

**REGULAR 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
TELECONFERENCE MEETING WEBINAR**

MINUTES
September 20, 2021

1. CALL TO ORDER (6:02 p.m.)

2. ROLL CALL (X indicates present)

Andrea Beth Damsky, Chair	X
Ricky Williams, Vice-Chair	X
Stephen Grooms	X
Trey McDonald	X
Jean-Guillaume Lonjaret	X
Mike Bourton	
Maggie Eggers (EDCO)	X
Joe Garuba (Helix Water District)	
Joe Britton (SDG&E)	X
Sebastian Sarria, San Diego Community Power Vacant (Youth Rep)	
Vacant (La Mesa-Spring Valley School District)	
Vacant (Helix Charter High School)	

Others present: Hilary Ego, Environmental Program Manager

Public present: Mark Gracyk, Elected Division 3 Director of Helix Water District, Anne Sheridan, Resident, Debbie Kisinger Resident, Melissa Morris, Plastic Free Sea Coalition

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments submitted or stated.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – August 16, 2021

Approval of minutes from the August 16, 2021 meeting.

Action:	Motion to approve minutes by Ricky Williams; second by Trey McDonald
Vote:	4-0
Ayes:	Damsky, Williams, McDonald, Grooms
Noes:	None
Abstained:	Lonjaret
Absent:	Bourton

5. CITY STAFF UPDATES

Hilary Ego gave updates on the following items:

- CivicSpark Fellows, Samantha and Jackie, first day with the City on September 20th. They will be introduced at the October meeting.

- Trees: UFMP Review is open for public feedback on City website. Tree planting event on Friday, September 24th as part of the Cal Fire grant. Looking for more video responses for the tree marketing video with Dudek.
- Waste: backyard composting workshop Oct 21 from 2-3 and 27th from 6-7 PM
- Transportation: iCommute event hosted at City Hall for employees. The City received silver tier recognition for the iCommute Diamond Awards
- CAP Council Subcommittee: First meeting will be in October. Hilary will be the bridge between the Subcommittee and the ESC.
- Park Appreciation Day/Earth Day Festival on November 6th at MacArthur Park from 10-1 – ESC Work Plan includes volunteering at community events and Hilary asked for volunteers.

6. PRESENTATION BY THE PLASTIC-FREE SEA COALITION (Jean-Guillaume Lonjaret, Plastic-Free Sea Coalition)

Jean-Guillaume Lonjaret introduced the guest speaker, Melissa Morris from the Plastic-Free Sea Coalition.

Melissa Morris presented to the Environmental Sustainability Commission about the environmental and health impacts of plastic production and pollution. Solutions were highlighted and Melissa encouraged the City of La Mesa adopt an ordinance to ban single use plastic.

Jean-Guillaume noted that other southern California cities have been successful to adopt plastic ban ordinances and at varying levels and phased approaches.

Andrea Beth Damsky asked if Melissa had worked with more inland cities, similar to La Mesa not being on a coast. Melissa responded that the City of Vista is inland and passed an ordinance recently and can share a copy.

Trey McDonald asked Trey what are next steps for the City of La Mesa and other cities do? Melissa responded to direct City staff to draft a resolution or ordinance.

Andrea Beth Damsky inquired if other cities included a plastic ban in their Climate Action Plan. Melissa responded that there are some State laws that would be implemented in all cities across the State.

Ricky Williams asked if these are standalone efforts or can they be paired with sustainability planning efforts. Melissa responded that both have occurred with cities depending on the city's focus and needs. Ricky also asked if Oceana's focus is to remove single use plastic items or to recommend alternatives. Melissa responded that it depends on the city and the focus is removal, but they work with cities to determine their needs.

Hilary Ego commented that a checklist item to remove single use plastic at a business or office will be added to the green business program and will connect with Melissa.

Joe Britton asked if there is data on how much plastic waste has been diverted. Melissa responded that she would get back to us on that.

Andrea Beth Damsky inquired about enforcement or fine processes. Melissa responded that cities may have a fine, but monitoring remains an issue.

Jean-Guillaume Lonjaret commented on the environmental footprint of alternative materials and asked for lifecycle analyses. Melissa responded to encourage replacing items with reusables instead of alternative disposable items to replace single use plastics.

7. URBAN FOREST MANAGEMENT PLAN (HILARY EGO)

Hilary stated that the Urban Forest Management Plan (UFMP) draft is uploaded on the City's website and is available for public feedback until September 30th. The UFMP timeline is to present to City Council for adoption in January and Dudek will present to the ESC in December requesting their support of the UFMP.

Andrea Beth Damsky provided an update of the UFMP working group. The working group reviewed the draft and met to discuss and provide feedback to Dudek.

8. COMMISSION CHAIR AND CHIEF CHAIR ELECTION AT OCTOBER MEETING (Andrea Beth Damsky)

Andrea Beth Damsky stated that the Chair and Vice Chair positions will be voted on at the next meeting in October.

Hilary stated she will come prepared with instructions on how to conduct the vote in a virtual meeting environment.

9. DISCUSSION OF 2023 CLIMATE ACTION PLAN UPDATE (Hilary Ego)

Hilary presented an outline and draft sample agenda of CAP Quarterly Forums that will be hosted in the future. The purpose of the CAP Quarterly Forums is to engage the public on CAP implementation progress and receive feedback on specific projects such as the Green Business Certification Program.

Andrea Beth Damsky asked if these forums will be virtual and Hilary responded yes. Andrea Beth asked what other cities are going through CAP updates right now and Hilary that she has been meeting with other cities in the region and state to learn best practices and collaborate for CAP updates.

Ricky Williams commented that the County and most cities in the region are in the same boat to update their CAP to meet more stringent targets.

Andrea Beth Damsky asked how to work with members of the community who don't have access to technology to participate in virtual meetings. Hilary responded she will get more information on this and report back.

Hilary presented an outline and draft sample agenda of the 2023 CAP Update Community Workshops. Hilary would like to host three workshops in early 2022 with three topics: 1) CAP Targets, Measures, and Key Actions, 2) Adaptation, and 3) Environmental Justice.

Andrea Beth Damsky asked about the role the ESC can assist with and Hilary opened the question to the group to ask how they would like to stay involved. Joe Britton responded and recommended breakout stations or rooms on specific topic experts. Andrea Beth commented that in the last CAP, the ESC helped drive discussion with the public and would be interested in participating again.

10. DISCUSSION OF AD HOC SUBCOMMITTEE: BUILDING DECARBONIZATION

Jean Guillaume Lonjaret, Mike Bourton, and Hilary Ego met on September 7, 2021.

Jean Guillaume gave an update on the City of Encinitas who is about to pass a comprehensive reach code for building electrification. Solana Beach is about to pass an ordinance, with Encinitas being the 1st in the County and Solana Beach being the 2nd.

Joe Britton commented that SDG&E worked closely with the City Encinitas and encouraged the ad hoc subcommittee and the Commission to reach out to SDG&E.

Jean Guillaume and Mike will review bullet points for the Work Plan update that are drafted and will present at the November meeting.

11. DISCUSSION OF AD HOC SUBCOMMITTEE: NO IDLING

Ricky Williams, Trey McDonald, Andrea Beth Damsky, and Hilary Ego met on September 9, 2021.

Ricky Williams gave update about the subcommittee redirecting efforts to focus the City's idling policy and is working on updating an existing idling policy and present it to the ESC. The subcommittee will provide support for Clean Earth 4 Kids' efforts.

Ricky Williams noted that the original subcommittee was to expire after 3 months and requested the ad hoc subcommittee be extended for two more months.

Action:	Motion by Jean Guillaume Lonjaret and seconded by Stephen Grooms to extend the timeframe of the no idling ad hoc subcommittee for two more months and complete the idling policy
Vote:	5-0
Ayes:	McDonald, Damsky, Lonjaret, Williams, Grooms
Noes:	None
Abstained:	None
Absent:	Bourton

12. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Jean Guillaume Lonjaret asked about filling the Youth voting member of the ESC. Hilary responded that Commissioners are encouraged to reach out to youth and ask them to apply. Stephen Grooms to connect Hilary with Helix High School to identify a student and staff. Andrea Beth Damsky also sent an email to LMSVSD requesting they add to their Board agenda to recommend an ESC member.

Ricky Williams stated that SANDAG is available to provide a presentation at the November meeting and requested the presentation to be added to the agenda.

Hilary noted that the January meeting is on a holiday and will need to look at scheduling a special meeting on another day or cancel.

13. NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 18, 2021.

14. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:36 p.m.

Prepared by: Hilary Ego, Environmental Program Manager