

Del Mar City Council Special Meeting Agenda

Del Mar City Hall – Via Teleconference Only
1050 Camino del Mar, Del Mar, California

March 9, 2022 City Council Special Meeting

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Dear Mayor, Deputy Mayor, and Citycouncilmembers,

I am vice chair of the Sustainability Advisory Committee, and I am writing to urge you to include 4 items in your approved Goals.

1. Building electrification ordinance. The top priority of SAC is to pass a building electrification ordinance for new construction and major remodels, as our neighboring cities Encinitas and Solana Beach did in late 2021. We must stop burning fossil fuels, and buildings are the second highest source of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions due to fossil fuel usage. In addition, the indoor air pollution from burning gas inside homes, especially gas cooktops, causes a myriad of health concerns from the nitrous oxides, formaldehydes, small particulates (PM2.5), carbon monoxide, to name a few. These pollutants increase asthma incidence, as well as cardiovascular disease and other health risks.
 - a. The cost of such an ordinance is far less than most ordinances. SAC will draft an ordinance based largely on the one that Encinitas passed last fall. Since Encinitas has the same city attorney that Del Mar has, that ordinance has already been vetted by her firm.
 - b. In addition, I have identified 2 free consultants. Solana Beach had a pro bono consultant, Amy Rider from the Building Decarbonization Coalition, a state-wide organization. I asked her if she was willing to consult with Del Mar for our building electrification ordinance also, and she agreed. Also, I spoke with Crysal Nejara, the Encinitas CAP Manager, and she said that they worked with Jeremy Reeve from SGD&E. They provide free consulting for reach code (ordinance) development and implementation, and Crystal said that Jeremy was very helpful.
 - c. We can provide free outreach. I am co-chair of the San Diego Building Electrification Coalition (SDBEC), and we have been giving educational presentations to community groups and to City Council members throughout San Diego county on the reasons why we need all-electric building ordinances and explanations of excellent electric alternatives to gas furnaces, gas water heaters and gas stoves. Councilmembers Gaasterland and Martinez have heard our SDBEC presentation, and Councilmembers Martinez and Worden suggested that we give a short educational presentation at a city council meeting, which we would be happy to do.
2. Climate Action Plan (CAP) monitoring and implementation – Civic Spark Fellow
 - a. Clem Brown does not have enough time to do all that is necessary to monitor and implement our CAP, an essential task, with all of his other duties in the City Manager’s office. In 2019/2020, Clem was assisted by a full time Civic Spark fellow, Serena Pelka. Her salary was half paid by the Civic Spark program. She did an excellent job, and having her work full time freed up Clem to work on other tasks. Serena worked on the monitoring of our progress on our CAP goals, and on the annual report of CAP implementation, and she helped Clem on many aspects of sustainability. With the city being short staffed, having an inexpensive yet highly trained person to help Clem seems beneficial for Clem to be able to complete all of the projects he needs to work on in the City Manager’s office.
 - b. The application for a Civic Spark Fellow for 2022/2023 is due by April 30. I urge you to decide today to allot the small amount of money for partial salary in return for a large amount of work to be done by the trained Fellow.

- c. CAP monitoring requires the Sustainability staff to get information from other departments, such as Planning and Public Works, to determine how we are doing on our stated goals. Having someone working with Clem who can help gather and assemble such data would be very useful.

3. CAP update

- a. Del Mar's CAP was due for an update to be adopted in 2021, but the financial constraints of the COVID pandemic has delayed that process. The strategies and measures in our CAP which was written in 2015, are far from current state of the art for CAP measures. SAC can look at other more recently updated CAPs and identify more robust measures, but we need to plan for a much-needed overall CAP update. This involves having our GHG inventory to be updated, often done by the Energy Policies Initiatives Center at the University of San Diego. Then a consultant can be recruited to update the CAP.
- b. In the meantime, SAC has identified several measures which we would like to discuss with the relevant department, such as our Urban Tree Canopy proposal with the Planning Department. We also ask that some money be set aside for providing greener city vehicles when they need replacement. Although the initial cost will likely be higher, that money will be recouped by savings on gas. Items such as these will require some budget and some interaction with other departments.

4. Join the Institute for Local Government

- a. It is free
- b. Provides free voluntary information on all stages of climate action planning and implementation including best practices, technical support, energy savings, educational events including webinars. There is no obligation, so no downside to signing up to be able to get information and advice from this group as needed.

As you are no doubt aware, the climate crisis has accelerated much faster than we anticipated. The report last fall, and again last week, from the United Nation's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) is telling us that the crisis is spiraling out of control, that we will certainly have more extensive wildfires, accelerated sea level rise, extreme weather conditions (droughts, floods, hurricanes), etc. The only question is how severe these will be, which will be determined by how quickly we stop burning fossil fuels, the source of GHG emissions which cause climate change.

The time to act is NOW, before it is too late for our planet, our children and our grandchildren. Any aspect of addressing climate change should not be in Tier 3 of Del Mar's priorities ("non-essential items that could be deferred or eliminated"), it should be a top priority.

Sincerely,
Ann Feeney, Ph.D.
Rimini Rd.