



**MINUTES**  
**Environmental Sustainability Commission**  
**Special Meeting on October 17, 2019**

The meeting was called to order at 4:03 p.m.

**Present:** Richard Godfrey, Nate Ivy, Paul Kelley, Carolyn Obata, Daniel O'Donnell, Shreya Ramachandran, John Rennels, Shiva Swaminathan

**Absent:** None

**Oral Communications:**

- Lynn Miller, Tri-City Urban Forestry Alliance
  - Stated that the Urban Forestry Master Planning grant does not address the major issue of tree loss: many trees in Fremont are cut down and not replaced
  - Discussed the importance of trees for local carbon sequestration
  - Highlighted the opportunity for increased green forest infrastructure:
    - Suggested that the City could institute a requirement that all residents have street trees
    - This requirement could be enforced by requiring tree planting as part of a residential permit issuance or inspection sign off
- Ohlone Student Sustainability Club (OSSC) members
  - Mentioned their interest in the Climate Action Plan Update process

**Approval of Minutes:**

- Regular meeting minutes of September 5, 2019. Minor spelling error noticed by Commissioner Kelley. Motion to approve with correction by Commissioner Rennels; second by Commissioner Kelley. Minutes approved unanimously.

**Scheduled Items:**

**5.1 Staff Updates**

- Niles Canyon Stroll & Roll took place on September 28<sup>th</sup>. City Staff represented the Fremont Green Challenge and the CAP Update, and spoke to make individuals.
- The Bay Area SunShares Program is open August through November, with Skytech Solar and Solar Technologies as the two participating contractors. SunShares Participation levels are already much higher this year than last year, with one potential reason being the solar tax credit stepping down from its current 30% to 26% of the installed system cost in 2020.
- Fremont Solar Workshop and Solar Homes Tour took place on October 5<sup>th</sup>.

Approximately 50 people attended the workshop, and each of the 12 tour sites had about 4-8 visitors each.

- The CAP 2.0 Survey will remain open until more feedback is received. Commissioner Ivy said he can send the survey link to AP Environmental Science teachers, possibly as an extra credit item for students. Ohlone College students suggested their professors could do the same.

## **5.2 Commissioner Announcements**

- Shreya Ramachandran
  - Student Commissioner Ramachandran announced that she had a booth at the Niles Canyon Stroll and Roll and collected over 200 signatures in support of climate action at the event. She also mentioned that American High School students participated in the Youth Climate Strike.
- Richard Godfrey
  - Chair Godfrey mentioned that Alameda County Water District is considering the purchase of the N3 Cattle Co. site, an 80-square-mile, 50,000-plus acre Livermore property.

## **5.3 Building Code Sustainability Opportunities, continued**

As a follow up to the September 5 presentation on potential opportunities for local building reach code amendments to require higher levels of sustainability, staff provided further details on opportunities in a number of areas, including all-electric building design, electric vehicle infrastructure, greywater systems, mandatory solar, battery storage, green roofs, and “better” concrete. Items related to deconstruction/demolition, solar parking lots, bike parking requirements, and other sustainable transportation concerns like carsharing, will be discussed at future meetings in 2020.

Staff reviewed model building code options with the Commission that have already been vetted for “cost-effectiveness” and asked the Commissioners to discuss their level of interest in each one so that staff can prepare draft code language for the Commission to vote on at a subsequent meeting accordingly:

1. All-electric, emissions-focused/electric-preferred, and efficiency-focused/fuel-neutral energy options for new construction:
  - Commissioners Kelley, Ivy, Ramachandran, Swaminathan, Godfrey, and O'Donnell expressed preference in the East Bay Community Energy recommendation for an all-electric pathway, including the incorporation of requirements for battery storage in residential construction.
  - Commissioners Obata and Rennels expressed preference for a more efficient, fuel neutral approach, or an electric-preferred approach, but were hesitant to support the all-electric approach.
  - Commissioner Obata cited cultural preferences for gas cooking as one major concern. She also expressed interest in mandatory battery storage in residential construction.

- The Commission generally supported flexibility/exceptions for all-electric design for specific commercial/industrial end uses.
2. Heat pump space heating and electric panel upgrade options for existing construction:
    - The Commission generally supported electric-ready options in retrofits.
  3. Mandatory solar for all building types:
    - The Commission generally supported additional solar to support all residential energy needs and minimum solar requirements in commercial applications.
  4. Energy storage readiness options:
    - The Commission generally expressed interest in battery storage readiness for commercial construction, but was interested in further analysis.
  5. Low carbon concrete options:
    - The Commission generally expressed concern regarding low carbon concrete, stating that they were unsure the industry was ready for this type of requirement and that they would like additional information.
    - Commissioner Ivy suggested the Commission consider overall requirements for low carbon construction materials rather than specifically focus on concrete.
  6. Laundry-to-landscape ready plumbing options and water efficiency
    - The Commission generally expressed interest in greywater readiness requirements, with most of the Commissioners deferring to Student Commissioner Ramachandran for her expertise on the issue.
    - Commissioner Ramachandran expressed her support for greywater readiness and other water/energy efficiency requirements that have proven to be cost-effective.
  7. Electric vehicle readiness options:
    - The Commission generally supported the East Bay Community Energy recommendation for EV readiness and EV charging equipment installations in new construction.
    - Commissioners Obata and Ivy highlighted the importance of Level 2 and fast charging infrastructure rather than Level 1.
    - Commissioner Godfrey expressed that the primary focus on EV charging infrastructure should be for residential, and that EV charging infrastructure for commercial developments may be less important.
  8. Cool roof and green roof options:
    - The Commission generally supported cool roof requirements for new construction, but were generally not supportive of green roofs due to their high costs.
    - Commissioner O'Donnell suggested that Commercial and Multifamily developments incorporate green space with planter boxes and seating areas on their rooftops as a potential alternative that would be less cumbersome.

Adjourned at 6:38 pm.

APPROVED BY:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Rachel DiFranco", with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

Rachel DiFranco  
Sustainability Manager