



COUNCILMEMBER DAVID ALVAREZ

**City of San Diego
Eighth District**

MEMORANDUM

DATE: January 22, 2013

TO: Honorable Councilmembers

FROM: Councilmember David Alvarez, Chair, Natural Resources & Culture Committee

SUBJECT: 2013 Natural Resources and Culture Committee Priorities

As Chair of the Natural Resources and Culture Committee I look forward to discussing and implementing a number of important issues in 2013. 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

- Receive the results of the Water Purification Demonstration Project Pilot Study and take appropriate next steps based on the study's findings and conclusions
- 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 efforts
- Review permitting process for graywater and rainwater reuse system permits

Water Rates

- Discuss creation of a more equitable water rate system that promotes conservation at the residential, industrial, commercial, and municipal levels. Actions would include development of a conservation-oriented tiered water rate structure for single-family

residential customers.

- Update on Cost of Service Study
- Update on the Point Loma Water Treatment Plant EPA Waiver
- Receive reports from Independent Rates Oversight Committee and the County Water Authority

Water Policy Implementation Task Force

- Receive updates and final report
- Discuss extension of the task force's operating schedule
- Examine findings and move forward with implementation of recommendations, where appropriate

Water Leakage Prevention and Reduction

- Review results of the Smart Water Systems for the 21st Century Pilot Project
- Identify further action to reduce water loss in the city's delivery system

Solar and Energy Efficiency

- Support and review ways to invest in solar technology throughout the city including, but not limited to:
 - Reviewing potential solar policy efforts under the Climate Action Plan implementation efforts
 - Continuing partnership efforts that allow solar and efficiency programs at Housing Commission owned or operated facilities
 - Supporting, expanding and monitoring success of approved Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) programs and other clean energy programs available to San Diego residents
 - Continued monitoring of potential rate changes by SDG&E that impact solar users
 - Explore the possibility of a Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) program in San Diego to increase use of renewable energy generation
- Discuss possible expansion of electric vehicle infrastructure
- Discuss potential uses of Environmental Growth Fund monies

Climate Mitigation Action Plan Implementation

- Receive progress report and timetable for Climate Mitigation Action Plan final report
- Examine final report findings and move forward with implementation of recommendations, where appropriate

Park & Recreation/Open Space:

- Determine an effective structure and mission for the proposed Municipal Golf Committee that allows for enhanced public participation in matters related to city golf courses
- Discuss protecting and finding new ways to enhance park and recreation activities in the city
- Per Council direction, the Committee will oversee the process of dedication and designation of park lands, by conducting the following activities, among others:

- Review existing open space policies for clarification or amendment to bring consistency to the dedication process
- Set up annual review of eligible lands and work to remove barriers to dedication
- Provide Council recommendation of specific parcels to be dedicated
- Review and analyze the parkland dedication of Rose Creek parcels discussed at the December 17, 2012 City Council meeting
- Discuss enhancement of a contiguous river park along the San Diego River
- Review the San Diego River Park Masterplan
- Review status of Kumeyaay Lake Campground

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 Diegan's quality of life
- Discuss implementation of the Master Storm Water System Maintenance Program and further improvements to flood channel clearing and maintenance
- Development of comprehensive long-term watershed management for flood control in at-risk areas

Arts and Culture

- Continue planning for the Balboa Park Centennial Celebration through regular updates from the 2015 Balboa Park Celebration Host Committee
- Citywide Arts Update, including a review of the Public Art Program
- Enhanced coordination between city arts programs and local school districts in step with the 'Penny for the Arts' plan approved by the City Council

I look forward to chairing the NR&C Committee in 2013 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 Mayor Filner
 Honorable City Attorney Goldsmith
 Andrea Tevlin, Independent Budget Analyst