

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

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

Absent: Joyce M. Perkins, Commissioner

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

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** President Sanford called the meeting to order at 9:39 a.m.
2. **CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES:** Commissioner Bokde approved the minutes of July 19, 2007, Commissioner Villegas second. The minutes of August 16, 2007 will be considered at the October 18, 2007 meeting.
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.
 - Introduced Beth Jines, Assistant General Manager, Environmental Affairs Department to EAC.
 - Commissioner Bokde inquired regarding the grant funded pollution prevention projects of Materials & Application and Friends of Ballona Wetlands. What are the pollution prevention projects of these organizations and what is their focus?
 - Karin Christie, Director of Environmental Business and Neighborhood Services responded that the Friends of Ballona Wetlands are working with Loyola Marymount students. They have done a characterization of the trash that is coming in the wetlands area. Also want to do an outreach pollution prevention effort with the businesses in the area to see what is effective to base a broader approach. The Materials & Application is in a contract with Community Partners, a non-profit organization, and are planning workshops on green building design and green roofs. EAD to meet with these organizations in a few weeks and can request to give a presentation to EAC. Commissioner Bokde suggested instead for EAD to provide information regarding dates of events for these organizations. The organization groups can provide a presentation at the end of the grant and

show EAC what they have learned and successes of projects. Karin Christie agreed.

5. **ITEMS OF DISCUSSION:**

- City of LA Climate Action Plan – Status of Implementation – Gretchen Hardison, Director of Air Quality Division provided EAC a brief status of the implementation of the Climate Action Plan. EAD and Mayor's Office staff met with City staff level interdepartmental working group on August 30, 2007 regarding how to prepare the departmental action plan that would describe how they are implementing each of their assigned measures in the Green LA plan. EAD also requested any additional information that they would like to share with EAD and other programs that might have been missed that they feel would result in reductions of green house gases. EAD received preliminary input last week and anticipating initial reports from each of the departments by early next week. EAD is beginning the process of combining these reports. EAD will work with the technical consultants to start calculating potential green house gas reductions from these programs.
- Commissioner Sanford inquired regarding when would the compiled report be released. Gretchen Hardison responded that there is no exact date for release. EAD will meet with the City staff level contacts in late October and at that point EAD hopes to have all these pieces assembled together at least in a rough format. Meetings with the City staff level interdepartmental working group are scheduled on October 25 and November 15, 2007. General Managers meetings scheduled for the end of November and December. EAD is working to schedule one for EAC meeting agenda in order to obtain input.
- Detrich Allen stated that EAC has a critical part in the community outreach component. Invited Commissioner Armoudian to attend the City staff level interdepartmental working group meeting. If a conflict, EAD would schedule a meeting with Commissioner Armoudian to review the draft report. Commissioner Armoudian agreed.
- Commissioner Sanford requested to be included in the process in case Commissioner Armoudian is not available to attend the meetings another EAC member could attend. Detrich Allen agreed.
- Status of Environmental Preferable Purchasing Policy – Romel Pascual of the Mayor's Energy and Environment provided EAC a status of the Environmental Preferable Purchasing Policy (EPP). EPP is a priority for the City. General Services Department (GSD) will be instructed to take the role on how the City is going to move EPP efforts aggressively. The EPP policy, which is separate, is running through City Council. Mayor's Office has met with GSD leadership and toured their facilities.

- Commissioner Sanford requested EAC to have a discussion with GSD regarding a workshop or meeting with organizations outside of the City to assist with recommendations and ideas regarding EPP efforts. Romel Pascual agreed and suggested GSD to attend EAC meeting.
- Commissioner Sanford suggested to Commissioner Bokde of pulling together organizations outside of the City (for example Green LA Working Group) before the next EAC meeting so when GSD does attend an EAC meeting, EAC would have specific recommendations. Commissioner Bokde agreed.
- Commissioner Bokde recommended that the assessment of the strategic plan to be coordinated with the policy for opportunities to expand it to meet multiple goals. This would be an opportunity to use the policy to help build local business and green industry within the community. Also requested to attend meetings regarding EPP. Romel Pascual agreed.
- Commissioner Villegas proposed if Commissioner Bokde is not available to attend the meetings another EAC member could attend. Commissioner Sanford agreed and requested to be included in the process.
- Commissioner Armoudian requested a copy of master list of all purchases. Romel Pascual responded that they are attempting to compile list and will provide a copy when completed.
- Commissioner Armoudian recommended that other businesses coordinate purchasing through the City so they could receive green products at a lower cost. Romel Pascual responded that in a larger scale, there is an international component of the Clinton Climate Initiative that is exploring and attempting to do with the C40 cities (40 largest cities in the world) a joint contract to get products at a lower cost.
- Commissioner Sanford inquired whether the CD1 plastic bags ban is part of the policy. Romel Pascual responded that it could be included.
- Commissioner Sanford also inquired regarding what is the buying power within Southern California and the possibility of a joint contract with L.A. County, Long Beach, Santa Monica and Beverly Hills that we could partner with to push EPP. Romel Pascual responded that they could have another discussion on this issue at the next meeting regarding what partnership opportunities the City is already engaged in because a lot of cities around the country are focused on climate and sustainability. Some cities have taken leadership and are pulling other cities together. The City are members and leaders in a few of the collaborative multiple city efforts such as Green Cities Initiative and U.S. Conference of Mayors. It would be good to spend some time either separately or at a meeting to layout and see what the landscape looks like for EPP. Commissioner Sanford requested to

- schedule a meeting before the ad hoc workshop on EPP. Romel Pascual agreed.
- Detrich Allen informed EAC regarding the U.S. Conference of Mayors “National Climate Protection Summit” event on November 1-2, 2007, which Seattle is hosting. EAD will update EAC regarding the event and possibly consider a EAC member to attend.
 - Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority Presentation on Northeast LA Open Space Plan – Barbara Romero, Director of Urban Projects, Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority provided a power point presentation to EAC regarding Northeast LA Open Space Plan. Barbara Romero requested EAC to assist with policy implementation and to participate with the Planning Department on the ICO that is currently in process. Commissioner Sanford responded that the City could partner with the acquisition of the plan.
 - Status of Green Business Certification Program – Karin Christie, Director of Environmental Business and Neighborhood Services provided EAC a status of the Green Business Certification Program (GBCP). EAD staff attended the Green LA Working Group Meeting regarding GBCP and took that into account for the City of Los Angeles. EAD has completed a first draft, which is being reviewed by EAD management and Councilmember Alarcon’s Office. The report presents information regarding the Bay Area Program, which is the preferred program. Also talked about a self certification program and the fee based idea that Santa Monica started last fall. The recommendations are not final but it was clear that there are some issues regarding the self certification program and fee based idea as a Los Angeles program. The general consensus was for Los Angeles to go forward with a program similar to the Bay Area Program, which would require resources. Waiting to hear back from the council office and some more internal discussions in our department.
 - Commissioner Sanford inquired regarding EAC to provide input before the report is finalized and solicit feedback from organizations outside of the City. Karin Christie informed EAC that the council office is open with sharing the report. Detrich Allen informed EAC that EAD is committed to work a process in obtaining outside input for the report as they move forward.
 - Brownfields Program Overview – Wayne Tsuda, Director of Materials & Waste Resources Division reported to the EAC that there has not been a lot of activity with the Brownfields Program within the last couple of months due to vacation schedules of various staff members.
 - Status of East Wilmington Park – Craig Tranby, Environmental Supervisor of Materials & Waste Resources Division provided EAC a status of East Wilmington Park. EAD focused on three projects to

submit applications for Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) grants which are: 1) Cornfields/Arroyo Seco Specific Plan: EAD to conduct environmental assessments. EAD to look at the properties in the area and do screening assessment to identify concerns. Focused on more detailed Phase 1 information and follow-up with Phase 2 sampling on properties of concern. EAD to coordinate with other efforts in the area. Planning Department applied with EAD's assistance for the State Treasurer's Office sustainability community grants, which would provide environmental hazmat in the area.


- Commissioner Villegas recommended to obtain additional funding through Prop O for clean up on the Cornfields/Arroyo Seco Specific Plan. Craig Tranby responded that the recommendation is a great idea. Commissioner Sanford inquired whether the grant applications are for assessment or clean up. Craig Tranby responded that the grant application is for assessment but will be identifying areas for clean up in the process. Once the assessment is completed then EAD can target clean ups if necessary and evaluate the different funding and resources that are available which may also include Prop O.
- 2) South LA Wetlands: The site is an MTA maintenance facility on Avalon and 54th. The City is in the process of acquiring from MTA for development of a future artificial wetlands and park site. A lot of those aspects are being handled by the council office in terms of the acquisition but do anticipate some additional clean up needs. Have used past EPA funding for Phase 1 and 2 assessments and identified certain areas of concern. Coming back with a clean up application to EPA. There is a requirement for the City to have ownership by June 30, 2008 in order to acquire the grant.
- 3) East Wilmington Park: EAD has completed Phase 2 work on the site using past EPA grant. In the acquisition process which Union Pacific owns the site. The City Council, Bureau of Engineering, Recreation and Parks and EAD are negotiating with Union Pacific to do a supplemental Phase 2 assessment. There were arsenic and lead found on the site and DTSE wanted to further delineate that contamination if acquiring the site and turning it into a park. In the process of doing a supplemental assessment at the site.
- Vacant Lot Inventory - Craig Tranby, Environmental Supervisor of Materials & Waste Resources Division provided EAC a status of the vacant lot inventory. The vacant lot inventory was funded by an EPA grant. Took some of the grant funding and came up with a project to identify 200 vacant commercial area lots which did not know if there were environmental concerns or not. Retained a consultant that went through a process of populating a data base with a Phase 1 to check on the key state, federal and local data sets; doing a fence line visual

inspection; checking on other sources; and compiling into a GIS application. There are 40 lots that had an indication of environmental concerns. EAD will begin to priorities 10 of those sites for complete Phase 1 assessments; interact with the council office, CRA project manager and Mayor's Office; and, make those priority projects for the small sites program. Received the lot inventory last month.

- Craig Tranby stated that most of the sites in the Brownfields Program are private and EAD gets involved when there are environmental concerns. Many of these properties do not have developers that are interested, for example, a private developer, neighborhood land trust, city facilities or any sort of development interest. EAD will provide some of these sources environmental information. If they are interested in pursuing it, will do so in conjunction with the council office and other stakeholders. EAD to provide any other Brownfields assistance through the program.
 - Commissioner Sanford inquired regarding if there has been an effort to link this to the green and job development that has been discussed on the climate change plan using City and state funds to clean up a site. The City could try to influence the type of development that happens there. Craig Tranby responded that there are links that the City has some influence and that is who they would target in terms of development and coordination.
 - Commissioner Sanford inquired regarding who in EAD is handling the green jobs piece of the climate change plan or is that in the Mayor's Office. Romel Pascual responded it is in the Mayor's Office. Commissioner Sanford encouraged a direct coordination between the Brownfields Program and the person in the Mayor's Office. Craig Tranby agreed.
 - Commissioner Sanford requested an update on the status of the Brownfields Strategic Plan at the next EAC meeting.
 - Detrich Allen stated that EAD has kept Commissioner Perkins informed regarding the Brownfields Strategic Plan. Commissioner Sanford requested to be included in the process. Detrich Allen agreed.
 - EAD Process for Public Inquires - Commissioner Sanford requested this item to be continued at the next EAC meeting.
6. **COMMISSION OLD BUSINESS:** Commissioner Villegas inquired regarding the status of Proposition 84. Melinda Bartlett, Director of Water & Natural Resources Division informed EAC that Proposition 84 has not been scheduled for committee or council. Proposition 84 is currently being reviewed by the Chief Legislative Analyst and City Administrative Officer.

7. **NEW COMMISSION BUSINESS:** Commissioner Sanford requested EAC to sponsor the Flex Car event on November 1, 2007. Flex Car is coordinating a program and pledges to not use your vehicle for the month of October, which Commissioner Sanford has signed on. Commissioner Sanford to provide EAC more information regarding event.
- Commissioner Sanford informed EAC that she attended the Climate Change Conference in Australia and represented the City of Los Angeles. The conference was a business and local government workshop of Australia and New Zealand. The City of Brisbane had a program where they mailed recyclable green bags to every resident. She was amazed while traveling in Brisbane, how every person had a green bag on their shoulder. Commissioner Sanford requested to coordinate with EAD and CD1 a discussion on the plastic bags ban with our sister's program.
 - Commissioner Bokde recommended Target to donate green bags to residents of the City of Los Angeles. Detrich Allen agreed and suggested Target to sponsor a workshop. Commissioner Sanford agreed. Romel Pascual informed EAC that DWP will be mailing out two CFLs to each customer and recommended to coordinate with DWP.
8. **FUTURE AGENDA TOPICS:** Green LA Cumulative Impacts Working Group Presentation; Report from Council District 12 regarding Environmental Inspector Position motion; Report from Recreation & Parks regarding Citywide Community Needs Assessment Findings; Report from EAC regarding Meeting with Transportation Commission; Action Item re: Recommendations to Board of Recreation & Parks
9. **ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting adjourned at 11:30 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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