

**County of Santa Clara**

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San Jose, California 95110**



DATE: 8/22/2018

TO: Honorable Members of the Board of Supervisors  
Jeffery V. Smith M.D, J.D., County Executive

FROM: Susan Gilbert-Miller,  
Director, Office of Sustainability

**SUBJECT: Progress update on the Sustainability Master Plan – August 2018**

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During the March 8, 2018, Finance and Government Operations Committee (FGOC) meeting, the Committee requested that the Office of Sustainability (OOS), County Executive Office, provide monthly off-agenda reports on the County Sustainability Master Plan (SMP) progress. At its March 15, 2018 meeting, the Housing, Land Use, Environment, and Transportation (HLUET) Committee requested similar progress updates. The Board of Supervisors' approved the SMP Framework on April 3, 2018. The first off-agenda SMP progress report was issued by OOS in May; each successive month thereafter either an off-agenda or an on-agenda progress report has been issued. This off-agenda report provides SMP progress made from July 23 to August 17, 2018. The next SMP progress report will be presented on-agenda at the FGOC meeting on September 13, 2018.

Ongoing and upcoming activities are as follows:

1) Performance Measures

Two summer fellows (one from the Stanford Fellows Program and one from the County Fellows Program) began working with OOS in July. The Fellows are supporting the SMP departmental interview protocol design and development of dashboard metrics for monitoring sustainability and climate defense performance. OOS wants to acknowledge the Facilities and Fleet Department (FAF) for providing needed County electricity, water, and other data to support the OOS Fellows' work. Professor Derek Ouyang, Stanford Sustainable Urban Systems (SUS), and the OOS Director are exploring potential opportunities for Stanford students to continue this work after the Fellows summer program concludes.

2) Departmental and Key Stakeholders' Interviews

OOS Fellows are scheduled to conduct limited interviews on August 20 and 21<sup>st</sup> with one or two key staff from three departments (FAF, Parks and Recreation (Parks), and Cultural Competency) to test prototype interview questions and protocols.

3) Natural Resources and Environment

Deputy County Executive, Sylvia Gallegos, convened a meeting on August 20, 2018, with FAF, Parks, the Department of Planning and Development (Planning), County Counsel, and the OOS to discuss the County Tree Ordinance, Tree Inventory, and Tree Management Guide. Action items from this meeting will be included in the next SMP progress report presented at the September 13<sup>th</sup> FGOC meeting.

a) Sustainable Landscaping

The FAF landscape labor and materials assessment was contracted in December 2017 and work began in April 2017. The contractor is collecting current data on plant palettes, irrigation systems and landscape categories (e.g. turf, mulch, hardscape). The contractor will make recommendations for required labor and landscaping materials including irrigation efficiency upgrades, low water-use replacement plants, and employee training.

Update

On-site field work assessments have been completed and the contractor's final deliverables are expected to be completed by the end of October.

b) County Forest Management

OOS has been working on a draft plan aimed at creating a County forest, and sustainable tree management practices. The plan is anticipated to include how to achieve Environmental Stewardship Goal #10, to plant trees.

Update

A comprehensive "Resource Guide" (Guide) has been drafted and is being reviewed within OOS. The Guide is intended to support the development of individualized department guides. The draft Guide will be distributed to the Roads and Airports (RDA), FAF, Parks, and the Health and Hospital System (HHS) for review and feedback. The Guide is scheduled to be finalized by the end of November.

c) County Tree Inventory

The County contracted with Davey Resource Group to conduct a tree inventory for all trees on FAF-managed sites. This inventory documents trees and their condition.

Update

The FAF tree inventory is still on track to be completed by mid-September. OOS is working with Parks to determine the scope and scale of the inventory required for their trees.

*d) Integrated Pest Management (IPM)*

The County's IPM Program supports various County policy and Ordinances to increase sustainability.<sup>1</sup> Program activities aim to significantly decrease pollution by reducing pesticides in the environment through sustainable pest management. OOS is currently working with representatives from RDA, FAF, Parks and the Information Services Department-GIS unit to evaluate proposals submitted by vendors for IPM spatial mapping and data collection software. Additionally, OOS is creating specific IPM training courses.

Update

Two vendor demonstrations were held: one on August 16 and the other on August 17th. These demonstrations resulted in additional questions which the vendors are working to address by mid-September. Vendor selection and negotiations are expected to be completed by the end of November.

The IPM training agenda for Structural IPM (buildings) has been developed and was approved by University of California IPM advisors and by commercial pest control operators.

4) Outreach and Strategic Engagement

- a) *BayCAN* – The County is a founding member of the Bay Area Climate Adaptation Network (BayCAN), a new local government alliance and network to facilitate Bay-Area regional climate defense planning. The OOS has responded to information requests from BayCan to promote the County of Santa Clara's activities regarding solar installation and renewable electricity procurement.
- b) *City of San Jose* – the OOS Director met on August 3<sup>rd</sup> with Cynthia Comerford, the new Deputy Director of the City of San José Environmental Services Department, to discuss priorities and identify potential opportunities for collaboration.
- c) *Agricultural Preservation Task Force/HLUET/Planning Commission: Special Mobile Workshop* – Planning and the Consumer and Environmental Protection Agency (CEPA), Department of Agriculture and Environmental Management, conducted a productive public “mobile workshop” on August 10<sup>th</sup> to visit agricultural lands and areas in the County to educate about the importance of protecting and preserving working lands as part of the County's sustainability strategy. The OOS Director was invited on the tour and, as such, will be better able to represent and support this important County objective.
- d) *The Tech Museum of Innovation* – District 3 staff, Vanessa Turner, and the OOS Director attended the “San Jose in Action” sustainability event on August 15<sup>th</sup> where

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<sup>1</sup> See: IPM Ordinance; Sustainable Landscape Ordinance (Model Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance); Sustainable Landscaping Policy; Tree Preservation Ordinance; and Zero Waste Policy.

we met with leaders from San Jose’s cultural institutions and community organizations.

e) *Silicon Valley Clean Energy (SVEC) Member Agency Working Group (MAWG)* – OOS continues to benefit from participating with most of the County’s cities in the SVCE MAWG. Updates provided at the July 26<sup>th</sup> MAWG meeting include:

1) the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) is releasing a new Power Charge Indifference Adjustment (PCIA) calculation methodology.<sup>2</sup> The CPUC’s Proposed Decision (PD) for the calculation is neutral to slightly positive for Community Choice Aggregator’s. The CPUC’s decision is expected to be protested.

2) MAWG is assessing members’ priorities for new initiatives and programs including:

- All Electric Building Codes
- Identify Barriers to Electrification (within municipal codes, etc.)
- Electric Vehicle (EV) Readiness Plan
- EV Charging for Multi-Unit dwellings
- Heat Pumps for Existing Buildings
- Residential Energy Coaching
- Hydrogen Fuel Cell Powered by Organic Waste

f) *Local Government Sustainable Energy Coalition (LGSEC)* – OOS continues to represent the County by participating on the LGSEC Board. LGSEC priorities are focused on wildfire disasters, climate change and energy market transformation issues relative to energy regulation.

## 5) Challenges and Solutions

a) *SMP Contract Amendment* – The contract amendment process with Raimi is delaying the scheduling of SMP departmental interviews. Therefore, the SMP work in the interim was reprioritized to focus on identifying dashboard potential performance measures and the testing of a prototype interview questions.

b) *OOS Staffing* – Reduced OOS staffing has hindered SMP progress. OOS is adding a Senior Management Analyst at the end of August, which will somewhat ease the staffing shortage. However, rehiring the Sustainability Manager position is currently on-hold while Employee Services Agency (ESA) reviews whether the position should be retained, deleted, or downgraded. The OOS Director prepared a justification for position retention.

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<sup>2</sup> The PCIA is a charge assessed by PG&E to cover generation costs acquired prior to a customer’s change in service provider. This fee is collected by PG&E and is effectively an “exit fee” assessed to customers which receive their generation services from another provider. PG&E assigns customers a “PCIA Vintage” based on the date they were enrolled in alternative service.

Please contact Susan Gilbert-Miller at 408-993-4762 or [susan.gilbert-miller@ceo.sccgov.org](mailto:susan.gilbert-miller@ceo.sccgov.org) with questions or comments.

cc: Chief Board Aides  
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