LAFCo 2020
Year in Review

March 19, 2021

Bryan Goebel
Executive Officer
San Francisco Local Agency Formation Commission

- Every California county has a LAFCo
- Legislature’s watchdog over city and special district boundaries
- SF LAFCo was formed in 2000 when there was an effort to create a municipal utilities district
- Assigned oversight authority of CleanPowerSF in 2007
- Conducts special studies
Ridehail and Delivery Worker Surveys

• LAFCo commissioned three groundbreaking representative surveys of app-based ridehail and delivery work in San Francisco
• The City’s first in-depth snapshot of this workforce
• Unique partnership between UC Santa Cruz, Jobs With Justice San Francisco, Jobs With Justice Education Fund and the Driver’s Seat Cooperative
Not a Gig For Most

- The majority of survey respondents work full-time for platform companies
- Workforce is mostly people of color and significant immigrant
- Up to 20% may be making 0 after expenses

Survey link:
https://sfgov.org/lafco/emerging-mobility-labor-study
Key Presentations

• Presentations to San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency, SF Planning Department, SF Transportation Authority, Department of the Environment
• SFMTA used the data to inform potential incentive programs to encourage ride-hail drivers to use zero emission vehicles
• Presentation and webinar to the Urban Sustainability Directors Network with
Impact

- The survey was cited in the California Voter Guide
- Helped voters make an informed decision on Prop 22
- Influenced how the media covered gig workers
Media Coverage

- Wired, TechCrunch, Vice, SF Examiner, SF Chronicle, CNN, NYTimes editorial on Prop 22
- Survey frequently cited on Twitter: JWJ tweets achieved between 13-18,000 impressions
Recommendations

• LAFCo issued a set of policy recommendations to address the findings in the survey

Preliminary Recommendations:

How to Address Problematic Labor, Safety, Health and Transportation Issues Among Ride-Hail and Food Delivery Workers

San Francisco Local Agency Formation Commission
May 2020
Enforce City and State labor protections for ride-hail and delivery workers

• Ensure workers are compensated at SF’s minimum wage
• Ensure health care ordinance contributions and paid sick leave
• Prioritize enforcement of Assembly Bill 5

As much as 20% of workers might be earning nothing when all expenses are accounted for.
The City should create a task force to explore the viability of a City-Run worker-owned ride-hail and delivery cooperative

- Clear these services are valued by San Franciscans
- Companies argue they cannot afford to comply with Assembly Bill 5
- Company models are not sustainable
Recommendation

Establish a Pilot Cooperative

The City of San Francisco should establish a plan to develop a Pilot Delivery Cooperative. This cooperative would be run, operated, and financed by its members, but would in the initial phases be given special treatment as a business to mitigate the initial challenges.
Establish an e-bike rebate program

Program should be funded by companies in collaboration with bike manufacturers

- 25% of Uber and Lyft drivers would shift or maybe shift to an e-bike for delivery if they were offered an incentive
- 39% of delivery drivers said yes they would switch to e-bike with an incentive
- 31% said maybe
E-Bike Rebate
Research

Recommendation: The City should establish a Pilot Worker Rebate Program

• Can help the City achieve environmental goals, encourage a healthier lifestyle, and mitigate traffic congestion, offer flexibility for workers in San Francisco

• Allows for the collection of data for food delivery workers in San Francisco that was previously unavailable

• Require a bicycle safety training course that covers bicycle safety and is required to qualify for the rebate
Preventing a Disconnections Crisis in SF

- Produced report on how to prevent utility disconnections in SF
- Analysis of CPUC decision on disconnections
- Found decision was insufficient to prevent utility debt accumulation during the moratorium
- Urged that the moratorium on power shutoffs set to expire in April be extended (CPUC did extend the moratorium to June 30, 2021)
- Highlighted L.A.’s plan to provide $500 grants to customers for utility debt
Completed an RFQ for a Renewable Energy Consultant

- LAFCo issued an RFQ for a renewable energy consultant in three service areas:
  1) Support LAFCo’s Oversight of CleanPowerSF
  2) Local Buildout of Renewable Energy Projects
  3) Identify and Propose Programs for Communities of Concern

- A total of 7 firms were prequalified to work in all three service areas
- Vanir scored highest for Service Area One and was chosen for a contract
- The Commission approved a contract with Vanir in September 2020
Vanir Reports
Analyzing CleanPowerSF

- Analysis of CleanPowerSF’s Integrated Resources Report
- Analysis of CleanPowerSF’s Local Renewable Energy Report
- Benchmarking report comparing CleanPowerSF with other Northern California CCAs
Bank Accountability During Covid

• Produce a report on bank accountability for the May 2020 LAFCo meeting
• A lack of bank transparency
• Found only half of SF’s 46 banks committed to implementing FDIC recommendations during the pandemic (such as waiving ATM and overdraft fees)
• The report included 5 recommendations which were forwarded to the SF Treasurer’s Office and shared with the Board of Supervisors
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