



**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, November 1, 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 6:05 pm.

Item #2 –Welcome & Introductions—Susan welcomed committee members & stakeholders. Stakeholders Mike & Ann Lahn were concerned about a Sober Living House opening near Beckford Elementary and some concerns about dead lawns. We explained what Sustainability Committee’s focus will be, and we invited them to attend the PRNC Board Meeting on Wednesday, November 9, 2016 and to bring up these concerns during public comment, which they indicated they will do, and they left the meeting as they believed the Board Meeting was the more proper venue they sought.

Item #3 --Roll Call—Susan called the roll. We have 100% of Sustainability Committee members present, so we have quorum.

Here (5)	Susan Gorman-Chang-Board Member & Chair, David Balen-Board Member, Jason Hector-Board Member, Lane Semper-stakeholder, Assad Y. Alnajjar –stakeholder
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Item #4 –Comments from the Chair

Meetings will be first Tuesday of each month. This Community Room at Porter Ranch Library seems to be working well for our committee meetings thus far.

Item #5 – Mission Statement Discussion & Approval

Discussion

Discussion was held regarding the draft mission statement. Mission statement was tweaked from the original proposal. We discussed possible partnerships we could have with local schools. David suggested speaking with Scott, school board member, and asking their board to consider working towards PRCS being a sustainable school. Also discussed teaching kids sustainable practices and gardening and possible mapping of schools with different ratings/programs.

David made the motion and Jason seconded the motion to approve the Mission Statement for PRNC Sustainability Committee as follows:

*The mission of the Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council Sustainability Committee is to advance and promote sustainable living practices in our community through education, events, workshops, sharing of information/best practices and by forgoing partnerships with other organizations, local schools, businesses and vendors, and promote renewable and clean energy sources, reduce waste, promote recycling and conserve energy.*



Vote was as follows:

Agree (5)	David Balen, Susan Gorman-Chang, Jason Hector, Lane Semper, Assad Y. Alnajjar
Disagree (0)	
Abstain (0)	
Absent (0)	

Motion passed unanimously.

Item #6 Discussion & recommendation to PRNC Board for potential motion:

*The Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council moves to support the letter recommended by the board of the Neighborhood Council Sustainability Alliance that calls for LADWP to reach 100% renewable energy by 2030, to refrain from any new investments in fossil fuel infrastructure, and to ensure that all residents of Los Angeles reap the benefits of this transition.*

Discussion

We discussed this motion, its background from the Neighborhood Council Sustainability Alliance (NCSA), and the letter drafted by NCSA, mentioned in the motion. Dr. Loraine Lundquist, stakeholder gave us some background of the LADWP Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) process, since she is on the Advisory Board. Current plans for power are for LA to get off coal which is really good, and replacing that with some renewables, etc. Unfortunately, at this point, some of that replacement is slated to be increasing the usage of “natural” gas to generate electricity. Not increasing gas by a lot -- roughly 21% and going to 25%. They are increasing the renewable energy percentage also. The state last year passed a law mandating 50% renewables by 2030.

LA City Council passed a resolution to study how LA could achieve 100% clean energy, but resolution has no timeline or completion date or implementation date. LADWP is talking about a large gas generation facility on the coast that needs to come into compliance and spending money to achieve this. The cost to upgrade this gas facility is proposed at \$2.2 billion, because it is basically going to be rebuilt from the inside out. This is controversial because this would be funding a gas facility which will have to be taken offline when LA goes 100% clean energy, so it becomes a “stranded assets.” This does not make too much sense to invest all that money in a gas facility when solar prices have come down so much.

Susan asked Loraine why the move to renewable energy is so difficult for LA. Loraine answered there are two basic reasons. 1. LADWP is very resistant to change; there is a lot of old thinking at LADWP. Change is hard for most people. 2. LADWP is looking at their production needs for the future, especially with the forecast rise of more electric vehicles, and they’re looking at storage in the form of batteries which is still fairly expensive.

Susan asked what being a “balance authority” means for LA. Loraine explained that LADWP must generate electricity to meet demand at every instant. LADWP must match supply & demand while everyone is using power 24/7. LA does its own balancing. San Diego is smaller, and thus the California Independent System Operator (CAISO) does the balancing for them. ISO balances for a much larger region. San Diego is basically just a customer; so if they only want to only buy solar/renewables, they can. San Diego does not have to figure out how to get their own grid to balance every second like LA does.

It is written into the city charter of LA that we can’t buy electricity without it being sold by LADWP. The good news with LADWP, being a municipal utility, is that we the people own everything, including the plants, the grid, and the distribution stations. It is interesting to note that the CAISO says Los Angeles can achieve 100% clean energy.



David made the motion and Lane seconded the motion as written above in italics.

Vote was as follows:

Agree (5)	David Balen, Susan Gorman-Chang, Jason Hector, Lane Semper, Assad Y. Alnajjar
Disagree (0)	
Abstain (0)	
Absent (0)	

Motion passed unanimously.

Item #7-- Discussion & Recommendation to Board for potential motion: *The Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council moves to form an **Aliso Canyon Gas Storage Oversight Committee** separate and distinct from the Sustainability Committee.*

Discussion

Assad stated this is a good idea, as it takes issue off our committee so we can focus on clean solutions and new technology. Jason stated we need a committee to focus on this as long as facility is operating, and he strongly recommends we have standing committee and that Becky advocated for this, too. Jason has been asking to put this motion on the Board Agenda for some time. Motion was amended to read:

*The Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council moves to form an **Aliso Canyon Gas Storage Oversight Committee** .*

Motion – Jason made the motion (above) and Assad seconded. Vote was follows:

Agree (5)	David Balen, Susan Gorman-Chang, Jason Hector, Lane Semper, Assad Y. Alnajjar
Disagree (0)	
Abstain (0)	
Absent (0)	

Motion passed unanimously.

Item #8 Public Comments on Non-Agenda Items: None

Item #9: Pick My Solar workshop discussion

Pick My Solar is a company, started by CSUN alumnae, that is willing to do a community workshop for us. They did one at CSUN already. What they do as a company, is figure out what type of solar panel system a household is interested in, design it, and then they put it out for bids to the major vendors. Pick My Solar fee comes from the solar firm the household eventually chooses. Their fee represents the marketing costs that the firm *would* have had to do to secure that business, which can be as much as \$3,000 - \$4,000. Pick My Solar is trying to make it easier for the customers, and easier for the companies to find customers. If you want to get solar & call different companies to get quotes, you may be comparing apples to oranges so to speak because each vendor will design a slightly different solar system and uses different solar panel manufacturers. Pick My Solar sends out the design specifications to firms for bids, so you are definitely comparing apples to apples so to speak.



Pick My Solar can also explain, in a workshop for the community, the pros/cons of leasing versus buying, and of the various financing options. Their workshop will take a couple hours.

We discussed that we need lead time to do outreach and advertising, and to secure a facility such as Porter Ranch Community School for this workshop. We need to take it to the PRNC Board for approval as well. Taking all this into account, it will probably be in early 2017, after the holidays.

Grid Alternatives, a non-profit organization that provides solar panels to qualifying geographic areas of LA with homeowners with qualifying income below a certain threshold, for free, may be a good speaker at another future workshop.

Motion to adjourn at 8:00 pm.