

Santan Landscaping and Mitigation Community Working Group
July 17, 2001

Attendees

Richard Andrews
Michael Apergis
Mark Kwiat
Cathy Latona
Cathy Lopez
Nan Dawson
Marshall Green
Kimberly Pugh
Saretta Perrault for Mark Bauman
George Pettit
Maggie Cathey
Scott Morrison

Absent

N/A

SRP Attendees

Randy Dietrich
Russ Garrett
Michelle Colores

Others

Suzanne Hartnett, Ten Eyck
Paul Hollar
Mary Orton, The Mary Orton Company
David Sleater
Dave Wilson, Ten Eyck

The fourth meeting of the CWG was conducted on the evening of July 17, 2001 in the Gilbert Municipal Building.

Agenda and Minutes

The agenda was reviewed by the CWG members and no changes were made. The CWG also reviewed the minutes from the third CWG meeting on July 7. It was noted that Scott Morrison's name was omitted from those in attendance, and that Russ Garrett did not attend. With those changes and with no objection, the minutes were approved.

Enhanced Communications Report

Randy Dietrich explained that an upcoming Energy News publication would be sent to approximately 95,000 residents living in a five mile radius of the Santan Plant. This will include all neighborhoods impacted by the mitigation and all the county islands surrounding the plant. This newsletter will announce the CWG process and explain that details of the meetings will be available on the santanfacts web site. In addition, the August bill stuffer publication will also provide a similar but shorter message for all of the SRP electric customers.

The CWG suggested that the Energy News have a note on the envelope saying that it contains information on the Santan Plant expansion and the CWG. Randy agreed to talk to the SRP corporate communications staff about this.

George Pettit reported that he and a few CWG members had developed a list of all HOAs and county islands within a mile of the power plant. George distributed copies of the list. The Town of Gilbert employees will add contacts for each HOA along with the relevant phone numbers and email addresses for each contact.

Randy indicated that SRP would send a letter to each of the HOAs within a mile of the plant inquiring whether they want to be included on the enhanced communications list. Those who answer in the affirmative will receive an email announcing each CWG meeting with minutes to the last meeting. In addition, the letter will give the information about the santanfacts.org website, and ask whether they are interested in putting CWG information in their respective HOA newsletters.

Urban Heat Island Presentation

Paul Hollar presented material on the impact of the urban heat island. Paul indicated that SRP should incorporate prudent planning for this phenomenon in the design of the SEP and any of the landscaping or mitigation additions which might have an influence. He referenced some email correspondence from Kevin Wanttaja, SRP's environmental compliance manager, about possible steps which SRP could take to help reduce the UHI affect. Paul also urged the CWG to initiate the community group that will monitor air, noise and water issues, and that such group should be formed prior to operation of the new power plant at Santan.

Warner Road Widening Update from Gilbert

Rick Allred, Town Engineer, and Suzanne Gunderman, planner with the Town, summarized plans for the widening of Warner Road. Rick explained the special problems associated with the utilities, the existing trees, and the water retention ponds which must be considered during this road widening. He also discussed the Town guidelines for vegetative material in the median along this stretch of Warner Road. Suzanne described the plants that would typically be used to landscape the road. Several CWG members expressed a desire to comment on the vegetation selected for this purpose, and indicated that they felt the median should be treated, not as a typical median area, but as a special area for upgraded landscaping. Rick said that this input must occur quickly given the timeline for this project.

During discussion, it was noted that the gas metering station will be moved, but at this time there is no date established for that to happen. CWG members suggested that El Paso Natural Gas Co. and the Town should ensure that the pipes are moved before the road is widened, to avoid tearing up the road more than necessary. Traffic signal concerns were also expressed, and some CWG members indicated they felt traffic signals along Warner east of Val Vista would be needed. Rick indicated that he didn't know yet if that would be warranted, and that traffic signal installation depends on traffic volume.

Rick will present the town landscaping plans at the next CWG meeting, thus giving the CWG members an opportunity to review the plant materials that will be used in the road median.

Architecture Theme Presentation

David Sleater briefly described the ideas that Avis Read has developed to help with the visual mitigation for the power plant. He explained the possible use of Native American and/or agricultural themes to the mitigation concepts. Avis is prepared to do additional work on this idea as a consultant for the project.

Ten Eyck Review of Landscape Concepts

Dave Wilson, from Ten Eyck Landscape Architects, briefly reviewed the mitigation concepts as developed by EPG during its work with the original CWG. Dave spoke in more detail about maintaining the existing trees along Warner Road. He felt that it was important to maintain the existing process used for irrigating these trees – flood irrigation. Dave talked about the need to insure the privacy of Cottonwoods Crossing residents when designing the pedestrian and equestrian trails along the east side of the SRP property. He also talked briefly about tree selection for the property boundaries.

Photo Simulations

Russ Garrett presented photo simulations developed by EPG. These simulations were based on actual photographs taken from various vantage points in the neighborhoods around the Santan plant. The stacks from the proposed new power plant were then superimposed onto these photographs. In separate slide, the proposed landscape mitigation effects were also superimposed onto the photos. Russ pointed out that the SRP condor crane would be on the Santan property on during the day on July 21; the crane's boom will be raised to a height of 150 feet. The CWG members could then drive to various points in the area and check on the visibility of this object. Dave Wilson will accompany some of the CWG members during this process.

Major Concerns about Landscaping and Mitigation

Mary asked the CWG members to list their major issues and concerns related to the landscape mitigation of the plant. After this list was developed, each CWG member chose his or her top five issues. Mary noted that regardless of the results of the 'voting' for the top five issues, all issues are important, and CWG members are free to bring up any item for discussion by the full group during their planning for landscape mitigation. The results simply give the participants an idea of what the most important and urgent issues are. The results will be forwarded to members prior to the next meeting.

Meeting schedule

The group agreed that the next meeting should take place on the morning (8 AM – Noon) of July 28. The meeting after that will occur on the evening (6-10 PM) of August 14.

Agenda items for the next meeting

The discussion on fuel tank options will be early on the agenda.

CWG members will discuss their impressions, views, and photographs of the crane in place on July 21. Cathy Latona asked if the crane could be up for two days, but it was to be moved to another site too soon to accommodate this request. Cathy Lopez asked if it would be possible to have two cranes on the site with a tarp hung between them, to show the width of the towers that are to be built. Randy indicated that there was only one crane of that height available in this area.

Dave Wilson will start his more detailed conceptual review of the draft landscaping plan at the next meeting.

SRP will present information on technical considerations related to the landscaping. Included will be clearance requirements between vegetation and transmission lines, the status of plans on relocation of the natural gas line, the retention pond, and the existing 69 kV line along the east side of the property.

Public comment

Mary asked for any comment from the public. There was none. The meeting adjourned.

Santan Landscaping and Mitigation Community Working Group
July 17, 2001

At its meeting on July 17, 2001, the Santan Landscaping and Mitigation Community Working Group answered the question:

“What issues and concerns do you have concerning landscape mitigation of the Santan Plant?”

Following are the answers to the question. CWG members were given the opportunity to indicate their top five concerns. The numbers in parentheses indicate the number of ‘votes’ each item received. CWG members understood before they cast their ‘votes’ that regardless of the results, all items are important, and they are free to bring up any item for discussion by the full group during their planning for landscape mitigation.

1. All entrances in surrounding five neighborhoods substantially improved. (4)
2. All existing vegetation stays as much as possible. (3)
3. Mitigate power lines from the power plant to Guadalupe. (1)
4. Off-site mitigation to enhance HOAs, including the plume. (3)
5. Change construction entrances away from Warner Road. (1)
6. Make sure that the water that drains out of the SRP property is enclosed. (5)
7. The look of the stacks themselves. (4)
8. If some of the trees die, what do we do? (Double line?) (2)
9. Undulation in the height of the berm. (1)
10. Area across the canal in Cottonwoods Crossing. (0)
11. Long-term health of the trees. Plant smaller? (1)
12. Major improvements on the north side of Warner Road: lots of stuff. (2)
13. An ag/farm theme – perhaps on top of the berm? (2)
14. Remove all existing tanks. (2)
15. Date and time the gas line is moved. (1)
16. Connect the trails to Crossroads Park. (1)
17. South and west exposures – county island and Western Skies. (6)
18. Increased liability of trails of Finley Farms. (0)
19. Sidewalks: where located, how designed, safety. (0)
20. Visual impact of 45 mph vs. walking – for improvements. (0)
21. Use plants before walls. (2)

22. Major improvements to Val Vista between Elliott and Ray. (2)
23. Wall is needed for sound mitigation. (0)
24. Explore sculpture, water feature. (1)
25. Bury power lines within one-half to one mile of the plant. (4)
26. Hold off road expansion until gas line is moved. (1)
27. Long-term maintenance of landscaping – guarantee. (5)
28. Off-site landscaping maintenance. (0)
29. Type of plants – don't plant bushes that eventually die. (0)
30. At 25 feet, will the berm show? (0)
31. Move communications tower. (0)
32. Urban heat island mitigation. (0)
33. Go out of state if necessary to get more mature trees. (0)
34. Use existing trees to enhance new mitigation, don't fit new mitigation into what's there.
(0)
35. Deliveries to the plant should be away from Warner. (1)
36. Get photos on Saturday at one-quarter to one mile away. (1)
37. Three-dimensional models. (0)
38. Will construction harm mitigation? (0)
39. Focus on views of HRSGs. (4)
40. Flow of construction traffic. (0)
41. Eucalyptus trees – safety. (0)
42. Walls for safety – explosions, etc. (0)