



COUNCILMEMBER DAVID ALVAREZ
City of San Diego
Eighth District

MEMORANDUM

DATE: January 27, 2012

TO: Honorable Councilmembers

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

SUBJECT: 2012 Natural Resources and Culture Priorities

As Chair of the Natural Resources and Culture Committee I look forward to discussing and implementing a number of important issues in 2012. Among those are the following topics:

Water Rates

- The Committee should work to create a more equitable water rate system that would promote 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.
- When considering any rate case the Committee should prioritize accountability and transparency. It is also appropriate for the Committee to examine an enhanced role for the Independent Rates Oversight Committee (IROC) in this process.
- Update on Cost of Service Study

Water and Wastewater Facilities

- Based on actions and updates before the Committee in 2011, the following discussions and actions are appropriate follow-up measures:
 - Emergency preparedness for water and wastewater systems, including back-up generation
 - Development of comprehensive long-term watershed management for flood control

- in at-risk areas
- Update on the Master Storm Water System Maintenance Program and review options for implementation

Performance Audit of the Public Utility Department Capital Improvement Program

- In 2011 the City Auditor released a performance audit of the Public Utility Department's Capital Improvement Program. Included in the audit were a number of recommendations that the Department and the City Council agreed should be implemented. As such I believe that this committee should review and track implementation of City Auditor recommendations from the Public Utilities CIP Audit throughout the next year.

Smart Water Systems for the 21st Century Pilot Project

- The City loses approximately 9% of the water it purchases in its delivery system due to water leakage. At the November 9, 2011, NR&C meeting, the Committee supported initiating a pilot program to test new technology that may enable the City to better track and predict water leaks in our city system- at no cost to the City. Sometime this Spring the Committee will see the results of whether this is a system that could work to help the City save water- and help the taxpayers save money. I look forward to seeing the results of the study and considering this project.

Water Reuse

- This Committee should take the following actions to complement and further City efforts to implement water reuse:
 - Receive the 2012 Recycled Water Study and analyze how best to implement the Study recommendations
 - Continue to docket Indirect Potable Reuse (IPR) updates
 - Prepare for the results of the Water Purification Demonstration Project

Solar and Energy Efficiency

- The Committee should 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
 - Facilitating partnership efforts that allow solar and efficiency programs to continue on Housing Commission owned or operated facilities
 - Providing updates on the Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) program and other clean energy programs available to San Diego residents
 - Continued monitoring of potential rate changes by SDG&E that impact solar users

Climate Action Plan Implementation

- The 2011 Climate Mitigation and Adaptation Plan (CMAP) is a City effort to provide options for both city operations and the community to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and to begin to evaluate vulnerabilities in the community and outline adaptation strategies. Implementation actions should center on the following areas:

- Existing buildings
- Solar
- Water
- Food
- Transportation

Golf Operations 5 Year Business Plan Update

- Last year the Parks and Recreation Department updated the Committee on the status of a new 5-year business plan for municipal golf course operations in the City. Throughout 2011 staff and the community have worked together to develop the new Golf Division Business Plan, which will be considered by this Committee in 2012. I look forward to discussing and implementing an updated 5-year plan.

Arts and Culture

- The arts are an important civic resource that enrich people's lives and beautify our neighborhoods. As such I believe the following topics should be considered by this Committee in 2012:
 - 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

I look forward to chairing the NR&C Committee in 2012 and working with each committee member on their priorities to ensure our ongoing commitment to protection and oversight of our precious natural and cultural resources throughout San Diego.

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

DA/ks



City of San Diego
CARL DEMAIO
CITY COUNCILMEMBER – DISTRICT 5

MEMORANDUM

DATE: January 26, 2012
TO: Councilmember David Alvarez, Chair, Natural Resources & Culture Committee
FROM: Councilmember Carl DeMaio *Carl DeMaio*
RE: 2012 Natural Resources & Culture Committee Priorities

In response to your memo of January 12, 2012, I have included my priorities for the NR&C Committee in 2012 below.

Oversight of Water Rates

San Diego residents once again experienced an increase in water rates in 2011. With additional rate increases likely coming to Council in the future, the NR&C Committee must be proactive to provide policy solutions which will provide the oversight and reform needed to prevent water rates from increasing.

Within the next year, the Public Utilities Department will likely issue an RFP in order to hire an outside consultant to conduct a Cost of Service Study (COSS). Before that COSS moves forward, I believe that the NR&C Committee should require an analysis of the previous 2006 COSS, as well as a presentation at a Committee meeting.

Renewable Energy in San Diego

The fastest-growing sector of the San Diego economy is solar and other renewable energies. With our sunny climate and strong base of tech companies, many start-up clean tech companies have made the decision to locate in the San Diego region. I believe that the NR&C committee should consider actions and strategies that the City of San Diego can pursue to continue the growth of this important economic sector well into the future.

One important aspect of supporting our solar industry is to ensure that San Diego solar customers continue to have a financial incentive to invest in the cost to install solar systems in their homes and businesses. Last year, San Diego Gas & Electric proposed a rate change which would have raised fees on solar customers, thereby providing a disincentive for this clean technology to continue expanding in San Diego County.

Just this week the "Environment California Research & Policy Center" released a report explaining that San Diego generates more power from grid-connected solar panels on residential, commercial and government buildings than any other city in California. There were more than 4,500 solar installations in the City of San Diego as of August 2011, ahead of any other California city, the Union-Tribune reported this week.

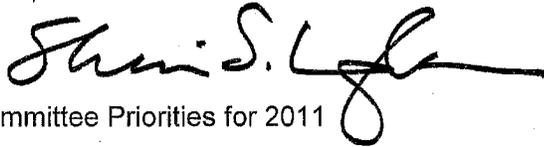
While the California Public Utilities Commission has asked SDG&E to go back to the drawing board on their proposal, the NR&C Committee, City Council, and other local leaders must encourage rate policies that allow for the continued growth of this renewable energy.

A focus on these two areas represents my priorities for the NR&C committee in the coming year.



**CITY OF SAN DIEGO
COUNCILMEMBER SHERRI S. LIGHTNER
DISTRICT ONE**

MEMORANDUM

DATE: January 25, 2012
TO: Councilmember David Alvarez, Chair, Natural Resources and Culture Committee
FROM: Councilmember Sherri S. Lightner 
SUBJECT: Natural Resources and Culture Committee Priorities for 2011

In response to your memo from January 12, 2012, "2012 Natural Resources and Culture Committee Priorities", I respectfully request the following priorities be included in this year's agenda:

Water Reliability

In accordance with the approval of Council Policy 400-15, "Comprehensive Policy for a Sustainable Water Supply in San Diego," the Natural Resources and Culture Committee (NR&C) should form a Task Force to develop an implementation plan for the policy.

Additionally, NR&C should immediately begin work on implementing the following provisions of Council Policy 400-15:

- Development of a tiered rate or allocation pricing structure for single-family residential water customers.
- Development of graywater and rainwater reuse system permits that cut red tape and costs of installation.
- Water conservation measures to continue improving the City's water saving efforts.
- Updates on use of technologies within the water utility system that increase efficiencies and reduce waste, like the IBM Smart Water Pilot Project approved on September 28, 2011.
- Reports from the County Water Authority and Independent Rates Oversight Commission.

Green Jobs

NR&C must 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, including:

- Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) programs for residential, commercial and industrial properties.

- Permit fee reductions and permitting efficiencies for renewable energy and energy efficiency projects.

Waste Management and Recycling

NR&C should have updates on the following items related to the improvement of the City's recycling activities and extending the life of the Miramar Landfill:

- Development of a Resource Recovery Park Pilot Program.
- Increase in recycling, and eventual elimination of organic materials and construction and demolition debris from the landfill.

Pollution Prevention

NR&C should docket discussions and updates on the following items related to the reduction of pollution and improvement of water quality:

- Implementation of the Master Storm Water System Maintenance Program and ongoing maintenance and pollution prevention projects not included in the maintenance program.
- Public Utilities Department wastewater system emergency response, including upgrades to Sewer Pump Station 64.
- Development of single-use plastics reduction strategies.
- Management of the La Jolla Shores and Scripps Areas of Special Biological Significance.

Park and Recreation

NR&C should docket updates on and eventual consideration of:

- Golf Operations 5-Year Business Plan
- Carmel Mountain and Del Mar Mesa Preserves Resource Management Plan
- Torrey Pines City Park General Development Plan

Additionally, NR&C should discuss:

- Strategies for managing City-owned skate parks.
- Creation of a San Diego Coastal Regional Park which would include shoreline parks and beaches for enhanced management and funding.
- San Dieguito River Park (SDRP) Coast to Crest Trail and other SDRP projects.
- Rancho Santa Fe Polo Club lease and habitat restoration along the San Dieguito River.

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

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cc: Honorable Mayor Jerry Sanders
Honorable Councilmembers
Honorable Jan Goldsmith, City Attorney
Andrea Tevlin, Independent Budget Analyst
Kevin Smith, NR&C Consultant



COUNCILMEMBER LORIE ZAPF
COUNCIL DISTRICT SIX

M E M O R A N D U M

DATE: January 27, 2012
TO: Councilmember David Alvarez
Chair, Natural Resources & Culture Committee
FROM: Councilmember Lorie Zapf 
SUBJECT: Natural Resources & Culture Committee Priorities for 2012

As I get into my second year on the Natural Resources & Culture Committee, I look forward to implementation and exploration of a few key ideas to help protect our City's precious natural resources such as our rivers, beaches, bays, and canyons.

- ***Status update on the lawsuit filed by CWA against MET.***
 - An update on the CWA lawsuit against MET regarding overcharging us for supplies to the tune of \$31 million last year. This lawsuit is crucial to the ratepayers of San Diego and the City Council should be aware and informed of its progress.
- ***Public Art***
 - Find ways to sustain public art programs now that Redevelopment is off the table. Public art is an effective tool in combating graffiti problems in our neighborhoods and plays an important role in a tourist destination city like ours.
- ***Exploration of Zero Waste policies***
 - Explore avenues that would allow the City of San Diego to move towards implementing Zero Waste policies in City facilities.
- ***Implementation of a program to help property owners remove invasive plant species.***
 - The removal of non-native and invasive plant species from areas like the San Diego River is a priority of many environmental and ecological groups in San Diego. A program that could help facilitate property owners along these sensitive areas with removal of invasive species would help foster a working relationship between public and private entities to protect our sensitive habitats.

Cc: City Councilmembers
Honorable Mayor Jerry Sanders
Andrea Tevlin, Independent Budget Analyst
Jan Goldsmith, City Attorney