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SUSTAINABLE ENERGY ADVISORY BOARD (SEAB)

**Minutes for Meeting #155, Thursday, August 8, 2019**

**Sustainability Department**

9601 Ridgehaven Ct., San Diego, CA 92123

First Floor Auditorium at 10:00 AM

1. Call to Order

Chair, Julia Brown called the meeting to order at 10:05AM. Quorum met.

1. Introductions of Board Members, City Staff, and Public Participants

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Jason Anderson – Business Community

Sophie Barnhorst – At Large Member

Julia Brown (Chair) – At Large Member

Hillary Hebert –San Diego Gas & Electric Representative

Douglas Kot (Vice Chair) – Building Industry

Jay Powell – Environmental Advocate

Eddie Price – At Large Member Alternate 1

Eric Scheidlinger – At Large Member Alternate 2

**MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:**

Douglas Kot (Vice Chair) –Building Industry

**MEMBER SEATS VACANT**:

-- Solar Power System Manufacturer/Installer (May 2017)

-- Regional Energy (October 2018)

-- Labor Organization (March 2019)

# CITY STAFF PRESENT:

Diane Heard, Associate Management Analyst – Sustainability Department

Aaron Lu, Program Manager – Sustainability Department

Joe Whitaker, Senior Planner – Sustainability Department

James Chen, Senior Civil Engineer – Sustainability Department

Bryan Olson, Senior Civil Engineer – Sustainability Department

Cody Hooven, Director - Sustainability Department

Kelly Charles, Assistant Deputy Director - Development Services Department

Gino Olivari, Senior Mechanical Engineer - Development Services Department

Public Introductions.

James Strange, Center for Sustainable Energy designee for the Regional Energy Member Seat on the Board was present and participated in discussions but not voting.

1. Approval of Agenda (Chair)

Chairperson expressed the desire not to take action on the Action Item listed on the noticed

agenda. Motion to approve the agenda as noticed and distributed made by Jay Powell.

Seconded by Eddie Price. Motion passed unanimously.

IV. Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve minutes of SEAB Meeting #154, held on July 11, 2019 made by Jay Powell. Seconded by Eddie Price. Motion passed unanimously 6-0-1 with Jason Anderson to be recorded as abstaining since not in attendance at July 11 meeting.

V. Announcements

Julia Brown announced details regarding the Regional Meeting she attended with general public comment on topics to include gas reductions, job creation, etc. She reminded the board of the meeting for the Climate Action Campaign to be held on Friday, 10/4/2019 from 8:00am-5:30pm during the 4th Annual Forum at the Neil Morgan Auditorium in the San Diego Central Library. She mentioned details of another sustainability-related meeting hosted by the State of California for Climate Action Planning to be held in August in San Luis Obispo.

Jay Powell noted the publication of obituary in morning paper for Jim Bell, co-founder of Sustainable San Diego, the San Diego Center for Appropriate Technology and Director of the Ecological Life Institute who passed on July 31st. He previously ran for Mayor and City Council and had advocated for a binational regional approach to sustainability for decades.

VI. Non-agenda Public Comment

None.

VII. Presentations/Discussion

* 1. High level GHG reduction strategies (Work Plan Item **1.B.**) – SDG&E Representative Stacie Atkinsonintroduced by Hillary Hebert presented a power point on an example of review conducted by "Energy Environmental Economics (E3)". Issues identified included impacts of electrification and EV charging including potential changes to the distribution system.
  2. Update(s) to City solar and energy storage permitting (Work Plan Item **4.C.** Solar Permitting) **–** Development Services Assistant Deputy Director, Kelly Charles, presented the current status of solar permitting including improvements in processing procedures. Issues identified in discussion included high volume of solar installation, replacement of older solar systems (and disposition of used equipment) and increasing load on staff and staffing turnover and other cost issues with State legislative restrictions on permit fees. Eddie Price noted example of difficulty Grid Alternatives is experiencing in permitting a project in community of concern. Other issues that can have impact on this division include EV charging expansion, battery storage and increase of density provisions to address affordable housing issues. Board encouraged staff to bring issues which may require policy recommendations including budget issues to attention of SEAB.
  3. Municipal solar and solar + storage phase 2 projects (Work Plan Item **4.B. Municipal Energy Strategy**)– Sustainability Department staff James Chen presented a power point on the status of installs of solar on municipal facilities and status of Phase 2 program. Issues identified included process for City to use the potential identified in the solar siting survey and FIT proposal for a Phase 3 program as part of the Municipal Energy Strategy being developed.
  4. Solar Siting Survey and Feed in Tariff Design (Work Plan re-designated Items **3.A. & 3.B. DER**) - Sustainability Department staff Brian Olson presented information and answered board questions. It was noted that the FIT proposal from Clean Coalition has been under review back and forth with NREL. That proposal would be served by load serving entities such as SDGE or CCA. Issues identified included potential for City and City enterprises such as water utilities developing solar and storage based micro grids, sharing at future meetings relevant findings by participants in SEIN from other regions, creating an RFP template for FIT, introducing equity and hiring from communities of concern into the proposals and development of EV charging policies. It was noted that the City is pursuing grants for microgrid development as part of Municipal Energy Strategy to enhance system resilience and completion of power flow analysis.

NOTE: Boardmember Jason Anderson departed the meeting.

IX. Informational Items/Discussion - This item taken out of order by the Chair.

1. Cody Hooven reported CCA JPA efforts with City of San Diego are ongoing including discussions with several other jurisdictions to join the JPA.

VIII. Action Items/Discussion

Discussion of proposed creation of an Environmental Advisory Board (consolidating three boards into one of approximately 15 members) was introduced by Chairperson Julia Brown. She noted that she had spoken as an individual in favor of the proposal at the July 18 Environment Committee meeting. Jason and Julia conveyed a favorable response to this proposal in a preliminary meeting with Council staff. Jay Powell summarized his memorandum distributed to Board prior to the meeting outlining problems with the proposal and inaccuracies in the staff report and staff presentation to the Environment Committee. He urged the board to take a position in opposition to proposal as currently drafted. Cody Hooven stated that the proposal was not well framed and is intended to act as Sustainability Advisory Board. James Strange indicated he would support the motion to oppose the proposal as drafted because it was overly broad but could not vote on the motion since his appointment has not yet been confirmed by the City Council.

MOTION Restated by Jay Powell, Seconded by Eddie Price for SEAB to take a position in

opposed to the creation of an Environment Advisory Board as currently proposed. Motion FAILED 2-4-0 with Julia Brown, Hillary Hebert, Sonja Barnhorst and Eric Scheidlinger in opposition. Jay Powell requested that the minutes record that the vote was not an endorsement of the proposal as currently drafted but that the board is divided on this matter and is not taking a position.

X. Staff Updates

None other than report in Item IX on CCA JPA status.

XI. New Business

None.

XII. Review of Next Meeting Agenda and Suggested Items for Future Meetings in accord with

adopted 2019 Work Plan topics

This item not taken/discussed.

XIII. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned in honor and memory of Jim Bell, ecological designer and advocate for

regional sustainability at 12:15 PM. by Motion Jay Powell with second by Eric

Scheidlinger.