



# Mar Vista Community Council



## Green Committee

Sunday, January 25, 2015 - 9:30 A.M.

### Mar Vista Farmers Market

Grand View at Venice Blvd.

Tables Adjacent to the Post Office

## Agenda

1. Call meeting to order
2. Public comment
3. Motion to approve November
4. Reports
  - a. MVCC Green Tent
  - b. 2015 Green Garden Showcase
  - c. Neighborhood Council Sustainability Alliance
  - d. Water Wise Expo
    - Presenters: G3 Green Gardens Group; Greywater Corps; LA Waterkeepers; Los Angeles Department of Water & Power; Mar Vista Green Garden Showcase; Rain Barrels International; Surfrider Ocean Friendly Gardens; TreePeople
    - Suggestions for others, or is this sufficient?
  - e. Interim Stormwater Management Master Plan
5. Discussion
  - a. Green Committee's role in climate change activism
  - b. Car wash water recycling
6. Old business
  - a. Motion to purchase a portable laptop battery charger (amended)

The Mar Vista Community Council authorizes the expenditure of up to \$350 to purchase 17W Solar Charger Kit (<http://www.voltaicsystems.com/17-watt-kit>) and a 10' extension cord from Voltaic. The kit includes a solar panel and battery capable of charging laptops and tablets. It will be used for presentations/displays at the Green Tent as well as at Showcase Central. And be available for use by other MVCC events.
  - b. Motion supporting divestment (tabled until January meeting for possible amendment)

The climate crisis is a serious threat to current and future generations in Los Angeles and around the world. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Fourth Assessment Report found that global warming is already causing costly disruption of human and natural systems throughout the world including the melting of Arctic ice, the ocean's rise in acidity, flooding and drought. Almost every government in the world has agreed through the 2009 Copenhagen Accord that any warming above a 2°C (3.6°F) rise would be unsafe, and that humans can only pour about 565 more gigatons of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere to maintain this limit. In its "Unburnable Carbon" report, the Carbon

Tracker Initiative found that of the two hundred publicly-traded fossil fuel companies with the largest coal, oil, and gas reserves companies possess proven reserves that would release approximately 2,795 gigatons of CO2 if they are burned, which is five times the amount that can be released without exceeding 2°C of warming.

The City of Los Angeles has a responsibility to protect the lives and livelihoods of its inhabitants from the threat of climate change and support a future where all citizens can live healthy lives without the negative impacts of a warming environment. To further these goals, the Mar Vista Community Council urges the City to:

- Review the investment portfolios of all city departments and agencies to identify any holdings that include direct or indirect investments in fossil fuel companies
- Immediately cease any new investments in fossil fuel companies or in commingled assets that include holdings in fossil fuel companies;
- For any investments in commingled funds that are found to include fossil fuel companies, contact the fund managers and request that the fossil fuel companies be removed from the funds
- Ensure that none of its directly held or commingled assets include holdings in fossil fuel public equities and corporate bonds within 1 year
- Seek out investments in opportunities to limit the effects of burning fossil fuels or help to mitigate its effects including, but not limited to, clean technology and renewable energy, sustainable companies or projects, and sustainable communities

7. New business

a. Motion to fund the Green Garden Showcase

The Mar Vista Community Council authorizes the following expenditures in support of the Mar Vista Green Garden Showcase..

Bamboo poles (for flags)	\$25
Food, paper goods and utensils for Garden Hosts Welcome Event	\$100

b. Motion supporting Urban Agriculture Incentive Zones motion:

The Mar Vista Community Council supports Councilmember Filipe Fuentes and Curren Price's Urban Agriculture Incentive Zones motion (Attachment A). In addition to encouraging productive uses for vacant land, the implementation of Urban Agriculture Incentive Zones in the city would also increase access to fruits and vegetables in areas that currently lack fresh foods

c. Motion regarding Sustainable Landscaping at LADWP and LA City facilities

The Mar Vista Community Council notes that the lawn at the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) facility at the intersection of Venice and McLaughlin has been replaced with artificial turf, non-native plants and without any grading for rainwater capture. As recent news coverage of L.A. rains showed, one inch of rain generates 8 billion gallons of runoff in the City. This urban runoff is the #1 source of ocean pollution, and could be a valuable source of irrigation, groundwater recharge, and enhancing stream flows. Also, landscapes with living soil can help sequester carbon ([http://e360.yale.edu/feature/soil\\_as\\_carbon\\_storehouse\\_new\\_weapon\\_in\\_climate\\_fight/2744/](http://e360.yale.edu/feature/soil_as_carbon_storehouse_new_weapon_in_climate_fight/2744/)). Artificial turf compacts and kills soil, generating runoff and providing no carbon sequestering benefit. LADWP's own turf replacement rebate ([https://www.ladwp.com/ladwp/faces/ladwp/aboutus/a-water/a-w-conservation/a-w-c-landscap?\\_adf.ctrl-state=qhcmd28t2\\_4&\\_af](https://www.ladwp.com/ladwp/faces/ladwp/aboutus/a-water/a-w-conservation/a-w-c-landscap?_adf.ctrl-state=qhcmd28t2_4&_af))

[Loop=1033234959869636](#)) “encourages” use of “California Friendly© plants, mulch, and permeable pathways,” though does not require grading for rainwater capture as well as use of climate-appropriate plants, mulch and efficient irrigation.

The Mar Vista Community Council requests that as lawns are replaced at LADWP facilities, and all other LA City facilities, they be required to retrofit following the watershed approach. The watershed approach:

- Uses rainwater as a source of irrigation;
- Creates permeable, living soil using natural woodchip mulch or leaf litter, and permeable hardscaping;
- Utilizes climate-appropriate plants and drip irrigation.

While the City is urging homeowners and businesses to replace turf lawn with sustainable alternatives, it is imperative that the LADWP and the City of Los Angeles utilize this opportunity to set an example by re-landscaping to conserve and capture water while creating a habitat that fosters the pollinators needed to support our ecosystem. Such landscaping will serve to promote environmental awareness and responsible landscaping choices by others in a highly visible setting and will ultimately save the city money in water usage, maintenance, and prevention of storm water runoff fines.

We stand ready to provide contacts and resource information as needed for assistance.

8. Public comment
9. Motion to adjourn

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*\*in compliance with Government Code section 54957.5, non-exempt writings that are distributed to a majority or all of the board in advance of a meeting, may be viewed at <http://www.marvista.org> or at the scheduled meeting. In addition, if you would like a copy of any record related to an item on the agenda, please contact [secretary@marvista.org](mailto:secretary@marvista.org).*

*\*\*As a covered entity under Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act, the City of Los Angeles does not discriminate on the basis of disability and upon request, will provide reasonable accommodation to ensure equal access to its programs, services, and activities. Sign language interpreters, assistive listening devices, or any auxiliary aids and/or services may be provided upon request. To ensure availability of services, please make your request at least 3 business days prior to the meeting you wish to attend by contacting [chair@marvista.org](mailto:chair@marvista.org).*

14-1378

Motion

PLANNING & LAND USE MANAGEMENT

The *Urban Agriculture Incentive Zones Act*, AB 551 (Ting), encourages the development of vacant, unproductive land for growing food.

AB 551 allows cities, with approval from the county board of supervisors, to designate Urban Agriculture Incentive Zones. Within these zones, property owners who allow their land to be used for agriculture purposes for a minimum of five years can receive a property tax adjustment; their land would be reassessed at the average statewide irrigated agriculture lands rate.


The property tax adjustment is intended to incentivize landowners who are not utilizing their property to make it available for urban agriculture. Parcels would be eligible for the incentive if they are between 0.10 and 3 acres in size, dedicated to agriculture or animal husbandry, free of dwellings not intended for agriculture or educational purposes, and located within a zone that allows for agricultural use.

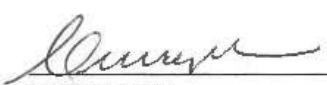
In addition to encouraging productive uses for vacant land, the implementation of Urban Agriculture Incentive Zones in the city would also increase access to fruits and vegetables in areas that currently lack fresh foods. More than 40% of low-income adults in Los Angeles County are food insecure and more than 60% of adults are obese or overweight, according to the Los Angeles Food Policy Council's October 2013 Los Angeles Food System Snapshot.

**I THEREFORE MOVE** that Council instruct the Department of City Planning and the Department of Building and Safety, in consultation with the City Attorney, to prepare and present an ordinance establishing Urban Agriculture Incentive Zones, and which includes the following:

1. Designate the boundaries of one or more Urban Agriculture Incentive Zones within the city and clarify zoning where food growing operations are allowed.
2. Develop a process by which the City can determine property owners' eligibility and by which property owners can apply for the incentive.
3. Develop an enforcement mechanism to ensure property owners are following local, county, and state regulations for Urban Agriculture Incentive Zones.
4. Coordinate with the County of Los Angeles the approval, establishment, and implementation of Urban Agriculture Incentive Zones as required by AB 551 (Ting), the *Urban Agriculture Incentive Zones Act*.

PRESENTED BY:

  
FELIPE FUENTES  
Councilmember, 7<sup>th</sup> District

  
CURREN PRICE  
Councilmember, 9<sup>th</sup> District

SECONDED BY:



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