



**COUNCILMEMBER DAVID ALVAREZ**  
City of San Diego  
Eighth District

**MEMORANDUM**

**DATE:** January 30, 2014

**TO:** Honorable Councilmembers

**FROM:** Councilmember David Alvarez, Chair, Environment Committee

**SUBJECT:** 2014 Environment Committee Priorities

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As Chair of the Environment Committee I look forward to discussing and implementing a number of important issues in 2014. 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**

- Discuss and move forward on an implementation plan on a potable reuse system for the city
- Enhance Potable Reuse Project Public Outreach and Education Program
- 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

**Water and Wastewater Rates**

- Begin discussing the next Water Cost of Service Study
- Review revised Wastewater Cost of Service Study
- Discuss enhancing Prop 218 notifications in bill mailings
- Discuss options for streamlining Water and Wastewater billings
- Receive update regarding implementation of the City Auditor's recommendations regarding the Industrial Wastewater Program
- Receive update on the Point Loma Water Treatment Plant EPA Waiver
- Receive reports from Independent Rates Oversight Committee and the County Water Authority
- Receive Recycled Water Pricing Study Update

### **Water Conservation**

- Consider ways to increase water conservation efforts and addressing 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

### **Climate Mitigation Action Plan Implementation**

- Move forward with implementation of Climate Action Plan goals and recommendations

### **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 bicycle infrastructure improvements throughout the city.

### **Energy Efficiency and Independence**

- Support and review ways to invest in solar technology throughout the city including, but not limited to:
  - Implementing solar goals outlined in the Climate Action Plan
  - 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, including allowing the program to be more accessible to residential and commercial users
  - Continued monitoring of potential rate changes by SDG&E, including an upcoming rate design window application going before the CPUC
  - Continue exploring the possibility of a Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) program in San Diego to increase use of renewable energy generation
  - Installing more solar equipment on city facilities

### **Recycling and Waste Reduction:**

- Review and move forward with a Zero Waste Initiative
- Discuss further efforts to expand the life of the Miramar Landfill

### **Municipal Storm Water Permit Implementation**

- In 2013, the NR&C Committee received an update from Transportation & Storm Water Department regarding the Municipal Storm Water Permit that outlined new regulations that carry a massive cost to implement. As such, it is critical that Committee coordinate with the Transportation and Storm Water Department to work collaboratively with the Regional Water Quality Control Board to achieve the goals outlined in the permit in a fiscally responsible manner.

### **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
- Discuss enhancement of a contiguous river park along the San Diego River
- Continue Implementation of the San Diego River Park Masterplan
- Receive update regarding implementation status of the city's Golf Master Plan
- Continue planning for the Balboa Park Centennial Celebration through regular updates from the 2015 Balboa Park Celebration Host Committee

**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
- 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

I look forward to chairing the Environment Committee in 2014 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 City Attorney Goldsmith  
Andrea Tevlin, Independent Budget Analyst





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

DATE: January 27, 2014 Reference: M-14-01-08

TO: Councilmember David Alvarez, Chair, Committee on the Environment

FROM: Councilmember Marti Emerald 

SUBJECT: Committee on the Environment Priorities for 2014

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In response to your memo dated January 7, 2014 regarding the Committee on the Environment priorities for 2014, I respectfully submit my priorities, as follows:

1. **Climate Action Plan.** Finalize the plan keeping the goals at least as ambitious as currently drafted, or more so. And, move forward with implementation of the plan.
2. **Water Supply.** Continue to work on implementing the City Council Water Policy, along with seeking ways to ease the burden of water rates on low income families. Move forward on effective conservation and continue to develop potable reuse.
3. **Pt. Loma Water Treatment Plant.** Water conservation will reduce the amount of water sent to the treatment plant. Potentially, water conservation could reduce the treatment plant outflow to the degree that federal discharge laws can be met without treatment plant upgrades. This would save the City millions of dollars, while also increasing water supply.
4. **Expand Solar Energy in San Diego.** San Diego should do much more to take advantage of our access to abundant solar energy. Work with city, state and federal agencies to expand our use of solar energy in this region, including city facilities. Lobby to expand the Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) program, overcoming the resistance shown by federal housing officials.
5. **Storm Water System Maintenance.** Continue to implement San Diego's Master Storm Water System Maintenance Program for flood channel maintenance. Work with the Mayor and City staff on additional funding for compliance with the new storm water regulations.

ME/tt

cc: Honorable Interim Mayor Gloria, and Honorable City Councilmembers





City of San Diego  
Councilmember Scott Sherman  
Seventh District

## MEMORANDUM

DATE: January 27, 2014  
TO: Councilmember David Alvarez  
FROM: Councilmember Scott Sherman  
RE: Environment Committee Priorities for 2014

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Water, wastewater, and stormwater issues will continue to play a bigger role in our City's policy discussions in 2014. Each of these areas represents a large financial commitment from the City of San Diego as well as its taxpayers. My 2014 priorities for the Committee on the Environment are as follows:

### **Include Prop 218 Notifications in Bill Mailings**

As noted above, the Public Utilities Department has made efforts to help the Prop 218 notices more effectively reach ratepayers. However, I believe there is a way to drastically improve in this area by enclosing the Prop 218 notifications inside of ratepayers mailed bill notifications. If Prop 218 notices were included in the same envelope as the water bills are then it would be impossible to miss them. Accomplishing this will require other changes to our billing system which will be expanded upon further below.

### **Expand Prop 218 Notifications Via Email**

Many residents pay their water and sewer bills online which means that the Public Utilities Department has email information for these users. The Public Utilities Department has made efforts in the past to help Prop 218 notices more effectively reach their intended recipients and I believe they can continue improving in this area by adding email redundancy to the distribution process. The cost of this should be minimal and would show a good faith effort by the City to maximize awareness about water rates.

### **Create a Standardized Billing Cycle for Water and Sewer Bills**

Currently our Public Utilities Department does not use a standardized billing cycle for its ratepayers. When a new ratepayer is entered into the system, their billing cycle starts on that date and the ratepayer is billed every 2 months. This leads to the Public Utilities Department constantly sending out a batch of bills every working day. By switching over to a standardized billing system we should be able to find efficiencies and realize financial savings. This would also allow the department to include Prop 218 notices inside the same envelope as the bill making sure that ratepayers will see it.

### **Lessen Stormwater Regulations**

New regulations from the Clean Water Act have resulted in a dire forecast of projected costs for the City of San Diego in order to reach compliance. The recently released Comprehensive Annual Financial Report estimates that it will cost roughly \$3.96 billion in order to reach compliance by 2031. The money to pay for these costs will be the same general fund money that our Police and Fire services rely on to protect our city, that our Parks and Recreation Department relies on to maintain our parks, and that our Libraries depend on for their services.

It is important that we do our part to protect the environment, but not at the cost of bankrupting our City and slashing all of the services that we provide. We must work with the Regional Water Quality Control Board to ease these regulations and work out a reasonable timeframe for the City to adjust to new regulations.

### **Invest in both Indirect Potable Reuse (IPR) and Desalinization Projects**

The City of San Diego will have to make tough choices about the future of its water supplies. We are increasingly reliant upon purchasing water from northern California and the train of water agencies that this water must travel through. Relying on this water supply leaves our rates at the mercy of the water agencies that we purchase from with little control over how much we pay. The only way to stabilize our rates is to invest in increasing local water supplies through Indirect Potable Reuse and Desalinization projects.

### **Expand Opportunities for IPR**

Allowing for private investment in Indirect Potable Reuse will help the City of San Diego to increase its water supply. Our region and state as a whole are experiencing drought conditions and the City should be taking advantage of any and all possible ways to expand its water supply. Our Public Utilities Department should maintain high standards for both the construction and funding mechanisms for private entities building their own IPR facilities to ensure they provide excellent results and also that the City does not wind up having to manage the facility themselves.



**COUNCILMEMBER LORIE ZAPF  
COUNCIL DISTRICT SIX**

**M E M O R A N D U M**

**DATE:** January 27<sup>th</sup>, 2014  
**TO:** Honorable Todd Gloria, Council President  
**FROM:** Councilmember Lorie Zapf

**SUBJECT:** 2014 Environment Committee Priorities

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It is an honor to serve another year on the newly named Environment Committee. I look forward to continuing to work with my colleagues to be proactive in protecting San Diego's natural resources and promoting a richer cultural experience for our city's residents.

Some issues that I would like to see on the agenda for the committee include:

**Point Loma Wastewater Treatment Plant**

The city's Point Loma Wastewater Treatment Plant is up for a permit renewal in 2015. In order to keep the plant open and operating affordably, we need to use alternative methods from upgrading the plant to reducing the flow of waste water. One of the main objectives of the Water Purification Demonstration Project is coordinate potable reuse implementation strategy with Point Loma Permit Renewal. As a committee, we should work to implement this objective to help with our city's water costs.

**Miramar Land Fill**

The city's Miramar Landfill is slated to close by 2022. However, with proper diversion and recycling programs, we can keep the landfill open for longer. Last year, our city approved a Zero Waste initiative to help extend the life span of the landfill. City Staff is currently working with stake holders and expects a draft plan to be available by summer or early fall. As a committee we should hear regular updates on the development of this plan to ensure we are doing all we can to control our city's waste disposal.

### **San Diego River Park Master Plan**

Last year, Council unanimously approved the San Diego River Park Master Plan which provides vision and guidance to property owners, citizens and elected officials to restore the river to its full potential and help to create a 52 mile river pathway. I believe that we should continue to actively pursue the completion of this master plan and receive implementation updates including reports on major connecting gaps and environmental restoration efforts.

### **Storm Water Regulations**

With the newly issued storm water permit given by the Regional Water Quality Control Board requiring all entities to come to compliance by 2018 with water quality regulations. I propose that our council hold a meeting with a representative from the state water board so that we could get a better understanding as to how we can make these requirements on time, and in an affordable manner.

### **Areas of Special Biological Significance**

The new storm water permit states that in order to come into compliance our state must make the states Areas of Special Biological Significance (ASBS) requirements. ASBS designates area's preserve biologically unique and sensitive marine ecosystems for future generations. Some of these areas are right off of our cities coastline. In an effort to understand more about the unique habitats off our coast I request our committee have a representative from the State Water board give a briefing on the significant areas off our cost.

I look forward to working with all of my colleagues on this committee and on the council to create a better quality of life for all San Diegans.

cc: Honorable Council members



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**COUNCIL PRESIDENT TODD GLORIA  
CITY OF SAN DIEGO**

**MEMORANDUM**

**DATE:** January 27, 2014  
**TO:** Councilmember David Alvarez, Chair, Environment Committee  
**FROM:** Council President Todd Gloria *Todd Gloria*  
**SUBJECT:** 2014 Environment Committee Priorities

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I am pleased to offer my priorities for the FY 2014 Environment Committee, which include past items I would like to review. I offer the following priorities with an eye toward protecting our city's natural resources and ensuring future generations of San Diegans live in a healthy environment.

**2014 Environment Committee Priorities**

1. Implementation of the Water Task Force recommendations
2. Implementation of the Climate Action Plan
3. Development of a plastic bag ordinance
4. Update on the success of the PACE program
5. Update on the Community Choice Aggregation study
6. Update from the Bike Advisory Committee on the Bike Strategic Implementation Plan
7. Update on the Point Loma Wastewater Clean Water Act permit

TG/lis





CITY OF SAN DIEGO  
COUNCIL PRESIDENT PRO TEM SHERRI S. LIGHTNER  
DISTRICT ONE

MEMORANDUM

DATE: January 24, 2014

TO: Councilmember David Alvarez, Chair, Environment Committee

FROM: Council President Pro Tem Sherri S. Lightner

SUBJECT: Environment Committee Priorities for 2014

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The following are my top priorities for the 2014 Environment Committee:

- In a combined effort of city staff, community groups and a consultant, if necessary, establish a citywide Coastal Management Plan to address the proliferation of the seal and sea-lion populations in our beach communities.
- Creation of a San Diego Coastal Regional Park which would include shoreline parks and beaches for enhanced management and funding.
- Establish within our Park & Recreation Department a shoreline ranger program for our coastal parks and beaches to ease the current burdens on our Lifeguard, Police, and Fire Rescue departments.
- Review and approve the Climate Action Plan, ensuring its integration into our city policies, programs and planning efforts.
- Continue implementation of Council Policy 400-15, "Comprehensive Policy for a Sustainable Water Supply in San Diego."
- Ensure the Coastal Rail Trail moves forward with any necessary environmental review and design phases. The project will connect our north county coastal communities' bike infrastructure through the University of California San Diego and University City to that of the south.
- Develop a 5-year comprehensive plan to complete the review of the remaining city-owned open space parcels eligible for dedication.
- Request a presentation from the City Attorney's office on the Environmental Growth Fund and its potential uses, including but not limited to: energy retrofits, matching funds for State grants, incentives and rebates toward graywater, rainwater harvesting and other water conservation measures.

In addition, the following categories and underlying areas of emphasis should be a focus for the committee.

#### Water Reliability

In accordance with the Council approval of the phased plan for the Water Policy Implementation Task Force recommendations on Council Policy 400-15 (Comprehensive Policy for a Sustainable Water Supply in San Diego) the Environment Committee should request a presentation by staff on its progress executing Council's direction.

Phase one recommendations of particular interest include:

- Graywater recommendations (Numbers WR13 – WR17)
- On-site/decentralized wastewater treatment (Number IT7)
- Recycled water rates (Number WR7)
- Establishing a Water Conservation Ethic (Number C4)
- Storm Water capture and infiltration projects (Number WR1, WR3, and WR4)

#### 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, and fully implement Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) programs for residential, commercial and industrial properties.
- Ensure internal organizational efficiency in permitting renewable energy and sustainable projects.

#### Waste Management and Recycling

- The committee should receive updates on the Council approved Zero-Waste planning efforts and other programs related to the improvement of the City's recycling activities and extending the life of the Miramar 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.

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 Council President Todd Gloria  
Honorable Councilmembers  
Honorable Jan Goldsmith, City Attorney  
Andrea Tevlin, Independent Budget Analyst  
Kevin Smith, Environment Committee Consultant



**OFFICE OF COUNCILMEMBER MYRTLE COLE  
FOURTH COUNCIL DISTRICT**

**M E M O R A N D U M**

DATE: January 28, 2014

TO: Councilmember David Alvarez

FROM: Councilmember Myrtle Cole, Fourth Council District

*Myrtle Cole*

SUBJECT: 2014 Environment Committee Priorities

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I am pleased to offer my priorities for the Environment Committee.

Continued oversight and implementation of the following:

- Approval and adoption of the Climate Action Plan
  - o The Climate Action Plan will establish a guide and work plan to retrofit and create energy efficient buildings, retrofit existing buildings, and focus on renewable energy, multimodal transportation, waste management and urban forests.
  - o The sooner the Plan is adopted, the sooner the City is able to carry out initiatives and efforts that will create, attract and retain local green collar jobs in industries such as green building, solar, renewable energy technologies, and energy efficiency.
- Implementation of Council Policy 400-15: Comprehensive Policy for a Sustainable Water Supply in San Diego
  - o The Committee should track and support legislation, initiatives and policies that are consistent with the City's cost-effective long-term local water supply reliability objectives.
  - o The Committee should also ensure that enough staff and resources are allocated to continue the public outreach and education programs to help residents understand the various sources and initiatives and the importance of conservation. The ongoing communication with the public will help the City better prepare for upcoming Cost of Service Studies.
- Point Loma Wastewater Treatment Plant
  - o Provide oversight and direction regarding the Plant's Clean Water Act permit renewal (2015). Identify cost-effective methods that will keep the treatment plant fully staffed and in operation while also increasing our water supply.

Increase engagement and policy development in the following areas:

- Open Space and Regional Park Designation
  - o As the Committee continues to pursue the dedication and designation of park lands, consideration should also be given to the designation of Chollas Creek as a Regional Park/Asset. This unique urban creek, flows through many of San Diego's underserved neighborhoods and is one of San Diego's most neglected watersheds. For decades the creek has been plagued by pollution, illegal dumping and the destruction of natural habitats. In 2002, the City of San Diego adopted a 20-year, \$42 million plan to rehabilitate the creek. The Committee should continue to revisit, provide oversight, and seek funding opportunities to carry out the Chollas Creek Enhancement Program.
- Landfill remediation and reuse opportunities
  - o The Committee should engage experts to explore the remediation and reuse of former landfills for recreational uses. District 4 is home to the South Chollas and Paradise Hills (inactive) landfills. There is growing interest in the community to remediate the former landfills to expand recreational and renewable energy opportunities—soccer, baseball fields, solar farms, etc.)
  - o Miramar Landfill and Collection Services: The City should ensure implementation of the Zero Waste policy to extend the life span of the landfill beyond its expected closure date of 2022. Additionally, the Committee should engage our city workforce and management team to implement additional efficiency measures to streamline the City's trash pickup routes, lower gas emissions and identify other cost savings. For example, our City employees have been instrumental in identifying budgetary savings such as 4/10 work schedules. They Committee should continue to engage our employee groups.
- Infrastructure-related State and Federal Legislative Priorities
  - o Support continued funding for the Energy Efficiency Block Grant Program in order to provide resources directly to local governments for programs that improve energy efficiency, develop and implement energy conservation programs, and promote and develop alternative and renewable energy sources.
  - o Support legislation or policy that provides funding to local governments for local transportation and water, sewer and storm sewer system projects.
  - o Support legislation that provides funding and resources for retrofitting municipal buildings to increase energy efficiency.
  - o Support legislation that secures funding to improve local and regional bicycle and pedestrian mobility networks, and complete bicycle and mobility project, safety, and infrastructure improvements.