

Natural Resources Commission Minutes
September 28, 2015

Present: Mark Braly, Kristin Burford, Matt Holland, John Johnston, Anya McCann (Alt), Alan Pryor, Steven Westhoff

Absent: Michelle Millet

Staff: Mitch Sears, Sustainability Manager

Council Liaison: Rochelle Swanson

1. **Approval of Agenda** - approved unanimously
2. **Approval of Minutes**- July 27, 2015 minutes, with minor corrections, approved unanimously.
3. **Commission and Staff Announcements** – The City’s new Water Conservation Coordinator, Dawn Calciano, was introduced; Commissioner Braly co-authored an op-ed article published in the Enterprise on zero net energy; Commissioner Johnston noted that the Capitol Region Climate Readiness Collaborative holds regular meeting –staff informed the Commission that the City serves on the Collaborative’s steering committee.
4. **Council Liaison Comments** – None.
5. **Public Communications** – None
6. **Consent Calendar** –
 - a) DWR contract – First amendment – Removed from Consent Calendar. Commissioners recommended the inclusion of discussion of tipping rates, maximum tipping fees, and the use of anaerobic composting processes only. Staff noted these recommendations. The item was approved unanimously.
 - b) Organics program implementation update – Approved by consent.
7. **Urban Water Management Plan - Scope of Services.** Staff summarized the draft scope of services and responded to questions. Following discussion, Commissioners provided the following feedback:
 - a) Task 3 – Make sure all meetings are noted.
 - b) Task 5.1 – Add climate change discussion.
 - c) Task 5.2 – Add “...and checked against local data”
 - d) Task 8 – Discussion about water rights must include potential effects of climate change.
 - e) Task 11 – Add presentation to Natural Resource Commission.
 - f) General – identify and discuss opportunities to use recycled water.
8. **Mace Ranch Innovation Center (MRCI) - Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR).** Heidi Tschudin, City contract project manager for the MRCI project provided an overview of the project and identified the following DEIR sections that relate to the Commission’s areas of responsibilities:
 - Section 4.7 – GHG Emissions
 - Section 4.3 – Air Quality
 - Section 4.15 – Utilities
 - Section 9 – Water
 - Cumulative Impacts

Tschudin noted that the DEIR comment period had been extended and that the Commission could provide comments at their next meeting in October. The Commission raised questions about whether the project would include residential land uses (undetermined), the availability of the project’s draft sustainability plan (draft to be shared with the Commission at the next meeting), and interest in more detail regarding the project’s zero net energy approach and its impacts on energy related GHG impacts.

Following Commission discussion, public comment was made on the need to reexamine the Innovation Park Guidelines and establish clear direction on how this project fit into the City's overall GHG reduction strategy.

The Commission decided to add consideration of the DEIR to their October meeting agenda to provide additional time to develop comments.

9. **Nishi/Gateway Project - Sustainability Implementation Plan and Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR).** Staff and Ascent Environmental (City consultant for the Gateway/Nishi Sustainability Implementation Plan), provided an overview of the project and Sustainability Implementation Plan. Following the presentation, the Commission raised the following comments/questions on the DEIR and draft Sustainability Implementation Plan (SIP):

DEIR

- Table 1 in Fehr & Peers Technical Appendix is inconsistent with Table 3-1 in Chapter 3.
- GHG emission factors for electricity appear to be inconsistent between Nishi and MRIC EIRs.

SIP

- Is ZNE feasible? How would all-electric buildings affect ability to reach targets?
- Confirm 30% better than Title 24 is 2013 standard or rolling standard?
- Community Choice Energy – how would this affect ZNE goal? May be opportunities to integrate achievement of CCE into Nishi plan? Does Nishi support the case for CCE?
- While the project makes progress toward lower GHG emissions, it still is a net GHG emitter. Is this taking the City in the right direction relative to its GHG emission reduction goals? How to reconcile GHG emissions with Council goal of carbon-neutral by 2050? Can any development meet these goals?
- Water comments:
 - Potential of non-potable sources (recycled, graywater, well) is good, but would this be enough?
 - May need to think about capturing more on-site stormwater and reusing through rainwater harvesting. Don't just detain and treat with LID measures. Consider capturing site stormwater and storing it for on-site use, e.g. cisterns or other methods, or having nearly all of it percolate, with exception of major storm events.
 - Need to have purple pipe installed upfront as part of project, including interior (toilet) plumbing; don't defer until later when it's too late.
 - Is there an opportunity to bring treated wastewater from the UC Davis WWTP?

Public comments:

- Waste sector: not much in SIP. Need more focus on actions to encourage minimizing waste generation, reduction of solid waste, recycling, composting, etc. Residential & commercial sector programs, coordinate with City efforts. Consider excluding trash compactors, which prevent separation of waste by type. Look at what UC Davis is doing.
- Consider TDM efforts such as car-sharing or car storage approaches being used on UC Davis campus.

Staff noted that the DEIR comment period closes on the date of the next NRC meeting (October 26th).

Following Commission discussion, public comment was made on the need to consider waste minimization in addition to GHG related issues/impacts.

The Commission decided to add consideration of the Draft Sustainability Plan and DEIR to their

October meeting agenda to provide additional time to develop comments.

10. **Water Conservation Program.** Staff provided an update on water use in Davis. In summary, the Davis reduced water production by 28% in August and is on track to meet the State mandated 28% water conservation goals for Davis.
11. **Subcommittee Updates**
 - a) **Energy** – The subcommittee met with PG&E and City staff to discuss implementation of State energy efficiency reach codes and the development of an associated cost effectiveness study.
 - b) **Water** – No update.
 - c) **Hazardous Materials** – No update.
 - d) **Solid Waste** – Awaiting staff action on the IWMP and Styrofoam containers ban expected in November.
12. **Long Range Calendar/Future Agenda Items** – Commissioners reviewed the draft long range calendar. The Commission scheduled the Mace Innovation Park and Nishi/Gateway project DEIR's and draft Sustainability Plan reviews for its October meeting.
13. **Adjourn:** 9:40 p.m.