Natural Resources Commission Minutes
October 24, 2016

Present:	Mark Braly, John Johnston, Anya McCann (Alt), Michelle Millet, Alan Pryor
Absent:	Kristin Burford, Matt Holland, Steven Westhoff
Staff:	Mitch Sears, Sustainability Manager
Council Liaison:	Rochelle Swanson

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1. Approval of Agenda - Approved unanimously

2. Brief Announcements from Staff, Commissioners, and Liaisons – Mayor Davis reported on recent trip to Boulder CO to participate in a complete streets symposium and emphasized Boulder's collection and use of transportation data and how Davis might learn from their experience.

3. Public Communications – None.

4. Consent Calendar – Approved (A) September 26, 2016 minutes.

5. Regular Items

a) **Sterling Apartments Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR)**. Eric Lee, City staff, summarized the project and the DEIR. City staff, City DEIR consultant, and project proponents responded to Commissioner questions on potential project impacts and associated mitigation measures related to climate impacts, energy use and conservation, and transportation related GHG emissions. Commissioners provided comments on the DEIR and agreed that they would be submitted together. Commissioner DEIR comments are included as Attachment 1. In addition, the following comment was made by a member of the public at the meeting and noted by the City's EIR consultant: How many people will result from the project? What about students who put more than one person in each bedroom? Will there be more vehicles than shown in the EIR as a result of doubling up?

b) **Subcommittee reports**

i. **Energy Subcommittee Report – Options for energy efficiency in new and existing structures.** Commissioner Braly briefly summarized the Subcommittee's research of programs from Berkeley and Boulder, CO. The Subcommittee indicated it was moving toward a recommendation to the full Commission that it recommend that the City Council identify its priorities related to building energy efficiency and then provide direction to seek public input. Commissioners identified the need to examine which approach(es) result in the highest GHG reduction, the relative complexity of different approaches, investigation of the effort needed in Berkeley and Boulder to develop and implement their programs, and research of other regional efforts.

ii. **City IPM Policy Review Process** –The Commission considered the Hazardous Materials Subcommittee recommendation to host a public forum and reviewed potential topics to be covered at the forum.

Following discussion, on a motion by Pryor, seconded by, Braly, the Commission supported the Subcommittee's recommendation to hold a public forum on IPM to collect community feedback and information to inform its study of the City's IPM program.

Motion passed 5-0.

c) **Water Conservation Program Update –** Brief update provided on water use in the City.

d) **Subcommittee Updates –**

- Water – No update.
- Energy – No update – see item 5b.i above.
- Solid Waste – Discussion of work with the Utility Rates Advisory Committee on long-range planning for solid waste.
- Haz Mat – See item 5.b.ii above.
- GHG – No update.

6. Commission and Staff Communications

a) **Long Range Calendar/Future Agenda Items**. Reviewed

b) **Upcoming meeting items/events**. Special joint meeting with Open Space and Habitat and Recreation and Parks Commissions regarding IPM program on November 17, 2016; next regular meeting December 5, 2016 (rescheduled due to Thanksgiving holiday).

7. Adjourn: 8:50 p.m.

ATTACHMENT 1

STERLING APARTMENTS DRAFT EIR REVIEW
DAVIS NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION MEETING
OCTOBER 24, 2016, 6:30 PM

Commissioner Comments

- Question: did the City staff negotiate the number of beds resulting from the project?
- The increase in greenhouse gas emissions resulting from the project will have significant impacts. The proposed project should be greenhouse gas neutral or should off-set greenhouse gas emissions. This should happen for each project in the City.
- Asked about SCS Consistency finding and CEQA streamlining.
- The EIR focuses on planning efforts and policy consistency. The proposed project does not meet some of the policies in the Greenhouse Gas Emissions chapter.
- The natural gas and electricity percent reductions in the Greenhouse Gas Emissions chapter do not add up. These should be double checked.
- The EIR states that the project will have less than significant impacts related to greenhouse gas emissions. The EIR uses standard mitigation but does not consider requiring wiring for solar. The parking garage should be wired for solar.
- The CalGreen code is the minimum requirement in Davis, and future projects must exceed this requirement. Other project applicants have changed their projects to LEED Gold. Why hasn't this project done the same? The project has not done enough to maximize energy efficiency. The project needs solar.
- Decreasing emissions to 1990 levels is still pushing the City away from the goals in the Climate Action Plan. The City needs to get serious about decreasing emissions. The City cannot approve projects that minimally decrease greenhouse gas emissions. The impacts related to greenhouse gas emissions are avoidable. All GHG emissions greater than city policy should be considered significant.
- Question: Where do the values on page 3.6-20 (Residential GHG Emissions Budget Threshold) come from? I.e., 5.5 MT CO_2 and 3.1 MT CO_2. The mitigations don't seem to be consistent with the 44% reduction per unit.
- Why are the impacts at the Pole Line Road segment significant and unavoidable? Couldn't these impacts be mitigated by the applicant? I.e., the applicant could reduce the amount of parking spaces and thus the number of cars, which would decrease traffic levels. This impact is avoidable.

- No comments on Hazardous Materials, Hydrology/Water Quality, Air Quality.