



**Community Advisory Group Meeting**  
**San Jose/Santa Clara Water Pollution Control Plant**  
**September 16, 2009**  
**6:00 – 7:30 p.m.**

**About the Community Advisory Group**

The Community Advisory Group (CAG) was formed in fall 2008 to provide ongoing feedback and a community perspective throughout the three-year Plant Master Plan process. CAG members were appointed by the Plant’s Technical Advisory Committee and are representative of all Plant service area cities – San José, Santa Clara, Milpitas, Cupertino, Campbell, Los Gatos, Monte Sereno and Saratoga. Members were selected to reflect a range of backgrounds in education, environment, business, recreation, and community activism.

**Minutes - DRAFT**

**Attendees**

Member	Representation	Present	Absent
<i>Vacant</i>	CAG Member, City of Campbell		
Bob Power	CAG Member, City of Cupertino	X	
Richard Yanda	CAG Member, Town of Los Gatos	X	
Dolores Hovey	CAG Member, City of Milpitas	X	
Patrick Wong	CAG Member, City of Milpitas	X	
Dave Baxter	CAG Member, City of Monte Sereno		X
Carrie Jensen	CAG Member, City of San José	X	
Diana Foss	CAG Member, City of San José	X	
Robert Levy	CAG Member, City of San José	X	
Tony Santos	CAG Member, City of San José		X
Gina Marin	CAG Member, City of Santa Clara	X	
Jim Alves	CAG Member, City of Santa Clara	X	
<i>Vacant</i>	CAG Member, City of Saratoga		
Bobby Ram	CAG Member, At-large		X
Carl Cilker	CAG Member, At-large	X	
Donald Peoples	CAG Member, At-large	X	
Eileen McLaughlin	CAG Member, At-large	X	
Joseph McCarthy, Jr.	CAG Member, At-large	X	
Teresa Helwig	CAG Member, At-large		X

Other Attendees	Representation
Leslie Stobbe	City of Milpitas, Utility Engineering Public Information Specialist
Kristen Yasukawa	City of San José, CAG Liaison
Jennifer Garnett	City of San José, Communications Manager
Dale Ihrke	City of San José, Plant Manager
Kirsten Struve	City of San José, Project Manager
Matt Krupp	City of San José, Project Planner
Bob Gross	Member of the public
Shani Kleinhaus	Member of the public

The purpose of this first meeting of 2009-10 was to review the May 16 Community Workshop public input summary, discuss a proposed work plan for the coming year, hear project presentations, and attend to normal business.

## **CAG Membership**

Members Wai Ying Lieu (San José) and Eve Matelan (Saratoga) moved out of the Plant service area, resulting in vacancies. Carrie Jensen (Campbell) moved to San José, and was appointed to fill the San José vacancy at the September 14, 2009 Technical Advisory Committee meeting. The cities of Campbell and Saratoga are thus currently seeking new representatives.

### *Outcomes*

- City staff will notify CAG as vacancies are filled.
- Contact CAG Liaison Kristen Yasukawa at [kristen.yasukawa@sanjoseca.gov](mailto:kristen.yasukawa@sanjoseca.gov) for questions on CAG appointments.

## **Community Workshop #1 Summary Report**

The report was mailed to CAG prior to the meeting for individual review. At the meeting, CAG members were asked to discuss the report and accept it as a document that accurately reflects the workshop and their opinions.

Member Diana Foss and several others expressed concern with question 15 of the input survey, which ranked priorities. The group recalled the confusion over the question at the workshop, and generally felt it did not produce an accurate reflection of CAG's thoughts and was inconsistent with data from the rest of the questions. Member Robert Levy questioned the entire results of question 15, not just CAG's results. Member Richard Yanda and several others suggested defining "priorities" and asked for additional input on priorities as the project develops. Staff advised that CAG may invalidate question 15, but cannot void it altogether. Staff explained that the question was revised after the workshop to improve its clarity, and is being used to collect public input at the tours and on the Web site.

Member Patrick Wong and a few others were concerned that costs were not included on the survey, which will influence priorities. Staff clarified that the survey was written to represent a spectrum of choices without costs, aiming to collect a snapshot of public opinion at the early visioning stage of the project. Additional input opportunities will be provided for comment as the alternatives are developed and costs identified.

The first stage of public input is still underway and will close with the last public tour in November. Staff will summarize the data from the workshop, tours, and Web site, and CAG will be able to review this full set of public input.

### *Outcomes*

- A motion was approved to accept the report with the amendment to a) more clearly state the problems with question 15 and include complete workshop voting numbers, particularly in the summary section of the report; and b) for CAG to re-vote on the revised question 15.
- Contact Communications Manager Jennifer Garnett at [jennifer.garnett@sanjoseca.gov](mailto:jennifer.garnett@sanjoseca.gov) for more information.

## **Zero Waste Energy Biogas Facility Update**

Plant Manager Dale Ihrke presented an update on the Zero Waste Energy proposal for a biogas facility. Zero Waste Energy submitted an unsolicited proposal for a renewable energy project on the Nine Par area of the Plant lands. The Nine Par site is a closed landfill and the Plant had no plans to build on the site. Zero Waste Energy proposes to lease the land from the Plant to build the first dry fermentation biogas facility in the nation to process food waste and green waste. The proposal is fully funded, and is requesting the market rate on the land lease. Zero Waste Energy will pursue any federal funding through the stimulus program.

The proposed biogas facility will use dry anaerobic digestion, a European technology. The biogas technology is compatible with Plant Master Plan goals, and the facility would be able to supply renewable energy to the Plant. The San José City Council agreed on a memorandum of understanding (MOU) to negotiate lease terms with Zero Waste Energy. A request for proposal (RFP) is not required for this project because civil code states that the adjacent property owner has first rights to surplus lands. The biogas facility project will go through a full California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) development and environmental review processes.

The idea to add food waste to the Plant digesters to increase the amount of energy the Plant could produce was discussed at the May 2009 Community Workshop. The biogas facility is different from the Plant digesters because it accepts dry food and green waste, including grass, and Plant digesters could only accept wet food waste and fats, oils, and grease. The biogas facility is not a competitor to the Plant digesters for feedstock because the biogas facility already has contracts for feedstock from other sources.

Member Eileen McLaughlin expressed concern about more timely communication with the CAG about the proposed biogas facility information and Plant Master Plan process.

### *Outcomes*

- City staff will follow up with responses to the following questions:
  - If this is a proven technology, why isn't the U.S. investing in it yet?
  - Nine Par is close to the Bay and habitat. Is that location prime habitat land?
  - What is the land's importance?
  - Are there any growth-inducing impacts?
  - Are there any secondary environmental impacts (roads, power lines)?
  - Are there any joint function opportunities with the Plant?
  - Will any odors be emanated from this technology?
  - Could someone do an analysis of comparison of energy developed if solar panels were put on the land instead?
  - The biogas facility needs to be sensitive to the California gull situation.
- Contact Project Manager Michele Young at [michele.young@sanjoseca.gov](mailto:michele.young@sanjoseca.gov) for more information.

## **Technical and Land Use Update**

Project Planner Matt Krupp presented a Plant Master Plan technical and land use update that identified some key issues and their tradeoffs. Recent studies indicate the Plant would cost \$3 billion if it were to be rebuilt from scratch. Major technical challenges to be addressed include but are not limited to: wet-weather flows, population growth, stricter regulations, complex internal piping, and energy reliability. The Plant will be changing from sludge lagoon drying to a new technology over the next 30 years. The Technical Advisory Group (TAG) will discuss the technical information and assumptions in early October 2009. Outcomes of the TAG meeting will be reviewed with CAG at a subsequent meeting.

A question and answer session followed:

*Question: Do the projected flows consider water conservation efforts?*

Yes, but the Plant needs to be prepared for higher flows from population growth beyond reductions in water conservation.

*Question: Can pipes be made impervious?*

The City of San José Department of Public Works is working to reduce infiltration into the sanitary sewer pipes as much as possible. San José has less infiltration than other Bay Area cities, but the Plant needs to be ready for the worst-case wet-weather scenario.

*Question: How much does regulation compliance cost?*

The Plant's operation is designed to comply with all existing regulations and it does so successfully through its operation/maintenance and Capital Improvement Program (CIP) budgets. The Plant must comply with all laws and regulations. Non-compliance is not an option.

*Question: Have you discussed habitat for sea level rise?*

The project team is evaluating the impacts of sea-level rise on Plant owned land. Habitat restoration may provide additional flood protection for the Plant. Throughout the Plant Master Plan process, staff will continue to work with the regulatory and resource agencies and other stakeholders to identify sustainable methods of flood protection and habitat restoration on Plant lands.

### *Outcomes*

- The City will post the technical update presentation on the Web site, [www.sanjoseca.gov/esd/plantmasterplan](http://www.sanjoseca.gov/esd/plantmasterplan)
- Contact Project Planner Matt Krupp at [matt.krupp@sanjoseca.gov](mailto:matt.krupp@sanjoseca.gov) for more information.

### **2009-10 CAG Work Plan**

The work plan was mailed to CAG prior to the meeting for individual review. The work plan mirrors the technical milestones to present timely information to CAG on a regular basis. The group agreed to plan for longer meetings and increase the meeting frequency to allow for discussion and meaningful input.

#### *Outcomes*

- The meeting ran longer than scheduled, so the group agreed to have City staff update the work plan to reflect more frequent meetings with proposed meeting dates/times via email.
- Contact CAG Liaison Kristen Yasukawa at [kristen.yasukawa@sanjoseca.gov](mailto:kristen.yasukawa@sanjoseca.gov) for more information.

### **Public Comment**

No public comments were submitted.