

MINUTES
CITY OF LOS ANGELES
ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION.
200 N. Spring Street, Room 1050, City Hall
March 20, 2008

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

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

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Commissioner Sanford called the meeting to order at 9:42 a.m.
2. **CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES:** Commissioner Armoudian approved the minutes of January 31, 2008, Commissioner Bokde second. Commissioner Bokde approved the minutes of February 21, 2008, 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. The Brownfields Program was cut from the City budget.
 - Wayne Tsuda, Director of Materials and Waste Resources Division informed EAC that the original request for CDBG funding for the coming year for the Brownfields Program was \$800,000. CLA and CAO reviewed the request and their recommendation to Budget & Finance Committee was \$400,000. The Budget & Finance Committee decided to zero out the Brownfields Program. The only funding remaining is money that is encumbered for projects that have work orders which is \$500,000. There are no prospects for more CDBG funding.
 - Commissioner Sanford inquired whether the City would no longer do Brownfields projects in the City. Detrich Allen responded that the Brownfields Executive Team would discuss what options are available for alternative funding for the Brownfields Program. Possibly work with the City Attorney's on the American Dream Program. The Brownfields Executive Team to identify outside funding and set up an action plan.
 - Commissioner Sanford requested EAD to keep her and Commissioner Perkins abreast of the developments and also requested an update of the Brownfields Program at the next EAC meeting. Wayne Tsuda agreed.

5. ITEMS OF DISCUSSION:

- Report from Council District 12 regarding Environmental Inspector Position motion – Nicole Bernson, Senior Policy Advisor of Council District 12 provided EAC a report of the Environmental Inspector position motion. Council District 12 introduced the Environmental Inspector position motion a year ago, which has been explored with EAD to create this position that could have cease and desist order authority. There are numerous amounts of environmental issues in every Council district that requires the City to have authority to address local facilities that pose threats to the environment, health and safety of City residents. Next step would be to create an ordinance, which would put the program and position in place.
- Commissioner Armoudian moved to support the exploration of Council District 12 Environmental Inspector position motion. Commissioner Sanford second.
- Commissioner Sanford requested EAD to report back to EAC regarding the feasibility of a task force and moving on with the Environmental Inspector position motion. Detrich Allen and Beth Jines agreed.
- Commissioner Sanford recommended a subcommittee for EAC to assist EAD. Commissioners Armoudian and Sanford agreed to take part of the subcommittee.
- Garden for Kids Presentation – Noah Bleich, Project Assistant of Water & Natural Resources Division provided EAC a presentation of the Garden for Kids program. The presentation that EAD provides to the kids are: 1) the five Rs - recycling, reduce, reuse, rot, and rethink; 2) nutrition; and, 3) farming and gardening.
- Status of Climate Action Plan – Gretchen Hardison, Director of Air Quality Division provided EAC a status of the Climate Action Plan. Green LA and Occidental consultants are moving forward on the interview process and focus groups. EAD working with consultants to complete calculations of the estimated CO2 reduction potential of the action items in the implementation document. The inventory subcommittee collecting data for the CO2 emissions for the years of 2005, 2006 and 2007. Experienced delay with the 2004 inventory verification by the California Climate Action Registry due to some technical difficulties. Plan to submit inventories to the California Climate Action Registry by the end of June.
- Working with General Services Department, Department of Transportation, Bureau of Sanitation, Police and Fire to review all the transportation fuels used in all of the City vehicles, electricity, natural gas and any other fuels that might be burned for the non-proprietary municipal departments.

- EAD to participate with Air Resources Board, California Climate Action Registry and ICLEI (The International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives) to develop a local government protocol for greenhouse inventories.
- EAD's interdepartmental working group continues to meet every other week to discuss how to incorporate climate change review or global warming assessment into CEQA documents.
- Status of Sustainability Plan – Karin Christie, Director of Environmental Business and Neighborhood Services provided EAC a status of the Sustainability Plan. EAD working with City departments on their operational sustainability plans that would be incorporated with the departmental responses for the Climate Action Plan in order to obtain public input which would eventually lead to the City's Sustainability Plan. EAD also preparing their own operational sustainability plan.
- Status of Environmental Preferable Purchasing (EPP) – Gerald St. Onge, Procurement Supervisor of the Department of General Services (GSD) provided EAC a status of the Environmental Preferable Purchasing (EPP). Introduced Dawn Salazar, Management Analyst, who has filled the second position for GSD. GSD meeting with vendors and organizations while working on a formal implementation plan of the EPP policy. GSD working to review all existing City contracts within six months to target contracts with commodities that lend themselves to EPP opportunities. GSD meeting weekly with the Clinton Climate Initiative that has partnered with C40 Cities to negotiate sealing prices with major manufacturers on energy efficient products.
- Commissioner Sanford inquired if GSD is planning on doing any independent research on new emerging green projects. Gerald St. Onge responded that GSD to do independent research on green projects. Commissioner Sanford to provide GSD a list of non-profit agencies regarding research on green projects. Gerald St. Onge agreed.
- Commissioner Bokde requested GSD to keep her informed of future meetings or if GSD needs assistance regarding EPP. Gerald St. Onge agreed.
- Report from EAC regarding Meeting with Transportation Commission - Commissioner Armoudian requested this item to be continued at the next EAC meeting.
- EAC Evening Meetings – Commissioner Sanford addressed EAC members regarding discussion of possibly scheduling EAC evening meetings to obtain public outreach. Commissioner Bokde recommended to keep EAC meetings at the regularly scheduled time and location. EAC to have an

active role and opportunity to be involved with the Climate Action Plan public outreach meetings. EAC members agreed.

6. **ACTION ITEM:**

- Adopt EAD's Porous Pavement Report – Commissioner Sanford requested this item to be continued at the next EAC meeting.
- Commissioner Sanford requested EAD to prepare a draft letter of adoption for EAC to be included with the porous pavement report and to also have an EAC member attend the Public Works Commission meeting to advocate adoption of the report. Beth Jines agreed.

7. **COMMISSION OLD BUSINESS:** Commissioner Armoudian inquired regarding who is responsible for the signs on how to reduce energy consumption in City Hall. Beth Jines responded Department of General Services.

8. **COMMISSION NEW BUSINESS:** Commissioner Sanford inquired regarding having a discussion with EAD to create an arborcide law in the City of Los Angeles similar to the City of Pasadena and New York at a future EAC meeting. Melinda Bartlett agreed.

- Commissioner Sanford requested to schedule a conference call with EAD, City Attorney's Office of Los Angeles, Pasadena and New York regarding the arborcide law. Melinda Bartlett agreed.

9. **FUTURE AGENDA TOPICS:** Planning Department Presentation on Bike Plan

10. **ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting adjourned at 11:24 a.m.

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

This material is printed on recycled paper 

C:EAC/MINUTES3/20/08