



**Community Advisory Group Meeting**  
**San Jose/Santa Clara Water Pollution Control Plant**  
**April 28, 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**

**Attendees**

<b>Member</b>	<b>Representation</b>	<b>Present</b>	<b>Absent</b>
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	
Nancy Yu	CAG Member, City of Saratoga	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	
<i>Vacant</i>	CAG Member, At-large		

<b>Other Attendees</b>	<b>Representation</b>
Jan Davel	Carollo Engineers, Plant operations consultant
Jennifer Kincaid	CirclePoint, Facilitator
Nicholas Dewar	CirclePoint, Facilitator
Leslie Stobbe	City of Milpitas, Utility Engineering Public Information Specialist
Kristen Yasukawa	City of San José, CAG Liaison
Cheryl Wessling	City of San José, Plant Master Plan Communications
Jennifer Garnett	City of San José, Communications Manager
John Stufflebean	City of San José, Environmental Services Director
Kirsten Struve	City of San José, Project Manager
Matt Krupp	City of San José, Project Planner
Nichol Bowersox	Cupertino Sanitary District, Senior Project Engineer
Peter Frankel	Hargreaves Associates, Land use consultant
Ellen Lou	Skidmore, Owings & Merrill LLP (SOM), Land use consultant
Joo Im	Skidmore, Owings & Merrill LLP (SOM), Land use consultant
Adam Flores	Member of the public
Catherine Trejo	Member of the public
Chitra Vivek	Member of the public
David Cooke	Member of the public
Debby Olson	Member of the public
Debi Jamison	Member of the public
Emily Renzel	Member of the public
Enid Pearson	Member of the public
Jack Lueder	Member of the public
James Robenolt	Member of the public
Jane Mark	Member of the public
Kat Greene	Member of the public
Linda Ruthruff	Member of the public
Marti Wright	Member of the public
Nancy Teater	Member of the public
Noel Eberhardt	Member of the public
Paul Lineberry	Member of the public
Will Sievert	Member of the public
William Lineberry	Member of the public

The purpose of this meeting was to review and discuss the three land use alternative maps, and attend to normal business.

### **Introductions**

Facilitator Nicholas Dewar and CAG members present were introduced. 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 April 28, 2010 meeting agenda.

#### *Outcomes*

- The April 28, 2010 meeting agenda was approved without changes.

### **March 11 CAG Meeting Summary**

The March 11 meeting summary was distributed to CAG members 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 March 11 meeting.

#### *Outcomes*

- Staff will verify the accuracy of the amount of additional acres dedicated to the Advanced Recycled Water Treatment Facility as described on page three of the March 11 meeting summary.
- View the final March 11 meeting summary at [rebuildtheplant.org](http://rebuildtheplant.org).

### **Land Use Alternatives**

City of San José Environmental Services Director John Stufflebean presented a Plant Master Plan project overview and introduced the three land use alternatives. John explained that none of the Plant's property will be sold. All alternatives are contingent upon implementing odor control measures and relocating the biosolids processing area. An odor study will identify which lands can be developed with current odor controls, which lands are suitable for uses that are not odor-sensitive (e.g., solar fields), and which lands require additional odor controls prior to development. The public is encouraged to participate in the May community workshops that will review the three land use alternatives. All comments and feedback submitted will be used to shape the recommended alternative, which will be a combination of elements from the three alternatives.

*Note: The following discussion pertains to the three land use alternative maps. Visit [rebuildtheplant.org](http://rebuildtheplant.org) for more information.*

### *Economic Land Use Alternatives*

Land use consultant Ellen Lou presented the economic land use alternatives, which include retail, light industrial with a focus on clean tech industries, and office/research & development. Mitigation banking could also be a possible revenue source. Participants questioned why environmental mitigation banking was not addressed as an economic land use. Staff clarified that the discussion of mitigation is an important consideration and would be addressed in the environmental land use discussion, rather than an economic land use. Participants inquired about the consistent amount of land allocated toward retail in all three alternatives. Ellen explained that retail outlets, such as McCarthy Ranch and Target, already exist in the area. The proposed 35 acres is an appropriate size to accommodate large format retail use, but the retail size may change as the marketplace changes. A market study would further define the retail mix.

### *Environmental Land Use Alternatives*

City of San José Project Manager Kirsten Struve and land use consultant Peter Frankel presented environmental land use alternatives, which include wetlands/salt marsh and mudflats, riparian habitat, lakes/effluent pond, and upland/owl habitat. In response to a question about whether there were engineering issues with the proposed levee alignments, Kirsten explained that the proposed alignments and the outboard terraced habitats are designed to provide better protection from flooding than the current stair-step levees. She also reiterated that the environmental land use alternatives presented have not yet been reviewed by regulatory agencies.

In response to further questions, Kirsten said that effluent from the Plant will create the riparian corridor. The *Back to the Bay* lake feature could potentially use stormwater or recycled water and would include natural looking lake borders rather than man-made. Some participants were concerned that if the drying beds are used for wetlands or habitats, instead of retail and/or light industrial, there would be no economic revenue from that portion of the land to pay for changing the biosolids process. Kirsten explained that funding can come from a variety of sources, such as development, mitigation banking, and grants.

Participants were concerned about the appropriate burrowing owl habitat at the Zanker Road and Highway 237 interchange. The owls are already located at the interchange, are loyal to their territories, and often have difficulty adapting to other locations. Kirsten noted that the owl habitat preferences would need to be considered, along with the development potential of the land. Currently, one occupied owl burrow is located on Plant lands.

Some participants inquired about sea-level rise and asked why the Coyote Creek channel had not been widened. Kirsten explained that the existing levee is new (mid 1990s) and includes a widened flood plain. However, City staff will coordinate with Santa Clara Valley Water District staff to gather additional input on this area. Kirsten also said that Pond A-18 is a "water of the state" and that the regulatory and resources agencies (including the Department of Fish and Game, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Bay Conservation and Development Commission, Army

Corps of Engineers, and the Regional Water Quality Control Board) will be asked to provide input on the proposed uses.

#### *Social Land Use Alternatives*

City of San José Project Planner Matt Krupp presented the social land use alternatives, which include parks (likely a regional park), trails, an education center/nature museum, and aesthetic features. When asked about parking needs associated with social land uses, Matt explained that generally park designs include parking lots. This could also be an opportunity for different land uses to share parking.

Another participant addressed public transit connections, which would alleviate the need for more parking. Although the site is fundamentally car-oriented, Matt explained that it may be possible to transport Plant workers or visitors with shuttle services. In response to a question about expanding Zanker Road to four or six lanes, Matt said that the traffic flow will be a consideration through the site and that the road alignments are trying to avoid unnecessary impacts to the Alviso community. He also stressed that there may be increased truck traffic near the site, and it is important to try to separate pedestrians and truck traffic.

A participant asked whether a distribution of smaller parks would be more appropriate for the land use rather than one large park, as the dispersed design may increase accessibility for different modes of transportation and more rewarding nature experiences. Matt explained that a large park may also include those uses, and while trail networks can serve as a distributed park, the proposed trails are located on the levees, and therefore do not provide an opportunity for additional park space along the trail.

A participant asked whether retail and industrial developments would be required to blend aesthetically into the overall plan. Matt answered that design guidelines will be developed for the Plant Master Plan at a later date to ensure that any development would have a unified appearance and be compatible with the social and environmental land uses.

#### *Operational Land Use Alternatives*

Plant operations consultant Jan Davel presented the operational land use alternative options. When asked whether replaced digesters and efficient technology will be enough to supply all of the Plant's energy needs, Jan explained that other energy sources (such as new feedstocks) and additional infrastructure will be necessary to supplement the energy provided by the new digesters.

Jan explained that it is possible to eliminate the drying beds, but that the lagoons are needed for storage in case of an emergency. He also said that the new sludge lagoons will be covered to help contain odors, and that while there is an opportunity to implement a complete drying process with lagoons and without drying beds, it would take years for design and implementation. When asked whether there will be future opportunities for the elimination of drying beds based on the sale of land, John Stuffelbean explained that the City is not proposing to sell the land, but to lease it for revenue generation.

Staff was asked whether taxpayers can be guaranteed that the leasing revenue will be used only to pay for costs of the Plant and for the general funds of the tributary agencies. Staff explained that this decision will be made by the city councils of San José and Santa Clara. Currently, each city or sanitary district decides how it will use any revenue generated through the lease of Plant lands.

CAG members were asked to complete the land use alternatives workbook.

#### *Outcomes*

- CAG input from the meeting discussion and the land use alternatives workbook will be provided to the Steering Committee.
- Contact Project Planner Matt Krupp at matt.krupp@sanjoseca.gov or 408-945-5182 for more information.

#### **Next Steps**

Communications Manager Jennifer Garnett discussed the next steps with the group. The next CAG meeting, originally slated for the week of May 24, was moved to September 15. This meeting will review the public input gathered from the workshop series and online questionnaire, and set the 2010-11 CAG work plan.

Jennifer encouraged CAG members to publicize and attend the community workshops. The workshops include a presentation on the three proposed land use alternatives. Following the presentation, participants will break into small groups to rotate through four topic-specific stations for more information and discussion. The workshops are scheduled over a variety of dates, times, and locations to ensure maximum accessibility and participation.

#### **Meeting Review**

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

- The work and time that CAG and staff have invested over the past year came together in this meeting
- The land use alternatives workbooks effectively presented the “big picture” idea of the project
- All of the presentations were strong and informative
- Clearer definitions of technical information should be presented at the community workshops to avoid confusion
  - A glossary of terms was suggested as an addition to the workbook
- Concern about the time constraints for the community workshops; if presentations are lengthened, it leaves less time for feedback
- A participant asked whether CAG members or members of the public can submit comments after the meetings and/or workshops
  - Jennifer explained that website, e-mail, and telephone comments are accepted

## **Public Comment**

The public also participated in the meeting with comments and questions for the presenters. When asked about posting the land use alternatives on the project website, Jennifer responded that the information will be included shortly. The project team wanted CAG to see the land use alternatives before they were posted for the public.

Participants from the public commented that the land use alternatives workbook looked great and that the meeting was well organized.

One member of the public emphasized the need to plan around the existing burrowing owl habitat. Burrowing owls not only need the physical habitat, but the habitat also needs to be managed. Scientific studies should be conducted now to determine what the owls need, before a decision can be made about the rest of the land uses. Another member of the public commented that the burrowing owl is a highly endangered species in the area, and therefore the habitat needs to be preserved. It was suggested that other land uses should be relocated in order to preserve existing owl habitat.

Owl habitat at a higher elevation should be considered to prepare for sea-level rise impacts to the current planned habitat. A participant emphasized the importance of saving the opportunity for wetlands expansion and protection that the project presents. Another comment reflected concern for the salt marsh harvest mouse habitat.

## **Adjournment**

The CAG meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

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