




**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

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@saniego.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