

**From:** Ber [REDACTED]  
**To:** Christopher Bolt; -- City Clerk  
**Cc:** Peggy Flynn; Kevin McDonnell; Barnacle, Brian; Karen Nau; Mike Healy; Pocekay, Dennis; John Shribbs; Janice Cader-Thompson  
**Subject:** Public Comment - Delay Approval of Consent Calendar items 3&4: Diesel Excavator and Backhoe  
**Date:** Monday, October 2, 2023 4:28:07 PM

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Dear Director Bolt and Petaluma City Council -

After reading the staff report for items 3 & 4, there are a few outstanding questions that should be confirmed before voting to approve these equipment purchases.

**As this type of equipment is currently being rented, continuing this rental practice should have minimal impact to the budget and should have no operational impact. From my limited search, there are several electric excavators and backhoes available which should be considered as part of this equipment procurement process.**

The following questions should be resolved before these items are brought forward for consideration:

- Can we confirm that the City of Petaluma purchasing initiative has access to the latest available technology?
- **The Sourcewell "Fleets For the Future" initiative appears defunct**, with the last website update posted March 1, 2018: <http://www.fleetsforthefuture.org/blog>, in addition many of the emails listed bounce.
- if Sourcewell does not have an active initiative to source climate friendly equipment, what are the alternatives to Sourcewell?
- California's Department of General Services lists 3 different cooperative purchasing organizations which may have alternatives <https://www.dgs.ca.gov/PD/About/Page-Content/PD-Branch-Intro-Accordion-List/Acquisitions/Leveraged-Procurement-Agreements> (Sourcewell is listed as one of several vendors under the [California Association of Public Procurement Officials](#).)

The staff report 'Climate Impact' section states “There are currently no electric motors or equipment available for this type of truck” it seems from my limited research **there are multiple electric excavators and backhoes available today. The Volvo line goes up to 6 tons vs the current 4 ton model being requested.**

<https://www.volvoce.com/united-states/en-us/products/electric-machines/>

Case Construction Equipment debuted an electric backhoe in 2020 and John Deere has introduced several models as well. <https://electrek.co/2023/04/11/john-deere-electric-backhoe/>

For the next round of staff reports, sufficient alternatives should be evaluated

- impact of continuing to rent this equipment until electric models which meet all operational requirements are available.
- An evaluation of the trade off between a diesel excavator (using renewable diesel) and an electric excavator should be considered, with the cost and GHG impact included in the staff report.
- Confirmation the City of Petaluma is set up to purchase renewable diesel. The equipment being proposed are standard diesel engines, which can run on either diesel or renewable

diesel. Absent a plan and ability to purchase renewable diesel, these pieces of equipment could run on standard diesel and would run counter to the climate impact section and city goals and priorities.

- Its important to note that even though renewable diesel has a much lower GHG impact than traditional diesel, it does not have zero climate impact and is a source of combustion emissions.

Thank you for your time and consideration  
Ben Peters

On Fri, Sep 29, 2023 at 9:22 PM Ben P <[mr.benjamin.peters@gmail.com](mailto:mr.benjamin.peters@gmail.com)> wrote:

Hello Mr. Bolt, in reading the consent calendar staff report on the equipment purchases, I had a few questions about the Climate Impact section I hope could be clarified in advance of the meeting, as some of the information seems outdated and inaccurate. Hopefully I am mistaken and look forward to learning more.

Regarding the statement “There are currently no electric motors or equipment available for this type of truck” it seems from my limited research there are multiple electric excavators and backhoe’s available today. The Volvo line goes up to 6 tons vs the current 4 ton model being requested in

Renewable Diesel does not have a “negligible operational GHG impact” and these are combustion engines and thus seem to conflict with City Council priority #203, as it appears there are reasonable alternatives.

Finally, the Sourcewell “Fleets for the Future” initiative does not appear to be active, the latest website update is from 2018, and none of the listed contacts have active email addresses.

I have seen this ‘fleets for the future’ reference several times now and feel it’s appropriate to request an extra degree of diligence in validating the accuracy of what is being presented to the City Council and community, and that climate action is not a copy ad paste exercise.

Happy to discuss this further and look forward to more information on the topic.

...[Volvo](#), [Komatsu](#), [Bobcat](#), [Kato](#), [Hyundai](#), [JCB](#) and other OEMs have unveiled electric excavator technology during the past two years.

<https://www.forconstructionpros.com/equipment/earthmoving/excavators/article/22631472/john-deere-john-deere-unveils-electric-excavator-at-ces-2023>

<https://www.volvoce.com/united-states/en-us/products/electric-machines/>

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **City of Petaluma** <[cityclerk@cityofpetaluma.org](mailto:cityclerk@cityofpetaluma.org)>

Date: Tue, Sep 26, 2023 at 7:37 PM

Subject: City Council Regular Meeting - October 2, 2023



## CITY OF PETALUMA, CALIFORNIA

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### CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

Agenda Notification  
for  
October 2, 2023  
Regular Session 6:30 p.m.

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