



CITY OF NOVATO
CALIFORNIA

Sustainability Commission

MINUTES

Thursday, January 19, 2023 - 6:00pm

Novato City Hall, 901 Sherman Avenue, Novato

Chair

Nicole Tai

Vice Chair

Chris Yalonis

Members

Tim Blofeld, Bob Brown, Zach Brownstone, Bryn Ichinaga, and Kolby Gleeson

Staff Liaison

Gretchen Schubeck

A. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

The Commission was called to order at 6:01pm.

Commissioners Present: Tim Blofeld, Bob Brown, Zach Brownstone, Kolby Gleeson, Bryn Ichinaga, Nicole Tai, and Chris Yalonis

Staff Present: Gretchen Schubeck, Sustainability Coordinator and Jessica Deakyne, Assistant City Manager

B. APPROVAL OF FINAL AGENDA

Upon a motion of Commissioner Brown and second by Commissioner Blofeld the Commission voted 7-0 to approve the final agenda.

AYES: BLOFELD, BROWN, BROWNSTONE, GLEESON, ICHINAGA, TAI, YALONIS
NOES: NONE

Motion carried.

C. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

D. CONSENT ITEMS

Upon a motion of Commissioner Blofeld and second by Commissioner Gleeson, the Commission voted 7-0 to approve the meeting minutes of December 15, 2022.

AYES: BLOFELD, BROWN, BROWNSTONE, ICHINAGA, GLEESON, TAI, YALONIS
NOES: NONE

Motion carried.

E. GENERAL BUSINESS

E.1 Study Session – *Building Electrification and Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Reach Codes as a Climate Action Tool (PowerPoint presentations are attached to minutes)*

- The study session opened with presentations from David Moller, P.E., Community Advocate and member of the Marin/Sonoma Building Electrification Squad and Sebastian Conn, MCE Senior Community Development Manager. A presentation prepared by Bryan Reyes, Sustainability Planner with the County of Marin Community Development Agency was presented by David Moller, with support from Commissioner Brown.
- Moller’s presentation focused on the opportunity to employ building electrification and electric vehicle reach codes as a tool to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. He noted that according the 2020 GHG emissions inventory for Novato, transportation and natural gas used in buildings comprise 88% of local GHG emissions.
- Moller then provided an overview of three model reach codes that were developed in 2022 through a collaborative process that involved all Marin jurisdictions and stakeholders. To date, five Marin jurisdictions have adopted the all-electric model reach code for new construction, four have adopted the electric vehicle infrastructure model reach code, and two have adopted the energy efficiency model reach code for existing single-family residences. Several jurisdictions have indicated that they intend to adopt one or more of the model reach codes in 2023.
- Conn’s presentation detailed MCE’s process for forecasting energy demand. He also discussed the various State agencies that are responsible for forecasting energy demand load, monitoring peak demand, and ensuring grid reliability, maintenance, and transmission planning. Conn noted that MCE is committed to contributing to a clean, reliable grid and this includes increasing battery storage and exploring distributed energy resources, as well as creating virtual power plants.
- MCE is also focused on supporting energy efficiency and load demand response programs for its customers and offers a range of initiatives to assist these efforts.
- Reyes presentation reviewed the California building code update process and Marin’s long history of “reaching” beyond state minimum standards in regard to green building practices. The presentation also detailed the stakeholder engagement process the County facilitated in 2022 to develop the three model reach codes.
- Reyes presentation provided several sample construction scenarios with projected costs, in addition to the GHG reduction potential of each. Reyes worked with the State reach code team to develop these scenarios. An overview of technical support, rebates, and incentives to support building electrification (local, state, and federal) were also included in the presentation.
- Following the presentations, Commissioner Brown facilitated a Q&A session with panelists Moller and Conn.

Public Comment

- Ed Schulze

F. CONTINUING ITEMS

F.1 Revised FY2022-23 Workplan – Gretchen Schubeck, Sustainability Coordinator

Schubeck noted that the workplan will need to be revised due to addition of the reach code study session. The revised workplan will be presented at the February Commission meeting.

G. COMMISSIONER AND STAFF LIAISON REPORTS

G.1 Commissioner Reports

Commissioner Brown: The Town of Tiburon and City of Mill Valley have agreed to hire a shared Sustainability Coordinator.

Commissioner Yalonis: The City of San Rafael has recently hired a full-time sea level rise and adaptation planner.

Commissioner Tai: Commissioner Tai is participating in the Marin Biomass Collaborative (along with Sustainability Coordinator Schubeck) to provide input to the Biomass Utilization Study for Marin County.

G.2 Staff Liaison Reports

None

H. ADJOURNMENT

Upon a motion by Commissioner Blofeld and second by Commissioner Gleeson, the Commission voted 7-0 to adjourn the meeting at 7:54pm

AYES: BLOFELD, BROWN, BROWNSTONE, ICHINAGA, GLEESON, TAI, YALONIS

NOES: NONE

Motion carried.