

MINUTES
**SIERRA MADRE ENERGY, ENVIRONMENT
& NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION**
WEDNESDAY
March 16, 2016 7:00PM
City Hall – Council Chambers
232 W. Sierra Madre Blvd.

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

The meeting began at 7:00pm. Analyst Carlson called roll. All Commissioners were present.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Kelley led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion to approve the agenda:

Dasher

Second:

Cossutta

Vote:

Unanimous

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion to approve the minutes of the January 20, 2016 meeting:

Cossutta

Second:

Kelley

Vote:

Unanimous

(Shuster abstained)

**STAFF AND COMMISSION MEMBER
REPORTS**

Analyst Carlson reviewed the Public Works Department report. He highlighted the fact that there were few tree reviews over the past month. Chair Blanchard asked about the tree situation at 240 N. Sunnyside and Analyst Carlson explained the request was due to interference with utility lines.

Director Inman provided the Commission with an update on the water conservation efforts and water sourcing. Commissioner Butler asked Director Inman about any recent communications we have had with the State Board regarding our lack of compliance. Director Inman relayed the discussions to the Commission. Chair Blanchard noted that it was interesting to find out it took about 2 and a half months for the imported water to be detected in the aquifer. Commissioner Butler asked if the City is fined, can some of the penalty be used by the City to make corrections in which Director Inman said that could happen and noted a couple examples.

Commissioner Shuster provided the Commission with a description of attending a tour of the saltwater marsh hosted by

the Nature Conservancy at Ballona Creek. It is in bad shape, surrounded by development and is having a bad effect on migrating birds. The relationship between open space within development is important. Secondly, a couple weeks ago we heard a discussion from Dr. Susan Emmerich regarding the restoration of the Chesapeake Bay fishery. Key to discussion was to appeal to commonly held values of the island residents in regards to overfishing. Perhaps we can find commonly held values with our residents in regards to water conservation. Finally she noted that she had got some 55 gallon rain barrels from Home Depot, filled out the rebate form and the process was successful.

Commissioner Dasher reviewed the recent Wild & Scenic Film Festival. It was very successful. It was attended by approximately 20 kids for the afternoon show and 50 adults, plus tickets sold at the door, for the evening show. We did have some technical difficulties working with the Blu-Ray format with our equipment. There should be a small amount of money that the Wild & Scenic staff will send to us.

PUBLIC COMMENT
(Items not on the agenda)

There was no public comment.

ACTION ITEMS

- 1. DISCUSSION – ATHENS SERVICES:** *Ed Chen of Athens Services provided the Commission with a powerpoint presentation on the proposed changes in collection in the Canyon areas as well as a presentation on how the Material Recovery Facility works to separate recyclables from the waste stream.*
The Commission shall receive an update from Athens Services on their proposed change in collection in the Canyon areas. The Commission may also receive updates on other Athens Services programs.

The Commissioners asked about billing, bear-resistant cans, how green waste would be handled and similar details of the plan. Mr. Chen provided additional information.
- 2. DISCUSSION – STORMWATER:** *Analyst Carlson gave the presentation. The Commission provided ideas for public outreach and also had a few questions that were answered. The Commission also discussed what residents may be able to do to assist, and there was additional discussion on Low Impact Development.*
The Commission shall receive and discuss an update from staff on the NPDES MS4 Permit, the Enhanced Watershed Management Plan, Coordinated Integrated Monitoring Plan, and other stormwater topics.
- 3. COMMISSION FUTURE BUSINESS:** *Director Inman discussed a memo that was distributed to the Commission regarding the items that have been identified for future agenda items. He expressed concern that the topics are*
The Commission shall receive and review a report from staff on the future business of

the Commission.

deviating from what the City Council had listed as Commission business. He expressed that many of the future items were good ideas and observations, but did not fit the Council's direction.

Director Inman mentioned that public outreach is a directive of the Council and there have been a number of good ideas earlier in the meeting from various Commissioners. He also reminded the Commission that they are an advisory body to staff and the City Council, however it is not the job of the Commission to simply hand-off their great ideas to staff to research or work towards.

Commissioner Shuster asked how the Athens item this evening related to Council direction. She expressed that all of the topics are interrelated.

Commissioner Cossutta felt that the memo's intent was good and to protect city staff from becoming overburdened on too many topics. She felt that one of the topics that does not seem to fit may actually fit as it relates to a federal mandate.

Commissioner Kelley echoed the sentiment that all of the suggested topics are interrelated and can be matched to Council direction.

Commissioner Cossutta recounted a discussion she had when considering joining the Commission and asking if the role would be reactive or proactive, in which she was told a little of both.

Commissioner Dasher thanked Director Inman for the memo, but indicated that she also agreed that the topics were interrelated. She asked how a topic could be brought to the City Council to determine if it is a suitable discussion for the Commission. Perhaps they could be addressed as private citizens about a particular topic.

Commissioner Kelley pointed out that while stormwater is a topic, the Commission has only received informational updates and have not been asked to do anything.

Commissioner Butler indicated that there used to be a work plan with the Green Committee called the Accords. It seemed to be a little more specific, but things changed and it died off.

Commissioner Shuster pointed out that many of the previous recommendations from the Green Committee were not accepted, but were later incorporated.

Commissioner Butler suggested that if a Commissioner has an idea that it should be presented with more of an action plan,

which would include an idea of the amount of time or resources would be needed and how it would meet a purpose.

Director Inman asked if the Commission wanted to develop a workplan, and Commissioner Kelley pointed out that the Accords took a number of years.

Director Inman asked if the Commission may wish to go back to Council with an item on clarifying the Commission's direction.

Commissioner Dasher remarked that the water item was obvious, and maybe there is not a need to ask Council now.

Director Inman confirmed that water conservation and NPDES are both obvious issues in front of Council now.

Chair Blanchard asked staff if they had enough input from the Commission regarding this topic and Director Inman indicated that they did.

EARTH DAY 2016: The Commission may discuss observance of the April 22, 2016 Earth Day.

Analyst Carlson informed the Commission that he had received 36 locations of places that may be included with a walking tour of drought-tolerant landscape locations. He indicated that he had not had a big response to his outreach. He showed the Commission various "zones" of locations that could be considered to be in walking distance of each other. He will await further response and let the Commission know how it develops.

PUBLIC OUTRACH: The Commission may discuss public outreach ideas and efforts including recognition programs.

Commissioner Butler provided a few examples of rocks with "You Rock" painted on it in various styles. The Commission provided a few preferences and how the program may proceed.

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

There were no requests.

ADJOURNMENT: The Commission will adjourn to the next regularly scheduled meeting; April 20, 2016 at 7:00pm at the City Hall Council Chambers, 232 W. Sierra Madre Blvd.

Motion to adjourn:

Robinson

Second

Kelley

Vote:

Unanimous

