

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

November 18, 2015 7:00PM
City Hall – Council Chambers
232 W. Sierra Madre Blvd.

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

The meeting began at 7:04pm. Analyst Carlson called roll. All Commissioners were present with the exception of Commissioner Butler.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Cossutta led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion to approve the agenda:

	Shuster
Second:	Kelley
Vote:	Unanimous

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion to approve the minutes of the October 21, 2015 meeting with correction:

	Cossutta
Second:	Dasher
Vote:	Unanimous

**STAFF AND COMMISSION MEMBER
REPORTS**

Analyst Carlson reviewed the Public Works Department report. He provided updates to the tree reviews as he and Chair Blanchard had visited a number of the sites after the report was distributed.

Commissioner Cossutta asked about the pair of Italian Cypress trees mentioned on N. Lima St. Chair Blanchard indicated that she agreed that trimming was better than removing one tree.

Director Inman provided the Commission with an update on the City's water conservation efforts. Overall conservation goals are not being met in the past few months. There is unknown loss due to water main leaks. He also provided an update on aquifer levels.

Commissioners asked Director Inman and discussed a few topics including Green Streets near water main projects, funding opportunities, anticipated State Board actions and involvement of higher elected officials.

Commissioner Dasher informed the Commission that she attended the South Pasadena Environmental Commission meeting. She described some of the projects that they were working on. It was interesting to see what the other communities were doing.

PUBLIC COMMENT
(Items not on the agenda)

Beth Rauch of W. Montecito Ave. addressed the Commission with a concern over Oak Tree protection at a construction project on W. Highland Ave. She described communications regarding her concerns with Analyst Carlson over stopping and restarting the project in light of Oak Tree health concerns. The Commissioners asked for some clarification on the review process. Director Inman informed the Commission that this particular project had been stopped on five occasions for various reasons. Recently, an arborist report was provided to the city for review, and there was no indication of any harm to the trees in question, the project was allowed to continue. Ms. Rauch also informed the Commission that there were other trees that were dead on the property, although not close to the construction activity.

ACTION ITEMS

- 1. DISCUSSION – TREE CITY USA: The Commission shall discuss the City Council Proclamation for the Arbor Day observance for 2015.**

Analyst Carlson provided a summary of the draft proclamation and answered a couple of procedural questions from the Commission.

After some discussion, the Commission provided 2 minor changes to the Proclamation.

- 2. DISCUSSION – WALKING SCHOOL BUS PROGRAM: The Commission shall receive and discuss an update from Commissioner Cossutta on a potential outreach program to promote health and safety to community school children.**

Commissioner Cossutta reported to the Commission that she had researched and found applications for planning and publicity for the potential program. There is safety and crosswalk focused curriculum available. She believes that outreach should begin with the parents and students that are close to the schools. She is still trying to determine how to start the program.

The Commission discussed items such as participation with the public school district and timing. A general idea among the Commission was to target the time after spring break. The Commission also discussed the idea of linking the Public Safety Department and any safety presentation they may be planning.

- 3. DISCUSSION – “PREPARE FOR EL NINO” PRESENTATION: The Commission shall discuss the December 5,**

Analyst Carlson provided a quick update on the upcoming event.

2015 community presentation that will focus on safety and water capture preparations for the upcoming rain season.

4. **DISCUSSION – WASTE-TO-ENERGY FACILITY:** The Commission shall receive and discuss an update from Commissioners Kelley and Cossutta on the potential of locating a waste-to-energy system at the City Yards.

Commissioner Kelley informed the Commission that she and Commissioner Cossutta had been able to meet with Mayor Capoccia regarding the idea. The Mayor seemed interested in the concept, but explained that at this time the water issues are his primary focus. He suggested that the Commission explore alternative resources to take the lead on the project, such as the waste hauler. Commissioner Kelley indicated that her thesis on the project was just about completed.

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

Commissioner Dasher indicated that she had obtained some good video segments at the City Hall Landscape Planting event. She is working with Commissioner Kelley on a storyboard and will be seeking various speakers for additional comments for the video. She has also shared the video idea with the Mayor and he indicated that he liked the idea of highlighting various landscaping efforts in the community, and to consider renters as well as homeowners.

Commissioner Dasher also informed the Commission on efforts to have Sierra Madre hold a Wild and Scenic Film event in March

6. **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:
Walking School Bus Program
Bee City USA
Plastic Bag Ban (and Styrofoam)
Commission name change*

7. **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion to adjourn:

Kelley

Second

Shuster

Vote:

Unanimous

