



THE TOWN OF
LOS ALTOS HILLS
California

ENVIRONMENTAL INITIATIVES COMMITTEE

Regular Meeting Minutes

Date: August 6, 2020 at 6:30pm

Location: TELECONFERENCE SPECIAL NOTICE

Pursuant to Executive Order N-29-20:

1. Call to Order (roll call)

Attended: Srinu Srinivasan (SrS), Jolie Wu (JW), Pat Lang (PL), Steve Schmidt (StS), Sasha Zbrozek (SZ), Aileen Lee (AL), April Anair (AN)

New Member: Vrinda Bhandarkar

Council Observer: Michelle Wu, George Tyson

Resident: Anand R

Guests: Bruce Karney (Mountain View), Andre Doorvoort (Cupertino)

2. **Approval of Minutes**

Committee voted unanimously to approve Minutes of July Meeting of EIC

3. **Utility User Tax (UUT): Bruce Karney**

Presentation: Bruce is a 40-yr resident of Mountain View and is Chair of Carbon Free Mountain View initiative. Bruce made the case for LAH to consider charging Utility User Tax on Natural Gas. His presentation is attached.

Discussion:

Several Bay Area cities, including Portola Valley charge UUT. If LAH applied the same rate of UUT as Portola Valley, it is estimated that the city can raise \$1,575k / year in additional revenue. The benefit of being able to use the same to partially fund the undergrounding project was recognized. Bruce was questioned about the availability of evidence to show that UUT has reduced the emission of GHG. The committee also acknowledged the need to understand the impact of a potential UUT on residents in different economic segments.

Action:

StS to publish information on UUT across Utilities to EIC

SrS to include evaluation of UUT in September EIC Meeting Agenda

4. **Undergrounding Power Cables Update**

- Project is considered to be done in two phases : Ice-Breaker and Ocean-Liner
 - i. Ice-Breaker project Engineering has commenced
 - ii. Up to 5000' from the Fire station will be undergrounded

- iii. Concern was expressed about using the location of Ice-Breaker project to be an indicator of cost for the rest of the town. The terrain is particular harsh in the Fire station area.

6. EIC Seminar

Not discussed

7. GHG Inventory : Next Steps

Awaiting update from city staff

8. Sustainability Management in Cupertino: Andre Doorvoort

Presentation: Andre presented Cupertino's Climate Action Plan and its approach to Environmental Initiatives (Presentation attached).

Discussion:

Contrasted with Los Altos Hills, Cupertino is staffed more heavily and has a blend of residential and commercial stakeholders, which then influence the agenda and initiatives differently.

Andre and their staff have offered their assistance and advice as needed by LAH.

Action: Review the relevance of Cupertino's initiatives to LAH and add appropriately to 2020 EIC Agenda.

9. Topics of Interest / Open Discussion

10. **Next EIC meeting:** September 3, 2020

11. Adjournment