



Community Advisory Group Meeting
San Jose/Santa Clara Water Pollution Control Plant
November 4, 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

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		
Larry Ames	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	Public Policy Collaboration, Facilitator
William Douglas	CirclePoint, Facilitator
Kathleen Phalen	City of Milpitas
Leslie Stobbe	City of Milpitas
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
Rosa Santiago	City of San José, Office of Councilmember Chu
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
Nichol Bowersox	Cupertino Sanitary District
Bernhard Henschke	Member of the public
Bob Healy	Member of the public
Dean Stanford	Member of the public
Diana Chavez	Member of the public
Larry Stites	Member of the public
Mark Walter	Member of the public
Melanie Carrido	Member of the public
Noel Eberhardt	Member of the public
Perry Mistry	Member of the public
Tom Boehme	Member of the public
Mike Rodriguez	Santa Clara Valley Water District

The purpose of this meeting was to discuss the technical impacts to the Plant land uses, including odor control, the future of the biosolids lagoons and drying beds, and associated costs and timing, and to 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 November 4, 2010 meeting agenda at the beginning of the meeting and agreed to move forward without changes. One CAG member noted that he would like to show a six-minute documentary about burrowing owls to CAG, and asked to be notified when it would be appropriate to include in a future agenda.

Outcomes

- The meeting agenda was approved without changes.

Approval of October 27, 2010 CAG Meeting Summary

The October 27, 2010 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 October 27, 2010 meeting.

Outcomes

- The October 27 meeting summary was approved without changes, and is available at rebuildtheplant.org under Get Involved-Community Advisory Group.

Technical Impacts on Land Use

CAG members were asked to continue the discussion of the October 27 meeting regarding the technical impacts on land use. In particular, the CAG focused much of the discussion on questions and input regarding odor detection and mitigation.

City of San José Environmental Services Director John Stufflebean presented an overview of CAG's accomplishments and reviewed the October 27 discussion topics:

- Odor improvements and how they will be incorporated into the liquid and solids process.
- Proposed new biosolids process and the drivers for these changes.
- Three options for timing and approach to new biosolids processes.

The October 27 presentation on Technical Impacts to Land Use is available at rebuildtheplant.org under Get Involved-Community Advisory Group.

Odor Detection and Mitigation

CAG members asked for an explanation of the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD) odor reporting and responding procedure. Plant Manager Dale Ihrke explained that he receives any odor complaints attributed to the Plant that are submitted to BAAQMD. Plant staff evaluates the odor and BAAQMD responds by visiting the site of the complaint. CAG members asked how City of San José staff handles reports of odor that are incorrectly attributed to the Plant. Project staff explained that BAAQMD regularly inspects the facility when odor complaints are filed. If an odor complaint is confirmed to be attributed by the Plant, BAAQMD will issue a ticket. After three tickets, a notice of violation is given. Dale noted that the Plant has a good record of operation and has not received a notice of violation since 2005 (or earlier). A CAG member expressed concern that the odor complaints are not adequately confirmed, allowing each odor source to deflect responsibility. Project Planner Matt Krupp, said that BAAQMD representatives were unable to attend the CAG meeting, but would be present at the next CAG meeting on November 18 to answer questions.

CAG members asked if technology exists to measure the quantity and type of odors emitted at the Plant, and how much it would cost. Bhavani explained that current technology exists

which can measure the odor output of biosolids. Odor monitors, which function like electronic “noses,” can detect increases in odor output and the technology is used elsewhere in the United States and Europe. The project staff explained that the greatest challenge would be to develop an accurate baseline with the sensors because of all the other odors produced in the area, and setting up the technology would be costly.

Another CAG member wondered if regulations will require odor monitoring in the future. Consultant Jamel Demir explained that certain states have odor monitoring regulations, but that is usually because they are the only odor source in a specific area. John added that the Plant actually reduces odors and that different land uses have varying compatibility with odors.

CAG members noted that the salt ponds near the Plant are an odor source and could be misattributed to the Plant. CAG members noted that there are three landfills in the vicinity of the Plant. A CAG member noted that the Zanker Road Resource Management has not been cited for odor violation since 1996, and that composting is no longer performed at that facility. Project staff agreed that it could be difficult to attribute odors to a particular source, and told CAG members that BAAQMD representatives could fully answer their concerns about odor inspection and complaint procedures.

Some CAG members agreed that although the Plant could employ odor mitigation techniques, there would still be many odors in the vicinity due to the other odor-emitting sources in the area, such as landfills and salt ponds. CAG members noted that, even if the Plant implemented odor mitigation as soon as possible, it would not provide a comprehensive solution to odors for the region. Some CAG members agreed that it was important for a comprehensive regional approach to mitigate all odors in the Plant area. City of San José Technical Services Manager Bhavani Yerrapotu explained that, in response to CAG’s suggestion at the October 27 meeting, staff has begun to work with other agencies on a collaborative approach to control odors in the area.

A CAG member expressed that the Plant should reduce odors as quickly as possible to increase capacity, economical treatment, and quality of land uses. Additionally, CAG members were concerned that other cities might be developing land close to the Plant, and explained that the City of Milpitas had recently approved a new large project close to the Plant. The project staff noted that they work closely with other government agencies to ensure that land uses were compatible with one another.

One CAG member noted that odors emitted from the current Plant location, although unavoidable, were often detected in Milpitas. The CAG member acknowledged that affected residents often become accustomed to the odor after a time. The project staff explained that the Plant was originally designed to treat wastewater that was going directly into the Bay, which prior to the 1950s was a major source of odor.

CAG members wondered if other facilities used drying beds, like this Plant, and if the Plant Master Plan team discusses odor issues with the staff of other water treatment plants. Consultant Jamel Demir explained that the plant in Sacramento is very similar to ours and also uses drying beds. A CAG member asked how Sunnyvale had dealt with odor issues at its plant, because odors did not seem to be a concern in their area. Jamel explained that Sunnyvale also uses drying beds, but is about one-tenth the size of our Plant. The project team assured CAG members that they had gathered benchmark information from other water treatment plants in the area, and that project consultants were chosen for their experience with other plants.

A CAG member asked why there had been such extensive discussion about odor and odor mitigation, and wondered how odors are relevant to the proposed land use alternatives. CAG members explained that odor issues affect the land use options. CAG members noted that bufferlands are currently necessary to mitigate whatever odors are emitted and that odors must be controlled for development of land to proceed. Another CAG member explained that the project team is collecting input on the timing and costs associated with the Plant improvements, including odor control.

One CAG member wondered about the effectiveness of money spent on odor mitigation and whether it would be earned back through land development.

A CAG member asked if the railroad spur on Plant lands could be used to move the biosolids off-site to avoid associated odors. The project team explained that the utility of the railroad spur was being considered as part of the Plant Master Plan.

Cost and Rate Impacts

A CAG member noted that the projected sewer rate increases, as a result of the proposed Plant improvements, was substantial and asked what the process would be to approve the rate changes. The project team explained that rates are subject to Prop 218 notices and are approved by the San José City Council if there are no significant objections. Revenue bonds would defer a peak in rate increases.

Timing

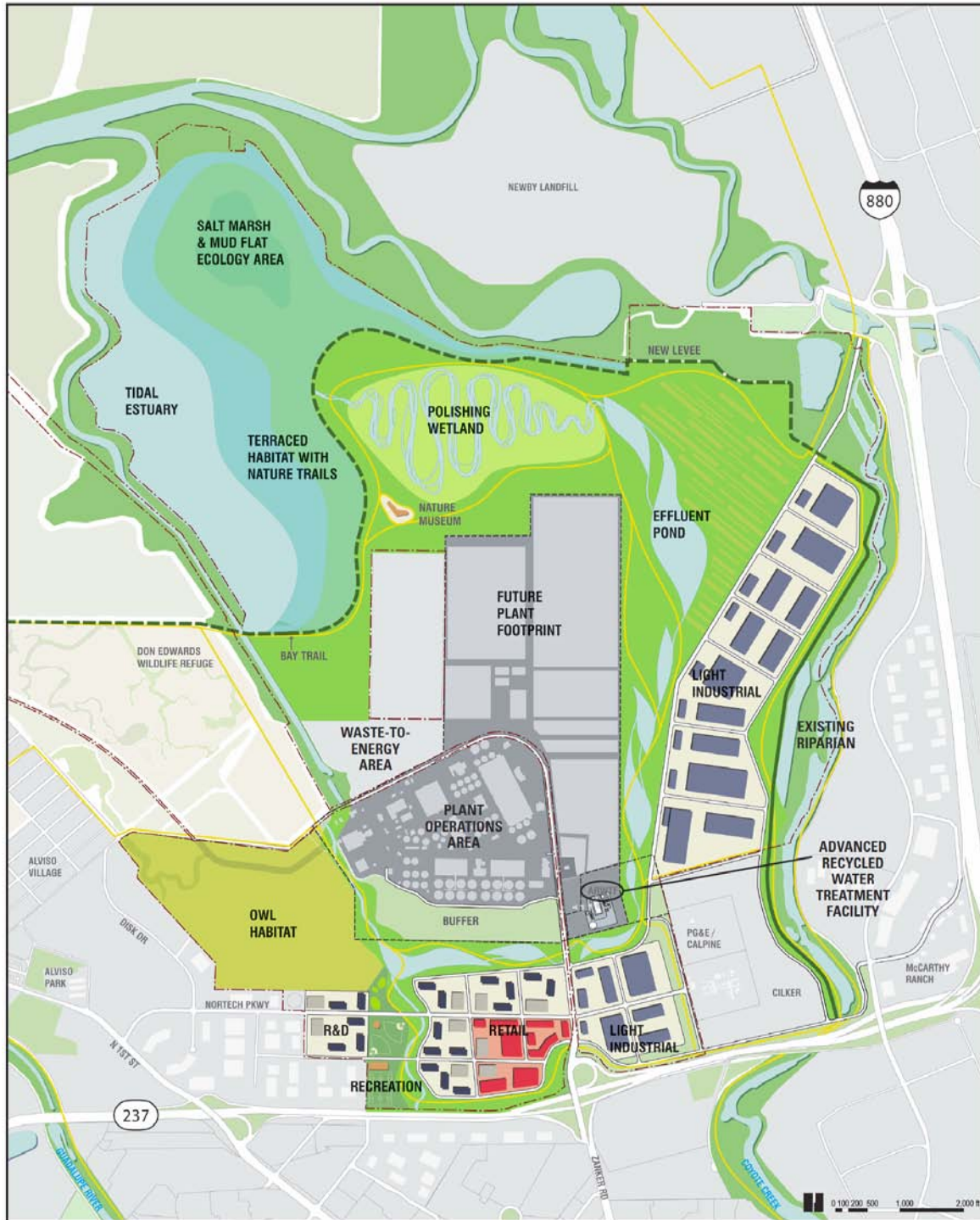
A CAG member inquired about the third, "middle of the road," odor control option and requested more information. While Dale explained that 15 years is very quick to change a full technology given the preliminary piloting steps needed, a CAG member indicated that it is still a long amount of time.

Technical Options

A CAG member wondered if all three land use alternatives were still being considered and if they would be available at the next CAG meeting. Project staff explained that the draft recommended land use alternative will represent features from all three alternatives based on the feedback received by the public and stakeholders and be presented to the CAG members at the November 18 meeting.

Additional Project Topics

Per CAG's suggestion at a previous meeting, Project Planner Matt Krupp described some suggestions for traffic circulation around the Plant. The *Necklace of Lakes* land use alternative was used as a reference for discussion purposes only.



Necklace of Lakes land use alternative was used for discussion purposes only.

Plant traffic circulation possibilities:

- Opportunity for an eastern connection to McCarthy Boulevard
- From the west, a continuation of Nortech Parkway could serve like a frontage road to Highway 237, and also serve as a Broadway for the retail areas.
- New connections from the north
- Emphasis on routing traffic to avoid the neighborhoods in Alviso
- Connections and links to all trails; opportunities for bicycles, pedestrians, and transit

Circulation and Movement of Traffic

CAG members were concerned about connections at McCarthy Boulevard. They were concerned that traffic would increase heavily and people would use the road as a shortcut. CAG members wanted to ensure traffic safety. Matt acknowledged that traffic safety is an important concern and explained that they would analyze and discuss traffic calming measures during the environmental review phase.

A CAG member asked how much wider Zanker Road would become. It was noted that a connection between a proposed Zanker Road extension and McCarthy Boulevard may require a new bridge over Coyote Creek. A CAG member asked if trucks could be banned from accessing Zanker Recycling through Alviso to improve traffic safety. The project staff said that they did not yet know how wide Zanker Road would become, but thought that it would remain similar to current measurements in the near term.

A CAG member noted that connections would make it more convenient for workers in the light industrial areas to access retail and food options in the area. A few CAG members were concerned about the additional traffic caused by an increase in retail space and lots of new light industrial development. John explained that the San José Envision 2040 General Plan outlined the need for more transit in this area. A CAG member noted that there was major concern about an increase in traffic congestion in the proposed project area. A CAG member wondered if future growth on North 1st Street had been considered in the current draft alternative. Project staff explained that they understood the concerns about an increase in traffic, and explained that traffic impacts would be analyzed during the environmental review phase.

Trails

Some CAG members appreciated seeing that the Bay Trail was included in the three land use alternatives. A CAG member wondered if there would be a trail running north to south, which would grant access to the Bay. The project team agreed that the incorporation of the Bay Trail into the land use alternatives was important, and explained that there would be a trail running north to south through the project area that would allow for Bay access.

A CAG member noted that it was important to maintain trails on both sides of Coyote Creek, as the creek is an important facet of the project. It was noted that it would be valuable to connect both sides of the creek with bridges, and that creek trails could be used to connect light industrial uses to the retail areas. Additionally, CAG members discussed the importance

of bicycle trails, and suggested that there could be a bike bridge over Interstate 880. A CAG member was concerned that horses might be used on the trails, and could cause odor problems and environmental damage. The project team agreed that trail connections are an important feature of the land use alternatives, and particularly, increased access for bicycles and pedestrians. The project team was doubtful that a bicycle bridge would be built over Interstate 880, but noted that there had been other similar bridges built before. The project team will work closely with the Santa Clara Valley Water District on the trail locations.

Odor and Odor Mitigation

A CAG member asked if the proposed algae ponds would give off an odor. The project team explained that there would not be odors because the new algae processing technology (if considered) would need to be enclosed.

A CAG member acknowledged that there might be high opportunity costs associated with implementing the newest odor reduction technology. The CAG member thought it wise to delay implementation of odor mitigation systems until odor reduction technology had been tried and tested. The team explained odor mitigation technology does not quickly become obsolete. Instead, the project team explained, odor detection and mitigation technologies remain relevant for a long period and new technology does not come to market frequently.

Energy

A CAG member inquired about including solar panels on building roofs on the Plant lands, which the project team confirmed is already included in the plans.

Flood Protection

In response to a CAG member question, the project team explained that the proposed new levy will be part of the Salt Pond Restoration Project and Shoreline Study with the Army Corps of Engineers and the Santa Clara Valley Water District.

General Land Use

A CAG member asked which development priorities were the highest and how the project team would rank those uses from most important to least important. The CAG member noted that open space for recreation was their highest priority, and the other priorities depended on available funding. The project team explained that land use priorities have been discussed at many of the CAG meetings, and that those comments and concerns would be incorporated into the final Plant Master Plan.

A CAG member was concerned that there may be too much retail in the vicinity of the Plant. There was concern that a new retail area would negatively impact existing retail nearby. CAG members wondered if the regional impacts of additional retail space would be considered. The project team explained that a market study would be conducted during the environmental review phase. The market study would look at the proposed economic developments and determine if they were feasible.

Timing

CAG members asked about the timing of each land use. Matt explained that all land uses are contingent on Plant operations. Any land use that brings people to the site will require more odor control. Changing the solids technology will influence when the biosolids area will be available for other land uses. All land uses will also depend on funding opportunities.

Outcomes

- For more information, contact Project Manager Kirsten Struve at kirsten.struve@sanjoseca.gov or 408-945-5180.

Meeting Review

Nicholas Dewar asked for feedback on the meeting structure and format so that the team could improve future meetings.

CAG members agreed that the November 4 meeting was a very useful continuation of the prior meeting. CAG members felt that it provided them with enough time to discuss important topics and ask questions to the project team.

A CAG member also acknowledged that they were happy to hear that concepts discussed in CAG meetings, such as a regional solution to odor reduction, were being utilized.

Outcomes

- The CAG provided feedback for staff member consideration in planning upcoming meetings.

Public Comment

The public also participated in the meeting by submitting comments and questions to project staff. All members of the public who desired to were able to speak.

One member of the public read a letter regarding a proposal for a recreational vehicle park on Plant lands with a request to review grant funding and other options. He explained that California's department of Off-Highway Vehicles could fund the Environmental Impact Report and that California State Parks could run the recreational vehicle park. He explained that more information is available at <http://ohv.parks.ca.gov>.

A member of the public encouraged the project team to have an artist review the final recommended land use plan in order to see the big picture and improve the aesthetic qualities, especially from a bird's-eye view. Matt noted that a public artist is currently involved with the Plant Master Plan.

Another member of the public expressed the need for the Plant to provide facilities for trade shows and conferences regarding the newest water treatment technologies. He later added that the Plant would likely use chemicals manufactured outside of California, when the Plant

lands could be used to produce them locally. John acknowledged that the vision for the clean tech institute involves being a hub of innovation and technology.

A member of the public asked the project team to consider implementing a solar-powered water treatment plant, and identified the need for the project team to discuss opportunities with PG&E.

A member of the public encouraged the project team to consider the model aviation community when designing the land use alternative. He explained that model aviation promotes education in science and mathematics, only requires open air space to fly the model planes, and is compatible with odors. He also noted that the CAG meetings are well planned and executed, and some of the best public meetings he has attended.

Another member of the public acknowledged the benefits of the transparent planning process used by the City of San José, and noted that he looked forward to seeing which land use alternative would be pursued. John clarified that the final recommended land use alternative will be a hybrid of the previous three land use alternatives presented.

Outcomes

- Several members of the public provided feedback and questions.

Note: CAG members were invited to attend the next Treatment Plant Advisory Committee (TPAC) meeting on Friday, November 19 from 1:00-4:00 p.m. at the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Library.

Adjournment

The CAG meeting adjourned at 8:00 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