



ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COMMISSION MINUTES

Regular Meeting
Wednesday, October 22, 2014 at 6:30 PM
City Administration Building
701 Laurel Street, Menlo Park, CA 94025

The meeting was called to order by Chair Marshall at 6:35 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

Present: Allan Bedwell (Vice Chair), Chris DeCardy, Kristin Kuntz-Duriseti, Scott Marshall (Chair), Deborah Martin, Mitchel Slomiak

Absent: Christina Smolke

A. PUBLIC COMMENT – None

B. REGULAR BUSINESS

B1. Discuss and Make a Recommendation to Council on the City's Update to the Water Shortage Contingency Plan

Pam Lowe, Associate Engineer provided a presentation to the commission.

Commissioner Martin arrives at 6:45 p.m.

Commissioner Bedwell arrives at 7:10 p.m.

Commissioner Bedwell leaves the meeting at 7:18 p.m.

ACTION: Motion and second (DeCardy/Slomiak) to make the following recommendation to Council on the City's update to the Water Shortage Contingency Plan, passes (5-0-2), (Absent: Bedwell, Smolke):

1. Given the short timing and lack of availability of accurate cost and benefit analysis of the list of options available to reduce community water consumption, we believe this is a thoughtful approach worthy of adoption as you see fit in the immediate term.
2. At the time of adoption, Council should designate adequate resources (staff time or funding for outside support) to perform a full analysis of viable options that includes a ranked list based on cost of the action, the benefit of the action in terms of water reduction and an understanding of how durable the action will be over time. This analysis needs to be undertaken now so that it is available when the city's water policy is scheduled for review and revision in 2016.

3. Given longer-term trends including projected population growth in the region and the impacts from climate change, the Council should not only put in place short-term actions to reduce water consumption, but also longer-term policies (such as zoning, planning and financial signals) that will position the city to best adapt to longer-term water challenges.

B2. Receive Informational Arborist Report

ACTION: No formal action was taken on this item. Christian Bonner, City Arborist, provided the commission with a status update on the City's urban canopy.

B3. Discuss and Review Previous EQC Recommendation to City Council on the City's Heritage Tree Ordinance

ACTION: No formal action was taken on this item. Chair Marshall tabled this item for a future EQC meeting.

Commissioner Bedwell returns to the meeting at 8:36 p.m.

B4. Informational Staff Update on the Regional Renewable Energy Procurement Project (R-REP)

ACTION: No formal action was taken on this item. Vanessa Marcadejas, Environmental Programs Specialist, provided the commission with a status update on the R-REP project.

B5. Discuss Quarterly Report to City Council

ACTION: No formal action was taken on this item. The commission approves of Chair Marshall reporting on the following items during the December 16th quarterly report to City Council:

- Progress of Heritage Tree Ordinance Update
- Water Conservation Plan Recommendation to Council
- Emergency Water Policy
- Mention New Environmental Programs Manager and City Arborist
- Completion of new EQC two-year work plan for FY 14-16
- Restructuring of the EQC subcommittees

B6. Approve September 17, 2014 Minutes

ACTION: Motion and Second (Slomiak/Marshall) to approve the September 17, 2014 minutes with a correction to state Commissioner Slomiak as the minute taker, passes (6-0-1), (Absent: Smolke).

C. COMMISSION REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The following updates were received by the Commission:

C1. Staff Update on Environmental Policies to be Considered by City Council

C2. Commission Subcommittee Reports and Announcements

C3. Discuss Future Agenda Items

D. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Meeting minutes taken by Kristin Kuntz-Duriseti, Environmental Quality Commissioner

Meeting minutes prepared by Vanessa Marcadejas, Environmental Programs Specialist

Minutes accepted at the meeting of December 17, 2014.