

**MINUTES**  
**SIERRA MADRE ENERGY, ENVIRONMENT  
& NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION**  
**WEDNESDAY**

**October 21, 2015 7:00PM**  
**City Hall – Council Chambers**  
**232 W. Sierra Madre Blvd.**

**CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL**

The meeting began at 7:05pm. Analyst Carlson called roll. All Commissioners were present with the exception of Chair Blanchard.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Commissioner Dasher led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Motion to approve the agenda:

	Kelley
Second:	Cossutta
Vote:	Unanimous

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion to approve the minutes of the September 16, 2015 meeting with correction:

	Dasher
Second:	Robinson
Vote:	Unanimous

**STAFF AND COMMISSION MEMBER  
REPORTS**

*Analyst Carlson reviewed the Public Works Department report. He added that former Commissioner Caroline Brown has submitted the 2014 Tree City USA and provided the Commission with an update as to completing the 2015 application. Former Commissioner Brown contributed to the discussion.*

*Analyst Carlson also provided an update to the Commission regarding construction activities at 448 W. Highland and actions taken by staff to ensure that construction activities are not causing any threat to many mature Coast Live Oaks.*

*Commissioner Shuster remarked that there were a lot of dead tree removals in the report. She asked if the water conservation efforts may be part of the problem. Analyst Carlson summarized the arborist's comments and the inability to actively enforce the parkway watering requirements. Director Inman added the consideration of the water conservation efforts and the moratorium on planting trees. It is impossible to track this.*

*Director Inman thanked the Commission for attending the recent City Council meeting. He informed the Commission that the Strategic Planning that occurred the day after the City Council meeting had produced a large number of water conservation topics.*

*Director Inman also provided the Commission with the latest conservation numbers, which were getting worse. The City is awaiting a response from the State Board on what will happen next.*

*Director Inman also informed the Commission that progress is being made with the concept of spreading the imported water into our basins.*

*Commissioners Kelley and Cossutta announced that they had made an appointment to meet with the Mayor regarding the waste-to-energy concept at the City Yards.*

*Caroline Brown of Alta Vista mentioned that medians along Sierra Madre Blvd. in Pasadena had installed drip irrigation to help the trees survive. That should be considered for N. Santa Anita Ave. medians.*

*Commissioner Shuster announced that Caroline Brown was recognized for her contribution to the Tree Commission and Natural Resources Commission at the recent Volunteer Appreciation Event.*

**PUBLIC COMMENT**  
**(Items not on the agenda)**

**ACTION ITEMS**

- 1. DISCUSSION – WATER CONSERVATION ENHANCEMENT:**  
**The Commission shall discuss options for enhancing city-wide water conservation.**

*Analyst Carlson provided a summary of the staff report and the discussions at the recent City Council meeting. There were specific topics in the report that can organize the Commission's discussion.*

*Commissioner Dasher clarified with staff that the City Council directed staff to increase penalties.*

*Commissioners Robinson and Dasher had questions on the lining of water mains in which Director Inman answered.*

*Commissioner Butler indicated that she had recently traveled to other areas in the State and she doesn't feel that water conservation is being taken seriously.*

*Commissioner Shuster stated that some of the items that the Green Committee had discussed years ago are coming back and*

*now being considered. She was not happy to see some attendees at the City Council meeting resisting some of the steps that need to be taken. El Nino will not solve the drought condition.*

*Commissioner Cossutta remarked that she would prefer that water billing was based more on the consumption than the static charge or "meter charge".*

*The Commissioners briefly discussed how behaviors could be changed and consumption could be enhanced.*

*Commissioner Dasher asked the status of re-introducing restrictors and that item will be brought back for further discussion.*

*There was a discussion on water rates and how they affect conservation. Also volumetric rates versus static rates considerations were discussed.*

*Commissioner Butler brought up the topic of new construction requirements and that maybe some of the requirements be shifted to existing conditions as well. Start with encouragement then move to enforcement. The LID requirement was briefly discussed.*

*The conversation transitioned into the public outreach plan that Commissioner Dasher had provided. Analyst Carlson summarized the plan and provided some context and history on publicity.*

*Phil Cannon, resident, commented to the Commission. He was concerned about educating the public on the consequences of not meeting our requirements. Also provide a positive message of the benefits of meeting the goals.*

*Caroline Brown, resident, also commented to the Commission. She indicated that over the last 60 years, irrigation practices had evolved to the current automated practices. There may be an issue with restrictors and fire sprinklers. She is in favor of the consideration of moving towards a 'water budget' system.*

*Bob Buckner, resident, also commented to the Commission. He also expressed his support for the 'water budget' system and hoped that the State would be able to assist. His Deodar is really struggling.*

*Barbara Leigh Cline, resident, also commented to the Commission. She indicated that she had previously worked for JPL regarding conservation. She commented that hitting residents*

*in the pocketbook is a strategy to consider. She is for the restrictors and in favor of enhanced penalties. More information should be on the water bills themselves.*

*The Commission brought the discussion back and discussed strategies to approach the small percentage of wasters. Director Inman provided background and details on the previous discussions of the 'water budget' process.*

*Commissioner Shuster asked staff how recommendations may be done and it was decided to make a motion.*

Motion to communicate to the City Council that the Commission supports the increased penalties and the use of flow restrictors:

Cossutta

Second  
Vote:

Kelley  
Unanimous

Motion to recommend to the City Council to reconsider the 'water budget' process:

Dasher

Second  
Vote:

Butler  
0-4 (defeated)

Motion to recommend that the City Council review the 'water budget' process when the cumulative citywide conservation level falls below 20%:

Cossutta

Second  
Vote:

Robinson  
Unanimous

**2. DISCUSSION – “PREPARE FOR EL NINO PRESENTATION”:** The Commission shall discuss the future planned community presentation that will focus on safety and water capture for the upcoming rain season.

*Analyst Carlson summarized the outline for the future presentation. After a discussion, the date of December 5, 2015 was selected for the presentation. Publicity will immediately commence. Commissioner Dasher will assist staff with the water capture on private property component.*

**3. DISCUSSION – WALKING SCHOOL BUS PROGRAM:** The Commission shall discuss ideas for a potential outreach program to promote health and safety to community school kids.

*Commissioner Rossutta summarized her work in researching this potential concept and has found additional resources in the form of a toolkit online. She agreed to move the discussion to the next meeting.*

**4. PUBLIC OUTREACH:** The Commission may discuss public outreach ideas and efforts including recognition programs.

*Commissioner Dasher reviewed her publicity plan with the Commission, highlighting her thoughts on having movie events, water videos and educational materials, phone assistance for residents who want to know how to save more water, and she also indicated that she would like to challenge the city to add one dry well or water conservation BMP per month. The Commissioners went on to discuss a few of the other components of the publicity plan.*

*Barbara Leigh Cline, resident, commented to the Commission. She said that videos could be shown on SMTV3, perhaps during City Council breaks. She recommended surveying school-aged children, provide a field trip to City Hall, use peer pressure to get message across.*

**5. NEW BUSINESS AND ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS:** The commission members may request staff to agendize items for future Energy, Environment & Natural Resources Commission meetings.

*The Commission discussed the following items for future agendas:  
General Plan Implementation Items  
Walking School Bus Program  
Bee City USA  
Waste-To-Energy at the City Yards  
Plastic Bag Ban (and Styrofoam)  
Tree City USA*

**6. ADJOURNMENT**

Motion to adjourn:

Dasher

Second

Cossutta

Vote:

Unanimous