**NOTES**

# CITY OF MILPITAS
# ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION

Notes: Meeting of the Energy & Environmental Sustainability Commission
Meeting Date: August 21, 2019
Meeting Time: 6:00 p.m.
Meeting Place: Milpitas City Hall, Commission Meeting Room

**ROLL** Commissioners Martinez, Salian, Kong, and Councilmember Nuñez were present. Staff members Marshall, Grand, Tott, Earl were also present. Public Works Director Tony Ndah was also present. There was not a quorum of Commissioners present and a formal meeting was not held; however, several presentations were provided to the Commissioners who were present for their information.

**PRESENTATIONS**

*1. Building Electrification Reach Codes for New Construction*

John Supp from Silicon Valley Clean Energy (SVCE) presented about building electrification reach codes. City staff have been working with SVCE and regional partners, to develop reach codes requirements that can be adopted to incentivize building electrification and require expanded EV charging station installations. Staff and Mr. Supp provided an update on the regional effort and reviewed proposed reach code requirements under consideration for Milpitas. Over 50 cities are pursuing reach codes across the state. To date, 11 of 13 member agencies of SVCE have been engaged in the reach code development process and planning to bring forward reach codes for their respective City Council consideration.

Building Electrification and Renewable Energy
Further elimination of natural gas usage through building electrification would significantly reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. Other benefits include on-bill savings; cleaner, heathier indoor air quality; and greater safety. John Supp explained the basic pathways for developers and how the reach codes could be implemented. He stated that the upcoming 2019 Energy Code includes requirements for all-electric building and that the reach code is intended to incentivize new development build all-electric and if building dual-fuel require additional efficiency and/or renewable measures.

Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure
Local residents are showing a significant interest in electric vehicles (EVs). It is more expensive to install charging infrastructure as a retrofit than it is during new construction. As such, ensuring that newly constructed parking has ample EV charging capability will reduce long-term costs of EV infrastructure installation, while helping to increase EV adoption and decrease transportation-related GHG emissions. The reach code could include increasing quantity, speed, and readiness of EV charger infrastructure to keep pace and accelerate EV growth.

Commissioners asked clarifying questions. Commissioner Kong commented that we need to ensure both the City's climate action goals and housing goals are aligned and that this effort should not negatively impact housing affordability. She asked about cost-benefit analysis and wants to make sure the reach goals will not deter housing projects. Mr. Supp

explained all-electric buildings are cheaper and the key is to find the right number of EV chargers for three years.

The first council briefing is planned for this fall. Councilmember Nuñez commented that he would like the Council to be educated before the meeting with the cost-benefit analysis. Staff responded they will try to hold a workshop to explain the reach code options, and the City will coordinate outreach with key stakeholders. Councilmember Nuñez would like there to be options for retrofitting older buildings. Information was provided on the education and incentives available through SVCE for retrofits at this time.

There was a public comment about how the City of Mountain View is planning on adopting a strong reach code, and they hope Milpitas will do the same. Marshall shared that Commissioner Sexton, who provided her feedback via email, is supportive of the City adopting the reach codes.

*2. Recyclables Markets In Response to China National Sword Policy and Milpitas Diversion Rates*

Kent Kenney and Sal San Filippo from Milpitas Sanitation gave a presentation on the China National Sword policy and its impact on current recycling market.

China, historically the largest recyclable scrap importer in the world, has made it clear that they want to improve their environment by implementing policies, often referred to collectively as National Sword, that restrict the importation of foreign recyclables. The policy changes in China have caused a significant increase in scrap imports to Southeast Asian countries where countries have begun to enact bans and inspection standards similar to those in China (contamination standards of .5%). The price for mixed paper has significantly reduced due to lack of demand. These international policy changes are impacting recycling markets and programs throughout the United States.

Representatives from Milpitas Sanitation mentioned how SB 1383 will have a larger impact on contamination rules. The City currently has a 34% diversion rate which takes into account food waste, recyclables, and yard trimmings. The Recycling 3 category of contamination (30% or more) is mostly from commercial and multi-family customers.

Commissioners questioned if the sorting procedure could get to the .5% for China. Mr. Kenney explained it is currently too difficult and expensive to reach this threshold. Councilmember Nuñez asked what all this means for the City, and what are the next steps? Public Works Director Ndah explained there will a stronger education push on proper sorting for residents and businesses. Councilmember Nuñez would prefer for outreach efforts instead of impacting rates. Ndah explained how the FY 19-20 budget included new staff positions who will support the program with more education and inspections.

There was a discussion about how the City's diversion rate compares to other cities and what education materials have been successful. Staff Marshall mentioned that we are part of the County Recycle and Waste Reduction Commission Technical Advisory Committee that often shares best practices and develops joint education campaign. Kenney mentioned that the residential sector is close to 75% diversion rate, and the challenge is with the commercial sector, and said they have hired someone on the commercial side who identifies which customers have a lot of contamination before the truck comes.

The Commissioners had questions about sustainable materials and asked if we can kick-start the understanding of source reduction. There was discussion about the need to put responsibility on industries creating the waste. Staff Marshall shared there are two bills in the State legislature aiming to require manufacturers to use plastic that is recyclable and creating more plastic recycling facilities in state. MSI and City staff will continue to work on this issue and continue to educate Milpitas residents and businesses.