



MVCC Green Committee Meeting

Sunday, December 1, 2013 – 9:30 A.M.

Agenda

Mar Vista Farmers Market

Grand View at Venice Blvd.

Adjacent to the Post Office

Co-Chairs – Jeanne Kuntz, Melissa Stoller

1. Call to order.
2. Public comment
3. Motion to approve October minutes
4. Reports
 - MVCC Green Tent.
 - Developing a definition of Mar Vista as a livable community ([refer to the Vision 2021 LA study by UCLA](#)) and [re:code LA](#).
 - DWP STAKEHOLDER MEETING 2nd Tuesday in February. Topics to include: the new 4 year IBEW contract/work rules; FIT [feed in tariff] 100 cost-benefit; and the massive Bay Area Delta Conservation Plan tunnels project.
5. Discussion Topics (no pending Green Committee motion).
 - Really Big Changes for Garden Showcase
 - Outreach to LA County Supervisors
6. Old business update
7. New business
 - Proposed Bee motion:

The Mar Vista Community Council supports the Los Angeles City Council's resolution supporting HR 2692, "Saving America's Pollinators Act of 2013" (see Attachment A).
 - Proposed GMO motion:

The Mar Vista Community Council supports the Los Angeles City Council's motion directing the City Attorney to prepare and present an ordinance which would prohibit the growth of genetically modified (OM) crops within City limits (see Attachment B).
 - Proposed plastic bottle motion:

Whereas it would greatly reduce the dependence on single use plastic bottled water and have tremendous environmental benefits, the Mar Vista Community Council Motion strongly supports the following motion going before the LA City Council Energy and Environment Committee - Motion by Councilmembers Tom LaBonge and Jose Huizar requesting the LADWP to work with organizations such as [WeTap](#) to report back on a comprehensive plan to upgrade, restore, and bring back public water fountains in public spaces in the City.

The Green Committee also requests that the board file a community impact report supporting the motion.
8. Public comment
9. Motion to adjourn

13-0002-6134

OCT 23 2013

RESOLUTION

RULES, ELECTIONS & INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

WHEREAS, any official position of the City of Los Angeles with respect to legislation, rules, regulations, or policies proposed to or pending before a local, state, or federal governmental body or agency must first have been adopted in the form of a Resolution by the City Council with the concurrence of the Mayor; and

WHEREAS, in just the past few years, "colony collapse disorder" (CCD) has been plaguing bees across the country, leading to massive population die-offs. Between the end of 2012 and the end of 2013, U.S. beekeepers lost an average of 45 percent of their colonies, which threatens not only their livelihoods, but the very existence of one of the world's most vital pollinators and, by extension, the long-term security of our food supply; and

WHEREAS, pollination services are a huge component of U.S. agriculture worth \$20-30 billion annually. Bees, in particular, are absolutely necessary for the production of a third of the food produced in North America, including almonds, avocados, cranberries, apples and much more. Bee-pollinated crops provide nearly all of our dietary Vitamin A, Vitamin E and over half of the calcium and fluoride we consume. Additionally, about one-third of iron in our diets is provided by bee-pollinated crops, including fruits and nuts; and

WHEREAS, California's biggest agricultural export, its \$4 billion almond industry, depends on pollinators for the success of the crop which makes up 84 percent of global almond production. Without California's almonds, there would be a tremendous shortage of almonds worldwide; and

WHEREAS, scientists have linked the symptoms of CCD with the abundant use of pesticides, specifically the neonicotinoid class. Exposure to these systemic insecticides over time can lead to sublethal effects like impaired foraging and feeding, weakened immunity to diseases and pests and stunted development; and

WHEREAS, the European Union has enacted a ban on the major neonicotinoids in an effort to protect pollinators. The European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) concluded that neonicotinoids posed a "high acute risk" to pollinators and that more research must be conducted to explore precisely how these chemicals are connected to loss of bee colonies; and

WHEREAS, U.S. Representative John Conyers, Jr's "Saving America's Pollinators Act of 2013" (H.R. 2692) would require the EPA to suspend the use of four of the pesticides belonging to the neonicotinoids class (imidacloprid, clothianidin, thiamethoxam, dinotafuran) until their safety can be determined. The bill would also charge the EPA with monitoring bee health and preparing an annual report on the status of bees in the United States;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, with concurrence of the Mayor, that by adoption of this Resolution, the City of Los Angeles hereby includes in its 2013-2014 Federal Legislative Program SPONSORSHIP/SUPPORT for the "Saving America's Pollinators Act of 2013" (H.R. 2692) in order to protect the health of America's pollinators and, by extension, our food supply.

PRESENTED BY Paul Kretz Mike Bonin Mitch O'Farrell
 PAUL KORETZ MIKE BONIN MITCH O'FARRELL
 Councilmember, 5th District Councilmember, 11th District Councilmember, 13th District

OCT 23 2013

SECONDED BY [Signature]

OFFICIAL COPY

13-1374

OCT 18 2013

MOTION

Genetically modified (GM) crops fall under the larger umbrella of genetically modified organisms (GMO), which are plants or animals that have been genetically engineered with DNA from bacteria, viruses or other plants and animals. The prevalence of GMO has given rise to various concerns regarding the use of GM products, including but not limited to the safety of consumption of GM foods, as well as the threat GM crops pose to the survival of non-GM crops and biodiversity in general. GMOs have also been linked to colony collapse disorder. In response to these concerns, more than 60 countries around the world have imposed significant restrictions or outright bans on the production and sale of GM products, including Australia, Japan, and all countries belonging to the European Union.

Fifty-two percent of LA County residents voted in favor of Proposition 37, which would have required labeling on raw or processed genetically-modified food products offered for sale to consumers. Although the Proposition 37 was defeated in a statewide election, largely due to the over \$40 million spent by special interests groups opposition of the proposition, the Los Angeles City Council has established a strong precedent for acting on behalf of its constituents when state or federal authorities will not, and it is important that the Council as a whole assume a position of leadership on the issue of GM Crops. The Council has voted to halt or regulate the sale and spread of genetically-modified crops and food products no less than three times, including the votes on Prop 37, GM Salmon, and the Monsanto Protection Act. With the founding of the Seed Library of Los Angeles, and the Council's forthcoming actions on parkway vegetable gardens and urban beekeeping, the Council has an even greater need to act.

A local example to follow would be that of the city of Arcata, California, which has enacted an ordinance that places a comprehensive ban on GM crops. More specifically, the ordinance makes unlawful each of the following activities pertaining to GM crops within the City of Arcata's limits: the sale, distribution, propagation, cultivation, or raising or growing of seeds or crops, by any person, partnership, corporation, firm or organization of any kind. Any acts in violation of said ordinance are declared to constitute a public nuisance. Given the numerous threats posed by the proliferation of GM crops, it is incumbent upon the City of Los Angeles to enact an ordinance of its own that places a ban on the growth, sale, and distribution of GM crops, as well as other associated activities.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the City Attorney be requested to prepare and present an ordinance which would prohibit the growth of genetically modified (GM) crops within City limits. Specifically, the ordinance should prohibit each the following practices related to the growing of GM crops within City limits: the planting of GM seeds; the sale of GM seeds by vendors; the sale of any seeds that could potentially be contaminated by other genetically modified organisms (GMO); the sale of GM fruit trees and plants.

OCT 18 2013

PRESENTED BY Paul Koretz
PAUL KORETZ
Councilmember, 5th District

Mitch O'Farrell
MITCH O'FARRELL
Councilmember, 13th District

SECONDED BY M. Bee

JSB

ORIGINAL