be participants in the rate setting public hearings. Only when rates are set will ag know if Alliance or PG&E has better rates. Individuals with rooftop solar tend to benefit with CCE because PG&E's buyback is not that great, although PG&E has been improving. At present the VCEA does not have an operating budget: \$1 million (\$500,000 loans from City of Davis and County of Yolo) enables staff to begin start up, outreach, and hire a CEO. After that the entity will need find financing to buy the energy. The County will need decide the share to save in reserves or to reduce rates. While a long-term Yolo County objective is to invest in locally generated energy, he noted there could be a conflict between ag(land) and solar facilities on ag land. All jurisdictions were invited to participate. Winters declined; West Sacramento wants to be kept posted as it wasn't in their general plan; and Woodland was behind the County's schedule for creation of the Alliance. If more jurisdictions join the Alliance, they will have 2 elected officials on the Board until there are a max of 8 members, at which point it would drop to 1 elected per jurisdiction.

Further discussion brought out that the electrical load of Davis is approximately equivalent to the rest of Yolo County. However Davis has little industry and the University does not buy electricity from PG&E. Echiburu invited community members to contact him if they have any questions.

Relevant to Mace traffic, ag land productivity and solar, Kreith inquired about status of Sunpower's request for approval of a tentative parcel map, rezoning and a negative declaration. She was informed that the Planning Commission turned down the applicant's request. It next goes to the BOS in early April. There is still time to provide input to BOS.

WATER SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING WITH THE CITY OF DAVIS: Cooluris reported on a meeting with the City of Davis that he, Kent Calfee, and Supervisor Provenza and Beth Gabor attended in January. Cooluris stated the City of Davis is not doing a new water study at this time. Rather, the City intends to review the assumptions made for the current 5-year rate schedule, which included projected expenditures for construction, financing (interest) costs, and operating costs. It was reported that analysis should be completed in a few months.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS: Water rate review by the City of Davis and traffic and safety on Mace Blvd.

NEXT MEETING: May 17, 2017 7:00pm

ADJOURNMENT: 8:44 p.m. MSC: Calfee/McCapes. Unanimously approved.

Minutes unanimously approved on September 28, 2017 after correction.