



## AGENDA

### LA MESA ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION

A Special Meeting on Monday, January 28, 2019, 6:00 p.m.

City Manager's Conference Room  
8130 Allison Avenue, La Mesa, California

1. CALL TO ORDER
2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
3. PUBLIC COMMENTS (Total Time – 15 Minutes)  
Members of the public may address the Commission on subjects within the jurisdiction of the Commission. Unless such subjects are contained within this agenda, there can be no discussion or action by the Commission until a subsequent, publicly noticed meeting.
4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - December 17, 2018
5. CITY STAFF UPDATES
6. LA MESA PARK & RECREATION FOUNDATION EARTH/ARBOR DAY EVENT – APRIL 27
7. 2019 WORK PLAN (Scott Munzenmaier)
8. CLIMATE ACTION PLAN SUBCOMMITTEE  
Review of draft implementation plan (Jenny Lybeck)  
[Memo to the Commission](#)  
[Draft Implementation Plan](#)
9. COMMUNITY GARDEN SUBCOMMITTEE  
Draft of Recommendations to the City Council (Andrea Beth Damsky)
10. CHEMICAL USE SUBCOMMITTEE  
Approval of Presentation to the City Council (Maria Hesse)
11. LA MESA COMMUNITY TREES (URBAN FORESTRY)  
Approval of Recommendations to the City Council (Robin Rivet)
12. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS
13. NEXT REGULAR MEETING DATE - Monday, February 18, 2019

**PLEASE NOTE:** Materials related to an item on this agenda submitted to the La Mesa Environmental Sustainability Commission after distribution of the agenda packet are available for public inspection at the City Clerk's Office located in La Mesa City Hall, 8130 Allison Avenue during normal business hours.

Citizens who wish to make an audio/visual presentation pertaining to an item on the agenda, or during Public Comments, should contact Scott Munzenmaier at 619.667.1113, no later than 12:00 noon, one business day prior to the start of the meeting. Advance notification will ensure compatibility with City equipment and allow Commission meeting presentations to progress smoothly and in a consistent and equitable manner. Please note that all presentations/digital materials are considered part of the maximum time limit provided to speakers.

Individuals with disabilities who require reasonable accommodation in order to participate in City of La Mesa services, activities, programs and/or attendance at City Council meetings, Commission meetings, or any Public Hearings should contact the City's Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Coordinator, Rida Freeman, Human Resources Manager, 48 hours prior to the meeting at 619.667.1175, fax 619.667.1163, or [freeman@ci.la-mesa.ca.us](mailto:freeman@ci.la-mesa.ca.us).

**MEETING OF THE CITY OF LA MESA  
ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION  
6:00 PM, CITY MANAGER'S CONFERENCE ROOM  
8130 ALLISON AVENUE, LA MESA, CA 91942**

DRAFT MINUTES  
December 17, 2018

1. CALL TO ORDER (6:06 p.m.)
2. ROLL CALL (X indicates present)

Jim Stone, Chair	(Excused absence)
Stephen Guiland, Vice Chair	X (arrived at 6:25pm)
Robin Rivet	X
Maria Hesse	X
Stephen Grooms	X
Andrea Beth Damsky	X
Ashley Simmons	X
Maggie Eggers (EDCO)	(Excused absence)
Joe Garuba (Helix Water District)	X
Vacant (La Mesa-Spring Valley School District)	
Vacant (Helix Charter High School)	
Vacant (SDG&E)	

Others present: Lyn Dedmon, Senior Management Analyst; Jenny Lybeck, Sustainability Analyst

Public: Mark Gracyk, Helix Water District; Desiree Pedroza, EDCO; Jean Costa, Angela Deegan, Wendy Mihalic, George Jiracek of San Diego 350; Geertje Grootenhuis of San Diego Food System Alliance; Chardá Fontenot of La Mesa-Spring Valley School District

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Jean Costa stated that the Foothills Democratic Club discussed the proposed Cottonwood Sand Mine and that there is community opposition with concerns regarding GHG emissions from trucks traveling through La Mesa. She provided the website [www.stopcottonwoodsandmine.com](http://www.stopcottonwoodsandmine.com). Jean shared a City CAP brochure from a few years ago and stated that it needed to be updated and that San Diego 350 would help with distribution.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – November 19, 2018

Action:	Motion to approve minutes
Vote:	4-0-1
Ayes:	Rivet, Grooms, Damsky, Simmons
Noes:	None
Abstained:	Hesse
Absent:	Stone, Guiland

5. CITY STAFF UPDATE

Jenny Lybeck stated that the City recently submitted two grant applications. She also announced that West Coast Arborists has been awarded a Cal Fire grant for public education and tree planting including trees in La Mesa with maintenance for two years and reverting to the City after. Jenny also noted that the City is waiting to hear on a SDG&E Emerging Cities Program grant submission.

6. FOOD WASTE RECOVERY TOOL DEMO

Geertje Grootenhuis of San Diego Food System Alliance presented an online GIS tool for examining food waste data. The GIS data has two layers for land use type and annual food waste using factors from CalRecycle study data. The program was in partnership with students from Palomar College and includes data for La Mesa, and five north county cities. Potential benefits are outreach and education to multifamily communities and schools.

7. 2019 WORK PLAN

Andrea Beth Damsky asked about banning plastic straws and Maria Hesse stated that the State is already doing this. Andrea Beth also asked about Styrofoam bans and Desiree Pedroza stated that EDCO recycles it in their single-stream system except for packing peanuts. Stephen Grooms asked if there were any deliverables from the Community Garden item and that there should be a better communication plan for Commission documents. Stephen Guiland asked everyone to look at the draft and provide actionable items for 2019 by email to Scott Munzenmaier before the January meeting.

8. DISCUSSION ON ADDRESSING NEEDS OF PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS

Stephen Grooms asked how the Commission can help Helix Water District on clean water issues. Stephen Guiland suggested that Helix share information for outreach. Joe Garuba stated that Helix faced heavy regulation and could make a public outreach presentation. Robin Rivet asked about storm water management and redirecting water to land use. Stephen Grooms will communicate with Joe and Mark Gracyk on outreach and Robin will help with ideas on combining community trees and water.

Stephen Grooms asked Desiree Pedroza if there was anything that EDCO wanted help with and she stated that they are working on AB1826 compliance regarding organics and food waste recovery.

Stephen Guiland requested that the City continue to follow-up with SDG&E for a Commissioner.

9. CLIMATE ACTION PLAN SUBCOMMITTEE

Stephen Guiland presented their draft Recommendations for La Mesa Advocacy at SANDAG/MTS for submission to the City Council.

Action:	Motion to approve submission of recommendations to the City Council
Vote:	6-0-0
Ayes:	Guiland, Rivet, Hesse, Grooms, Damsky, Simmons
Noes:	None
Abstained:	
Absent:	Stone

10. COMMUNITY GARDEN SUBCOMMITTEE

Lyn Dedmon expressed that there was some confusion after the previous presentation by Hannah Gbeh and that he communicated with her to get clarification. He stated that the General Plan discusses a community garden inventory of public, not private, land and the municipal code allows bee keeping, chickens and agriculture. These can all support community gardens leading to La Mesa’s high score, although community gardens themselves are not permitted by zoning laws. Andrea Beth Damsky stated that there needs to be a policy change and would follow-up with Senior Planner Allyson Kinnard. Andrea Beth will work on written recommendations to the City Council and present a draft to the Commission in January.

11. CHEMICAL USE SUBCOMMITTEE

Maria Hesse stated that the recommendations to the City Council were not ready and she would work to have them for the January meeting.

12. LA MESA COMMUNITY TREES (URBAN FORESTRY)

Robin Rivet stated that the recommendations to the City Council were not ready. She would make a presentation to the Commission in January.

13. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Andrea Beth Damsky reiterated the concern regarding trucks from the proposed Cottonwood sand mine and Stephen Guiland suggested looking at the project's Environmental Impact Report. Ashley Simmons expressed interest in the idea of reducing food waste in high schools. Robin Rivet announced that she would be speaking at the Tree Canopy Association. Desiree Pedroza stated that EDCO's recycling information is on their website.

14. NEXT MEETING DATE

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Monday, February 18, 2018.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Prepared by:

Scott Munzenmaier, Purchasing Officer

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**ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION**

**Work Plan  
2019 - DRAFT**

**Goals should be consistent with the City’s goals:**

- Safe Community
- Maintain a Financially Sound and Affordable City Government
- Continue to Improve High Quality Municipal Services
- Revitalize Neighborhoods and Corridors
- Enhanced Recreation and Quality of Life Opportunities
- Safe and Affordable Homes for All Current and Future Residents

**Staffing Department:** Public Works Department – Environmental Services Division

<b>GOALS</b>	<b>DUE DATE</b>	<b>TRACKING MILESTONES</b>	<b>STATUS</b>
1. Continue a subcommittee that will advise and assist the City with implementation of the Climate Action Plan.	Ongoing		In progress
2. Review and advise on current City policies and ordinances and make recommendations for improvements to promote sustainability as needed.	Ongoing		In progress
3. Continue a subcommittee to advance community gardens by providing best practice examples and encouraging the city to develop a process for implementation.	6/30/19	1) Recommend updates to zoning ordinances 2) Report on possible school partnerships	In progress
4. Complete the City chemical use policy recommendations for presentation to the City Council.			In progress
5. Review the tree canopy assessment data and make recommendations for utilizing the data to maximize environment, economic, public health and crime prevention benefits.			In progress
6. Establish a subcommittee to develop recommendations for a food waste recovery program.			Planned

January 28, 2019

To the La Mesa City Council

Re: Recommendations for Including Community Gardens in La Mesa's Zoning Regulations

Dear Members of the City Council:

During the past year, our Environmental Sustainability Commission was charged with exploring the promotion of community gardens as a means of increasing our green space as delineated in our Climate Action Plan.

We had city staff review our zoning ordinances to determine the specs for community gardens, and learned that these are permitted only in public parks at the present time.

Simply put, while our Climate Action Plan supports community gardens, our zoning ordinances do not provide a means for these to be created. We believe that, in order to create a means for the City of La Mesa to encourage community gardens, the zoning regulations need to specifically include relevant ordinance(s). At our public meeting on January 28, 2019 the Commission voted on these recommendations and to have them presented to the City Council.

We are aware of the public community garden in planning at MacArthur Park. Other options we discussed for community garden venues include but are not limited to private property and public schools.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Jim Stone  
Chair, La Mesa Environmental  
Sustainability Commission