

**May 14, 2012 Policy Committee Recommendations on Commission Goals and Action Items to Achieve Goals for Calendar Year 2012 for recommendation to the Commission on the Environment.** (Continued from the April 30, 2012 Meeting) Sponsor: Commissioner Johanna Wald (Discussion and Possible Action)

Commissioner Wald suggested that the Committee select priorities for the Commission and Policy Committee to work on for the remainder of the year so that there can be better synergy between Department and Commission activities. Commissioners discussed the need to develop an organizing principle for Commission/Committee work similar to what was done in the past with the Urban Environmental Accords. Director Nutter reported on her participation in the City of Gwangju, Korea's, Environmental Accords Summit and the Department's participation in the Urban Environmental Accords Secretariat, which the Department is co-chairing along with the City of Gwangju. She discussed their plans to hold a conference next year and invite cities from around the world to participate.

Commissioner Gravanis suggested updating the City's Sustainability Plan that has sunsetted and using it as the organizing principle for future work. She suggested comparing Strategic Plan goals to Sustainability Plan goals in order to identify gaps. Commissioner Wald discussed the importance of developing a regular process for updating the Sustainability Plan and the need to develop a framework document that can identify a longer-term vision and goals, metrics, and funding for goals that are not in the current plan. Director Nutter concurred that the Sustainability Plan should be updated and used as a way to articulate the City's sustainability vision to the Commission, Department staff, and other stakeholders. She discussed the correlation between the components of the Climate Action Strategy and the Sustainability Plan. Director Nutter suggested that Mr. Corey Marshall from SPUR present to the Committee on the idea of the Department working with a consulting firm to update the Sustainability Plan.

Commissioner Wald suggested that the Committee prioritize its work in order to help the Department move the Biodiversity Plan forward and identify what should be accomplished on the plan by the end of the year. Commissioner Gravanis pointed out that biodiversity is a key gap in the Strategic Plan. Director Nutter suggested that the Committee structure future meetings around the priorities that have been identified in order to have continuity and identify important elements of each priority. Commissioner Wald suggested climate work and identifying the role that San Francisco can have in educating other jurisdictions about what can be done to address this issue as another priority to work on. Director Nutter reported that the Climate Action Strategy and Renewable Energy Task Force recommendations would be available for Commissioner's input into key actions and strategies and suggested continued meetings at the Committee level on this priority.

Public Comment:

Ms. Lurilla Harris suggested establishing a timeline and deadline for each priority. She stated that schools should be incorporated into this effort because kids are being

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taught about biodiversity, and they are the generation who will be making the difference.

Mr. Steven Krefting former Vice-Chair of the Commission on the Environment, stated that he supports the Sustainability Plan as a framework for work of the Commission and Department. He explained that there are areas where information and technologies have been developed since the Plan was adopted that should be updated. Mr. Krefting discussed the challenges that the Plan presents in that it covers a lot of areas that other Departments and Commissions are working on so would require developing good relationships with those agencies. He advocated for keeping the initial vision broad and tiering the Strategic Plan off the Sustainability Plan. He discussed Charter requirements to create a State of the Environment Report that would require metrics and ways to measure success that the Sustainability Plan does not have built in.

Ms. Franca Gargiulo stated that the reason it is difficult to develop agreeable metrics is because technology changes so fast, and what is not easily doable now, may be possible in the future. Commissioner Wald suggested building adaptable systems for technology changes.

Director Nutter reported that Department staff is reviewing metrics that are in the Strategic Plans for each program area and has worked with the Controller's Office to develop quantifiable metrics for the state of the city report. She reported that there are external entities that want to develop Green City Indexes to compare how cities are doing with one another. She suggested that discussions on sustainability metrics include overall sustainability metrics in the city. It was suggested that meetings around the Sustainability Plan and metrics be held at the full Commission, and that the Committee hold working session meetings around specific topics such as climate and biodiversity, and then provide an update to the Commission.

Commissioner Gravanis suggested that Commissioners be encouraged to be more active as individuals in the community, with other departments, Commissions, and Board of Supervisors as well as have more of a presence in Department activities and environmental events. A discussion was held on how to involve Commissioners more by establishing talking points, identifying specific topics of interest to the Commission, and compiling a list of specific types of engagement that Commissioners could be involved in. Commissioner Wald suggested using the future agenda items topics more strategically so as to inform Commissioners of opportunities in which to be involved. Commissioner Gravanis discussed proactively inviting people who may have community expertise in a certain area to future meetings. Commissioner Wald suggested compiling a list of experts as a reference guide.

**Upon Motion by Commissioner Gravanis, second by Commissioner Wald, the following four priorities were adopted for implementation (1) Sustainability Plan; (2) Biodiversity Plan; (3) Climate/Renewable Energy; and (4) Metrics. (AYES: Commissioners Wald and Gravanis) Commissioner Wald suggested that a discussion be held at the June 11 Policy Committee meeting to develop implementation plans on the four priorities. The Policy Committee would develop the concept for the Sustainability Plan and metrics priorities before it goes to the Commission. Commissioner Wald would provide an**

**update to the Commission on Committee discussions during the Policy Committee report on this topic at the May 22, 2012 meeting.**

**October 25, 2012 Policy Committee Discussion to Identify Action Items to Achieve Selected Goals for Calendar Year 2012.** (Explanatory Document: Department of the Environment Strategic Plan New Goals and Timeline Draft) (Continued from the September 10, 2012 Meeting) Sponsors: Director Nutter, Commissioners Wald and Gravanis (Discussion and Possible Action)

- A. Department of the Environment's Proposed Strategic Plan Goals and how the Strategic Plan and Planning Process Affect the Four Priorities previously Selected by the Policy Committee.
- B. Strategies for prioritizing Policy Committee activities.

Director Nutter reported that the timeline for the proposed Strategic Plan process has been delayed due to work on other pressing projects, and that senior staff is in the process of reviewing and developing objectives related to goals. Commissioner Gravanis stated that her impression was that the draft goals have not yet been approved by the Commission and asked for more opportunity for the Commission to provide input. She provided input into the current goals and expressed her preference for the previous format that included an outline of how the program areas and work would fit into goals.

Commissioner Arce (1) spoke in support of the language for goal 2, (2) suggested that goal 3 should read "...promote social and economic equity, environmental justice, and job creation" and (3) suggested creating a goal for the Department that would encompass all four goals that would be similar to a mission statement. Director Nutter stated that an overarching theme would be a vision statement, and that goals would be the actual work to be done to meet that vision. Commissioner Gravanis suggested that there be thought to how Strategic Plan goals would correlate with a Sustainability Plan, the Charter mandate and Commission Bylaws, and if they don't correlate, to recommend changes be made.

Commissioner Gravanis asked to consider ways to combine the four Strategic Plan goals with the four priority goals selected by the Policy Committee (climate/renewable energy, Sustainability Plan, metrics and biodiversity), and making it into a work program for Commissioners. Director Nutter reported that a Climate Action Strategy should be available for the Committee's review at the December meeting and for implementation starting in January 2013. In the area of metrics, an intern has been hired to catalogue all of the metrics that are currently required from different sources, and the Commission will be asked to consider what to do with the data. A temporary position is being created to work on biodiversity, and Commissioners can provide input into the work plan. There has been a lot of interest expressed by stakeholders to start work on the Sustainability Plan and there are a lot of various plans for sustainability in other jurisdictions. After review of these plans, Commissioners could consider what form a Sustainability Plan should take, whether it is an actual plan or should take another form.