



Community Advisory Group Meeting
San Jose/Santa Clara Water Pollution Control Plant
January 19, 2010
6:00 – 8:00 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 - FINAL

Attendees

Member	Representation	Present	Absent
David Zwack	CAG Member, City of Campbell	X	
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	
Michael Gross	CAG Member, At-large	X	

Other Attendees	Representation
Nicholas Dewar	CirclePoint, Facilitator
Samantha Robinson	CirclePoint, Facilitator
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
John Stufflebean	City of San José, Environmental Services Director
Dale Ihrke	City of San José, Plant Manager
Kirsten Struve	City of San José, Project Manager
Matt Krupp	City of San José, Project Planner
Bhavani Yerrapotu	City of San José, Technical Services Manager
Bob Gross	Member of the public
Chirag Amin	Member of the public
Larry Ames	Member of the public
Lonnie Gross	Member of the public
Will Sievert	Member of the public

The purpose of this meeting was to discuss environmental land use opportunities and constraints, and attend to normal business.

Introductions

Facilitator Nicholas Dewar and two new members, At-large representative Michael Gross and Campbell representative David Zwack, were introduced. Other present CAG members introduced themselves. Nicholas led a brief discussion of the meeting outline and format.

Outcomes

- The group agreed to the ground rules as necessary.

Agenda Review

The group reviewed the January 19 meeting agenda.

Outcomes

- The January 19 meeting agenda was approved without changes.

December CAG Meeting Summary

The December meeting summary was distributed to CAG prior to the meeting for individual review. At the meeting, CAG members were asked to discuss the summary and accept it as a document that accurately reflects the December meeting.

Outcomes

- The December meeting summary was approved with a few changes. View the final December meeting summary at www.sanjoseca.gov/esd/plantmasterplan

Environmental Land Use Opportunities and Constraints

Project Manager Kirsten Struve gave a presentation on environmental land use opportunities and constraints to inform CAG's discussion.

CAG members asked questions regarding specific environmental issues. Kirsten reiterated that there is an estimated potential three feet of sea level rise on the Plant lands. Project Planner Matt Krupp explained the relationship between fresh water ponds and aquifers. Staff also clarified that some hybrid environmental/economic uses are not compatible with all environmental goals. For example, solar panels are not compatible with burrowing owls, and wind power may impact migrating birds.

Continuing the social land use exercise from the December meeting, CAG members formed three smaller groups and members of the public formed a fourth group. Building upon the social land uses recommended in the previous meeting, participants evaluated each environmental land use according to its fit and best location on the Plant lands. Actual costs have not been determined, so a relative value was provided for each proposed land use. After deliberating in small groups, participants provided the following input:

Map Themes and General Comments

In general, participants felt that it was most logical to work with the natural setting and flood propensity when drafting the final design. Participants cited the connection along the creek and the fresh to saltwater marsh gradient as critical to their evaluation. Participants suggested using the biosolids area for hybrid land uses or moving the levees back to accommodate natural creek expansion. They also noted that while the meeting's activity required them to shift previously placed social land uses, all trails and other social uses could still be accommodated with the environmental uses.

Ponds, Lakes, and Lagoons

Some felt that adding ponds is necessary to preserve habitat, although precise location on the property is not critical. Others felt that ponds should be incorporated in the south and in the low-lying area near Zanker and Highway 237. Some felt this would create a visual buffer between the Plant lands and Alviso. Other participants felt adding ponds was not as critical as alternative environmental uses.

Upland Habitat

All groups acknowledged that burrowing owls habitat is critical and required to protect this endangered species.

Riparian Habitat

It was broadly acknowledged that riparian habitat is essential to protecting the area along Coyote Creek. One group of participants suggested expanding the riparian habitat to include a wider flood plain, thus possibly allowing for lower levies; other participants agreed that this seems appropriate.

Seasonal Wetlands

One group indicated that these are threatened habitat and important to incorporate in the plan. Some participants suggested allowing seasonal wetlands in the Zanker Road and Highway 237 area because it already floods there, thus easily aligning land use with the natural environment.

Freshwater Marsh

Participants felt that these should be incorporated (in conjunction with brackish and salt marshes) along Coyote Creek, in line with natural processes and the fresh to saltwater marsh gradient. One group noted that freshwater marshes are in greater need of environmental protection than salt water marshes.

Brackish Marsh

Participants felt that these should be incorporated (in conjunction with freshwater and salt marshes) along Coyote Creek, in line with natural processes and the fresh to saltwater marsh gradient. One group noted that brackish marshes are in greater need of environmental protection than salt water marshes and that the New Chicago Marsh is a good example of this.

Salt Water Marsh

Participants felt that these should be incorporated (in conjunction with freshwater and brackish marshes) along Coyote Creek, in line with natural processes and the fresh to saltwater marsh gradient. These marshes could be incorporated along the levee to enable a reduction in levee height. However, one group felt that they should be given lower priority than brackish or freshwater marshes, both of which require greater protection. Another group suggested returning Pond A-18 to its original salt marsh habitat to allow for naturally shaped and possibly lower levees.

Solar Farms

All participants expressed that solar farms should be implemented atop buildings, in parking lots, and wherever else is possible while minimizing the need for an additional footprint. This would maximize land availability for other uses.

Algae Farms

Some participants suggested that these are too capital-intensive to implement.

Education Center/Research Facility

All participants saw value in an educational facility and note that it would be a wonderful opportunity to create a public attraction. However, many also suggested that the facility should be of relatively small scale given the cost and proximity to similar nearby facilities, such as the Don Edwards National Wildlife Refuge. One group noted that it would be beneficial to leave space for a living museum, like the California Academy of Sciences, with the possibility it could be created in the future.

Farming/Pastureland

Given the new environmental land uses presented at this meeting, some participants moved their initial thoughts on the location of farming and pastureland to be closer to riparian areas and further from economic uses.

Recycling Center

A group of participants moved this to the Zanker Road and Highway 237 area of the Plant. They considered biofuel production to be a valuable use of this area. Participants also noted that the current biomass area might be most appropriate for hybrid environmental/economic uses, such as a recycling center.

Outcomes

- CAG input will be provided to Steering Committee on environmental land use opportunities and constraints.
- Contact Project Planner Matt Krupp at matt.krupp@sanjoseca.gov or 408-945-5182 for more information.

Public Comment

The public also participated in the exercise to evaluate environmental uses on best fit and value. The public group suggested that freshwater pond water could be used for fire control, could be circulated by wind power, and could feature islands to create protected habitat. They also cited a nearby educational facility in progress on Los Esteros Road that should be considered when planning one on Plant lands. When discussing farming and pastureland, a member of the public noted that the University of California may be interested in Plant lands to relocate their former deciduous forest facility from Winchester Boulevard. Finally, a member of the public suggested that the northeast corner of the property may be a difficult area to change because it has been set aside for mitigation purposes.

Meeting Review

The group agreed to add a review of the meeting process for areas of improvement and feedback. The following points were discussed:

- The meeting structure works well ("is perfect").
- The preparatory meeting materials are appreciated and allow CAG members to attend meetings well informed.
- The continuity of the map exercise from the December meeting was useful.
- CAG members would like to receive more feedback from project staff regarding land use constraints.
- The note-taking method, which included one large poster page per each environmental land use, was difficult to follow.

Adjournment

The CAG meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

The City of San José is committed to open and honest government and strives to consistently meet the community's expectations by providing excellent service, in a positive and timely manner, and in the full view of the public.
www.sanjoseca.gov/clerk/cp_manual/CPM_0_15.pdf