

**CAPITAL FACILITIES COMMITTEE ZOOM MEETING
SUMMARY NOTES
Wednesday, January 20, 2021
1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.**

1. **Call to Order** – The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m.
2. **Roll Call:** Committee Members Present: Mayor Claudia Bill-de la Peña and Councilmember Ed Jones. Also present: City Manager Andrew Powers, City Attorney Tracy Noonan, Assistant City Manager Ingrid Hardy, Deputy City Manager Gary Rogers, Finance Director Jaime Boscarino, Public Works Director Clifford Finley, Deputy Public Works Director/City Engineer Nader Heydari, Deputy Finance Director Carrie Matson, Deputy City Attorney Tracy Friedl, Sustainability Division Manager Dr. Helen Cox, Engineering Division Manager Shamir Shahamiri, Senior Engineer Mike Tohidian, Associate Engineer Jorge Muñoz, and Interim Office Supervisor Ester Marcelino

Public: None.

3. **Public Comments:** None.
4. **DPW's CI 5492 Conejo School Road and Willow Lane Sidewalk and Bike Lanes Project – presented by City Engineer Nader Heydari**

Nader Heydari provided a powerpoint presentation describing and providing an update on the project status.

Questions Raised and Staff Responses:

- A. Councilmember Jones
 1. How does the recently completed apartment project on Conejo School Road impact the project?

The City saved money since the apartment building project frontage has been completed. In addition, the owner contributed towards traffic fees and undergrounding of utilities.
 2. Will there be bicycle lanes installed on both sides of the streets throughout the project area?

There will be sharrows installed in some segments of the project location because of onsite parking, it was clarified that there will be bicycle accommodations on both sides of the street throughout the project limits.

3. What is the law regarding bicyclists crossing the Thousand Oaks Blvd. from Conejo School Road?

Bicyclists are allowed to have the option of using the crosswalk or using the travel lanes.

4. Will Willow Lane be resurfaced?

The resurfacing of Willow Lane will be included in the next pavement project, immediately after the completion of the Willow Lane Project. In addition, there will be decorative vine planting along the chain link fence between Willow Lane and the freeway to help screen the freeway.

- B. Mayor Bill-de la Peña

1. Were there slides showing the before and after condition of Willow Lane and will there be oak trees removed?

There were slides showing conceptual plans for the Willow Lane. Also, staff shared that a minimum of two oak trees will need to be removed – one is mature, however is growing in a horizontal direction because of a utility line previously installed over it and is therefore currently a safety hazard; and the second one is a small oak, less than 4” in diameter. Two other small trees may be potentially impacted and decision whether these will be removed or not has to be made during construction. Question was also asked if these trees may be replanted somewhere else instead of being removed. The Mayor opined that she was trying to avoid the landscaping on the Thousand Oaks Blvd. project, as it did not include native species and she prefers more native species. Cliff stated that there are not going to be a large number of street trees that will be added with this project (as most are replacements). The project landscaping and replacement trees will be done in accordance with the City’s approved Forestry Master Plan. Staff volunteered to provide the Mayor with a copy of the project’s environmental document and oak tree report that were approved by City Council earlier in the year.



2. Will future developments at the K-Mart site and the Lakes be incorporated into this new project?

Staff is not waiting or relying on these two projects for the completion of the Conejo School Road project.

3. Will the new project address the traffic congestion issue at the Hampshire underpass?

The Conejo School Road project is a separate project from the Hampshire underpass project.

4. Concern that some items of the contract might be missed because of the big gap between the lowest bidder and the highest bidder.

The lowest bidder has done recent projects for both the City as well as adjacent cities in the past that met expectations. In addition, staff has discussed the project with the low bidder and there was no sign of concern.

5. Mayor commented that the project area which is only approximately less than a mile from the intersection of Thousand Oaks Blvd. and Conejo School Road will be a good walkable area, with the newly installed sidewalks.

6. Will there be additional security or safety pedestrian crossing by the Hampshire offramp onto eastbound Hampshire Road (from the Chevron gas station going to the Ferrari dealership)?

The subject crosswalk will be re-painted, similar to other crosswalks the City has been putting in recently, to make it more visible.

5. DPW's HCTP Microgrid Project – presented by Sustainability Division Manager Dr. Helen Cox

Dr. Cox provided a PowerPoint presentation describing the proposed project.



Questions Raised and Staff Responses:

A. Councilmember Jones:

1. Are the solar panels where we get electricity for the batteries?

There are existing solar panels onsite which will be used to provide electricity that the batteries will be storing.

2. How are the current solar panels being utilized?

The current solar panels provide electricity as it is needed to the site and anything that is not used goes to the grid, back to SCE. With the microgrid project, the City will have its own storage mechanism to store the electricity that we produce.

3. With the microgrid system, is the electricity generated by the solar panels saved in the batteries first before it is discharged to the plant?

Yes. The battery system controls the flow of electricity. The only reason electricity will go to the grid is when the batteries are full and electricity is not needed anymore onsite. The batteries have enough storage capacity to store about four hours of demand for the plant.

4. Are the batteries programmed to automatically discharge electricity during cheap rate times?

The battery system is controlled by a computer program that will optimize its operation and minimize electricity costs. It will operate itself but the City will have a service agreement with the contractor for the next ten years to provide maintenance and monitor the system, making adjustments as necessary to make sure it is operating at its maximum efficiency.

B. Mayor Bill-de la Peña

With all the power outages that have been happening, may we use this project as a steppingstone to move towards energy independence from energy providers?



There is a lot of interest in microgrids across the state, and there is a legislation that is being considered to allow more energy independence with the development of microgrids; Under the current SGIP program more than \$130M has been made available for microgrid developments.

The Mayor mentioned receiving emails from a coalition who wants to get rid of natural gas in housing units, but with the unreliable electricity grid that we have, it would not make sense to get rid of natural gas.

Dr. Cox mentioned SCE's program where residents may get free battery back up at home if they have medical needs and requested the Mayor to forward calls received to Dr. Cox so those residents may be provided with the link to apply.

Both the Mayor and Councilmember Jones were pleased with both presentations.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:58 p.m.

6. **Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 1:58 p.m.

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