



Mar Vista Community Council



Green Committee

Sunday, May 24, 2015 - 9:30 A.M.

Mar Vista Farmers Market

Grand View at Venice Blvd.

Tables Adjacent to the Post Office

Agenda

1. Call to order
2. Public comment
3. Motion to approve April minutes
4. Reports
 - a. MVCC Green Tent
 - b. Neighborhood Council Sustainability Alliance (NCSA)
 - c. California Friendly Landscape Training
5. Discussion
 - a. Mar Vista SaveTheDropLA campaign
 - b. Pando Populus Conference
 - c. [General Provision M](#) – large irrigated turf
6. Old business
 - a. MVCC Methane Resolution
 - b. Animal product greenhouse gas motion**
 - c. Resolution opposing Phillips 66 Santa Maria Refinery crude by rail operation
7. New business
 - a. Policy Motion: Utilizing Recycled Water from Hyperion Treatment Plant

The Mar Vista Community Council supports the motion presented by Councilmembers Mike Bonin and Paul Koretz (*Attachment A: Council File 14-00078-S5*) directing the Department of Sanitation report on possibilities to utilize recycled water from Hyperion Treatment Plant as a local and regional resource.

The Donald C. Tillman Water Reclamation Plant in the San Fernando Valley furnishes reclaimed water to many users. The Hyperion Plant treats the water to a high standard and then pumps it into Santa Monica Bay. In this time of long-term drought, when some are talking about desalinization, this is inexplicable.

- b. Policy Motion: Graywater Systems/Recycle Water

The Mar Vista Community Council supports the motion presented by Councilmembers Mike Bonin and Paul Krekorian (*Attachment B: Council File 15-0458-S1*) to encourage the installation of more graywater systems by eliminating the permit fees for simple systems and also instructs the Department of Water and Power to determine what other hurdles or issues could be

streamlined to further encourage people to recycle water at their homes with graywater systems.

c. Policy Motion: Protecting Biodiversity City Practices/Working Group

MVCC supports the motion presented by Councilmember Paul Koretz (*Attachment C: Council File 15-0499*) which:

- Directs the Chief Legislative Analyst's office, in partnership with the Mayor's Sustainability Team, to convene a working group with relevant City departments to report back on their current and future strategies and matrices for protecting biodiversity in all City practices;
- Mandates the formation of a Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) to report back with recommendations for strategies to protect and improve biodiversity in the City and on the feasibility of implementing the City Biodiversity Index;
- Directs the TAC to develop and implement best practice strategies for community engagement and outreach on biodiversity including implementation of equity-minded citizen science projects that serve the full range of City neighborhoods.
- Mar Vista Community Council Green Committee Motion to Mulch Parkways

The City of Los Angeles is recognized as one of 35 global biodiversity hot spots—and the only one within the continental United States. The Mar Vista Community Council recognizes the importance of protecting this biodiversity and the educational, scientific and quality of life benefits that derive from access to natural landscapes that support local biodiversity.

d. Policy Motion: Mulch Over Lawn Parkways

Whereas California is in a severe, historic drought and Los Angeles is using more water annually than it will be receiving in the future, and

Whereas the City of Los Angeles gives away free mulch and would have sufficient mulch to enact the following project, and

Whereas residential and commercial parkways are the property of the City of Los Angeles, and

Whereas each square foot of parkway lawn needs approximately 50 gallons of water per year (a typical Mar Vista parkway uses approximately 20,000 gallons of water a year), and

Whereas watering parkways ipso facto means wasting water in that the water overshoots the narrow parkway and waters the sidewalk and the street, which does not allow for soil water retention, and actually degrades the street, and

Whereas mulch will increase the amount of water that will be retained in a given area and thus reduce the amount of runoff associated with smaller storms, and

Whereas the City of Los Angeles has mulch which it provides to residents for free, made from green waste which is partially composted which likely destroys any pesticides present, and

Whereas the use of mulch would be a net benefit to limiting outdoor landscape water use, soil quality, water retention, and reduced storm water runoff.

Therefore be it resolved that the Mar Vista Community Council requests that the City of Los Angeles Departments (e.g. Bureau of Street Services; Department of Sanitation) put City mulch on all parkways (residential or otherwise) where there is existing lawn, instructing home owners to turn off water to the parkway in front of their home. The City of Los Angeles should encourage homeowners to plant native drought tolerant or edible plants in mulched parkways.

8. Public comment
9. Motion to adjourn

**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.*

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Attachment A

ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT

MOTION

California is facing the worst drought in its history. On April 1, 2015, the snowpack statewide was only 5 percent of normal, the lowest in recorded history. This extreme situation is expected to potentially worsen through the remainder of this year and into 2016. The snowmelt from the Sierra Nevada Mountains is the supply source for the State Water Project (SWP) and the Los Angeles Aqueduct. These two aqueducts, along with the Colorado River Aqueduct (CRA), currently make up nearly 90 percent of the City of Los Angeles' water supply.

The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD) owns and operates the CRA and has contractual rights to SWP supplies. The City's purchases of water from MWD through these two aqueduct systems makes up 75 percent of the City's supply. They Mayor has directed the City to reduce its dependence on purchased imported water from MWD by 50 percent by 2025.

In order to reduce the City's reliance on purchased imported water and improve water supply reliability, the City is working to increase its local water supplies. One local water supply resource is recycled water. Recycled water is a safe, reliable, and drought-proof source of water.


Every day, the City treats over 340 million gallons of wastewater at its four wastewater treatment plants. The Hyperion Treatment Plant, the City's largest wastewater treatment facility, treats close to 280 million gallons per day alone. The large majority of this water is then discharged into the Pacific Ocean.

The treated wastewater from the Hyperion Treatment Plant is a very valuable resource and has the potential to offset potable demands within the City as well as the adjacent region.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Bureau of Sanitation be directed to work with the Department of Water and Power and report back on current projects, plans, and future possibilities to utilize recycled water from the Hyperion Treatment Plant as both a local and regional resource.

PRESENTED BY:


PAUL KORETZ
Councilmember, 5th District


MIKE BONIN
Councilmember, 11th District

SECONDED BY:




ORIGINAL

Attachment B

ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT

MOTION

With the State of California in the midst of a historic drought and water suppliers proposing to cut water deliveries to cities by 15%, any and every program the City of Los Angeles can undertake to help residents conserve water will have tremendous environmental and economic benefits for our City.

Graywater is untreated wastewater from showers, laundry machines, and bathtubs which has not come into contact with toilet waste. It does not include wastewater from kitchen sinks, photo lab sinks, dishwashers, or laundry water from soiled diapers. There are a variety of types of graywater systems, ranging from "clothes washer" systems (which do not require permits), to "simple" systems (which discharge up to 250 gallons per day and require permits), to "complex" systems (which discharge more than 250-gallons per day) and "treatment" systems (which are not currently allowed in Los Angeles).

Graywater reuse is legal in Los Angeles for subsurface irrigation systems at low-rise residential homes, provided that the system recycling the graywater follows the 2010 California Plumbing Code, Chapter 16A Part 1. Permits for graywater systems are issued by the City of Los Angeles Department of Building and Safety (LADBS), though further approval may be needed by the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health. The average cost of a permit is \$507, which includes up to two inspections and plancheck (\$396 for plancheck and \$111 for permit).


LADWP has the responsibility to protect the public water system from contamination caused by the backflow of contaminants or pollutants through the water service connection. The protection of the City's water supply is governed under LADWP Rule 16-D and enforced by LADWP or by LADBS, acting as its authorized representative.


Though the Department of Water and Power offers an exceptional amount of information and resources for residents considering graywater systems on its website, only 13 permits were issued by LADBS in the past year. The City would benefit from more homeowners installing graywater systems and should do everything possible to encourage broader use of the water-saving installation.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the City Attorney, with the cooperation and assistance of the Department of Building and Safety and the Department of Water and Power, prepare and present an ordinance amending the Los Angeles Municipal Code to eliminate any fees associated with the installation of approved "simple" gray water systems (as defined by LADWP) by homeowners in Los Angeles.

I FURTHER MOVE that the Department of Water and Power conduct a review of both completed graywater system applications and applications that were started but not finished, and to report to the Council regarding what hurdles or other issues could be streamlined to further encourage people to recycle water at their homes with graywater systems.

PRESENTED BY:


MIKE BONIN
Councilmember, 11th District


PAUL KREKORIAN
Councilmember, 2nd District

SECONDED BY:





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Attachment C

MOTION

ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT

The City of Los Angeles lies within the California Floristic Province, which is globally recognized as one of thirty-five biodiversity hotspots on the planet and the only hotspot in the Continental United States. The City is home to a number of threatened and rare species and provides habitat for a wide range of native vegetation and wildlife.

The survival and well-being of the City's residents depends directly on ecosystem services, including food production, oxygen generation, water purification, topsoil creation, biodegradation, and waste removal. These and many other services are built directly from an integrated community of natural biodiversity.

Access to natural landscapes which support local biodiversity contributes to quality of life, educational opportunities, restorative recreational activities, economic growth, and City character. Biodiverse landscapes provide benefits to residents such as increased productivity, fewer sick days, greater sense of place and community, and a shared sense of history.

Unfortunately, opportunities to access biodiversity are not equitably distributed across the City's neighborhoods. Underserved communities, in addition to disproportionately bearing the burden of environmental pollution, also lack opportunities to connect with nature and biodiversity. Additionally, inner-city biodiversity is often not studied, entire wildlife communities are ignored and human communities remain unengaged in the work.

The City does not currently have a cross-cutting, equitable, and integrated program to protect, manage, restore and enhance the unique biodiversity within the larger urban ecosystem in the City and region. Recognizing this, Mayor Garcetti's Sustainable City pLAN of 2015 specifically calls for development of a "no-net-loss" biodiversity strategy.

The City Biodiversity Index (also known as the Singapore Index) has been developed by international experts in urban biodiversity planning and management under the Convention on Biological Diversity and provides a self-assessment tool for cities. It is a voluntary, transparent, and objective framework to document and enumerate a city's existing native biodiversity and the ecosystem services such as climate regulation provided by that biodiversity. The Index also provides frameworks for setting conservation targets and developing biodiversity management and education programs.

The City, recognizing the importance of native biodiversity for its intrinsic, educational, scientific, and socio-ecological values, should commit to implementing the City Biodiversity Index.


The City should also develop habitat-based geospatial strategies for incorporating the conservation and equity of biodiversity in specific plans, development permitting, connectivity, planning, urban forestry, and the design and maintenance of parks and streets.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Chief Legislative Analyst's office, in partnership with the Mayor's Sustainability Team, be directed to convene a working group of City departments, including LA Sanitation, the Planning Department, the Bureau of Street Services and its Urban Forestry Division, the Department of Recreation and Parks, the Port of Los Angeles, the Department of Water and Power, the Zoo and other relevant departments, to report back on their current and future strategies and matrices for protecting biodiversity in all City practices.

I FURTHER MOVE that LA Sanitation with the assistance of the Planning Department, the Bureau of Street Services (Urban Forestry Division), the Department of Recreation and Parks, the Port of Los Angeles, the Zoo and other relevant departments, be directed to convene a Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) comprised of local universities, NGOs, and relevant governmental agencies including the LA County Natural History Museum, to report back with recommendations for strategies to protect and improve biodiversity in the City and on the feasibility of implementing the City Biodiversity Index.

I FURTHER MOVE that the TAC should develop and implement best practice strategies for community engagement and outreach on biodiversity including implementation of equity-minded citizen science projects that serve the full range of City neighborhoods.

PRESENTED BY:


PAUL KORETZ
Councilmember, 5th District

SECONDED BY:





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