



DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO

To: Commissioners, Commission on the Environment
From: Jared Blumenfeld, Director
Re: Monthly Report: August – September 2005
Date: September 27, 2005

ADMINISTRATION/GENERAL

The department hired two new School Education Associates for the new school year. They are Ethan Crough and Christine Hansell. Additionally, the department hired Melissa Capria as new Climate Coordinator, and Melinda Hue as new Green Building Associate.

The department is recruiting for two Recycling Associates to replace current staff who have completed their time appointments. Interviews have been scheduled for the Commercial Recycling Associate position, while applications for the City Government Recycling Associate position are being accepted until October 7th.

The SFE senior management team will have a strategic planning meeting on October 19th, and an all-staff retreat on October 20th.

ENERGY

Climate

- Hired a Climate Action Coordinator, Melissa Capria
- Began attending meetings of the Governors Climate Action Team
- Deciding among membership opportunities at the California Climate Action Registry, ICLEI and Chicago Climate Exchange
- Preparing for certification of CCSF green house gas production

Energy

Planning and Funding:

- Negotiating with PG&E on contract for 2006-08
- Scheduling follow-up meeting on SF Housing energy use
- Continue to attend meetings on Community Choice Aggregation Task Force and LAFCO. Key issues are organization, bond funding, and how to cover up-front costs.
- Commented on several CPUC decisions on energy efficiency for the 2006-08 program year

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Peak Energy Program:

- Peak Energy Program savings have been over-reported by PG&E due to a systemic “accounting problem”. PEP has saved only 9.7 MW, though 18 MW have been saved in SF from PEP and other PG&E programs during the same period. This is very frustrating because PG&E has spent \$14 million when Power Savers produced 6 MW with \$8 million. We have reported this to the CPUC Energy Division.
- PEP has designed several programs to expend remaining funds; however, PG&E has repeatedly adopted similar programs making a special PEP incentive program redundant.
- Working with the Water department on water and energy measures in the hotel and food service sectors
- We continue to provide commercial energy audits and replace defective LED “open” signs.

Legislative Initiatives: No action

Renewables:

- Generation Solar: Contracts are slowly being signed. Panels are not readily available. Adding solar water heating to the program to capture new rebates and tax credits.
- Solar on the Civic Center parking garage has met almost all approvals.
- Tidal: PUC has agreed to pay for the Phase 1 study
- Wave: PUC has agreed to pay for the Phase 1 and Phase 2 studies
- Urban Wind: a new machine design is on display at Randall Museum

CLEAN AIR PROGRAM

1. City Bicycle Fleet Program: CAP identified City staff with DPH, MUNI, Planning, Recreation and Parks Department, and City Attorney's office who make significant number of vehicle trips as part of their daily work duties. In an effort to mitigate these vehicle trips, CAP distributed 30 bicycles to aforementioned departments.

2. Telecommuting Project: Telecommuting program is now in it's final stage of implementation. City's first official telecommuting program will be available to all City employees by the end of September, 2005. CAP secured \$50,000 TFCA funds for telecommuting equipment purchase and played a major role in the development of the policy/program.

3. Commuter Benefits Program: CAP staff randomly selected new participants from commuter benefits program and distributed 75 commuter check vouchers worth \$45 value each, and as part of commuter benefits program marketing campaign. This marketing campaign was very successful and resulted in nearly 150 new program participants. Currently, 3500 City employees are enrolled in City's Commuter Benefits program.

4. Citywide Bicycle Project(s): CAP in partnership with San Francisco Bicycle Coalition (SFBC) and Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) applied for Air District's Transportation Fund for Clean Air (TFCA) grant to pay for Citywide bikemapping system development. This project is expected to increase bicycle usage in San Francisco by providing safe and efficient bike routes and trip plans to San Francisco commuters.

5. Emergency Ride Home Program: CAP staff conducted very successful citywide outreach/marketing campaign around City's Emergency Ride Home (ERH) program. As a result, 50 San Francisco businesses signed up for San Francisco Emergency Ride Home program (ERH) in an effort to reduce vehicle trips.
6. Commute Alternatives outreach: CAP continued vanpool, carpool/rideshare, and bicycle use marketing campaign to all City employees. As a result, 25 new City employees signed up to use City Hall Bike Room, and CAP staff received numerous calls from City staff wanting information to sign up for vanpool or carpool.
7. CAP staff attended international Association for Commuter Transportation (ACT) conference in Anaheim. This annual conference is a venue for Transportation Demand Management (TDM) experts/professionals to share best practices and success/failure stories of their trip reduction programs from all over the world.
8. CAP staff assisted Department of Parking and Traffic (DPT) safe routes to school program with outreach/marketing material to encourage/promote ridesharing at all San Francisco schools. DPT is considering the transfer of some safe routes to school program activities to CAP.
9. Alternative Fuels: RFQ to assist with Clean Air Program's alternative fuels work was released in September and it's being advertised to find qualified candidates.

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

Evaluation of the Environmental Justice (EJ) program: Tech Law, Inc. started collecting information for its evaluation of the EJ grant program. It developed an evaluation instrument and started interviewing the organizations that received grant awards during the first funding cycle (2001).

Issuance of RFP for Solar Installations: On September 12, 2004, we issued a new RFP for the installation of solar systems on non-profit buildings and low-income housing in the Southeast neighborhoods of Potrero and Bayview Hunters Point. Grant applications in response to the solar RFP are due on October 18, 2005, and up to \$235,000 funds from Duke Energy legal settlement may be awarded.

Bayview Farmers Market relocated: The Bayview farmers' market was launched in May 2005 and was relocated from Bayview Plaza area to the Bayview Opera House. The farmers market is open every Saturday morning, from 9:30 to 1:30, and has been visited by a steady stream of approximately 150 people during the 4-hour period. We will work with Girls 2000, a non-profit organization, in providing a pumpkin patch at the farmers market for the Halloween holiday.

San Francisco Electric Reliability Project – the staff of the California Energy Commission has issued the preliminary staff assessment (PSA) for the City's proposed combustion turbine project, also known as the San Francisco Electric Reliability project (SFERP). A copy of this PSA may be obtained via the internet, at <http://www.energy.ca.gov/2005publications/CEC-700-2005-021/CEC-700-2005-021-PSA.PDF>.

The PSA states that CEC staff did not find any significant direct or cumulative impact generated by the construction or operation of the proposed SFERP and therefore, SFERP is not considered to have a

disproportionate impact on an EJ community. The PSA notes that one of the main objectives of SFERP is the shut-down of existing more polluting in-City electrical generation.

RECYCLING

- Presented on new City Virtual Warehouse to over 150 City department purchasers.
- Launched container recycling 25 Van Ness with 5 departments.
- Presented recycling and composting training to 25 members of Tzu Chi Foundation.
- Met with building management at 3 large apartment complexes to increase recycling and consider composting.
- Diverted over 66% of waste stream from 20,000 person Power to the Peaceful event.
- Presented to Department of Telecommunications and Information Services and Department of Human Resources on how resource conservation can lead to cost savings and Union/City Partnership gainsharing.
- The Department of Building Inspection (DBI) Code Advisory Committee and its Green Building Subcommittee reviewed the draft Construction & Demolition Debris Recovery Ordinance and conferred their support with some proposed changes. The ordinance should next be reviewed by the DBI Commission at their next meeting in October.
- Selected and contracted for a Refuse Ratepayer Advocate for the upcoming Refuse Rate application review.
- Refuse Rate review process began with first public workshop on the rate process held on September 9th
- Reached resolution with Bay Area Air Quality Management District, Norcal, Cummins and Westport regarding past and future grants.
- California Integrated Waste Management Board approved their Five Year Review of San Francisco's Integrated Waste Management Plan and expressed appreciation for the City as a model for the state.
- SFO Director proposes to adopt City zero waste and compost resolutions
- Rolled out first phase of Stonestown's composting program at Olive Garden Restaurant and facilitated Medicine Eat Station, a new restaurant at the Crocker Galleria, in participating in composting and recycling
- Met with IRS Solutions that is offering a technology and assistance program for large food service operations to measure and evaluate their discards to reduce waste.
- Participated in San Francisco Food Alliance Roundtable promoting goals and strategies for a sustainable food system.
- Met with delegation from New Zealand who are planning to implement recycling and composting programs similar to San Francisco's.

TOXICS REDUCTION:

Toxics – Residential

- **Grant to Improve the Health of Older Adults by Improving the Environment:**
Beginning work on this grant awarded by Federal EPA. The objective of the grant is to educate targeted groups of San Francisco's underserved senior community on alternatives to toxic products used in and around the home. SFE will partner with specific senior organizations to reach the senior community through direct, face-to-face outreach.
- **Motor Oil Program**
 - Conducted used oil outreach in SF Asian communities through a grant to Charity Cultural Services Center. CCSC reached approximately 25,000 households through door-to-door outreach and many individuals through community events and personal outreach at the DMV, supermarkets and other local stores.
 - Completed residential used motor oil diversion study. Through a calculation of estimates of used oil available per registered vehicle in San Francisco and used oil recycled by those who change their own oil, San Francisco is at a 48% recycling rate.
 - Conducted focus groups with English, Spanish and Chinese speakers to assess barriers to proper used oil disposal and incentives to help change behavior.

Toxics – Commercial

- **Healthcare Pollution Prevention-** SFE is hosting the second session in a series of Pollution Prevention roundtables on Universal Waste Recycling and Management at health care institutions on October 17th from 2-4 pm at UCSF Laurel Heights Campus. SFE is also developing a fact sheet on Pharmaceuticals Waste Management for hospitals.
- **Dental Mercury Reduction Program –** SFE is presenting program successes of the San Francisco Dental Mercury Reduction Program to pollution prevention and public health professionals at the Western Regional Pollution Prevention Network Conference from September 28-30th.
- **Garment Cleaning-** SFE has given a grant to Occidental College to setup wet cleaning demonstration sites. The goal of the program is to conduct outreach to garment cleaners that do perc-based cleaning and encourage them to switch to wet cleaning technology.

Toxics - Municipal

- **Environmentally Preferable Purchasing:**

- Public Participation Guidelines adopted: (see attachment to packet).
 - Battery factsheet: Completed purchasing factsheet for distribution to City purchasers and rechargeable battery factsheet for general distribution.
 - Regional EPP Network is born: SFE hosted a meeting of Bay Area EPP programs, as follow-through from WED purchasing event. Scoping document is being drafted by consultant for a regional EPP network, aiming at sharing product screening and other functions among agencies.
- Integrated Pest Management
 - Golf tournament increases pesticide use: SFE granted two exemptions to Rec & Park for fungicide and insecticide use in preparation for the AMEX tournament (Oct.5-9). These exemptions (and previous ones) would not normally have been granted and are a bad precedent – we need to meet with Yomi and possibly the Mayor’s office post-tournament.
 - Fumigation facility proposed: The Port is proposing a 64,000 sq. foot fumigation facility for Pier 80, which will use methyl bromide to fumigate imported produce. Est. to generate \$1 million/year for Port. This kind of fumigation is one of the few methyl bromide uses allowed under the Montreal Protocol; international phytosanitary standards restrict the options, so this is a siting issue. An exemption request for methyl bromide use will probably be filed with SFE soon.
 - Airport pesticide use: A one-time only exemption was granted for pesticide use inside the International Terminal of SFIA on the bamboo grove. Treatment will require shutting down part of the terminal and tenting the plants. An accompanying letter to SFIA recommends replacing the bamboo with a more appropriate plant, since the air-conditioning makes bamboo highly susceptible to infestations.

Green Building – Residential

- Statewide Residential Green Building Guidelines – Initiative was derailed by Yvonne Hunter at the League of California Cities, who has been communicating with Bob Raymer with the CA Building Industry Association. Most likely next step is to finalize the Guidelines and then institute city and county resolutions supporting the Guidelines.
- Green Affordable Housing – Met with MOH’s Housing Development Director and staff to discuss the process of incorporating green building into MOH projects, and

offering SFE's support in the process. Next step will be a meeting with MOH and SFRA.

Green Building – Commercial

- Attended the first meeting of BOMA's new Environment Committee - an expansion of the recycling task force. The committee's goals are to promote sustainable business practices in the commercial real estate industry.

Green Building – Municipal

- SF GreenPRINT – EPA has authorized additional funding for further development of this green building monitoring, evaluation and reporting tool, plus support for outreach activities to other jurisdictions. Staff will be presenting SF GreenPRINT at the USGBC annual conference in Atlanta in November.
- Laguna Honda Hospital – Staff is organizing departmental effort to support LEED Innovation in Design credits:
 1. green housekeeping
 2. integrated pest management
 3. organics recycling
 4. education and outreach
- 25 Van Ness Avenue – Staff is working on space needs assessment, programming, and fundraising for new SF Environment offices.

OUTREACH & EDUCATION

Landmark Tree ordinance approved by City Operations Committee, and moving to full board with recommendation. Committee also moved forward Supervisor Daly's significant tree ordinance without recommendation for approval.

Food to Flowers! school composting program was featured in SF Chronicle, 9/16.

Outreach RFP has moved through written proposal phase, and has selected the following consultants for oral interview: Ogilvy Public Relations, Pacific Communications, O'Rourke, CND, and Solem & Associates.

Street tree Xmas tree program will work operationally with Friends of the Urban Forest. Final details about cost of tree, availability yet to be finalized.

Web hits in August: 364,000. Green building compliance guide was single most-downloaded page, recycling center directory number two: 1,960 and 1,300.

URBAN FORESTRY

Urban Forest Council - Met on September 9th and:

- Approved the 2005 Annual Report;
- Passed a resolution recommending that the Planning Department require a tree disclosure statement as part of all building permit applications that include exterior work, demolition or grading. UFC Coordinator currently working to find BOS sponsor.
- Passed a resolution in support of Plant*SF and other permeable landscaping projects;
- Heard, and responded to, a presentation by Marshall Foster on the Mayor's Better Streets Program, and
- Elected Kelly Quirke as UFC Vice-Chair.

UFC has moved back to a monthly meeting schedule.

Comprehensive Urban Forest: 2nd Draft Completed. Under review by UFC Planning Committee.

Landmark Tree Ordinance: 2 Versions, one sponsored by Supervisor McGoldrick, the other by Supervisor Daly, heard by Neighborhood Services Committee Monday September 19th. McGoldrick's version forwarded to Full Board of Supervisors with Recommendation. (See attached descriptions of two versions)

Pruning Guidelines Brochure- Completed brochure on pruning guidelines for SF residents and businesses. Currently in preparation for printing.

Annual Report: Completed 2005 State of the Urban Forest Report for Mayor and Board of Supervisors. (see attached)

City-wide Pruning Standards- Completed draft of citywide pruning standards as required in UFC enabling ordinance, SFE Strategic Plan, and UFC Street Tree Action Plan. Standards are based on International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) Best Management Practices and ANSI 300 standards, but are tailored to San Francisco. Draft under review by UFC Planning Committee.

Holiday "Peace Tree" Program- Planning underway with Friends of the Urban Forest, UFP and Outreach team.

Significant Tree Ordinance (Daly)

Requires Department of Public Works (DPW) permit, inspection and notification to remove **significant or landmark** trees on public and private property. Hazardous trees can be removed.

Landmark tree nomination

- *UFC creates criteria; DPW Director approves criteria
- *Criteria includes size, age, species, appearance, historical value, ecological value, location
- *No description of how someone nominates a tree
- *Board of Supervisors (BOS) approves tree nominations

Landmark tree removal

- *BOS holds public hearing prior to tree removal
- *BOS approves tree removal

Significant trees

Diameter at breast height (DBH) > 12 inches
Height > 20 feet
Canopy > 15 feet

Emergency tree removal

No information

Cost

People who want to designate or remove a landmark tree must pay costs related to a BOS hearing.

Penalties and Fines

- First violation is \$200
- Maximum fine is \$1000
- Maximum sentence is 6 months in SF County jail
- DPW Director can fine for tree's replacement value or diminishment of value based on CTLA guidelines

Hazard tree amendment

Nuisance trees are redefined as hazard trees in public works code

Tree Advisory Board amendment

Urban Forest Council (UFC) assumes the duties of the defunct Tree Advisory Board

Landmark Tree Ordinance (McGoldrick)

Requires DPW permit, inspection and public notification to remove **landmark** trees on public and private property. Hazardous trees can be removed.

Landmark tree nomination

- *UFC creates criteria; UFC and Director of DPW adopt criteria
- *UFC has a larger role in advising DPW and Zoning Administrator
- *UFC accepts and approves written tree nominations
- *BOS designates landmark trees based on UFC and Director of DPW recommendations

Landmark tree removal

- *Director of DPW holds initial hearing. BOS will hold hearing for if DPW decision is appealed.
- *For trees on city property BOS will consider size, age, species, appearance, historical value, ecological value, location
- *BOS approves tree removal

Emergency tree removal

Private property tree removal: Public Director of DPW issues immediate tree removal and then explains rationale to city agencies, BOS, public
City owned tree removal: Removal is subject to current city agency rules and historical/cultural status

Cost

People who want to designate a landmark tree must pay costs related to UFC hearing (nominal?). People who want to remove a landmark tree must pay costs related to DPW and BOS hearing.

Penalties and fines

Same

Hazard tree amendment

Same

Tree Advisory Board

Same

