



Issam Najm, President; Susan Gorman-Chang, Vice President; Gabriel Khanlian, Secretary; Andrew Krowne, Treasurer; David Balen, Signer; Cheri Derohanian; Jason Hector; Alex Kim; Becky Leveque; Jennifer Milbauer

**Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council (PRNC)
Sustainability Committee Meeting
Tuesday, December 6, 2016
Porter Ranch Library
11371 Tampa Ave
Porter Ranch, CA**

Sustainability Committee Meeting Minutes

Item #1 --Meeting called to order by Chair Susan Gorman-Chang at 6:06 pm.

Item #2 --Welcome & Introductions—Susan welcomed committee members & stakeholders.

Item #3 --Roll Call—Susan called the roll. We have 80% (4 out of 5) Sustainability Committee members present, so we have quorum.

Here (4)	Susan Gorman-Chang-Board -Member & Chair, David Balen-Board Member, Lane Semper-stakeholder, Assad Y. Alnajjar -stakeholder
Absent (1)	Jason Hector-Board Member

Item #4 --Comments from the Chair- David Balen is the Co-Chair of the Sustainability Committee. Susan will let everyone know when the next Sustainability Meeting will occur. Generally, except for January, the Sustainability Committee Meetings will be the first Tuesday of each month.

Item #5 -- Approval of Minutes- Motion made by Susan and seconded by David to approve the November 1, 2016 Sustainability Committee Minutes. Vote to approve minutes was as follows:

Agree (4)	David Balen, Susan Gorman-Chang, Lane Semper, Assad Y. Alnajjar
Disagree (0)	
Abstain (0)	
Absent (0)	

Motion to approve minutes passed unanimously.

Item #6 - Presentation from Mayor Garcetti staff members Kevin Taylor, West Valley Area Representative & Lauren Faber-O'Connor, Deputy Chief Sustainability Officer. (Hilary Firestone was unable to attend.)

Kevin explained he is the West Valley Area Representative for Mayor Garcetti's office and his geographic area includes 17 Neighborhood Councils. Kevin introduced each Sustainability Committee Member to Lauren, and then introduced us to Lauren who is the Deputy Chief Sustainability Officer. Lauren started off by stating that even before Aliso leak (blowout) was sealed, there was discussion on how to hold SoCalGas and regulators accountable to right what's wrong. How can we make Porter Ranch a model community moving

forward? Not only for leadership but other reasons such as energy resilience, improving economic & home values, and encouraging creative solutions. The city found Porter Ranch to be a community that is willing to move forward, and so they convened the robust survey process to find out what community members would want for a sustainable community. She explained that especially after what the Porter Ranch and surrounding areas went through with Aliso Canyon (well blowout) that working towards Porter Ranch, Chatsworth, Granada Hills and Northridge Neighborhoods becoming Net Zero Energy Communities would be a very positive step forward.

We have the potential to become LA's first Net Zero Energy neighborhood! Lauren explained Net Zero Neighborhood means "the total amount of energy used by all the buildings on an annual basis is roughly equal to the amount of renewable energy created in that area." This entails the use of clean energy, instituting practices to conserve energy, and to be energy efficient. We need to combat the large impact the Aliso Canyon Gas Storage Facility's well blowout and largest release of methane in history has on climate change, and mitigate its effects since it has been a major setback to California's battle to combat climate change.

As part of the Mayor's Sustainable City Plan, Lauren stated they are trying to engage residents to adopt the plan in a formal way. This can be going on the website, signing up online, or telling your story, and they will put the story with pictures in their Sustainability Annual Report. Right now it is non-profits and universities participating, but they would love to get neighborhoods involved as well. This can be an opportunity to think through how to educate the community.

Lauren walked through the Power Point, entitled "Net Zero Energy (NZE) Community Strategies for Porter Ranch, Chatsworth, Granada Hills and Northridge Neighborhoods." The NZE Community is guided by the following principles: 1. Restore community pride 2. Improve home values 3. Improve public spaces, health, infrastructure and community assets 4. Reduce energy and water costs.

Porter Ranch has enough roof space to meet all of its own power needs with solar! Before we address that issue, we can first work with LADWP to ensure energy efficiency. The Power Point included some simple interventions that homeowners can take to improve property value as well as reduce energy costs, such as adding insulation, installing "cool roofs", replacing windows with high performance glass, replacing traditional light bulbs with L.E.D. and other measures. The pages showed costs savings of such measures, and also showed LADWP rebates, state rebates and payback periods. The amounts are all calculable. In the Power Point were several pages on these residential upgrade costs based on an average 2,000 square foot house. One thing interesting is LADWP has an energy audit program where a LADWP employee comes into your home with an energy checklist. The LADWP auditor does a review and the customer ends up equipped with a to-do list, including what is the cost of the suggested improvement, what does that mean in dollars saved, in decrease in greenhouse gases and in energy use.

"Cool roofs" are roofs made of lighter colored, more reflective materials that keep the roof from absorbing so much heat. As of 2014, Los Angeles mandated that all new roofs on newly built residential properties must be "cool roofs", and they are interested in expanding this to commercial properties. Many of these types of programs have rebates that LADWP offers, such as the AC Optimization Program, where LADWP this past summer provided free tune-ups for qualifying air conditioning systems in homes and then installed for free a Nest programmable thermostat. Energy efficiencies also save homeowners money in the form of decreased energy bills. Kevin stressed that in addition to saving money and saving energy, moving toward alternative energy sources is the right thing to do for Los Angeles and for our planet. Ideas for PRNC:

- Invite LADWP to give a presentation on home Energy Audits, and these energy saving programs/rebates at a PRNC meeting

To further reduce Los Angeles's urban heat island effect, there is a huge effort to plant more trees. This works to help create cool surfaces & cool pavements. The LA Bureau of Street Services are always looking for areas interested in piloting cool surfaces, whether a parking or cul de sac. Lauren stated they have to do a lot of tests before it is used on roads. Bureau is very much looking for partners to pilot different cool surfaces, in the name of reducing the LA urban heat island. Local mall or parking lot, for example, would be good and David suggested the upcoming Village shopping center in Porter Ranch as a possible venue. One of the things they're going to be trying, is a dynamic sidewalk that generates electricity. Assad added he is familiar with this and Elmer Street is supposedly 100% green, with solar power and water reclamation. This is the same concept but the sidewalk would generate electricity. This pilot is near where Freeways 5 and 170 meet at Elmer & Kester. The whole street collects water that would otherwise be run off as well. Assad gave them the blue prints for that, and it is considered a demo. Ideas for PRNC:

- If/when this cool surfaces/cool pavement program expands, have a "Cul-de-sac Competition" for location of next energy generating sidewalk in Porter Ranch.

For solar, Lauren explained that Porter Ranch actually has a relatively high penetration compared to the rest of the city, but again we have so many residences that still have not installed solar in Porter Ranch. Solar is very much supported by the City, and by the Mayor. City has really ambitious goals to increase solar use in Los Angeles. Los Angeles is very conscious of trying to have equitable distribution of solar across our city. LADWP is in the first few years of its incentive program and it has been good in providing payback. It reached a point where now it's looking to phase in possibly tiering the rebates to focus on areas that are not accessing the solar as much. The city does that for a few reasons. It is important for system to be stable, so we don't have pockets of extreme amounts of electricity coming to the grid, making it more evenly distributed from a system stabilization standpoint. Also, an important principle is to ensure all communities, typically lower-income, have opportunity to have these programs come to their homes. There are some neighborhoods really in the red when it comes to how much solar is in that neighborhood. Lauren stated the city is trying to find ways to improve outreach and incentives to them. The city can't give direct incentives to certain neighborhoods based on incomes, as much as we would like to do that. Legally we cannot do that, but we can look at the equitable distribution of solar. We're beginning to look more and more at that.

Susan brought up Grid Alternatives, an organization that provides free solar to homes in certain neighborhoods meeting certain income thresholds, and is funded by the state. Susan stated many people are intimidated at the research and decisions that must be made as an individual homeowner when making choices about solar, such as whether to lease or to buy, and how to finance it, etc. Maybe an educational workshop would be good.

Lauren said they are also looking ahead on how to integrate solar with battery storage. This is an area she thinks we'll see more from LADWP, especially batteries at the residential level and community level. There's a lot of interesting things happening with batteries for homes, businesses and utility scale. Also, possibly there could be batteries by block or substation, and David mentioned getting HOAs involved would be a great idea. Assad explained how the batteries work on the street lights in Porter Ranch. A full day's solar charge runs batteries for 5 nights. On bigger systems, batteries life span is about an average of 4 years. Smaller batteries, like those on the street lights in Porter Ranch, have been on for 7 years now, so they seem to last longer. These batteries were guaranteed for 10 years.

One of the things Lauren says they talked about with neighborhood council a while ago was piloting an energy resilient fire station. The city will be working with a fire station in Porter Ranch to install solar panels and battery storage. This enables broader resilience in the community. Lauren believes this particular fire station battery system will be just for backup if they lose power from the grid. But we want to also be piloting batteries dynamically being used. It can be used in small amounts all throughout the day to smooth out energy demand.

LADWP wants to be able to find the answers. There are a lot of different questions: the right technology for the battery itself, right grid-level technology to be able to have 2-way communication, and other issues. Los Angeles currently has a smart grid pilot, in Chatsworth, where 50,000 smart meters were distributed in homes throughout Chatsworth for 2-way communication with the LADWP. They're not really in other parts of the city yet. These pilot program real time meters are able to have 2-way communication where LADWP could actually tell your thermostat to either turn off or raise it up a degree as needed for the health of the grid.

Ideas for PRNC:

- Conduct a Solar Workshop with panelists*
 - LADWP (to explain net metering)
 - Dr. Loraine Lundquist- CSUN
 - Dr. Hassan- CSUN
 - Possibly several solar company representatives?*

**Attorney for PRNC stated we have to be careful in inviting only one solar business to speak only because it may look like PRNC is recommending that business and we cannot do that.*

Susan stated she called LADWP and they said they do not have someone who can speak on solar, explaining the impact on your LADWP bill such as net metering. Kevin will follow up on this and get us a name from LADWP.

Lauren suggested visiting the La Kretz Innovation Campus, which has the LADWP home of the future. It is partially owned by city. LADWP has an awesome display called Home of the Future. See <http://lincubator.org/la-kretz-innovation-campus/>. Ideas for PRNC:

- Plan a field trip to La Kretz Innovation Campus

Possible funding sources for the Net Zero Energy (NZE) Program include methane mitigation funds received in the lawsuit between State of California and SoCalGas. Currently, this lawsuit is out of the city's control. Mayor Garcetti has spoken to the State, SoCalGas, California Air Resources Board (CARB), LA City Attorney and Senator Fran Pavley, strongly advocating for some of these mitigation measures and funds to come back to Porter Ranch. There is disagreement over the time horizon to be used for the methane mitigation. California state advocated 86/90 over 20 year time horizon, but SoCal Gas originally advocated "100 years at 20xs" more potent. Lauren believes Air Resources Board, state regulator, has agreed 20-year time horizon but we have to pay close attention. This makes huge difference on money spent on mitigation. SoCalGas wants a 100 year timeline while CARB is advocating for 20 year timeline.

Lane suggested going up to Sacramento to meet with CARB, and Lauren said that may be good.

Some ideas for PRNC:

- Meet with CARB in Sacramento
- Write letter commenting on CARB's draft of their "Aliso Canyon Methane Leak Climate Impacts Mitigation Program-Draft"
- Sign up for CARB notification emails
- Sign up for Los Angeles Public Health Department notification emails
- Sign up for CAISO notification emails

Questions & Answers

Lauren & Kevin then opened it up to questions. Lane asked about why LADWP started out pledging 100% renewable energy as a goal, then seemed to backpedal to 65% by 2035. Lauren explained that there are parallel processes going on. First is the Integrated Resources Plan, which has renewable goals and has to be realistic. The 65% goal does not preclude it from going above that to even 100%. The IRP is done every two years by LADWP. The 100% renewable energy concept is being studied by the city of Los Angeles, as it was passed as a motion by the LA City Council. However, there is no target date for this study.

Lane asked Lauren if she could locate any recording of Mayor Garcetti's statements at the Environmental Leaders Meeting at the Garden & River Center on October 13, 2016, where he said "Yes" in support of the idea from Senator Fran Pavley, who suggested purchasing Hidden Creek and to place windmills and solar panels on Aliso Canyon's south facing mountains. Mayor Garcetti then expressed praise for Senator Pavley's work, suggested assistance for getting solar panels on housing in lower income communities in Los Angeles, and that Porter Ranch needs to be a model.

Lauren stated that we as a city are in pretty good shape with LADWP being a municipal utility, and it owns its own generation. It is really interesting to have conversations around the concept of the utility of the future. A municipality like our LADWP, which owns a lot of its power generation, includes owning big solar projects and big wind projects.

The other piece we haven't had a chance to talk about, that plays a big role in the Integrated Resource Plan, and in renewables, is electric vehicles. Utilities outside of LADWP, are unfortunately fighting the electric model. It's more expensive for them, and they feel there are unanswered questions such as who's going to deal with the infrastructure, etc. LADWP has taken, Lauren believes, an exceptional approach in incentivizing and push, enable more electric vehicles in the city.

Item #7 – Public Comments

Dr. Loraine Lundquist (who joined meeting at around 7:15 pm) brought up ideas to discuss with LADWP, including community wind farms and solar farms. She also discussed the possibility of HOA input on these issues, which is an efficient way to reach a lot of homeowners in the community.

Item #8 – Update on solar workshop



See above comments on potential solar workshop and other ideas/goals which were discussed during the Net Zero Energy (NZE) presentation.

Item #9- Committee Member Comments & Announcement

Lane brought up idea that Senator Pavley had aired, which was potentially purchasing Hidden Creek and turning it into a solar or wind farm. Kevin suggested getting together with non-profit conservancy type entities to see if this could work.

Item #10- Motion to adjourn

Meeting was adjourned at 7:55 pm