

**ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
JUNE 22, 2009**

CALL TO ORDER

Committee Chair Mitchell called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Judith Mitchell, Chair	Craig Knickerbocker
Judy Bayer	William Larson
Deborah Davis	Bridget Stamos

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT

Rod Paulsen

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT

Greg Grammer, Assistant to the City Manager
Niki Cutler, AICP, Principal Planner
Kelley Thom, Associate Planner

AUDIENCE ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Member Bayer moved, seconded by Member Larson

TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF APRIL 27, 2009.

There being no objection, Chair Mitchell so ordered.

Larson reminded the Committee that the February 23 minutes were not approved at the last meeting and should be placed on the next agenda.

MUNICIPAL GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS INVENTORY

Assistant to the City Manager Grammer introduced Heidi Aten, Consultant for the South Bay Cities Council of Governments (SBCCOG), who prepared the City's Municipal Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions Inventory Report. Mr. Grammer indicated that the City of Rolling Hills Estates was the first city under the SBCCOG program to gather all the emissions data and complete the inventory.

Heidi Aten reviewed the City's municipal emissions data for the years 1990, 2005 and 2007, and indicated that 2005 serves as the benchmark year for establishing reduction targets. Ms. Aten stated that the GHS emissions are organized by three scopes: direct emissions (scope 1), which

are within the City's control, such as combustion of fuels from City vehicles; and indirect emissions from sources that are owned or controlled by other entities, such as electricity usage (scope 2) or from contracted services, employee commuting and waste disposal (scope 3). Ms. Aten stated that many of the scope 3 emissions in the report are estimates based on information provided by contract service providers and, while not always precise measurements, are good to include in the report. Ms. Aten reported that the City's 2005 GHS emissions totaled 636 metric tons of CO₂e.

Chair Mitchell inquired about the vehicle emissions rates and fuel types reported for PV Transit, and stated that it was her understanding that Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) fuel is used on most PV Transit buses. Ms. Aten stated that she will review the data that was submitted by PV Transit, and, if necessary, revise the report.

Ms. Aten stated that the next steps for the City would be to conduct a community-scale inventory to assess residential and commercial related GHG emissions, establish an emissions reductions target, and prepare a Climate Action Plan.

SBCCOG Executive Director Jacki Bacharach indicated that Heidi Aten has been retained to complete the community inventory for participating South Bay cities.

After some discussion, it was the consensus of the Committee that the City should establish a municipal emissions reduction target and prepare a Climate Action Plan prior to completing a community inventory.

SOUTH BAY GREEN BUSINESS PROGRAM

Ivan Kan and Heather Ramirez of Tech Go Green, gave a presentation on a proposed South Bay Green Business Program to recognize the green efforts of local businesses and provide assistance to encourage green business practices. Mr. Kan indicated that the cost of the pilot program for the South Bay is about \$14,000 per year.

Member Bayer inquired about Tech Go Green's background and motivation for spearheading the program.

Assistant to the City Manager Grammer stated that it in order for cities to consider whether or not to participate in the program, it would be helpful to know each city's proportional share of the cost.

Jacki Bacharach stated that she is reviewing Tech Go Green's proposal and would seek feedback from the South Bay cities.

GREEN AWARD PROGRAM

Associate Planner Kelley Thom summarized the staff report and provided information on the establishment of a Green Award Program, as directed by the Committee. Associate Planner Thom stated that it is staff's suggestion that residents and community groups apply for the recognition by completing an application form and describing their green efforts for a "Greener Path Award" or, for more extensive achievements, a "Mayor's Green Ribbon Award."

Chair Mitchell stated that the criteria for a Green Award should not be too easy, and that awards should not be given to residents who purchase a hybrid vehicle or change out their light bulbs to

compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs). Chair Mitchell suggested that the awards be handed out at City Council meetings once per year, perhaps to coincide with the City Celebration, and that the awards be distributed for first, second, third and fourth place.

Principal Planner Niki Cutler stated that it was staff's opinion that the awards be all-inclusive, rather than competitive, and that they be handed out for a wide range of green accomplishments.

Member Davis moved, seconded by Member Bayer,

TO RECOMMEND TO THE CITY COUNCIL THAT THE CITY ESTABLISH A GREEN AWARD PROGRAM TO RECOGNIZE THE ENVIRONMENTAL EFFORTS OF CITY RESIDENTS AND COMMUNITY GROUPS.

There being no objection, Chair Mitchell so ordered.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 pm. The next meeting will take place on Monday, August 24, 2009.

Respectfully submitted,

Greg Grammer, Assistant to the City Manager