



PIMA COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ADVISORY COUNCIL
33 N. Stone Avenue, Suite 700
Tucson, AZ 85701

Summary Minutes – September 21, 2011
Bank of America Building, Conference Room, 7th floor
33 N. Stone, Tucson, AZ
1:30 p.m.

Members Present:

Mr. Warren Thompson
Dr. Roger Caldwell
Dr. Mark Witten
Dr. Eric Betterton
Mr. Peter Livingston
Mr. Allan MacDonald
Mr. Jeff Yockey

Members Absent:

Mr. Curt Lueck
Mr. Daniel G. Rowe
Mr. Ben Dorris

Others Present:

Ursula Kramer, Director, PDEQ
Richard Grimaldi, Deputy Director, PDEQ
Vicki Bennie, Council Secretary, PDEQ
Jim de Groot, PAG
Lee Comrie, PAG
Sherri Zendri, SRO Regional Compliance Manager, ADEQ

Note: Some agenda items were heard out of order

I. CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS

Mr. Thompson called the meeting to order and introductions were made.

II. APPROVAL OF THE MAY 18, 2011 MINUTES

A motion was made by Mr. Yockey and seconded by Dr. Caldwell, to approve the minutes as written. The motion passed unanimously.

III. REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION UPDATE WITH FOCUS ON ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECTS

Jim de Groot, PAG, provided information on the Regional Transportation Plan. The RTA has collected \$347 million dollars in excise taxes since collections began in 2006. The RTA has issued \$150 million in bonds, and since its inception in 2006, the RTA has expended \$343.8 million on project-related reimbursements. As of August 31, 2011, the fund balance is \$187.2 million.

RTA Project Update

- \$599 million in RTA funding has been committed
- 24 projects are under construction
- 447 individual projects

Roadway Element Projects

All 11 first implementation period (FY2007-11) projects are under construction or completed and another 12 (later period) roadway elements projects have begun the design phase.

REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION UPDATE (CONTINUED)

Roadway Improvement Elements - Completed Projects

- Twin Peaks TI
- Camino de Manana
- Houghton/Old Vail Intersection
- Sahuarita Road Phase I
- I-19 Frontage Road
- LaCholla, Ruthrauff Road
- Speedway Blvd, Camino Seco – Houghton
- Tanque Verde Road, Catalina Highway – Houghton
- La Canada Dr., Ina – Calle Concordia
- Magee Rd., Mona Lisa – La Canada
- Magee/Cortaro Farms, Mona Lisa – Thornydale
- Kolb Connection

Other roadway projects that are bidding soon:

La Cholla Drive, Ina – River

La Cholla, Magee – Overton

Grant Road/Oracle Intersection

Houghton, Irvington - Valencia

St. Mary's, I-10 to Church (downtown links)

Kino/22nd Street Grade separated Intersection

Eighth Street Drainage (downtown links) has been bid, mobilized

Roadway improvement Elements

Estimated construction cost for RTA roadway element projects expected to be underway in the next 15 months: \$196,000,000.

Safety Element - Major intersection reconstruction projects recently completed:

- Ft. Lowell and Campbell
- Wilmot and Golf Links
- Starr Pass/Mission
- Golf Links/Kolb & Alvernon/Valencia under construction
- Major improvement coming to Oracle/Ina and Kolb/Valencia Intersections
- 56 elderly and pedestrian safety projects approved
- 34 projects now completed including 30 pedestrian signals
- Pedestrian signals being put into coordination with nearby signals
- Pedestrian signals limited in coordination with schools
- 50 bus pullouts completed
- Region wireless signal network operational
- Region-wide traffic signals timing plan updated
- Battery back-up for key intersection signals
- Video detection added to most signals
- Golder Ranch Bridge deck being rehabilitated
- ADA compliance issues addressed

REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION UPDATE (CONTINUED)

Environment and Economic Vitality - Greenways, pathways, bikeways and sidewalk projects completed:

- 112 miles of bikeway created
- 72 miles of sidewalks installed

Main street small business assistance program has been implemented and provided confidential business consulting projects to over 240 companies.

Critical wildlife linkages

- SR-77 wildlife crossings funded
- Camino de Manana deer crossings
- Fencing study
- Culvert crossing study

RTA Transit Element

- Extended weekday/evening study
- Weekend bus service expanded
- Improved bus frequency on over crowded routes
- Expanded SunVan service hours ad Handicar territory
- Ajo Dial-A-Ride service
- Pima Council on aging volunteer program
- SunTran bus storage and maintenance facility

Modern Streetcar - To provide better linkage between the UofA and downtown and stimulate economic development along the route:

- Streetcars are in pre-production
- Cushing Street Bridge over Santa Cruz under construction
- Specialty track bid awarded
- Waterline relocation completed
- Construction of track work commences this winter (plans complete, bid package being prepared)

IV. ROSEMONT COPPER MINE REPORT

Mr. Richard Grimaldi, Deputy Director, updated the EQAC on the status of Rosemont Copper Company's air quality permit application. Mr. Grimaldi provided the following background information:

- Proposed copper mine approximately 30 miles southeast of Tucson on State highway 83;
- Projected to have an approximately 20-year operating life;
- Operations include open-pit copper mine, drilling, blasting, milling, leaching, and solvent extraction/ electrowinning;
- Proposed peak mining rate is projected to be 376,000 tons per day of total material (ore and waste);
- Two types of copper ore to be mined - Copper Sulfide and Copper Oxide ores;
- Sulfide ore will be processed through crushing, grinding and flotation to produce a concentrate product;
- Oxide ore will be processed through leaching resulting in a leach solution further processed through a solvent extraction and electrowinning facility to produce a copper cathode; and

- Utilization of “dry stack” tailings.

ROSEMONT COPPER MINE REPORT (CONTINUED)

Air Permitting Timeline

- Class II (synthetic minor source) permit application received by PDEQ on July 28, 2010;
- Incomplete application determination made by PDEQ on September 23, 2010;
- Rosemont’s response to incomplete determination received by PDEQ October 10, 2010;
- Application determined to be administratively complete by PDEQ on November 30, 2010;
- PDEQ request for additional information May 12, 2011;
- Rosemont’s response to information request to PDEQ June 1, 2011; and
- Ninety day public comment period for proposed air quality permit begins August 30, 2011 and ends November 28, 2011.

Emissions

Pollutant	Potential To Emit (Including Fugitives) (Tons per Year)	Potential To Emit (Non-Fugitive Emissions Only) (Tons per Year)
Particulate Matter (as PM)	3180.03	88.06
Particulate Matter (as PM10)	908.02	66.62
Particulate Matter (as PM2.5)	121.51	29.03
Nitrogen Oxides (NOX)	170.58	16.76
Sulfur Oxides (SOX)	18.15	0.06
Carbon Monoxide (CO)	615.22	9.00
Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs)	5.28	1.51
Hazardous Air Pollutants (HAPs)	3.37	3.37

Key Applicable Requirements

- New Source Performance Standard (NSPS) for Metallic Mineral Processing Plants (40 CFR 60 Subpart LL)
- Pima County Code regarding fugitive emissions:
 - Visibility Limiting Standards;
 - Fugitive Dust Producing Activities;
 - Roads and Streets;
 - Storage Piles; and
 - Mineral Tailings.

Key Permit Provisions

- Synthetic minor emission limits below NSPS standard;
- Must operate air pollution controls when associated process equipment is operating; and
- Required stack testing within 180 days of start-up to demonstrate compliance with emission limitations.

ROSEMONT COPPER MINE REPORT (CONTINUED)

- Must monitor pressure drop or flow rates for air pollution control devices daily;
- Must perform visual survey for process fugitives daily;
- Must submit a Dry Stack Tailings Management Plan within 180 days of permit issuance; and
- Must submit a Fugitive Dust Management Plan within 180 days of permit issuance.

Mr. Witten made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lueck, to invite Rosemont Copper Mine to a future EQAC meeting to discuss the technology and process of dry tailings and why they believe this process to be better than the method that the other mines use. The motion passed unanimously.

V. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT ON THE ROLE OF EQAC

Dr. Caldwell, long time EQAC member, suggested in an email to Chair, Warren Thompson, that EQAC review their role and purpose. After discussion at the January meeting, a subcommittee was formed to further explore this issue.

Mr. Thompson reported that the subcommittee met on February 9, 2011 and distributed a written report from that meeting. There was discussion about ozone and if U.S. EPA was looking at possibly changing the standard for ozone.

Ms. Kramer stated that U.S. EPA halted changes to their ozone provision and will not issue a new standard until their next revision in 2013. Even though this is several years in the future, it is wise to start thinking about it.

An attachment to Mr. Thompson's report was from the U.S. EPA's website and read, "Modeling is EPA's method for estimating emissions from on-road vehicles, non-road sources and fuels. Inventories are the calculations of total emission of a pollutant for a given area at a defined time and set of conditions."

Mr. Thompson's report stated the need for an "Ozone Road Map" that would include: sunlight nitrogen oxide volatile (VOC), an emission model to EPA standards, driven by the weather. Other considerations were a funding source for emission modeling readings, transportation impacts of cars, planes, trains, etc., summer VOC, winter NO_x (after the monsoon) and ozone.

Mr. Thompson stressed the need to change our thinking from ozone as an EPA issue to the realization that it is a local, air quality, tourism, and health issue for Pima County. It is important to the quality of life. He requested that this issue be placed on a future EQAC agenda.

VI. PDEQ STAFF REPORT

Ms. Kramer, Director of PDEQ, reported on events occurring since the last EQAC meeting in May, 2011, within each division of PDEQ:

a. Environmental Quality Division

PDEQ's manager for the Water and Waste Program accepted another position within the County. We plan to ask permission to recruit to fill this vacancy.

PDEQ also plans to ask permission to hire a Program Manager for rule writing and updating the County's SIP.

VII. CALL TO THE PUBLIC

Mr. Thompson made a call to the audience.

Ms. Comrie, Pima Association of Governments, reported that PAG is using traffic counts for a model to make sure that air quality plans do not cause air quality degradation. Starting in October, the project will include cameras in 60 locations.

VIII. NEXT EQAC MEETING AND AGENDA ITEMS

The next meeting will be Wednesday, November 16, 2011. Agenda items are:

- Betty Stamper, DSD – solar information and presentation
- Staff Report

IX. ADJOURNMENT

The EQAC adjourned.