



COUNCILMEMBER DAVID ALVAREZ

**City of San Diego
Eighth District**

MEMORANDUM

DATE: January 7, 2015

TO: Honorable Environment Committee Members 

FROM: Councilmember David Alvarez, Chair, Environment Committee

SUBJECT: 2015 Environment Committee Priorities

The Environment Committee deals with a wide range of issues, many of which go before the full City Council for consideration. As such, it is important that I am aware of your priorities pertaining to Environment Committee related matters as we head into this year, including any items from the previous year that you would like to review or receive an update on. Please provide me your 2015 priorities by close of business on **January 21, 2015**.

I look forward to a productive and informative committee this year. If you have any questions, please contact me.

Cc: Honorable Mayor Faulconer
Andrea Tevlin, Independent Budget Analyst
Mara Elliott, Office of the City Attorney



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

M E M O R A N D U M

DATE: January 21, 2015

TO: Councilmember David Alvarez, Chair, Environment Committee

FROM: Councilmember Chris Cate 

SUBJECT: 2015 Environment Committee Priorities

I appreciate the opportunity to share my Environment Committee priorities for 2015. 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

Finalize the Recycled Water Cost of Service Study

In recent years, the City has made significant strides to diversify its water supply. Through the Recycled Water Study and 2010 Recycled Water Master Plan, the City has laid the initial foundation to generate an independent and sustainable resource. A key component of this process is still needed. The completion and ratification of a Recycled Water Cost of Service Study is imperative to understand the true cost of producing and distributing recycled water and the impact of this operation on ratepayers. The Public Utilities Department should provide a status update and draft study this year.

Maximize the City's Purple Pipe System

As San Diego experiences its fourth straight year of drought and nearly the driest year on record, the City is continuing its effort to generate a diversified water supply. Currently, the City's purple pipe network stretches over ninety one (91) miles and provides recycled water for a wide variety of recipients. The full optimization of this network is crucial to not only decreasing dependency on imported portable water, but helping local residents and businesses lower the costs of irrigation. City staff should present the current level of connection and opportunities to fully maximize and expand the existing network.

Present the Pure Water Program Cost of Service Study

San Diego's Pure Water Program presents a unique opportunity to generate a sustainable and local water supply while eliminating the need to upgrade the Point Loma Wastewater Treatment Plant, saving ratepayers nearly \$2 billion in unnecessary capital costs.

Estimates for the project are expected to exceed \$3 billion through 2023. The construction of an additional 15 million gallons-per-day (mgd) facility at the South Bay Reclamation Plant and a 53 mgd facility at Harbor Drive will represent significant impacts for ratepayers. It is essential that the City conduct a distinct Cost of Service Study for the Pure Water Program to provide an accurate representation of costs to customers.

Continue Pursuit of Direct Potable Reuse Regulations

The City has a unique opportunity to continue the progress of its recycled water program through the incorporation of Direct Potable Reuse (DPR). DPR has the potential to save ratepayers nearly \$200 million of unnecessary capital expenditures within the Pure Water Program. Public Utilities should continue its advocacy efforts in conjunction with the Mayor's office and the City's state lobbyists. City staff should keep the Committee apprised of any developments on a quarterly basis.

Receive an Update on County Water Authority's Water Purchase Agreement with Poseidon Water

San Diego should explore all available options to create a resilient water supply while protecting ratepayer dollars. The recent water purchasing agreement between the County Water Authority (CWA) and Poseidon Water is an important step forward to generating a drought-proof resource for the region. With the mandated annual purchase of 48,000 acre-feet (AF) at \$2,257 per AF by the CWA, it is crucial to fully understand the potential cost impact to San Diego ratepayers. The Public Utilities Department should continue to work closely with the CWA to establish a timeline for the rate case and provide updates of its progress to the Environment Committee on a bi-monthly basis.

Review Current Status of City's Smart Water Initiative

In 2012, the City entered into a partnership with IBM and Richard Brady & Associates to conduct a pilot study that demonstrated the capabilities of new technologies to proactively prevent water leaks in the City's water utility system. Through data analysis, mathematical optimization, and sound engineering practices, IBM and Brady provided the City with tools to prevent leakage and overflow in distribution mains, storage tanks, and customer meters. Public Utilities should present the current status of this initiative, explore implementation feasibility, and review conducting a cost of service study for this program.

Environmental Protection & Energy Efficiency

Continue Monitoring the Implementation of Climate Action Plan

With the initial draft of the City's Climate Action Plan, the next phases of approval and implementation are crucial to ensuring the protection of San Diego taxpayers and local environmental assets. City staff should prepare a presentation of the initial City ordinances outlined in the Local Implementation Actions section of the Plan, particularly those outlined in Phase 1. It is imperative that the committee be provided ample time to review and edit these ordinances to ensure the timeline and goals of the implementation phase are met.

Explore Opportunities for Alternative Compliance to the Municipal Stormwater Permit

Over the next five (5) years, 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 and the retention of police officers, the City must realize its budgetary capacity is limited. The Committee should work collaboratively with Transportation and Stormwater staff to identify opportunities for alternative compliance to offset the City's obligation. Within the development of the Water Quality Equivalency study, staff should review all alternative compliance options, including the utilization of permeable pavement, the construction of roundabouts, and other equivalent offsite mitigation measures. Staff should present quarterly updates of this study and the new Better Management Practices Design Manual. These updates should include all potential fiscal impacts to the General Fund and performance metrics to measure the effectiveness of stormwater compliance education and outreach strategies to residents and the commercial industry.

Continue the Implementation the City's Zero Waste Goal

In order to maintain compliance with state goals, the City has adopted a Zero Waste Objective and is making strides toward releasing a Zero Waste Management Plan. In addition to reviewing the Plan this year, the Committee should work with staff to explore alternative methods to accomplish a one hundred percent waste diversion rate. This effort would involve the exploration of successful programs in comparative cities, including the implementation of the "One Bin For All" program in the city of Houston, Texas. This initiative seeks to streamline the waste collection process while moving towards a zero waste goal. Furthermore, with the anticipated maximum capacity of the Miramar Landfill in 2022, the City should not only pursue a Zero Waste objective, but commence a strategy for the potential expansion of this facility.

Review Opportunities to Bolster Comparative Data Initiatives

Comparative data, also known as behavioral energy efficiency, is an innovative large scale usage saving method for wet and dry utilities. In a recently released study, research suggests that segmenting consumers based on geographic regions, behavior, and attitudes can lead to significant improvements in energy-efficiency performance. The Committee should receive a report on whether the Public Utilities Department has looked into comparative data programs for water savings or programs they may already be using. The Committee should also discuss opportunities for collaboration with San Diego Gas & Electric to engage the community and promote energy conservation.

CC:ic

cc: Mayor Kevin L. Faulconer
Honorable Councilmembers



**City Of San Diego
COUNCIL PRESIDENT PRO TEM MARTI EMERALD
DISTRICT NINE
M E M O R A N D U M**

DATE: January 23, 2015

Reference: M-15-01-08

TO: Councilmember David Alvarez, Chair
Committee on the Environment

FROM: Council President Pro Tem Marti Emerald

SUBJECT: Committee 2015 Priorities

In response to your memo dated January 7, 2015 regarding Environment Committee priorities for 2015, I respectfully submit my priorities, as follows:

1. **Climate Action Plan.** Continue to get updates on the plan, and provide all appropriate recommendations and support for speedy implementation.
2. **Pure Water Project.** Continue to get updates on the project, and provide all appropriate recommendations and support.
3. **Solar Energy.** Examine how the City can expand the utilization of solar energy in San Diego, including residential, commercial and public properties.
4. **Community Choice Aggregation.** Receive update(s) on this matter and make recommendations for implementing a program in San Diego.
5. **Storm Water Maintenance.** Work with the Mayor, city staff and legislative consultants on reform of the State's requirements for storm water so that adequate compliance can be achieved in a way that is more cost effective for residents and taxpayers of California.
6. **Pace Program.** Receive updates from providers and staff on the program and suggestions, if necessary, on the program can be improved and how public outreach and education about the program can be expanded.
7. **Plastic Bag Ban Legislation.** Should the California referendum qualify for the ballot, an update from the Mayor's Office on implementing the San Diego City measure.

I look forward to working with you on ways to improve the environment of the San Diego region, and beyond.

ME/tt

cc: Honorable Members of the City Council



**OFFICE OF COUNCILMEMBER TODD GLORIA
COUNCIL DISTRICT THREE**

M E M O R A N D U M

DATE: January 23, 2015

TO: Honorable Councilmember David Alvarez, Chair, Environment Committee

FROM: Councilmember Todd Gloria *Todd Gloria*

SUBJECT: Environment Committee Priorities for 2015

I feel fortunate to be appointed as a member of the San Diego City Council Environment Committee. Per your request, I am including my priorities for committee discussion and action below.

- **Climate Action Plan:** The Environment Committee should receive regular updates from City staff on the status of the Climate Action Plan, including a schedule for approval and implementation.
- **Energy Audit Requirements:** In conjunction with the Climate Action Plan's goals of reducing greenhouse gas emissions in commercial and residential buildings, it may be beneficial to explore legislation requiring periodic energy audits, starting with City-owned buildings, to establish a baseline. Several other cities have implemented this requirement and are seeing significant energy reductions and cost savings.
- **Water Conservation Plan for City Sites:** The Environment Committee should consider developing a plan to retrofit all City-owned properties with drought tolerant landscaping and weather-based irrigation controllers. Some City golf courses have already implemented these improvements.

Thank you for considering my requests. If you have any questions or comments about these items, please let me know or contact Stephen Hill of my staff at 619-236-6137 or shill@sandiego.gov.

cc: Honorable Councilmembers
Independent Budget Analyst Andrea Tevlin



COUNCILMEMBER DAVID ALVAREZ

City of San Diego

Eighth District

MEMORANDUM

DATE: January 28, 2014
TO: Honorable Councilmembers
FROM: Councilmember David Alvarez, Chair, Environment Committee
SUBJECT: 2015 Environment Committee Priorities

As Chair of the Environment Committee I look forward to discussing and implementing key issues impacting our environment in 2015. I have received suggestions from several Councilmembers about topics they would like to bring to Committee this year. I have integrated some of these suggested topics of discussion with my priorities below:

Water Reuse:

- Continue regular updates on the Pure Water project, and provide all appropriate recommendations and support
- Continue pursuit of Direct Potable Reuse regulations with quarterly updates to the Committee
- Discuss strategy of continuing to diversify the city's sources of water and how the city can minimize importing water from outside the region, including city efforts to incentivize water conservation
- Consider the current level of purple pipe connections and discuss opportunities and trade-offs to expanding the existing network

Water and Wastewater Rates:

- Review Cost of Service Studies for Wastewater, Recycled Water (including Recycled Water Pricing Study Update), and Pure Water Program
- Discuss enhancing Prop 218 notifications in bill mailings
- Discuss options for streamlining Water and Wastewater billings
- Receive update on the Point Loma Water Treatment Plant EPA Waiver
- Receive reports from Independent Rates Oversight Committee and the County Water Authority
- Receive an update on County Water Authority's Water Purchase Agreement with Poseidon Water

Water Conservation:

- Consider ways to increase water conservation efforts and address ongoing drought conditions
- Identify further action to reduce water loss in the city's delivery system, including investment in new technology and pipeline repair/replacement
- Consider a plan to retrofit all City-owned properties with drought tolerant landscaping and weather-based irrigation controllers

Climate Action Plan:

- Move forward with regular updates including a schedule for approval and implementation of Climate Action Plan goals
- Receive presentation of the initial City ordinances outlined in the Local Implementation Actions section of the Plan, particularly those outlined in Phase 1

Bicycle Master Plan:

- Receive updates from the Bike Advisory Council regarding the implementation of the Bike Strategic Implementation Plan
- Monitor and receive updates regarding progress on citywide bicycle infrastructure improvements

Energy Efficiency and Independence:

- Support and review ways to invest in solar technology throughout the city including:
 - Continuing partnership efforts that allow solar and efficiency programs at Housing Commission or City owned or operated facilities
 - Supporting, expanding and monitoring success of approved Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) programs, including allowing the program to be more accessible to residential and commercial users
 - Continued monitoring of potential rate changes by San Diego Gas and Electric (SDG&E), including weighing in on rate structure changes that would impact conservation efforts
 - Receive updates on Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) including completion of feasibility studies and make recommendations for implementing a program in San Diego
- Explore legislation requiring periodic energy audits, starting with City-owned buildings, to establish a baseline for greenhouse gas reductions
- Review Comparative Data Initiatives as a strategy for behavioral energy efficiency
- Receive update on utility undergrounding program

Recycling and Waste Reduction:

- Review and move forward with a Zero Waste Management Plan
- Discuss further efforts to expand the life of the Miramar Landfill
- Should the referendum of statewide plastic bag ban legislation qualify for the ballot, hear an update from the Mayor's Office on implementing the San Diego measure

Storm Water:

- Coordinate with the Transportation and Storm Water Department and our legislative consultants to work collaboratively with the Regional Water Quality Control Board to achieve the goals outlined in any permit renewals in a fiscally responsible and environmentally effective manner
- Review progress on storm water pump station maintenance
- Review Tijuana River Valley Hydrology Study and discuss further actions

Park & Recreation/Open Space:

- Discuss protecting and finding new ways to enhance park and recreation activities in the city's regional parks
- Pursue further dedication and designation of park lands, where appropriate
 - Set up annual review of eligible lands and work to remove barriers to dedication
 - Provide Council recommendation of specific parcels to be dedicated
- Consider designation of Chollas Creek as a regional park or open space
- Discuss enhancement of a contiguous river park along the San Diego River
- Continue implementation of the San Diego River Park Master Plan
- Receive update regarding implementation status of the city's Golf Master Plan
- Receive updates on the Balboa Park Centennial Celebration

Urban Forestry Program:

- Discuss expanded urban forestry program
- Support urban greening throughout San Diego

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

I am thankful for the opportunity to serve as the Chair of the Environment Committee in 2015. I look forward to working with each committee member on our priorities to ensure the city continues its commitment to protection and oversight of our precious natural and cultural resources throughout San Diego.

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



**CITY OF SAN DIEGO
COUNCIL PRESIDENT SHERRI S. LIGHTNER
DISTRICT ONE**

MEMORANDUM

DATE: January 28, 2015

TO: Councilmember David Alvarez, Chair, Environment Committee

FROM: Council President Sherri S. Lightner

SUBJECT: Environment Committee Priorities for 2015

The following are my top priorities for the 2015 Environment Committee:

- In a combined effort of city staff, community groups and a consultant, if necessary, establish a citywide Coastal Management Plan to address the proliferation of the seal and sea-lion populations in our beach communities.
- Creation of a San Diego Coastal Regional Park which would include shoreline parks and beaches to allow for enhanced management and funding.
- Establish within our Park & Recreation Department a shoreline ranger program for our coastal parks and beaches to ease the current burdens on our Lifeguard, Police, and Fire Rescue departments.
- Review and approve the Climate Action Plan, ensuring its integration into our city policies, programs and planning efforts.
- Continue implementation of Council Policy 400-15, "Comprehensive Policy for a Sustainable Water Supply in San Diego."
- Ensure the Coastal Rail Trail moves forward with any necessary environmental review and design phases. The project will connect our North County coastal communities' bike infrastructure through the University of California San Diego and University City to that of the south.
- Develop a 5-year comprehensive plan to complete the dedication of the remaining city-owned open space parcels.
- Request a presentation from the City Attorney's office on the Environmental Growth Fund and its potential uses, including but not limited to: energy retrofits, matching funds for State grants, incentives and rebates toward graywater, rainwater harvesting and other water conservation measures.
- Review water-related Council Policies to ensure that current policies in place are being utilized to their fullest extent.
- Receive PACE Program updates to evaluate if the program can be improved and how public outreach and education about the program can be expanded.

In addition, the following categories and underlying areas of emphasis should be a focus for the committee.

Water Reliability

In accordance with the Council approval of the phased plan for the Water Policy Implementation Task Force recommendations on Council Policy 400-15 (Comprehensive Policy for a Sustainable Water Supply in San Diego) the Environment Committee should request a presentation by staff on its progress executing Council's direction.

Phase one recommendations of particular interest include:

- Graywater recommendations (Numbers WR13 – WR17)
- On-site/decentralized wastewater treatment (Number IT7)
- Recycled water rates – Cost of Service Study for non-potable water (Number WR7)
- Establishing a Water Conservation Ethic (Number C4)
- Storm Water capture and infiltration projects (Number WR1, WR3, and WR4)
- Direct Potable Reuse (Number WR11)

Energy & Green Jobs

- Work with regional stakeholders and city staff to develop a comprehensive citywide energy plan.
- Continue work on lowering barriers to the installation of renewable energy sources and energy efficiency retrofits for all energy customers in the City of San Diego.
- Ensure internal organizational efficiency in permitting renewable energy and sustainable projects.
- Ensure that the committee receives biannual updates from the Sustainable Energy Advisory Board

Waste Management and Recycling

- The committee should receive updates on the Council approved Zero-Waste planning efforts and other programs related to the improvement of the City's recycling activities and extending the life of the Miramar Landfill.

Pollution Prevention

- The committee should monitor the implementation of the Master Storm Water System Maintenance Program and ongoing maintenance and pollution prevention projects not included in the maintenance program.

Thank you for your consideration of these priorities. If you have any questions, please contact my office at (619) 236-6611.

SL:jg

cc: Honorable Councilmembers
Andrea Tevlin, Independent Budget Analyst
Gabriel Solmer, Environment Committee Consultant