



Monterey County

County of Monterey
Monterey Room
168 W. Alisal St., 2nd Floor
Salinas, CA 93901

Action Minutes - Draft Alternative Energy and Environment Committee

Thursday, September 24, 2020

2:00 PM

Esselen Room, 3rd Floor

Zoom Call-in Instructions

Call to Order

Chair Parker and Vice-Chair Lopez present by Zoom call in at 2:00p.m.

Additions and Corrections

None.

Public Comment Period

None.

Approval of Action Minutes

1. Consider accepting Minutes from previous meeting on July 23, 2020.

Minutes are accepted

Agenda Items

2. Receive a presentation from Procure America on the Tariff Rate Optimization Study and provide direction to staff.

Presenter: Fred Armendariz Procure America

Supervisor Comments:

Lopez: How do you get paid and when?

Parker: How long does the relationship last with the vendor? What are the implications for our utility bill tracking, cost allocation and payment? Whose decision is it where the savings go- that needs to be figured out. There is a bit of a time-constraint, what are the next steps to move quickly to get the savings while we figure out the administrative parts.

Answers: This is a performance-based program where vendor takes 30% and County receives 70% of savings. Quarterly and in arrears we reconcile. Short term savings will end after March 1st. Long term and UUT removal continue for 60 months. There may be an opportunity to reconsider how we pay our utility bills especially as we look at energy efficiency projects moving forward. Maybe we need to set up a fund that can capture the savings. We need to go to the Board and the Budget Committee because the study has shown the payment to the vendor will be over \$100K over the lifetime of the contract. We can make the short-term switches in the meantime.

Public Comment:

Tom Ward wants to know whether a sole source justification was completed for this?

Robert Frischmuth commented that sustainability goes beyond emissions to economics as well.

The vendor explains that they have a regional cooperative agreement that allows the County to avoid issuing an RFP.

Recommendations:

Move forward with short-term switches and try to capture the savings.

3. Receive an update on the General Plan Amendment for the GHG Reduction Policy and provide direction to staff.

Presenter: Ashley Paulsworth

Supervisor Comments:

Lopez: Updates make sense to me.

Parker: The updates look like they make sense. Thank you for bringing attention and energy to this area.

Public Comment:

Tom Ward: Is this policy regarding County-wide Emissions?

Answers: Yes

4. Recommend that the Board of Supervisors direct staff to develop a plan for interdepartmental coordination for SB1383 and provide other direction to staff.

Presenter: Ashley Paulsworth

Supervisor Comments:

Lopez: Thank you for bringing this forward to let us know the efforts will continue. I wish there was some more funding for this effort from the state. We are extremely effective at capturing methane at the Authority and we will need to process outside of this and change our efforts, this is an unintended consequence of a one-size fits all.

Parker: Thank you for looking to energize and coordinate the County efforts, everyone is going to be doing a little something and there will be more synergies if we are working together. I think in the list of what the departments do, Environmental Health will likely be working on the hauler contracts.

Public Comment:

Kristin Skromme: Waste Management is working on a plan for outreach and virtual outreach for businesses and is here for technical assistance and zoom trainings on organics.

Robert Frischmuth: Is there positive cash flow that could emerge? This waste stream will stop methane emissions, but it should have commercial value and so should the compost.

Patrick Mathews: Robert may be right; we do have a perfect digester in the form of a landfill.

We've been meeting regularly with partner agencies on this topic. The bar has been expanded to include much smaller generators of commercial organics, so this is a massive effort.

Answers: We recognize this is a big challenge. There is some methane capture and gas to energy at the District and at Monterey One Water.

Other Items

None.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00p.m.