



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