

MINUTES
CITY OF LOS ANGELES
ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMISSION
LOS ANGELES RIVER CENTER
570 WEST AVENUE 26, LOS FELIZ ROOM
May 23, 2007
SPECIAL MEETING

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:** Vice-President Bokde called the meeting to order at 6:07 p.m.
2. **CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES:** Commissioner Perkins approved the minutes of April 19, 2007, Commissioner Armoudian second.
3. **COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:** Gary Russell, Executive Director of the Wilshire Center Business Improvement Corporation (WCBIC) addressed the Commission regarding EAD participating in the Wilshire Center Earth Day – No Car Day 2008 event. They would like to partner with EAD on this project, help promote and implement the Mayor’s Green LA Climate Action Plan, and promote many of EAD’s environmental programs.
4. **GENERAL MANAGER’S REPORT:** Detrich B. Allen, General Manager of the Environmental Affairs Department provided the Commission with an update of departmental activities.
 - Commissioner Armoudian requested an update from Public Works regarding the multi-family recycling project at the next EAC meeting.

5. **ITEMS OF DISCUSSION:**

Mayor’s Climate Action Plan Framework Announcement

- Gretchen Hardison, Director of Air Quality Division addressed the Commission on the Mayor’s release of the Green LA: An Action Plan to Lead the Nation in Fighting Global Warming. The key to the Mayor’s plan is a 35% reduction in CO₂ emissions by the year 2030 community-wide. In terms of the City-wide Climate Action Education Program, the Mayor has asked EAD and EAC to conduct community based outreach to all neighborhoods specifically communities with environmental justice challenges to inform them of the

development of the actions in the climate plan. In addition, EAD and EAC have been asked to conduct a series of at least 20 community workshops to engage public input into the climate plan. EAC to recommend a program to challenge all Angelenos to reduce their individual/household carbon footprint.

- Commissioner Bokde recommended working with Commissioner Sanford and Detrich Allen to develop a proposed public outreach strategy for the climate action plan for discussion at the next EAC meeting.
- Jim Stewart of the People for Parks addressed the Commission on the Mayor's Climate Action Plan. We need to mobilize a multitude of Angelenos to take steps to reduce their emissions. The business community knows the bottom line, they can save on their DWP bill. There is an opportunity to have the business community play an important role. If we have funding to provide free energy audits for the business community, we will have the participation of the business community to implement energy savings.
- Elvia Magallon of the Community Development Department addressed the Commission regarding the outreach for the Climate Action Plan. Elvia recommended to the Commission that a strong partnership would be the Workforce Development Department, which can reach out to thousands of constituents on green technology.
- Sylvia Blackstone of the Los Angeles Tree Coalition addressed the Commission on Climate Action Plan regarding utilizing new technology to reach out to the community, for example, web program and online meetings.

Discussion on EAC's role regarding environmental projects for Proposition 84


- Commissioner Bokde stated that the Mayor's Office is developing criteria that the City will use in order to determine priority projects for Proposition 84 funding. EAC wants to solicit comments from the community regarding what type of criteria and guidelines the City should consider when selecting and prioritizing projects.
- Romel Pascual of the Mayor's Energy and Environment stated that there is also a broader criteria, which is the legislative process for Proposition 84 that would benefit the City. There are approximately 2,000 projects that are already in the works in the City that we should examine. We have asked EAC to help the City to begin to examine those sets of criteria for projects within the City.
- Commissioner Bokde stated that EAC will prepare a document for the Mayor's Office on the community's input, which would serve as a guide for the City's project selection criteria on Proposition 84.
- Elva Yanez of the Audubon Center at Debs Park addressed the Commission on Proposition 84 regarding the urban park funding. Elva recommended that there be a creation of new multi-benefit neighborhood parks and community gardens

where none exist currently and the need is the greatest. The empirical data shows that in the City of Los Angeles, the communities most in need of parks, community gardens and greening are the poorest communities with social, economic and health problems. Research also shows that neighborhood parks within a half-mile of a residence will provide the greatest health benefit with regard to physical activity. Also recommended that EAC review Deborah Cohen's research of the Rand Corporation. There is consensus among urban park advocates in Los Angeles that Proposition 84 allocation program should focus to ensure that promise and intent of Chapter 9. The funding program should ensure that these new neighborhood parks and community gardens in the neediest communities receive adequate funding. Also the technical assistance piece is a critical piece that needs to be funded and well thought out. Another element of Proposition 84 is the \$100 million dollars for nature centers and nature education. We need to ensure that small community based nature centers are not overshadowed by larger institutes that have the capacity to employ high capacity lobbyist to direct the funds a certain direction.

- Jim Stewart of the People for Parks addressed the Commission on Proposition 84 regarding the joint use of schools. We have an opportunity to either spend millions of dollars an acre to buy new land or we have the possibility of taking \$100,000 and open several acres of a school yard and make that available when school is not in session. We have land that is in the public domain, which is closed and that is a waste. We are going to have all these opportunities in Proposition 84 to submit our grant requests to the state and we are going to have zero for these joint use of schools unless there is some kind of specifics in the legislation because it is not going to make this criteria. If we could get the money, we can get the best results for the money if we do the opening of the schools.
- Cecilia Brugman of the William C. Velasquez Institute addressed the Commission on Proposition 84 regarding urban park funding. The priority should be to get funds for areas of greatest need. The area of greatest needs are the communities of low-income. Parks should have a balance of active recreation, passive recreation and habitat restoration. Taylor Yard is a great example of that balance. Any criteria that is being considered should be carefully scrutinized. Keep these principles in mind even in small park areas.
- Joyce Dillard addressed the Commission on Proposition 84. City projects should have a benefit for the whole region. The City can be a strong partner to help the region.
- Melanie Winter of the River Project addressed the Commission on Proposition 84 regarding the intent of the bond. The City's specific needs are the water supply needs and issues that impact the state. This bond is primarily a water bond and every single project needs to address this issue. It is important to develop criteria that ensures that parks and projects are developed which would move us closer to a sustainable water supply in Los Angeles that addresses the regional and multiple benefit issues. Recommended to prioritize water supply first and water quality second.

- Commissioner Bokde recommended to have a discussion at the next EAC meeting regarding scheduling more evening meetings to obtain public feedback on Proposition 84 criteria.
- 6. **COMMISSION OLD BUSINESS:** Commissioner Bokde informed EAC regarding Green LA Environmental Purchasing Policy Briefing Meeting on June 6, 2007.
- 7. **NEW COMMISSION BUSINESS:** None
- 8. **FUTURE AGENDA TOPICS:** Green Agenda, Green Building, Environmental Preferable Purchasing (EPP) policy, Update on the City's Brownfields' Program and Report from the Council District 12 regarding Environmental Inspector Position motion.
- 9. **ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.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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