



SEPTEMBER 2012 BOARD MEETING SUMMARY

Oral Communications: None

Priority Focus Presentations/Discussion on Supporting Innovative Schools:

Sam Liccardo presented an overview of the revised “Best Practices for Cities’ Support of Innovative & High Performing Schools” document incorporating feedback and revisions from school districts and community stakeholders. Stakeholders included the Association of Superintendents of SCC, Santa Clara County Office of Education Board Member Leon Beauchman, Joint Venture Silicon Valley, Silicon Valley Leadership Group, and the Silicon Valley Education Foundation. Sam stated that not all suggestions from stakeholders were included. Board Members suggested further revisions that were supported by all Board Members present. Rod Sinks noted that FUHSD Superintendent reviewed the “best practices” and noted that funding of schools at the state level needs to be addressed collaboratively.

Bay Area Water Supply Conservation Agency: Art Jensen presented overview of the Hetch Hetchy Water System, important information, and the ballot initiative proposing to drain Hetch Hetchy Reservoir.

- Art Jensen reviewed the threat to water users if the Hetch Hetchy Reservoir is drained; draining the reservoir and reclaiming the Hetch Hetchy Valley is a public-policy issue that has been debated for over 100 years.
- A group named Restore Hetch Hetchy is attempting to place an initiative before San Francisco voters this November; BAWSCA believes decisions of this value should be put before voters outside of San Francisco or their representatives in addition to San Francisco residents since it is a water system that was originally built to serve San Francisco and its neighboring cities. Two-thirds of the water San Francisco provides is used by water customers outside San Francisco; two-thirds of the costs of the regional water system are paid by customers outside San Francisco. Currently, voters outside of San Francisco currently have no vote on this important matter.
- Currently, about half of Santa Clara County depends on its water supply.

- The initiative requires that San Francisco develops other supplies of water; the plans would have to be completed by 2016; votes are required to vote for its implementation.
- BAWSCA represents 26 agencies that buy water from SF, 1.7 million residents, over 30,000 businesses, and countless community organizations.
- Hetch Hetchy Reservoir stores 117 billion gallons of water, or 60% of SF's drinking water storage capacity and stores water for seasonal reliability and for drought reliability; draining the reservoir could be a serious threat to those who depend on it and to the CA economy.
- BAWSCA's plan to protect water users includes:
 1. Protect the health, safety and economic well-being of the residents, businesses and communities.
 2. Alternative water storage and supplies must be in operation before draining the Reservoir
 3. Alternate storage and supplies must be supported with: legally enforceable agreements, unambiguous water rights, appropriate ownership of facilities, accountable oversight, clear operating responsibilities.
 4. BAWSCA is opposed to draining Hetch Hetchy Reservoir unless and until voters outside SF who depend on the Reservoir, or their representatives, vote on:
 - a. whether the resulting water reliability and quality are acceptable;
 - b. whether they are willing to pay their share of any additional costs
 5. Nothing must delay rebuilding the earthquake prone Regional Water System.
- BAWSCA plans to pursue administrative or legislative action to secure a vote.
- Questions from Board Members lead to the following
 - Alternative source of water is Don Pedro Reservoir; however, who controls it is a serious issue.
 - BAWSCA has chosen not to oppose the Restore Hetch Hetchy Ballot Initiative because it would be a distraction from the main objective: to find a long-term solution; this is a public-policy issue that has been debated for over 100 years.
- The Board of Directors unanimously endorsed BAWSCA's plan to protect water users and awaits further information regarding future legislation.
- Current supporters of BAWSCA's plan include SF Chronicle and SJ Mercury News.

Valley Verde: Raul Lozano presented overview of mission and objectives.

- Valley Verde's mission is to promote widespread cultivation of home organic vegetable gardens to encourage healthier diets and address food insecurity in Santa Clara County.

- VV provides all the tools and supplies needed to create a home garden in addition to gardening and nutrition classes at no cost for low-income families; alternatively, VV builds backyard and community gardens for a fee and all proceeds are used to support the low-income free garden program.
- Mission: To promote widespread cultivation of organic vegetable gardens to encourage healthier eating and address food insecurity in Santa Clara County.
- Goal: Build 20,000 gardens in Santa Clara County in 10 years.
- Produce from the gardens saves a family \$500-700 per year.
- Overall, cultivating gardens improves our community by promoting healthy living and a healthier environment with reduction in carbon emissions and waste.
- VV would like to create a regional movement that can be expanded across the nation; a press conference is scheduled for April 2013.
- Thus far, working on participation and support of non-profit and private businesses (e.g. SVLG).
- Request from cities:
 1. Help spread the word, e.g. newsletters, websites, etc., twice a year, once before spring planting and again before winter planting.
 2. Encourage employees to plant a home organic vegetable garden as part of the city's employee wellness programs
 3. Provide a staging area to distribute home organic garden materials to residents wishing to plant a home organic garden.
 4. Endorsement and/or support letters.
- The Board voted to support Valley Verde and its objectives with one abstention from Los Altos Hills.
- Several Board Members had suggestions and resources for Valley Verde to use.
- Current supporters include SVLG, Summer Winds, Zanker (soil & compost), Health Trust, Knight Foundation, and Christiano Family Foundation.

RWRC Report: Recycling Waste & Reduction Commission Vice Chair Jim Griffith presented an overview of 2012 work plan, e.g. AB 341; an update on single-use bag bans and EPS food storage container bans in the county; and review of RWRC's policy recommendations.

Nominating Committee for Executive Board 2013

Nominating Committee for the Executive Board 2013 includes Sam Liccardo, Margaret Abe-Koga, and Steve Tate. A recommendation to the Board will be announced in October and the Board's approval is scheduled for November.

Re-affirmation of Compliance w/the Brown Act

AB 1464, the Budget Act of 2012, has suspended some of the provisions of the Ralph M. Brown Act until 2015. Per the League of California Cities, it is recommended that all cities continue to comply with all components of the Brown Act regardless of its suspension as an effort to promote continued transparency.

The Board of Directors voted unanimously to re-affirm its compliance with the Brown Act and requests that all Members cities consider taking similar action. It was noted that the City of Los Altos has re-confirmed its compliance with the Brown Act.

City Managers' Report: Debra Figone, City Manager of San Jose, reported on recent activities/presentations of SCCMA, which included a discussion amongst managers on working through organizational transitions; a joint meeting between city managers and assistant city managers is scheduled for November; in October, Frank Benest is scheduled to present to the Cities Association Board re: Next Generation Committee Initiative aimed to attract young people into local government and accelerate the development of emerging leaders already in local government.

Legislation Report: Betsy Shotwell of San Jose, presented a legislative update. AB 57 (Beall) was signed into law on July 13th – SCC now has three representatives on MTC; this legislation started in the 1980's with Senator Alquist. AB 340 PERS Retirement Bill was signed into law and we are awaiting the analysis. It is recommended to watch LCC's Legislative Briefing webinar on November 13th.

Joys and Challenges

- Val announced that two of her Council Members are terming out (David Casas and Ron Packard) and there are 6 candidates running in the next election.
- Rod Sinks announced that the city is working in collaboration with the Humane Society on moving the geese out of Memorial Park.
- Chuck Page of Saratoga updated Board Members that downtown Saratoga now allows music until 9 pm on Wednesdays, Fridays, and Saturdays; and the city just unveiled a new solar photovoltaic system for the Saratoga Library.
- Greg Scharff of Palo Alto announced that two of his fellow Council Members have opted not to run for re-election: Sid Espinosa and Yiaway Yeh.
- Jim Griffith shared in CareerBliss's list of top 20 cities with happiest young professionals, Sunnyvale was rated #3; Los Angeles was #1 and San Jose was #2. Sunnyvale has just passed a new anti-harassment ordinance for bikers intended to protect them from drivers.
- Rich Larsen announced National Plug-In Day on September 23rd; town is working on creating signs/messaging intended to mitigate traffic problems for bicyclists and drivers.
- Jac Siegel shared that PG&E wants to remove trees to make the pipelines surveyable from air.