

MINUTES
CITY OF LOS ANGELES
ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION.
200 N. Spring Street, Room 1050, City Hall
December 20, 2007

Present: Alina Bokde, Vice President
Maria Armoudian, Commissioner
Joyce M. Perkins, Commissioner
M. Teresa Villegas, Commissioner

Absent: Misty Sanford, President

Karla Cortez, Commission Secretary – (213) 978-2366

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Commissioner Perkins called the meeting to order at 9:43 a.m.
2. **CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES:** Commissioner Perkins approved the minutes of November 15, 2007, Commissioner Villegas second.
3. **COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:** None.
4. **GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT:** Detrich B. Allen, General Manager of the Environmental Affairs Department provided the Commission with an update of departmental activities.
 - Detrich Allen informed EAC that EAD sent a letter to the Department of General Services to request a facility fee waiver to conduct EAC meetings in the evening from 5:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. in City Hall, 10th floor conference room in order to obtain public participation. The Department of General Services has agreed to waive the facility fees to accommodate EAC's request.
 - Detrich Allen introduced Peter Selfridge of the Clinton Climate Initiative (CCI) to EAC. Peter Selfridge informed EAC that the CCI has partnered with C40 Cities to sign a number of agreements to reduce greenhouse gases. The City of Los Angeles is one of the biggest partners and the CCI intends to do a lot of work with the City of Los Angeles. CCI is a service organization and the three main areas that CCI work with are: 1) technical assistance; 2) broker of a number of purchasing agreements with large companies; and, 3) offer monitoring tools.
5. **ITEMS OF DISCUSSION:**
 - Green LA Cumulative Impacts Working Group Presentation – Jim Sadd, Professor of Environment Science at Occidental College and Patricia Ochoa of Pacoima Beautiful provided EAC a power point presentation regarding the Green LA Cumulative Impacts.

- Commissioner Villegas inquired regarding the status of a motion by Greuel and Cardenas on the Sun Valley Environmental Justice Improvement Area, which EAC could advocate when presented to committees. Detrich Allen responded to EAC that the Sun Valley Area was declared an environmental justice zone by City Council that also included part of Greuel's district. EAD to follow up and provide a status for EAC.
- Jonathan Parfrey, Director of Liberty Hill Foundation informed EAC that Green LA which is a coalition of over 70 environmental organizations met with the Mayor on December 4, 2007. One of the issues discussed was to create a Mayor Directive on environmental justice zones to the Planning Department and other relevant agencies, which the Mayor approved. The Green LA Cumulative Impact Work Group is in the process of developing a suggested text for the Mayor's Directive. Commissioner Bokde requested Green LA to keep EAD informed of progress and EAC to send a letter of support after reviewing Green LA's recommendations to the Mayor. Jonathan Parfrey responded that EAC is viewed as the appropriate body to communicate with the Mayor on these recommendations.
- Report from SCAG regarding Regional Transportation Plan – Akiko Yamagami, Transportation Planner of SCAG provided EAC a power point presentation regarding the Regional Transportation Plan. The draft Regional Transportation Plan is available on line from SCAG's website and EAC could request a CD or hard copy for their review. The public comment period is available until February 18, 2008.
- Commissioner Bokde inquired regarding where the Gold Line Eastside Extension ends. Akiko Yamagami to check and provide information to EAC.
- Commissioner Armoudian inquired regarding why the Regional Transportation Plan did not provide a transportation plan on the 405 freeway to address the congestion. Akiko Yamagami to follow up and provide information to EAC.
- Commissioner Bokde inquired regarding SCAG's community outreach to other organizations and agencies that would be interested in providing feedback on the Regional Transportation Plan public comment. Akiko Yamagami responded that SCAG is conducting surveys and has scheduled community outreach meetings in January at Los Angeles, Orange and Riverside which the dates and venues will be posted on SCAG's website. Gretchen Hardison also added that CLA and Department of Transportation has pulled together a working group of a number of City departments to review and comment on the draft Regional Transportation Plan, which EAD has joined. Department of Transportation was directed by the Council's Transportation Commission to provide comments to them by January 23, 2007. EAD focus would be on air quality issues. EAD to provide Commissioners Armoudian and Sanford a copy of draft Regional Transportation Plan for their review and comment.

- Status of Climate Action Plan – Jonathan Parfrey provided EAC a status of the public participation process relating to the Mayor's Climate Action Plan. Occidental College will provide recommendations to the Mayor on what the public participation should be for the Climate Action Plan. Green LA will conduct interviews of the communications and public participation personnel with the city government and experts in the field in order to provide the best information for the Mayor. The process would be to review the City departments plans and Green LA has a draft of the department's statements on how they plan to meet the Mayor's goals. The first stage, Green LA recommends that the public should have a role on what the departments are proposing. The second stage would be how would this affect us. This would be to engage change in public behavior. After all, 50% of the greenhouse gases that are admitted in Los Angeles come from mobile sources, which essentially are people in their cars. The two areas would be to: 1) review the departmental programs and goals; and, 2) public awareness campaign.
- Commissioner Villegas inquired regarding if Green LA would also be reviewing state policy as part of the process for the public awareness campaign. Jonathan Parfrey responded that Green LA's current scope would only relate to the City of Los Angeles.
- Commissioner Perkins inquired regarding the Green LA's timeline on developing the outreach plan, conducting the interviews and hosting meetings for outreach. Jonathan Parfrey responded that Green LA would provide a copy of the preliminary draft for EAC's review at the March 20 meeting. Commissioner Armoudian requested Green LA to provide a status prior to March meeting. Jonathan Parfrey agreed. Requesting EAC to: 1) identify how the public could be engaged in the climate change questions around the C40 meeting which would be independent of the Green LA's proposed process; and, 2) Mayor to issue a directive to all departments that the public participation is central to the departmental reviews.
- Commissioner Bokde stated that there are various efforts that are happening within the City of Los Angeles that directly impact the goals and objectives of the Green LA Plan. And as part of the public outreach strategy that is being developed in terms of coordinating these efforts to assure that the information is getting out to the community is comprehensive enough. Should include the Sustainability Plan with the Green LA departmental plan and create an umbrella process that keeps track of all these efforts. Jonathan Parfrey responded that Green LA and EAD had a discussion of possibly consolidating the Climate Action Plan with the Sustainability Plan but unable to provide a solution. Requesting EAC's direction on this matter. Do not know if there is a public element with the Sustainability Plan. The Mayor's Directive on the Sustainability Plan required departments to report back to EAD but no public participation process. Green LA to work with the

public to ensure that the public is excited, involved and supportive of the Climate Action Plan for the City of Los Angeles.

- Gretchen Hardison, Director of Air Quality Division provided EAC an updated status of Climate Action Plan. Spoke to Green LA regarding the possibility of piggybacking some climate change outreach on the Department of Recreation and Park's community needs assessment process or one of the other public participation processes to save resources. The General Managers Climate Working Group met on November 29th and discussed the current status of the preliminary working draft document; policy type and management level discussions regarding other issues that impact climate change, for example, how to deal with climate change in CEQA documents. The General Managers are aware of the current status of the working draft document which has a lot of ongoing actions through the next two, three, four and five years. It's difficult to see beyond that but acknowledge that need to do additional planning and long term thinking to keep moving forward and to add new actions as technology advances.
- Commissioner Bokde inquired regarding the timeline of each department; have the departments submitted a plan; whether or not the departments will go to their own individual commissions; will there be a formal adoption process for the individual departments or presentation of their commission on this; or are the departments waiting for direction from EAD. Gretchen Hardison responded that have addressed these issues at the previous General Managers meeting and requested that departments inform EAD if they had a particular process that they were going through. EAD has not heard from any departments on that. Some departments felt that they need approval from their boards or commissions because it involves the department's budget and resources. Departments want to assure that they have the ability to follow through if providing resources for public discussion. Detrich Allen also responded that at the General Managers Climate Working Group meeting informed the departments that EAD is prepared to have the working draft document completed for final public review in January, 2008. However, if the departments need to take their submissions to their board or commission after January requested that they inform EAD.
- Beth Jines, Assistant General Manager of the Environmental Affairs informed EAC that many departments expressed an interest in having EAC attend the department's commission meetings to provide information and briefing, particularly the Airport and Harbor. Commissioner Bokde agreed and suggested Commissioner Sanford to have a discussion with the president of the commission regarding an agenda and how to format the meeting.

6. **ACTION ITEM**

- Adopt EAD's Porous Pavement Report – Commissioner Bokde requested this item to be continued at the next EAC meeting.
- Support of Verde Coalition's Recommendation to Recreation & Parks regarding Community Needs Assessment Survey – Jason Elias, Union Representative of SEIU Local 721 provided EAC a brief summary regarding recommendations from Verde Coalition. Verde Coalition has offered to assist the Department of Recreation and Parks with the needs assessment survey. Verde Coalition sent a letter to Department of Recreation and Parks which specifies three issues: 1) offering to help and bring resources to Department of Recreation and Parks; 2) requesting the department to hold additional town hall meetings at Boyle Heights Pecan, Hazard, Costello, Hollenbeck Park, Pico Union/Echo Park and Mid-City/Koreatown Westlake area; and, 3) requesting the department to conduct a random scientific survey of household residents for a more detailed qualitative information that represents the needs of the city.
- Commissioner Bokde proposed EAC to send a letter to the Board of Recreation and Parks Commission to support Verde Coalition's recommendations to the department. Commissioner Villegas moved to send letter to the Board of Recreation and Parks Commission, Commissioner Perkins second. All EAC members in favor of motion.
- Communication to Council regarding the Coordination of City Environmental Plans – Detrich Allen informed EAC that the City Council is still in the process of planning and identifying what the needs are and what would be required. EAC could communicate and coordinate with the Council offices to assist in the early planning stages for the City environmental plans. Commissioner Bokde stated that EAC to assist and support EAD's efforts in the City environmental plans. Detrich Allen agreed.
- Commissioner Bokde recommended as part of the General Manager's report to include the status of the Council motions and coordination of the City environmental plan. Detrich Allen agreed.

7. **COMMISSION OLD BUSINESS**: Commissioner Villegas reported to EAC that she attended the Transportation Committee meeting on December 11, 2007 regarding infrastructure bonds and provided EAC's input on Proposition 84 feedback of EAC's two public outreach meetings. Proposition 84 is going to be re-referred to Energy and Environment Committee. Requesting EAC to be kept apprised of the Energy and Environment Committee meeting in order to testify.

- Commissioner Bokde inquired regarding moving EAC meetings to the evening. Any feedback from EAD in terms of cost and staff impact. Detrich Allen responded that EAD could work out the cost and staff due to the fact that meetings are once a month. Detrich Allen requested not to schedule

the evening meetings until February. Commissioner Villegas proposed EAC to schedule evening meetings on a quarterly basis. Commissioner Bokde concern with quarterly meetings are that it could be confusing for the public as to which month EAC has day and/or evening meetings. Commissioner Bokde requested to have further discussion at the next EAC meeting and bring forward any other EAC proposals.

8. **NEW COMMISSION BUSINESS**: Commissioner Bokde requested for EAC to reschedule January meeting to accommodate Commissioner Sanford's schedule. Commission Secretary to follow up and confirm rescheduled date for EAC meeting in January.
9. **FUTURE AGENDA TOPICS**: Report from Council District 12 regarding Environmental Inspector Position motion; Report from EAC regarding Meeting with Transportation Commission
10. **ADJOURNMENT**: The meeting adjourned at 11:38 a.m.

AN AUDIO RECORDING OF THIS MEETING IS AVAILABLE FOR THIRTY (30) DAYS BY CONTACTING THE COMMISSION SECRETARY AT (213) 978-2366.

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