



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

Summary Minutes – May 16, 2012
Bank of America Building, Conference Room, 7th floor
33 N. Stone, Tucson, AZ
1:30 p.m.

Members Present:

Mr. Peter Livingston
Mr. Jeff Yockey
Dr. Curt Lueck
Dr. Eric Betterton
Ms. Linda Hanson
Ms. Mónica D. Ramírez-Andreotta

Members Absent:

Mr. Warren Thompson
Mr. Ben Dorris
Dr. Mark Witten
Mr. Daniel G. Rowe

Others Present:

Richard Grimaldi, Deputy Director, PDEQ
Beth Gorman, Sr. Program Manager, PDEQ
Vicki Bennie, Council Secretary, PDEQ
Roxanne Linsley, ADEQ
Betty Stamper, DSD
Shellie Ginn, TDOT
Jesse Gutierrez, TDOT
Daniel Hinojos, TDOT
Mike Barton, TDOT/PMC
Mike Loo, TDOT
Becky Pallack, Arizona Daily Star

I. CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS

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

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. Livingston led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. APPROVAL OF THE MARCH 21, 2012 MINUTES

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes as written. The motion passed unanimously.

IV. PIMA COUNTY'S SOLAR PROJECTS

Ms. Betty Stamper, Regional Solar Coordinator for Pima County, stated that the Solar One Stop is located in the lobby of the Public Works Building at 201 N. Stone. Solar displays were donated by local companies. Please visit the solar website at www.solaronestopaz.org for more information.

Funding for the Solar One Stop is provided by the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Solar America Communities Initiative. The goal of the Solar One Stop is to provide information about affordable, quality, and efficient solar technologies for homes and businesses.

The Pima County Board of Supervisors adopted Resolution No. 2007-84 on May 1, 2007 which established a set of sustainability initiatives for Pima County. One of the initiatives states, "Adhering to the Renewable Energy Standard adopted by the Arizona Corporation Commission such that 15% of all County facilities electrical energy consumption shall be generated from renewable resources by 2025."

Ms. Stamper reported that the County's Sullivan Jackson Employment Center has 4.6 kilowatts of photo voltaic power located on their roof since 2009. The Roger Road Wastewater Treatment plant has 1 megawatts of single-axis tracking solar power PV array (ground mounted) since 2010 and it supplies 15% of the facility's energy needs. The Ina Road treatment plant has had 1.1 megawatts fixed solar PV array, ground mounted since 2011. This will save the County approximately \$2 million over the next 20 years.

The A-7 demonstration ranch, located between the Rincon Mountains and the San Pedro River, is a learning laboratory for sustainable cattle ranching and resource management practices. Old windmills and generator-driven water pumps have been converted to solar power. Solar energy supplies 100% of the electricity used by the ranch residences and 30% of the ranch's overall needs. There are two separate residential solar arrays, 27 panels for each residence. The installation was done between January and April, 2011. Cost savings are estimated at \$18,500 per year

Pima County is doing a survey to identify parcels available for solar farm use. The sites are categorized by tiers:
Tier 1 – shovel ready
Tier 2 – archaeology or Pima pineapple cactus survey/mitigation only needed
Tier 3 – Ryan Airfield and Tucson International Airport

Seventeen parcels were identified for Tier 1 and 15 were identified for Tier 2. All sites are a minimum of 5 acre parcels that are vacant or previously disturbed land or underutilized. They must also lie outside of the Conservation Land System.

V. Modern Streetcar

Ms. Shellie Ginn, Transportation Administrator for the City of Tucson Department of Transportation, talked about the modern streetcar project. The streetcar is a 2006 voter-mandated project outlined in the Regional Transportation Authority Plan. The route was selected and will be 3.9 miles long with 18 stops and will hold approximately 130 people (designed for passengers to mostly stand). There will be 8 modern streetcars; six will be running and two will be "spares". There will be a maintenance facility located south of 8th St.

Additional features of the modern streetcar are that it operates in mixed traffic and shares the same lanes and stops as buses and bikes. It uses a fixed-guideway electric rail system and it designed for tight radii turns. It is safe in high pedestrian areas and is ADA accessible with low floors and multiple doors.

Jesse Gutierrez, Construction Manager, stated that Old Pueblo Trackworks was selected as the contractor. Old Pueblo Trackworks consists of Rail Works, Inc. from New Jersey and Granite Construction. Multiple crews are working at different locations on the project and construction is scheduled to be completed the summer of 2013. The Olive and Highland underpasses will remain open; the Warren underpass will be closed starting in June 2012 for construction.

The Maintenance and Storage Facility, and Luis G. Gutierrez Bridge are concurrent projects also under construction. During this project, staff has worked closely with stakeholders along the route to develop the phasing schedule.

To reduce noise and vibration from the modern streetcar, crews have improved flange bearings, replaced or upgraded windows of buildings at key locations and are using a resilient layer under the tracks.

The project has also addressed Storm Water Pollution Prevention and Historic and Cultural Properties and Parklands. The modern streetcar project operates almost entirely in the public right-of-way. The project includes the development of a Historic Property Treatment Plan. The transit service helps historic areas by increasing people carrying capacity without adding auto trips.

In order to avoid adverse impacts to potential archaeological sites, the project includes archaeological pre-construction testing and data recovery, archaeological monitoring of ground disturbing activities, investigation of any unanticipated discovery and determining National Register eligibility of buildings of historic age. The most sensitive areas have been cleared of archaeological resources in advance of construction by the City of Tucson.

The Modern Streetcar project supports local businesses by advertising that businesses along the route are open and maintaining pedestrian and business access at all times during construction, supporting local businesses along the route by eating and shopping when in the area and also advertising by word of mouth.

For more information, please visit the following links:
Project Website - www.tucsonstreetcar.info
Project Info Line - (520) 624-5656

VI. PDEQ STAFF REPORT

Mr. Grimaldi, Deputy Director of PDEQ's EQ Division, reported on events occurring since the last EQAC meeting in March 21, 2012, within each division of PDEQ. He explained that PDEQ consists of two separate divisions: Environmental Quality Division (regulatory) and Solid Waste Management (operations for landfills and transfer stations in Pima County).

a. Environmental Quality Division

Rosemont Copper Company appealed the Air Quality Hearing Board's decision to uphold PDEQ's denial of their air quality permit in superior court. Judge Lee heard oral arguments on May 14 and took the matter under advisement. Judge Lee has 60 days to render a decision. Prior to appealing the AQHB's decision, Rosemont asked ADEQ to take delegation back for this project and issue the air quality permit. ADEQ is waiting to see the outcome of this court case before they make a decision on Rosemont's request.

Staff is ready to begin the public comment period for the air quality permit for Brush Ceramics, now called Materion.

b. Solid Waste Management Division

This division operates with a \$2 million dollar deficit. The Solid Waste landfills are more a community service than a business.

VII. CALL TO THE PUBLIC

Mr. Livingston made a call to the audience.

VIII. NEXT EQAC MEETING AND AGENDA ITEMS

The next meeting will be Wednesday, July 18, 2012. Agenda items are:

- Landfills (Pima County) – report including what is new, finances, rural recycling program, groundwater monitoring and update on closed landfills.
- Marana Landfill DKL Holdings Progress
- Rosemont Mine Report - staff
- Staff Report – Ursula Kramer

Agenda items mentioned for future EQAC meetings were:

Dust monitoring – would like to hear summary

Air monitoring update

Tungsten update – Dr. Witten

Stormwater – hear more in the future

Ozone standard

Water harvesting measures (in relation to low impact development)

Rainfall - (after rains) – One of Dr. Betterton's associates

Landfills – Tangerine (Al Wylie) and Marana Landfill DKL Holdings Progress (PDEQ staff)

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Livingston made a motion, seconded by Mr. Yockey, to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously.