

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

September 21, 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 with the exception of Commissioners Cossutta and Butler.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Dasher led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion to approve the agenda:

Shuster

Second:

Dasher

Vote:

Unanimous

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

Motion to approve the agenda:

Kelley

Second:

Robinson

Vote:

Unanimous

**STAFF AND COMMISSION MEMBER
REPORTS**

Analyst Carlson reviewed the Public Works Department report. He provided the recent Arborist's comments on the multiple tree reviews.

Director Inman provided an update on the water conservation efforts. He addressed the Commission's question regarding working with a neighboring city on water source sustainability efforts.

Commissioner Shuster identified a report addressing lake sediment research that identified new concerns about the historical duration of drought conditions in California.

Chair Blanchard reminded the Commission and audience that there was going to be a free compost give-away on the upcoming Saturday.

Commissioner Kelley informed the Commission of a LA Green Festival that she attended that was comprised of various sustainability organizations. She indicated that she was thinking of whether something similar would be beneficial locally.

PUBLIC COMMENT
(Items not on the agenda)

There were no comments.

ACTION ITEMS

- 1. COMMUNITY FOREST: The Commission will discuss the appeal of Director's decision to remove a parkway Ficus tree at 85 S. Baldwin Ave.**

Chair Blanchard opened the discussion item and asked if there was anyone in the audience that wished to provide comments.

Dan Goldman addressed the Commission. He provided some background on his work and described a number of potential alternatives to address the sidewalk hazard without removing the tree. He was not in favor of removing the tree.

Dimitrios Gerasimitis provided some background on how he became aware of the consideration to remove the tree. He asked that alternative solutions be explored and additional arborist analysis be done. He was not in favor of removing the tree.

Virginia Forest asked that alternatives be considered, specifically commenting and inquiring about considering a "bow-out" into the street. She recommending seeking additional analysis from the Arboretum if possible. She was not in favor of removing the tree.

Paul Cranmer from Oakdale Drive shared experiences and concerns about meandering sidewalks. He indicated that he understood how difficult the decision would be.

The Commission discussed the items in the report and the comments from the public.

Motion to follow staff's recommendations and allow the tree to be removed:

Robinson

Second

Dasher

Vote:
abstaining)

4-0 (Shuster

2. **COMMUNITY FOREST:** The Commission will continue discussion of items #3 through #7 of the work plan as they pertain to the Community Forest. Motion to continue to next meeting: Kelley
Second Shuster
Vote: Unanimous
3. **GENERAL PLAN IMPLEMENTATION:** The Commission will discuss item #8 of the work plan as it pertains to the dissemination of information regarding the High Activity Wildlife Zone. *Commissioner Shuster updated the Commission on the recent work towards this item. She introduced Gary Hood who also provided the Commission with information on his work in collaboration with Commissioner Shuster. Mr. Hood provided the Commission with two draft images that were produced by a local artist and could be used in future publicity.*

The Commission discussed a number of potential steps and considerations for continuing with the publicity efforts.
4. **PUBLIC OUTREACH:** The Commission will discuss public outreach ideas and efforts including recognition programs. *Commissioner Dasher provided updates on her work with Commissioner Cossutta on the documentary "Bag It" that will be screened for the community in October.*

Commissioner Kelley indicated that she felt that the Commission should consider expanding the showing of topical films into a festival or a recurring program.
5. **NEW BUSINESS AND ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS:** Commission members may request staff to agendize items for future Energy, Environment & Natural Resources Commission meetings. *The Commission restated the consideration of a festival or recurring film program.*
6. **ADJOURNMENT:** The Commission will adjourn to the next regularly scheduled meeting; September 21, 2016 at 7:00pm at the City Hall Council Chambers, 232 W. Sierra Madre Blvd. Motion to adjourn: Shuster
Second Dasher
Vote: Unanimous

