



**COUNCILMEMBER DAVID ALVAREZ**

**City of San Diego**

**Eighth District**

**MEMORANDUM**

**DATE:** February 3, 2017

**TO:** Honorable Councilmembers

**FROM:** Councilmember David Alvarez, Chair, Environment Committee

**SUBJECT:** 2017 Environment Committee Priorities and Work Plan

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As Chair of the Environment Committee I look forward to discussing and implementing a number of important issues in 2017. I have received suggestions from various Councilmembers about topics they would like discussed in the upcoming year. I have integrated some of these suggested topics of discussion with my priorities below:

**Water Reuse**

- Monitor and support implementation of the Pure Water program, including review of consultant, design and construction contracts.
- Receive updates on the status of the Point Loma Wastewater Treatment Plant waiver
- Enhance Pure Water Project Public Outreach and Education program.
- Receive consultant update regarding the potential for the construction of a large storm water capture facility in Otay Mesa.

**Water Conservation**

- Receive update on PUD conservation efforts, including the rain harvesting rebate program and graywater rebate program.
- Consider ways to increase water conservation efforts and preparing for future periods of drought.
- Identify further action to reduce water loss in the City's delivery system, including investment in new technology and pipeline repair/replacement.

- Explore feasibility of implementing atmospheric water capture systems.
- Request a report on the City's Sustainable Landscapes Retrofitting program that provides potential financial incentives for grass replacement and micro-irrigation rebate programs to determine if the program could be expanded.
- Receive an update and cost-benefit analysis from the Park and Recreation Department regarding the use of Weather Based Irrigation Controllers in City parks.
- Explore an Outdoor Landscaping Ordinance requiring the use of weather based irrigation controllers.
- Work closely with PUD and the City's State lobbyists to advocate for fair treatment by the State regarding water conservation measures that take into account the City's investment in increasing local supply.
- Update regarding the Value of Water Outreach Campaign.
- Review public outreach efforts, including enhanced online and mobile device presence.
- Review Sustainable Groundwater Management Act.
- Review Integrated Regional Water Management projects.
- Review watershed protection projects.
- Receive update regarding deployment of Advanced Metering Infrastructure System.

#### **Water and Wastewater Rates**

- Receive Cost of Service Study Review of Funds.
- Review Cost of Service Study RFP.
- Monitor and review Rate Reform analysis.
- Receive update on the Point Loma Water Treatment Plant EPA Waiver.
- Receive reports from Independent Rates Oversight Committee.
- Receive reports from the City 10 regarding activity with the County Water Authority.
- Discuss strategy of continuing to diversify the City's sources of water and how we can further minimize importing water from outside the region, including efforts to incentivize water conservation.
- Discuss funding for an independent water rate consultant that can provide the Council with expert advice for the two Review of Funds, provided for by the City Council in the last water rate increase, after Fiscal Years 2016 and 2018.
- Receive update regarding the Help To Other (H2O) San Diego program.
- Receive PUD CIP appropriations or transfers.

#### **Declaration of Emergency Regarding the Discharge of Raw Sewage from Tijuana, Mexico**

- In September 1993, the City Council declared a local emergency under CA Government Code Section 8630 due to the increase in raw sewage flows from Tijuana, Mexico. On October 5, 2015, IBWC and CILA signed Minute 320, "General Framework for Binational Cooperation on Transboundary Issues in the Tijuana River Basin". Under this Minute, a Binational Core Group was established made of representatives from various agencies to discuss issues in the Tijuana River Valley and implement strategies to help resolved those issues. The Committee should work closely with the Binational Core Group and other relevant agencies to provide an assessment of the current water quality conditions in the Tijuana River Valley and update the current State of Emergency declaration.

### **Storm Water Channel and Storm Drain Maintenance**

- Receive updates regarding the Master Storm Water System Maintenance Program, including review of 2016/2017 winter storms and preparation for 2017/2018 winter storms.
- Development of comprehensive long-term watershed management for flood control in at-risk areas.
- Explore expediting the replacement of corrugated steel pipes from San Diego's storm water infrastructure, as many have failed during rain storms resulting in property damage.
- Receive updates from the Transportation & Storm Water Department regarding the Municipal Storm Water Permit regulations and discuss the feasibility of an Alternative Compliance program. In particular, it is critical that the Committee coordinate with the Department to work collaboratively with the Regional Water Quality Control Board to achieve the goals outlined in the permit in a fiscally responsible manner.
- Continue working towards more effective interdepartmental coordination, and ensure the City is pursuing all appropriate monitoring mechanisms and fulfilling all enforcement responsibilities.

### **Climate Action Plan Implementation**

- Move forward with implementation of Climate Action Plan goals and recommendations and receive regular updates on achieving GHG reductions.
- Receive up-front fair-share analyses of each community planning area, so as to holistically understand how citywide CAP goals will be achieved.
- Establish a comprehensive climate resiliency plan including mitigation for sea level rise.
- Receive update from the San Diego Convention Center Corp., Port of San Diego and the appropriate city staff regarding the potential impacts of sea level rise on the operations of the current convention center and any potential expansion of the convention center.
- Receive updates regarding the study exploring CCA feasibility and explore potential next steps for a City CCA.
- Monitor inclusion of funding for a Climate Adaption Plan in the FY18 budget.
- Work with the Economic Development Department to create an equity framework to create policies that would direct resources to disadvantaged communities utilizing the CAL-Enviro Screen.
- Explore strategies for reducing vehicular air pollution by assessing algae CO2 absorption units along our freeway systems by engaging CALTRANS and UCSD's California Center for Algae biotechnology.
- Increase diversion of organic waste to community gardens, urban farmers and resource recovery areas by reviewing potential changes to the municipal code that would clarify the ability of groups to transfer organic waste to the aforementioned locations.

### **Urban Forestry Program**

- Receive updates regarding progress of implementation of the Urban Forestry 5-Year Plan.
- Receive update regarding funding opportunities to improve canopy cover, including leveraging Cap and Trade funds.

- Support urban greening throughout San Diego.
- Request a report on the number of shade-producing trees planted in the City over the past 5 years and evaluate how to increase the number of trees planted in underserved communities.

### **Bicycle Master Plan**

- Receive updates from the Bike Advisory Committee regarding the implementation of the Bicycle Master Plan, Vision Zero, and bicycle-related mode share goals of the Climate Action Plan.
- Monitor and receive updates regarding progress on bicycle infrastructure improvements throughout the City.
- Receive report on the City's Transportation Demand Management (TDM) program and its progress in reducing single occupancy trips.
- Develop effective strategy for the City to prioritize transit oriented development projects and infrastructure projects built close to transit.
- Request update from SANDAG on the implementation of regional infrastructure projects including bicycle facility plans and the development of the new trolley lines.

### **Energy Efficiency and Independence**

- Request a status update report on progress of goals and policies outlined in Council Policy 900-14, Sustainable Building Policy, including developing a Zero Net Energy Policy for municipal-owned buildings.
- Receive update on San Vicente Pumped Storage Project.
- Support and review ways to invest in solar technology throughout the city including, but not limited to:
  - Implementing solar goals outlined in the Climate Action Plan.
  - Supporting, expanding and monitoring success of approved Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) programs, including increasing accessibility to residential and commercial users.
  - Continued monitoring of potential rate changes by SDG&E.
  - Continue exploring the possibility of a Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) program in San Diego to increase use of renewable energy generation.
  - Update on efforts to install more solar equipment on City facilities.
  - Install energy efficiency upgrades at City facilities.
  - Review DSD permitting requirements for residential solar to determine if the process can be streamlined.
  - Promote and apply to programs that enable partnerships with solar installers for multi-family low income housing.

### **Recycling and Waste Reduction:**

- Discuss ongoing efforts and explore any new ideas to expand the life of the Miramar Landfill.
- Receive updates regarding waste reduction efforts at municipal facilities.
- Receive updates from the Environmental Services Department regarding the implementation of the Zero Waste Plan, to ensure current diversion strategies are achieving their objectives and meeting stated goals.

- Explore feasibility of changing from bi-weekly to weekly municipal recycling services.
- Receive update on Resource Recovery Facility and Organics Diversion Facility projects, including any additional actions required to achieve waste diversion goals.
- Receive update on integration of expanded polystyrene food containers into the City's recycling stream.
- Monitor and take any needed action on the Solid Waste Collection Franchise agreement.
- Revise City Recycling Ordinance to reflect proposals and goals in Zero Waste plan.
- Discuss Districted Exclusive Collection System Study Final Report.
- Consider changes to the Miramar Landfill Fee Schedule.

### **Regional Parks, Canyons and Open Space:**

- Receive update on designation of Chollas Creek as a Regional Park and ensure designation moves forward.
- Request a report on public and private infrastructure projects that implement the Chollas Creek Enhancement Program in order to reduce heavy metals and other toxic elements that ultimately flow into the San Diego Bay.
- Review Otay Valley Regional Park Concept Plan.
- Review Mission Bay Park Improvement Fund 10-Year Plan.
- Review Vernal Pool Habitat Conservation Plan.
- Receive progress report of efforts to complete the Mission Trails Regional Park Master Plan Update. Provide necessary support to complete update by the end of FY 2017.
- Receive update on efforts to expand the Mission Trails Regional Park trail network, including an accounting of any property that may need to be purchased.
- Receive status update from the Park & Recreation Department regarding Measure J funding changes to ensure they are applied in a manner that best leverages improved services throughout regional parks.
- Review planned and potential improvements to canyon areas for recreational and educational opportunities.
- Discuss protecting and finding new ways to enhance park and recreation activities in the city's regional parks.
- Discuss City policy regarding park equivalencies, particularly the issue of how to account for regional parks in the park equivalency analysis.
- Pursue further dedication and designation of park lands, where appropriate.
  - Review of eligible lands and work to remove barriers to dedication.
  - Discuss enhancement of a contiguous river park along the San Diego River, particularly on the current Qualcomm Stadium site.
  - Continue Implementation of the San Diego River Park Masterplan.

### **Maintenance of Canyons and Open Spaces**

- Receive regular updates on brush clearance and an update on required resources moving forward for more regular and thorough brush clearance near homes.
- Explore strategies that would allow homeowners more defensible space in high fire risk areas.

### **Proactive Monitoring of Environmental Issues at the Federal, State and Regional Levels**

- Review and discuss action the committee can take regarding environmental issues at all levels of government affecting San Diegans quality of life.
- Work closely with the City's State and Federal lobbyists to identify potential grant funding and regulation changes that can promote and expedite city programs and funding for water, storm water, and climate action projects/activity.

### **Utility Undergrounding**

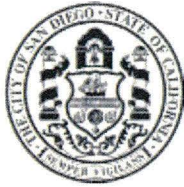
- Receive semi-annual status reports regarding the Utility Undergrounding Program and review any proposed amendments.
- Ensure that updates to the Utility Undergrounding Master Plan reflect community concerns about timeline and access to timely, accurate information about planned projects. Seek opportunities to accelerate the pace of undergrounding and continue efforts to minimize impacts on community character, historic resources, and right of way.

### **Street Cleanliness Assessment**

- Discuss coordination between the Transportation and Storm Water Departments and Environmental Services Department to create assessment of the cleanliness of City streets in order to reduce illegal dumping, graffiti and litter in the public right-of-way, streets, storm channels and storm drains.

I look forward to chairing the Environment Committee in 2017 and working with each committee member on their priorities to ensure the City continues its commitment to protection and oversight of precious natural and cultural resources throughout San Diego.

CC: Honorable City Attorney Elliott  
Andrea Tevlin, Independent Budget Analyst



City of San Diego  
Councilmember Scott Sherman  
Seventh District

## MEMORANDUM

DATE: January 26, 2017  
TO: Councilmember David Alvarez, Chair of Environment Committee  
FROM: Councilmember Scott Sherman  
RE: Environment Committee Priorities for 2017

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Scott Sherman", is positioned to the right of the "FROM:" line.

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Thank you for your invitation to the members of the City Council to submit recommendations to the Environment Committee for the upcoming year. The City of San Diego should continue to protect the many natural gems in the region, from our beaches and bays, to our canyons and parklands. The following are my priorities for the upcoming year:

### **Ensure Completion of Mission Trails Regional Park Master Plan Update**

Mission Trails Regional Park is considered the third jewel in the City of San Diego Park System. Created in 1974, Mission Trails Regional Park is one of the largest urban parks in the United States. Originally inhabited by the Kumeyaay Indians, the park encompasses approximately 8,000 acres of rugged hills, valleys, and open areas which represent a San Diego prior to the landing of Explorer Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo in San Diego Bay in 1542.

The Master Plan Update has not been updated since 1985 and has been in the process of updating since 2010. It is important to the future of this San Diego jewel to complete the Mission Trails Regional Park Master Plan update before June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2017.

### **Purchasing of Additional Land at Mission Trails Regional Park**

The Mission Trails Regional Park is an important park that protects native species and provides San Diego residents with access to numerous hiking and biking trails to enjoy. Currently, patches

of privately owned land interrupt access to some trails causing a headache to hikers, bikers, and private land owners.

In correlation with the completion of the Mission Trails Regional Park Master Plan Update, it is important to expand the trail network to create complete trail loops. In particular, we would like to see the purchase of property near the site of the Historic Stowe Trail on the eastern portion of the park as well in the East Elliot region.

City purchases of key parcels will allow a contiguous trail from Castle Rock to Goodan Ranch.

### **Restructuring Park Equivalencies**

Park equivalency determinations are an important tool in maintaining aspects of each community. However, the City's measurement system needs to be updated and reevaluated in order to better reflect the needs of individual communities. Currently, the City does not count regional parks in park equivalencies.

While we wait for the Citywide Park Master Plan to be completed, a temporary measure should be implemented to better reflect true park needs.

### **Explore Converting Mission Bay Golf Course to Park/Campgrounds**

The Mission Bay Golf Course, a perennial money loser for City of San Diego taxpayers should be explored to be converted from a money losing golf course to additional park space and campgrounds.

Converting the golf course to campgrounds could help expand the historic Campland area and increase native wetlands in the cove as well as bike and pedestrian trails.

### **Explore Plans for San Diego River Park on Current Qualcomm Stadium Site**

Since the Chargers have abandoned San Diego for Los Angeles, discussions should begin to create a minimum 40 acre park along the San Diego River. The San Diego River is an important asset to the region and must be restored according to the River Park Master Plan. If planned correctly, this site would help preserve the river and also create a must see destination similar to the Riverwalk in San Antonio.

### **Expand Opportunities for San Diego Blue Water Economy**

Explore ways to better support San Diego's blue water economy and work to establish San Diego as a leader in the marine industry's business, tourism, and technology innovation.

### **Reform Storm Water Regulations**

California storm water regulations are expected to cost the City of San Diego over \$4 billion dollars in the upcoming years, taking away much needed taxpayer funds from vital city services.



The Environment Committee should look into ways to ease regulatory burdens by directing city lobbyists to urge state officials to reform costly storm water regulations.

### **Speed up Process to Replace Corrugated Steel Stormwater Pipes**

Corrugated steel pipes are no longer legal to use in storm drains and are proven to rust and disintegrate earlier than other types of pipes. The failure of these pipes during rain storms has unfortunately damaged property throughout the City of San Diego. The Environment Committee should look into expediting the replacement of corrugated steel pipes from San Diego's infrastructure.

### **Monitor Implementation of Pure Water System**

The successful implementation of San Diego's Pure Water System is vital to fight back against sharply rising costs for imported water which has more than doubled in price since 2009. In addition, the Pure Water System is important to diversify our region's water supply. City staff should regularly provide reports to the Environment Committee to ensure the program is on track.


### **Monitor Brush Clearing in San Diego Canyons and Open Spaces**

City staff should appear before the Environment Committee with regular updates on brush clearance and consider allocating more resources for more regular and thorough brush clearance near homes. City staff should explore ordinance changes to allow homeowners more defensible space in high fire risk areas.



**COUNCILMEMBER CHRIS CATE  
CITY OF SAN DIEGO  
SIXTH DISTRICT**

**M E M O R A N D U M**

**DATE:** January 27, 2017  
**TO:** Councilmember David Alvarez, Chair, Environment Committee  
**FROM:** Councilmember Chris Cate   
**SUBJECT:** 2017 Environment Committee Priorities

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I appreciate the opportunity to share my Environment Committee priorities for 2017. As Vice Chair, I look forward to addressing San Diego's critical environmental issues to ensure local resources are protected for the enjoyment of future generations.

**WATER AND WASTEWATER**

**Weather Based Irrigation Controllers**

One of the recommendations in the Climate Action Plan is to create an Outdoor Landscaping Ordinance that would require the use of Weather-Based Irrigation Controllers (WBIC). A commercial grade WBIC has been confirmed by the Environmental Protection Agency to save approximately 134,511 gallons of water per year. Prior to moving forward with this recommendation, the City should evaluate its own use of this technology. Currently, the City utilizes WBICs in Balboa and Mission Bay Parks, however, 85 to 90 percent of the parks in the Community Parks II Division are still in need. The Committee should receive an update from the Park and Recreation Department regarding which City parks currently have this technology, including a cost-benefit analysis detailing anticipated installation costs corresponding with expected water savings. The cost-benefit analysis should reflect Executive Order B-37-16 with regard to potential penalties that may result from exceeding rationing allotments.

**Explore Opportunities for Alternative Compliance to the Municipal Stormwater Permit**

The City must spend nearly \$4 billion on stormwater systems and enforcement in order to maintain compliance with the stipulations of the Regional Board's Municipal Stormwater Permit. In light of the pressing demands for infrastructure investment, homeless services, and the retention of police officers, the City must realize its budgetary capacity is limited. In November 2015, my office released a memorandum detailing the critical need to move

forward with an alternative compliance feasibility study that will not only provide certainty to the business community, but help identify and analyze potential sites that could be utilized for stormwater capture, filtration, and repurposing. Since the release of that memo, the City has assembled a group of industry professionals, environmental experts, and City staff to discuss the logistics of a robust Alternative Compliance program. The Committee should receive an update on this effort, provide feedback, and offer support to expeditiously finalize a program that will protect our waterways and provide certainty to the development community.

#### **Implement Amendments to the 2015 Cost of Service Study**

During the review process of the 2015 Cost of Service Study (COSS), my office submitted several amendments that will require the posting of capital projects funded by the COSS for ratepayer review and funding for a Rate Reform analysis. This analysis will outline a variety of options to ensure the protection of revenue for the operations of the Public Utilities Department (PUD) during times of drought, while incentivizing ratepayers to conserve water. This analysis will be presented concurrently with the COSS financial review in July of this year. This review of funds should be prioritized in order to reach the July deadline. The Committee should partner with PUD to ensure projects are displayed openly for the public's review and that the Rate Reform analysis is conducted effectively and expeditiously.

#### **Monitor Statewide Drought Regulations**

The City of San Diego has invested heavily to develop a locally-controlled and sustainable water supply through the Carlsbad Desalination Plant and its Pure Water program. These investments have and will continue to provide flexibility to the City, especially during times of drought. As the State conducts its public input process for Executive Order B-37-16, which proposes to institute rationing policies for water suppliers statewide, it is imperative that the City advocates strongly for the ability to make independent determinations with regard to its own water operations. The Committee should work with PUD, Mayor's office, and the City's State lobbyists to advocate on behalf of San Diego ratepayers.

### **ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION & ENERGY EFFICIENCY**

#### **Monitor the Implementation of Climate Action Plan**

In 2015, the City Council unanimously approved a bipartisan and historic Climate Action Plan (CAP) that seeks to achieve 100 percent renewable energy by 2035. A crucial component of the adopted CAP mandates is that a cost-benefit analysis be conducted before any action is taken by the City Council. It is imperative that these analyses are done in a timely manner to provide the committee with more than sufficient time to review the respective ordinances. This review process is vital to ensuring the goals of the CAP are met while providing complete information and flexibility.

#### **Advance Zero Waste Strategy Goals**

In accordance with the goals outlined within the City's Zero Waste Plan, the Environmental Services Department (ESD) recently received authorization from the City Council to open

a CIP for two projects: a Resource Recovery Facility and Organics Diversion Facility. Both facilities are strategic in helping the City achieve its 2040 goal of 100 percent diversion. These facilities will play an important role in diverting organics away from the landfill, opening the possibility of producing renewable energy from the captured methane. Given the high concentration of breweries in District 6, these projects will provide this industry the ability to safely recycle organic waste without negatively impacting the landfill and surrounding environment. The Committee should hear an update on this item and provide any necessary support to move these projects forward.

**Consider a Street Cleanliness Assessment**

Since taking office in 2014, my office has consistently received concerns regarding the cleanliness of streets and neighborhoods in the city of San Diego. These community concerns often involve illegal dumping, graffiti, and litter. To date, the City has not conducted a comprehensive assessment of the cleanliness of its public right-of-way, streets, and storm drains. In partnership with the Transportation and Storm Water and Environmental Services Departments, I request the Committee docket for discussion the implementation of a Clean Streets Assessment to map, monitor, and better maintain City streets on a proactive basis.

**Monitor Statewide Drought Regulations**

The City of San Diego has invested heavily to develop a locally-controlled and sustainable water supply through the Carlsbad Desalination Plant and its Pure Water program. These investments will provide flexibility to the City, especially during times of drought. As the State conducts its public input process for Executive Order B-37-16, which proposes to institute rationing policies for water suppliers statewide, it is imperative that the City advocate strongly for the ability to make independent determinations with regard to its own water operations. The Committee should work with PUD, Mayor's office, and the City's State lobbyists to advocate for this objective on behalf of San Diego ratepayers.

**Review Organics Diversion Strategies**

As the City moves forward with implementing its Zero Waste Strategy, cooperative and micro-enterprise organics diversion groups have begun to emerge. These entities are interested in providing organics waste recovery services to a variety of uses and establishments across San Diego. These groups divert organics to community gardens, urban farmers, and resource recovery areas. Currently, the City's Municipal Code is vague with regard to the permissiveness of these operations. The Committee should work with Neighborhood Compliance and Environmental Services staff to bring clarity to this issue.

CC:ic






**OFFICE OF COUNCILMEMBER CHRISTOPHER WARD  
THIRD COUNCIL DISTRICT**

**M E M O R A N D U M**

DATE: January 20, 2017

TO: Honorable Councilmember David Alvarez, Chair, Environment  
Committee

FROM: Councilmember Christopher Ward, Third Council District 

SUBJECT: 2017 Environment Committee Priorities

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I am excited to serve as a member of the Environment Committee. Per your January 4, 2017 request, I am submitting my priorities for the committee's work plan:

- **Climate Action Plan Implementation:** Continue to aggressively pursue policies that move the city towards full compliance with the Climate Action Plan, including providing up-front fair-share analyses as more San Diegans go through the process of Community Plan Updates.
- **Climate Resiliency:** As part of meeting goals of the Climate Action Plan and prepare our coastal areas for the increasing impacts of climate change, establish a comprehensive climate resiliency plan including mitigation for sea level rise.
- **Utility Undergrounding:** Ensure that updates to the Utility Undergrounding Master Plan reflect community concerns about timeline and access to timely, accurate information about planned projects. Seek opportunities to accelerate the pace of undergrounding and continue efforts to minimize impacts on community character, historic resources, and right of way.
- **Storm Water Maintenance:** Continue working towards more effective inter-department coordination, and ensure the city is pursuing all appropriate monitoring mechanisms and fulfilling all enforcement responsibilities.
- **Zero Waste Plan:** Continue implementation of the city's Zero Waste Plan, tracking progress towards 2020, 2035, and 2040 goals as well as verifying that current diversion strategies are achieving their objectives.



- **Park Funding:** Ensure that Measure J funding changes are applied in a manner that best leverages improved services throughout regional parks including Balboa Park, and continue investing in improvements to canyonlands for recreational and educational opportunities.
- **Community Choice Aggregation:** Receive updates on the topic and continue to explore implementation options for a program in San Diego.
- **Tree Canopy Cover:** Aggressively implement the Urban Forestry Program Five Year Plan, while continuing to leverage Cap and Trade funds and additional funding opportunities to improve canopy cover to reduce the impact of rising temperatures, minimize erosion, better retain water and prevent flooding, and improve quality of life.
- **Bicycle Master Plan:** Continue implementation of the plan including the already-identified priority projects.
- **Pure Water Program:** Receive updates on the Point Loma Wastewater Treatment Plant waiver, ensure the Pure Water program moves forward in a responsible manner at the fastest possible pace, pursue opportunities for a Project Labor Agreement on future construction in order to foster work that is on-time, on-budget, and utilizes local hire,, track progress on permitting and other implementation steps, and continue supporting public outreach programs to keep the community up to date on progress.
- **Energy Audit:** Continue exploring legislative and other opportunities to audit energy usage, beginning with city buildings, and pursue strategies to make the city a leader in reducing energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions.
- **City Site Water Conservation:** Identify and pursue additional opportunities to reduce city water use via retrofit or other methods.
- **Low Income Water Fund:** Continue analysis and pursue implementation of legally appropriate plan to aid low-income San Diegans in meeting the rising cost of water.

Thank you for your consideration of these requests. If you have any questions or comments, please contact me or Lucas O'Connor of my staff at 619-236-6137 or [loconnor@sandiego.gov](mailto:loconnor@sandiego.gov).

cc:

Honorable Mayor Kevin Faulconer  
Honorable City Attorney Mara Elliott  
Andrea Tevlin, Independent Budget Analyst  
Liz Maland, City Clerk  
Kevin Smith, Environment Committee Consultant



**THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO  
OFFICE OF COUNCILMEMBER GEORGETTE GÓMEZ  
NINTH DISTRICT**

**MEMORANDUM**

DATE: January 20, 2017  
TO: Councilmember David Alvarez, Chair of Environment Committee  
FROM: Councilmember Georgette Gómez, District 9  
SUBJECT: 2017 Environment Committee Priorities

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In response to your memo dated January 5, 2017, I am pleased to submit my Environment Committee priorities for consideration.

San Diego is the eighth largest city in the nation and it is imperative that the City provide strong leadership in implementing the 2015 Climate Action Plan (CAP). Climate change is a real and undeniable fact that our City, State, and Nation must address. The five strategies outlined in the CAP provide the direction to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions to achieve the 2020 and 2035 targets locally. In order to implement the five CAP strategies included below, I respectfully request the Environment Committee consider the following priorities:

**1. Energy and Water Efficient Buildings:**

- a. Request a report on Council Policy 900-14, Sustainable Building Policy, including developing a Zero Net Energy Policy for municipal-owned buildings.
- b. Request a report to evaluate mechanisms to curtail water loss in the City's delivery system, including evaluating investing in new technology and/or repairs to current pipelines.

**2. Clean and Renewable Energy:**

- a. Implement Community Choice Aggregation to support customer's right to choose their service provider.
- b. Develop community by community housing and transportation targets in alignment with the CAP.
- c. Support and monitor the Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) programs.
- d. Support the installation of residential solar projects including reviewing the Development Services Department's permitting process.
- e. Promote and apply to programs that enable partnerships with solar installers for multi-family low income housing.



**3. Bicycling, Walking, Transit and Land Use:**

- a. Request a report on the City's Transportation Demand Management (TDM) program and its success in reducing single occupancy vehicle trips and encouraging City employees to use alternate forms of transportation in order to reduce air pollution.
- b. Develop a new priority ranking system for capital improvement projects that prioritizes the completion of infrastructure projects in transit priority areas.
- c. Request regular briefings from SANDAG on the implementation of their regional infrastructure projects including bicycle facility plans and the development of the new trolley lines.

**4. Zero Waste Gas and Waste Management:**

- a. Request a report on the recommendations for diverting 332,000 tons of waste that was included in the 6/17/2015 Environment Committee report on the Zero Waste Plan.
- b. Request a report on the economic feasibility of instituting weekly municipal recycling services.
- c. Request a report on the effect of the plastic bag ban, and evaluate the feasibility of expanding the ban to include other materials.

**5. Climate Resiliency:**

- a. Request the City Council to fund the Climate Adaptation Plan in the 2018 budget.
- b. Work with the Economic Development Department to create an equity framework to create policies in order direct resources to disadvantaged communities utilizing the CAL-Enviro Screen.
- c. Continue monitoring the implementation of the Climate Action Plan and request a report on meeting the CAP goals for transit, biking and walking in order to reduce greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) to meet GHG targets for 2020 and 2035.
- d. Request a report on public and private infrastructure projects that implement the Chollas Creek Enhancement Program in order to reduce heavy metals and other toxic elements that ultimately flow into the San Diego Bay.
- e. Request a report on the number of shade-producing trees planted in the City over the past 5 years and evaluate how to increase the number of trees planted in communities south of Interstate 8.
- f. Request a report on the City's Sustainable Landscapes Retrofitting program that provides financial incentives for grass replacement and micro-irrigation rebate programs to determine if the program could be expanded.
- g. Develop innovative strategies for reducing vehicular air pollution including assessing algae CO2 absorption units along our freeway systems by engaging CALTRANS and UCSD's California Center for Algae biotechnology.

**6. Water Resources:**

- a. Continue to receive updates on the Pure Water Project.
- b. Request an update on the City's rain harvesting rebate program.
- c. Request an update on the City's graywater rebate program.
- d. Consider the current level of purple pipe connections and discuss opportunities and trade-offs to expand the existing network.
- e. Initiate research to determine the feasibility of implementing atmospheric water capture systems. Partner with local universities develop innovative solutions, such as atmospheric water capture systems, to move the City further along on water independence.

GG:lg

cc: Kevin Faulconer, Mayor  
Mara Elliot, City Attorney  
Andrea Tevlin, Independent Budget Analyst