Council Agenda: 3/20/07
Item: 6.1

SAN JOSE
CAPITAL OF SILICON VALLEY

Regular Meeting
of the
San José
Transportation & Environment Committee
held
March 5, 2007 at 1:30 P.M.

Roll Call
Present: Chair Forrest Williams; Vice Chair Dave Cortese; Councilmember Judy Chirco; Councilmember Sam Liccardo

1. **Discussion on Water Pollution Control Plant, Infrastructure Condition Master Plan Efforts, and Preliminary Capital Funding Issues (ESD)**
(Deferred from 2/22/07 - Item 3 - Transportation & Environment Committee Agenda)

Environmental Services, Public Works and Department of Transportation staff presented the report on the Water Pollution Control System Infrastructure Conditioning and Master Planning Process. The report analyzed the infrastructure, planning and financing needs of the City's sewer collection and treatment system. A member of the public, David Wall, spoke before the Committee on this item. Mr. Wall feels that the Water Pollution Control Plant needed to be rebuilt 15 years ago not just upgraded. Upon the motion of Councilmember Sam Liccardo and seconded by Councilmember Judy Chirco the Committee voted to accept the report with the recommendation to City Council to direct staff to proceed with the development of the Master Plan for the Water Pollution Control Plant and develop a funding strategy to implement critical capital needs.

2. **Update on State and Federal Transportation Funding and Rewards Program (DOT)**

Department of Transportation staff presented the status report on the State and Federal Transportation Funding and Project Priorities. The report focused on the status of the Proposition 1B Program, the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP), and efforts to establish a VTA Partnership Policy that rewards local jurisdictions that help finance regional transportation improvements. Upon the motion of Councilmember Judy Chirco and seconded by Vice Chair Dave Cortese the Committee voted to accept the report.

3. **Report on the City's Environmental "Cool Communities" Program (ESD)**

Environmental Services Department staff presented the report on Cool Communities and Cool Cities activities. Cool Communities policies work to reduce the Urban Heat Island effect with the strategic planting of urban trees, and the installation of cool roofs and cool pavements. Cool Cities are cities that have made a commitment to stopping global warming by signing the U.S. Mayor's Climate Protection Agreement. This agreement was passed unanimously at the U.S. Conference of Mayor's 73rd Annual meeting on June 13, 2005. Former Mayor Ron Gonzales participated in approving that agreement, representing the City of San Jose. As such, the City is listed as a signatory to the Climate Protection Agreement. A member of the public, Jill Coty from the Climate Project, spoke on this item. Ms. Coty's organization supports what the City has been doing but feels that our efforts need to be brought together and more focused. She also suggested that the City create a Climate Change Task Force with stakeholders to help lead the entire City not just selected sections. Upon the motion of Vice Chair Dave Cortese and seconded by Councilmember Judy Chirco the Committee voted to accept the report and asked staff to provide a separate report for City Council to discuss affirmation of the City's position as a signatory to the Climate Protection Agreement under the new Mayor Chuck Reed. Vice Chair Dave Cortese also recommended that the Green House Gas Reduction goals be presented to the Rules Committee for additional discussion.

4. **Review of Environmentally Preferable Procurement Annual Report and Policy Recommendations (Finance/ESD)**

Finance and Environmental Services Department staff presented the 2006 Environmentally Preferable Procurement Annual Report. The EPP policy helps to protect the environment and human health by requiring that the City procure services and products that maximize recyclability and recycled content, reduce toxicity, and conserve natural resources, materials and energy. Approval of the policy will assist the City in complying with the United Nations Urban Environmental Accords, and several other City Council Policies, as well as ensure that applications for grants submitted to the California Integrated Waste Management Board are eligible for the full score for a recycled content procurement policy. Upon the motion of Councilmember Judy Chirco and seconded by Councilmember Sam Liccardo the Committee voted to accept the report and forward the revisions to Council Policy 4-6 Environmentally Preferable Procurement to the City Council for approval. The Committee also suggested that staff revisit the policy every three years or sooner if needed instead of the recommended five years.

5. **Discussion on Walking Distance Standards for Parks (PRNS)**

Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services staff presented the preliminary report regarding walking distances to parks and open spaces as recommended by the United Nations' Urban Environmental Accords. In 2005, the City Council approved the Mayor's recommendation to become a Signatory City to the UN Accords, a declaration of participating city governments to build ecologically

sustainable, economically dynamic, and socially equitable futures for their urban citizens. Under the category of Urban Nature, one of the actions items states: "Ensure that there is an accessible public park or recreational open space within half-a-kilometer of every city resident by 2015". Staff explained what the adoption of the approximately 1/3 of a mile would mean to the City of San Jose whose current standard is 3/4 of a mile. Councilmember Cortese suggested that Riparian Trails be considered for inclusion; staff responded that this would have a significant impact. Upon the motion of Councilmember Judy Chirco and seconded by Councilmember Sam Liccardo the Committee voted to accept the report.

6. **Review of Sustainable Energy Action Plan and Solar Pilot Projects (ESD/GS)**

General Services and Environmental Services Department staff presented the 2007-08 Sustainable Energy Action Plan. This work plan relates to the Five Energy Policy goals which include:

City Energy Efficiency Activities-lead by example;

Financial Opportunities-explore financial opportunities to improve energy reliability, supply, and price stability to meet current and future needs;

Economic Development Opportunities-promote collaboration on energy issues;

Climate Change Opportunities-promote and achieve a cleaner and healthier environment, including air quality and reducing greenhouse gas emissions;

Solar Opportunities-encourage the development and use of renewable energy sources and alternative fuels.

These goals and actions were further defined as a result of the discussions that took place during the January 2007 Council Energy Study Session. A member of the public, Nicole Ratner, Director of Marketing for Solar City, spoke before the Committee in support of all the efforts to adopt solar energy. She also announced that Solar City is launching a campaign to raise awareness and they would like to work with the City to build relationships and educate the public on solar energy. Upon the motion of Vice Chair Dave Cortese and seconded by Councilmember Sam Liccardo the Committee voted to accept the Action Plan and directed staff to return to the Transportation and Environment Committee with a status report in one year with private development incentives to come sooner.

7. **Oral Update on Key Aspects of Recycle Plus Transition (ESD)**

Department of Environmental Services staff provided an update on the 2007 Recycle Plus Hauler Transition. Staff and the new and continuing Recycle Plus haulers continue to prepare for the July 1, 2007 service transition. Major topics of discussion include hauler coordination, facility and permitting issues, worker

retention, Integrated Billing System (IBS), customer service staffing, and transition outreach. A representative of California Waste Sollutions (CWS), Ken Atherton, explained the challenges that CWS is having with the proposed Berryesa site. Committee members emphasized the need for CWS to immediately pursue a back up plan as the July 1, 2007 transition date approaches. Upon the motion of Councilmember Judy Chirco and seconded by Councilmember Sam Liccardo the Committee voted to accept the update report.

8. **Review of UN Environmental Accords Strategic Plan and Progress Towards Goals Attainment (ESD) RECOMMENDED DEFERRAL TO APRIL 2, 2007**

Upon the motion of Councilmember Sam Liccardo and seconded by Councilmber Judy Chirco the Committee voted to approve staff recommendation that this item be deferred to the April 2, 2007 Transportation and Environment Committee meeting.

9. **Oral Petition**

There were no Oral Petitions

10. **Adjournment - The meeting Adjourned at 4:27 p.m.**

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By: Forrest Williams

Councilmember Forrest Williams, Chair
Transportation & Environment Committee

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