Environmental Planning Advisory Committee (EPAC) Meeting

Friday, December 6, 2019, Meeting Summary

ATTENDEES

Members
- Michael Catanzaro, COT Env. and General Services (by phone)
- Claire Kaufman, City of Tucson, Ward 6
- Anna Steiner, COT DOT
- Sarah Reitmeyer, PDEQ
- Marie Light, PDEQ
- Kim Franklin, AZ-Sonora Desert Museum
- David Barnes, Freeport McMoRan
- Grace Evans, League of Women Voters
- Howard Myers, SAHBA
- Margaret Snyder, Tucson Water
- Kathy Chavez, Pima County Sustainability, Conservation & Historic Preservation

Other Attendees
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  - Mark Murphy, NV5
  - Jana Segal, Sustainable Tucson
  - Greg Saxe, Pima County Flood Control
  - Catherine Land Evilsizer, Citizen
  - Jamie Kennealy, Clear Creek Assoc.
  - Mia Hammersley, Montgomery & Assoc. (by phone)
  - Eve Halper, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation

Staff
- Lee Comrie
- Jeanette DeRenne
- Dustin Fitzpatrick
- Mead Mier

1. Call to Order and Introductions

The meeting was called to order by Sarah Reitmeyer, acting EPAC Chair, at 9:39 a.m.

2. In-kind Form

Members were asked to sign the in-kind form.

3. Meeting Summary of Oct. 18, 2019

The Meeting Summary of Oct. 18, 2019 was unchanged and unanimously approved by consensus.

4. PAG Staff Updates

PAG staff provided updates on program activities. Mead Mier, PAG Sustainability Coordinator, announced the dates for the 45-day legal public comment period for the PAG 208 Plan
Update starting on Dec. 13, 2019, and ending on Jan. 30, 2020, with the public hearing at the PAG Regional Council meeting, starting at noon. When approved, the plan will then be forwarded to the ADEQ and EPA.

Dustin Fitzpatrick, PAG Air Quality Planning Coordinator, announced that PAG was awarded an $80,000 FHWA grant to plan out an alternative fuels corridor along I-10 from California to New Mexico with stations for natural gas fueling and electric charging. Benefits may include reductions in greenhouse gases and ozone levels. The grant runs through November 2020 with PAG and ADOT as partners and will be designed to be transferable to other regions nationwide.

5. Lower Santa Cruz River (LSCR) Basin Study Surface Water Modeling and Next Steps

Eve Halper, Water Resources Planner with the Bureau of Reclamation, gave an update on the Lower Santa Cruz River (LSCR) Basin Study. This multi-year project addresses basin-wide planning and coordination over the Tucson Active Management Area. Although safe yield exists overall for this basin, there are specific areas where water demand exceeds physical supplies. This study addresses the supply-demand imbalances within the basin, given the impacts of local climate (precipitation and temperature) and socio-economic factors (demographics, growth, economics, technology and regulations) through 2060. The study uses scenario planning to give a range of outcomes using multiple climate projections on surface water and groundwater supplies. It also addresses a future without and with additional adaptation options.

Dr. Halper reviewed key decisions made by stakeholders for the modeling and gave an overview of the modeling processes. Surface water model results show consistently hotter temperatures, and generally more variable precipitation. Increases in “no-flow” days were projected, particularly in April, May and August that will affect conditions in riparian areas.

Peer review of groundwater modeling results is currently underway. Next steps include looking further at adaptation strategies with stakeholders, analyzing select strategies, and performing a trade-off analysis of adaptation measures. The goal is to provide useful information to assist entities in improving water reliability in the LSCR Basin.

The presentation is available [HERE](#).

6. EPAC Top Environmental Issues List for 2020

Lee Comrie, PAG Sustainability Coordinator, reviewed the purpose of the Top Environmental Issues List, and highlighted the major changes from the draft version of EPAC’s Top Environmental Issues List for 2020 compared to the 2019 Top Issues List. A discussion on the clarity within the “Solid Waste Reduction” and “Climate Variability” sections led to minor revisions to the [Draft Issues List for 2020](#).
**Action:** A motion was made by Kim Franklin and seconded by Grace Evans to approve the EPAC Top Environmental Issues List 2020 and forward it to PAG’s Executive Director. The motion was unanimously approved.

7. **Regional Mobility and Accessibility Plan (RMAP) Update**

Jeanette DeRenne, PAG Planning Manager, provided a progress update on the 2045 Regional Mobility and Accessibility Plan (RMAP) Update. This long-range transportation plan for the Tucson metropolitan area is a federally mandated document that is required to be updated at least every four years and be fiscally constrained. This RMAP covers the period from 2020 to 2045 and builds on the plan adopted in May 2016. It uses updated demographic data, project updates and revenue projections, and performance reporting. Adjustments were made for the completed projects. Ms. DeRenne reviewed the RMAP Update timeline, addressed the minor changes since the last plan development, and next steps that involve modeling, performance measures and an air quality analysis.

The presentation is available [HERE](#).

8. **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:56 a.m.