

Public Comment - March 27, 2024 Reno City Council Meeting - Agenda Item D.4

McCarthy, Matthew <MMcCarthy@nnph.org>

Tue 3/26/2024 1:06 PM

To:Public Comment - CC <PublicComment@reno.gov>

Cc:Vega, Francisco <FVega@nnph.org>;Petersen, Craig <CPetersen@nnph.org>;Suzanne Groneman <GronemanS@reno.gov>

 1 attachments (135 KB)

Reno City Council - D.4 - Energy Partnership Agreement (2024-03-27).pdf;

Hello,

Attached you will find public comment from Northern Nevada Public Health, Air Quality Management Division specific to Agenda Item D.4 for tomorrow's (March 27, 2024) Reno City Council Meeting.

Thank you!



Matt McCarthy

Environmental Engineer II

Air Quality Management Division

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Reno City Council
City of Reno
P.O. Box 1900
Reno, Nevada 89505

March 26, 2024

Subject: Support for Agenda Item D.4 at the March 27, 2024 Reno City Council Meeting

Dear Reno City Council Members:

The Northern Nevada Public Health, Air Quality Management Division (AQMD) has the responsibility to maintain federal air quality standards in Washoe County, Nevada which includes the City of Reno. This letter is being written to express support for Agenda Item D.4 which is for the approval of the Energy Partnership Agreement between the City of Reno and NV Energy.

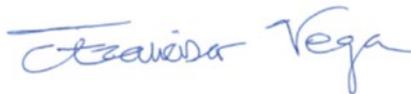
As you may know, ozone pollution in Washoe County is at the federal air quality limit. In order to remedy this, government organizations, citizens, and stakeholders need to engage in proactive measures to reduce emissions that cause ozone pollution. With the support of the City of Reno, AQMD is a participant in the Environmental Protection Agency's Ozone Advance program which encourages local governments to take proactive steps to improve air quality as it relates to ozone pollution. The collaborative efforts included in the Energy Partnership Agreement are aligned with the goals of the Ozone Advance Program and will help reduce the impact of ozone pollution in Reno and surrounding areas.

While all measures in the agreement are important, the electric vehicle infrastructure item (4.g) of the agreement is the most important for reducing ozone pollution. Tailpipe emissions from fossil-fuel vehicles are the largest source of ozone causing pollution in Washoe County. Incentivizing the use of electric vehicles is the best strategy we have for decreasing these emissions and improving our air quality. The implementation of item 4.g of the agreement should be prioritized.

AQMD appreciates the work that City of Reno and NV Energy have done to enact this agreement. AQMD requests that the Reno City Council approve Agenda Item D.4 and move forward with the action items outlined in the agreement.

Feel free to contact me at 775-784-7200 if I can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,



Francisco Vega, P.E., MBA
Director, Air Quality Management Division
Northern Nevada Public Health

cc: Suzanne Groneman, City of Reno
Craig Petersen, AQMD
Matt McCarthy, AQMD

City Council Comment received from Robbin Palmer

Mikki Huntsman <HuntsmanM@reno.gov>

Tue 3/26/2024 3:26 PM

To:Public Comment - CC <PublicComment@reno.gov>

Contact Info:Name & Ward:

Robbin Palmer, Unincorporated Washoe County

Commenting on behalf of:Email Address:

rpalmer@nnnps.reno.nv.us

Phone Number:

775-853-8572

Address:

4430 Fairview Road

A new comment has been submitted for the Reno City Council Meeting held on: 2024-03-27.

Section:

D Items - Department Items

Item:

D4.

Position:

In Favor

Are they speaking in person?

No, I am submitting a written comment only.

If no, comment:

I am a climate advocate and strongly support measures to mitigate our current climate crisis. I support the Energy Partnership Agreement between the City of Reno and NV Energy in which both express a commitment to continue collaborating on planning for local projects and initiatives that support a shared vision toward energy-related emissions reductions, increasing local renewable energy, improving resilience and reliability, and designing solutions that are accessible and equitable. Thank you to Suzanne Groneman for putting forth this agreement. However, I am concerned that the CoR and NV Energy may sometimes disagree on projects/initiatives that further these visions, particularly when it will affect NV Energy's bottom line. I'm unsure how disagreements are to be resolved and what objective metrics will determine if this agreement is working when considered for future reviews.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

By checking the "Yes" below, you agree that all the information above is true and accurate. For additional information, please refer to the agenda for today's meeting.

Yes

By checking the "Yes" below, you understand, acknowledge, and expressly agree that: (1) all information submitted by you will be entered into the public record, made available for public inspection, and freely disseminated without restriction; and, (2) any contact, personal, financial, or medical information intentionally or inadvertently submitted by you will not be maintained in a confidential manner, or subsequently exempted from public inspection.

Yes

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No

City Council Comment received from Rose Wolterbeek

Mikki Huntsman <HuntsmanM@reno.gov>

Tue 3/26/2024 1:24 PM

To:Public Comment - CC <PublicComment@reno.gov>

Contact Info:

Name & Ward:

Rose Wolterbeek, Ward 5

Commenting on behalf of:

Email Address:

rose.wolterbeek@att.net

Phone Number:

775-895-2790

Address:

2220 Escalera Way, Reno, NV 89523

A new comment has been submitted for the Reno City Council Meeting held on: 2024-03-27.

Section:

D Items - Department Items

Item:

D.4 Approval of an Energy Partnership Agreement-Local Projects and Initiatives in Reno.

Position:

In Favor

Are they speaking in person?

No, I am submitting a written comment only.

If no, comment:

To whom it may concern, As a 21 year resident of the city of Reno, Ward 5, I support the Energy Partner Agreement brought forward by the city manager to express a joint commitment to collaborate on planning for local projects and initiatives in Reno. Staff is to be commended for identifying opportunities for collaboration between the City of Reno and NV Energy. While some of the specific items are tied to regulation and have clearly defined metrics, some of the items such as item #5 to 11 are broad based as written. For example, on #5, agreeing to pursue renewable energy and community based solar resources, the city of Reno has achieved success with the project at Moana. However, it should be noted that NV Energy has only implemented 3 out of 10 Community Based Solar projects in the entire state of NV, that should have been completed at the time of this renewal, so completely unacceptable in terms of performance, in my opinion. On item #8, "agree to collaborate in providing enhanced communication and solutions to residents around tree trimming and pruning that is carried out by NV Energy". Regarding urban forestry and canopies, it has been well documented that trees support a healthy community by absorbing carbon dioxide and releasing oxygen into the air. Additionally, trees reduce storm water run-off, cool the air, reduce heating/cooling costs, increase property values, and contribute to the character of our community as well as by creating habitat for

wildlife. I would hope that NV Energy would support this with a robust plan moving forward with their independent contractors with whom they do business to perform this tree trimming task. My personal experience (two separate encounters in the past two years of "tree trimming") was that the contractors with whom NV Energy contracts to perform the tree trimming do not hold these same values, so more education and follow up is needed to achieve this proposed initiative. Unfortunately, once the cut has been made on a decades old tree, it is too late for the homeowner, as I experienced, due to their sub-standard work performance. On item #10, by only "working together to identify opportunities to convert propane and fuel oil homes" that item is only the first step in reducing green house gases in our community. On item #11, to "seek equitable solutions in addressing Reno's energy and sustainability goals", I would hope that City of Reno staff would have the tools to create a realistic action plan for holding NV energy accountable to actually put resources towards making these initiatives a reality based on community input from our citizens. Again, with such loosely written objectives which are well intentioned in this proposal, our Reno community may continue to miss out on Federal funding, State funding and quality of life over the next 10 years, plus an additional 5 year possible extension, with this contract with NV energy, based on their past performance on community based projects and true sustainability for all residents and visitors to our area. Respectfully submitted, Rose Wolterbeek

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

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Yes

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Yes

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Yes