



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



City of San Diego
Councilmember Scott Sherman
Seventh District

MEMORANDUM

DATE: January 9, 2013
TO: Councilmember David Alvarez
FROM: Councilmember Scott Sherman 
RE: Natural Resources & Culture Committee Priorities for 2013

It is a great pleasure to be able to serve on the Natural Resources & Culture Committee (NR&C) in my first year on the Council. I look forward to working with my colleagues on the important issues that this committee will discuss.

District Seven is home to some of San Diego's most invaluable natural resources such as the San Diego River and Mission Trails Regional Park. For that reason, I believe that it is important for District Seven to have representation on this committee. I look forward to doing what I can to help San Diegans enjoy these and our many other beautiful park spaces.

I encourage the Natural Resources & Culture Committee to consider the following goals and priorities over the coming year:

Advance the vision of a contiguous river park from Ocean Beach to Santee.

The San Diego River is one of our region's most valuable and beautiful natural resources. However, residents currently are unable to enjoy this resource as they should. The ultimate goal of creating a contiguous river park with walking and cycling paths that will stretch from Ocean Beach all the way to Santee should be an annual priority of this committee.

Acceptance of the San Diego River Park Master Plan.

The Draft San Diego River Park Master Plan is in the final stages of the public vetting process. Later this year the Council will have the

opportunity to adopt this document to help with future planning and development of a river-long park system that residents will be able to walk, run, or bike from Ocean Beach all the way to Santee. Having an adopted plan like this in place will also make it easier for the City of San Diego to be awarded grant opportunities from State and Federal programs to help with the development of the San Diego River Park. I would encourage my colleagues on the NR&C Committee to collaborate with the Land Use & Housing Committee on this issue.

Implementation of PACE districts.

Last year NR&C approved the creation of multiple Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) programs for the City to be able to enroll in. These programs will bring jobs to San Diego and help our economy while also providing local businesses with the opportunity to lower their energy bills. The programs approved have shown to be successful thus far in other areas of California and I look forward to hearing from the City Attorney's Office regarding what the progress is in establishing these PACE programs.

Examine innovative ways to restore Park and Recreation opportunities.

Our parks, campgrounds, and rec centers are a valuable asset to our City. Over the last decade our ability to staff these assets so that they could remain open to the public has been reduced and we have only recently begun to move in a positive direction. Our rec center hours are still not at optimum levels and we have cut services and closed down assets, such as overnight camping at Kumeyaay Lake Campground within Mission Trails Regional Park. I would like to try to find new ways for this committee to restore our ability to provide these services so they can be open longer hours and more days out of the year.

Reopening of Kumeyaay Lake Campground.

Kumeyaay Lake Campground has been closed due to inadequate staffing resources. This campground, located within Mission Trails Park, used to provide overnight camping opportunities for San Diego residents. Having a campground that is unavailable for camping benefits neither the city nor its residents. I would like for this committee to examine ways to reopen this campground.

I look forward to serving on the Natural Resources & Culture Committee and coming up with ways to improve and restore our parks and open space and deal with other critical issues involving arts and culture, energy initiatives, and water conservation and reuse. If you have any questions or input, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

cc: Honorable Members of the City Council



City Of San Diego
COUNCILMEMBER MARTI EMERALD
DISTRICT NINE
M E M O R A N D U M

DATE: January 11, 2013 **Reference:** M-13-01-08

TO: Councilmember David Alvarez
Chair, Committee on Natural Resources and Culture Committee

FROM: Councilmember Marti Emerald 

SUBJECT: Committee on Natural Resources and Culture Committee 2013
Priorities

In response to your memo dated December 17, 2012 regarding 2013 Natural Resources and Culture Committee (NR&C) Priorities, I respectfully submit my priorities for the upcoming year as follows:

1. **Flood Channel clearing and maintenance.** Now that the California Coastal Commission has approved San Diego's Master Permit for flood channel maintenance, I believe we must begin planning and scheduling the work. Windows of opportunity are limited and flood hazards are growing. We must work with the Mayor and City staff on methods for complying with new stormwater regulations, which may require a redesign of our current system.
2. **Open space protection and rehabilitation.** Thanks to Senate Bill 1169, authored by CA Senator Kehoe, the contiguous canyon land in District 9 is now dedicated, allowing for the creation of an impressive Canyon Loop Trail through City Heights. I would like to identify the necessary resources to continue progress on this important Mid City project and find ways to preserve other dedicated land for public education and enjoyment.
3. **Support urban greening throughout San Diego.** Our office has obtained a list of City owned properties, some of which could potentially be converted to public park space or community gardens. I would like to bring to this Committee the Real Estate Assets Department, the City Attorney, and community planning groups to identify parcels and enter into agreements to build community gardens and public spaces in order to better utilize idle city land.

Page 2
Councilmember Marti Emerald
January 11, 2013

4. **Pt. Loma Water Treatment and the EPA.** While we currently operate our Pt. Loma water treatment facility with an EPA waiver, we must continue discussions and planning for how the city will eventually comply with federal discharge laws. The Recycled Water Study was issued last year. The goal now is to start implementation of these recommendations and move forward on the next steps identified in this study immediately. In addition, the City must develop ongoing water management plans that include conservation.

5. **Solarize San Diego.** We have the opportunity with city, state and federal staff and agencies to expand our use of solar energy in this region. Included in this effort, we should lobby to expand the new PACE program, offering greater incentives and affordability for single-family homeowners and as well as create solar/renewable standards for future government and private development.

ME/as

CC: Honorable Mayor Bob Filner
Honorable Members of the City Council
Andrea Tevlin, Independent Budget Analyst



CITY OF SAN DIEGO
COUNCILMEMBER SHERRI S. LIGHTNER
DISTRICT ONE

MEMORANDUM

DATE: January 9, 2013
TO: Councilmember David Alvarez, Chair, Natural Resources and Culture Committee
FROM: Council President Pro Tem Sherri S. Lightner 
SUBJECT: Natural Resources and Culture Committee Priorities for 2013

The following are my top priorities for the 2013 Natural Resources and Culture Committee agenda:

- Review and approval of the Climate Mitigation and Adaptation Plan
- Request a timeline for completion of the Water System Cost of Service Study and the Recycled Water Pricing Study within the first quarter of 2013. The final results of these studies have been promised multiple times over the past 5 years and comprehensive water planning depends on these findings.
- Develop reduction strategies for single-use plastics such as plastic grocery bags.
- Make appointments to the Municipal Golf Committee compliant with the City's Golf Course Business Plan.
- Develop a 5 year comprehensive plan to complete the review of the remaining City-owned open space parcels eligible for dedication.
- Discuss with the City Attorney's office the Environmental Growth Fund and its potential uses, including but not limited to: energy retrofits, matching funds for State grants, incentives and rebates towards graywater, rainwater harvesting and other water conservation measures.

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 continue to implement a variety of strategies to diversify the City's water supply.

- Request regular updates from the Water Policy Implementation Task Force, and immediately docket recommendations as they are brought forward.
- Perform a timely review of the Water Policy Implementation Task Force's final plan and create a timeline and performance measures for implementation of the recommendations.
- Request from the Independent Budget Analyst a best practices evaluation for implementing a tiered rate structure.
- Develop graywater and rainwater reuse system permits that cut red tape and reduce the costs of installation.

- Receive 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.
- Receive reports from the County Water Authority and Independent Rates Oversight Commission.

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, 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 recycling of, and eventual elimination of, organic materials and construction and demolition debris from the landfill.

Pollution Prevention

- Implementation of the Master Storm Water System Maintenance Program and ongoing maintenance and pollution prevention projects not included in the maintenance program.

Additionally, NR&C should consider:

- The Carmel Mountain and Del Mar Mesa Preserves Resource Management Plan
- 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.
- The San Dieguito River Park (SDRP) Coast to Crest Trail and other SDRP projects.
- The Rancho Santa Fe Polo Club lease
- Habitat restoration along the San Dieguito River.
- Strategies for increasing the amount of environmental mitigation that takes place local to a development project, as opposed to exporting mitigation.

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

SL:gp

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



**COUNCILMEMBER KEVIN L. FAULCONER
CITY OF SAN DIEGO
SECOND DISTRICT
M E M O R A N D U M**

DATE: January 9, 2013
TO: Councilmember David Alvarez, Chair, Natural Resource & Culture Committee
FROM: Councilmember Kevin L. Faulconer 
SUBJECT: Natural Resources & Culture Committee 2013 Priorities

As the San Diego City Councilmember fortunate enough to represent the majority of San Diego's beaches and bays, I appreciate the opportunity to provide my recommendations for the Natural Resources & Culture Committee 2013 work plan. Protecting our local environment for the enjoyment of future generations must play a key role in the City's policy decisions.

Protect water quality of San Diego's beaches and bays

Stormwater runoff is the main contributor to water pollution at San Diego's beaches and bays. Excessive drainage has already damaged natural assets such as the Sunset Cliffs Natural Park and Rose Creek Flood Channel. Innovative infrastructure improvements, increased water main maintenance, and the addition of parks and dedicated open space are needed to capture urban runoff before reaching San Diego's water resources.

Support the expansion of electric vehicle infrastructure

Electric vehicles play a vital role in reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and San Diego is leading the national market. The installation of additional charging stations and related infrastructure is needed to decrease San Diego's carbon footprint and support a promising local green industry.

Develop a sustainable water supply for the City of San Diego

San Diego imports nearly 90% of its regional water supply and is susceptible to rising purchasing costs. Pursuing alternative water resources including desalination, reviewing the results of the Water Purification Demonstration Project, and supporting water conservation programs are paramount to guarding ratepayer dollars and growing our local water supply.

Support the expansion of the California Property Assessed Clean Energy Program

The California Property Assessed Clean Energy Program offers property owners the incentive to finance energy and water saving facility improvements, which reduces utility expenses and greenhouse gas emissions. Advocating for federal legislation to make this program available to single family residences can result in more affordable utility bills for San Diegans, grow San Diego's green industry, and protect our natural resources for years to come.

Councilmember David Alvarez

Page 2

January 10, 2013

I appreciate your consideration and look forward to working with you.

KLF/ic

cc: Honorable Mayor Bob Filner
Honorable San Diego City Councilmembers