



**CITY OF SOUTH PASADENA  
NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING AGENDA**

**Council Chamber  
1424 Mission Street, South Pasadena, CA 91030**

**October 22, 2019, at 7:00 p.m.**

*In order to address the Natural Resources and Environmental Commission, please complete a Public Comment Card. Time allotted per speaker is three minutes.*

- CALL TO ORDER:** Rona Bortz
- ROLL CALL:** Commissioners Amy Davis Jones, William J. Kelly, Stephen Leider, Cynthia Liu, and Lauren Myles; Vice Chair Rona Bortz; and Chair Madeline C. Di Giorgi (excused)
- COUNCIL LIAISON:** Mayor Marina Khubesian, MD
- STAFF PRESENT:** Shahid Abbas, Public Works Director  
Kristine Courdy, Deputy Public Works Director  
Julian Lee, Deputy Public Works Director  
Arpy Kasparian, Water Conservation, Sustainability Analyst

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**PUBLIC COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS**

(Time limit is three minutes per person)

The Natural Resources and Environmental Commission (NREC) welcomes public input. Members of the public may address the NREC by completing a public comment card and giving it to the Water Conservation & Sustainability Analyst prior to the meeting. At this time, the public may address the NREC on items that are not on the agenda. Pursuant to state law, the NREC may not discuss or take action on issues not on the meeting agenda, except that members of the NREC or staff may briefly respond to statements made or questions posed by persons exercising public testimony rights (Government Code Section 54954.2). Staff may be asked to follow up on such items.

Note: Public input will also be taken during all agenda items. Time allotted per speaker is three (3) minutes.

**PUBLIC HEARINGS**

1. **Tree Removal Hearing: 1611 Spruce Street**

Recommendation

Staff recommends that the Natural Resources and Environmental Commission (NREC) recommend approval to the Cultural Heritage Commission (CHC) for the tree removals and conditions of approval related to the trees for the proposed home addition and underground parking garage (Project) located at 1611 Spruce Street.

**ACTION ITEMS**

2. **Approval of Minutes**

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Commission review and approve the minutes from the September 24, 2019 meeting.

3. **Overview of Current Weed Control Practices Citywide**

Recommendation

It is recommended that the City continue its current weed control practices in accordance with our Qualified Applicator License with the California Department of Pesticide Regulation.

**PRESENTATIONS**

4. **HR 763: Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act**

By Robert Haw, Citizens' Climate Lobby

**COMMUNICATIONS**

5. **City Council Liaison Communications**

6. **Commissioner Communications**

7. **Staff Liaison Communications**

**8. Upcoming Events**

- Free Advanced Smart Gardening Workshop – 10/26/19 (Pasadena)
- Watershed Restoration Program – 11/2/19 (San Gabriel Canyon Environmental Center)
- Climate Action Plan First Public Meeting – 11/14/19 (South Pasadena Library)

**ADJOURNMENT**

**FUTURE NREC MEETINGS**

November 26, 2019  
December 24, 2019

Council Chamber  
CANCELED

7:00pm  
CANCELED

**PUBLIC ACCESS TO AGENDA DOCUMENTS**

Prior to meetings, agenda related documents are available for public inspection at, City Hall, 1414 Mission Street, South Pasadena, CA 91030. The complete agenda packet may also be viewed on the City’s website at: <https://www.southpasadenaca.gov/government/boards-commissions>

**ACCOMMODATIONS**



The City of South Pasadena wishes to make all of its public meetings accessible to the public. Meeting facilities are accessible to persons with disabilities. If special assistance is needed to participate in this meeting, please contact the City Clerk's Division at (626) 403-7230. Upon request, this agenda will be made available in appropriate alternative formats to persons with disabilities. Hearing assistive devices are available in the Council Chamber. Notification at least 48 hours prior to the meeting will assist staff in assuring that reasonable arrangements can be made to provide accessibility to the meeting (28 CFR 35.102-35.104 ADA Title II).

*I declare under penalty of perjury that I posted this notice of agenda on the bulletin board in the courtyard of City Hall at 1414 Mission Street, South Pasadena, CA 91030, and on the City’s website as required by law.*

10/17/19  
Date

  
Arpy Kasparian

Water Conservation and Sustainability Analyst

**Report Under Separate Cover**  
Tree Removal Hearing: 1611 Spruce St.

**CITY OF SOUTH PASADENA  
NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION  
MINUTES – September 24, 2019**

**CALL TO ORDER:**

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm. Present were: Madeline Di Giorgi, Rona Bortz, Amy Jones, and Cynthia Liu. Bill Kelly, Lauren Myles, and Stephen Leider had excused absences. Council Liaison Dr. Marina Khubesrian was present. Staff present: Julian Lee, Deputy Public Works Director; Kristine Courdy, P.E., Deputy Public Works Director; and Arpy Kasparian, Water Conservation & Sustainability Analyst.

**1) Approval of Minutes – Meeting of August 27, 2019**

Minutes approved. (Bortz, Jones; unanimous)

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Kim Hughes – Resident – Provided information on Measure A.

**PRESENTATIONS:**

**2) Introduction of Youth Non-Voting Members**

Amber Chen, the new Youth Non-voting Member, gave a brief introduction. Max Jimenez, who will be the alternate youth member, was not present.

**3) Introduction of Youth Commission Liaison**

Juliana Fong, the new Youth Commission Liaison, gave a brief introduction.

**ACTION ITEMS:**

**4) Tree Removal Hearing: 1674-82 Amberwood Drive**

Kristine Courdy explained the process of tree hearings. The applicant is appealing the decision of the Public Works Department to deny their request to remove three non-native Ash trees. The City Arborist inspected the trees and assessed that all trees were healthy and recommended pruning. The applicant argued that the trees were causing the sidewalk to lift creating a hazard, that his insurance was canceled due to the damage (documentation was not provided), and that they would be planting drought-tolerant and native trees in their place. Courdy explained that the City has an ongoing service request to fix the sidewalk – some patchwork has already been completed. Courdy confirmed that when the sidewalk is fixed, roots of the trees will be shaved to avoid future damage to the sidewalk. NREC suggested that trimming occur more frequently and that the owners follow up with the City if damages reoccur after the sidewalk is fixed.

Erik Altmetz - Property Owner – Restated the issues that the trees were causing including a tripping hazard, high water use, and canceled insurance.

Courdy mentioned that the owner would need to plant 14 trees, according to the tree ordinance, to replace the existing ones. These trees could be planting in the areas as well as donated throughout the City. Commissioner Jones assured that since the trees are established, they do not require much water. A motion was made to deny the tree removal request. (Jones, Bortz; unanimous)

**5) Overview of Current Weed Control Practices Citywide**

A motion was made to table this action item due to the lack of time and full agenda. (Bortz, Liu; unanimous)

## 6) Adoption of the Proposed City Green Action Plan

Julian Lee and Arpy Kasparian provided background information and presented the goals, plays (strategies), and moves (actions) of the City's Green Action Plan. Discussion ensued regarding the moves. The following comments were noted and will be reviewed and incorporated into the plan accordingly if feasible.

- Provide businesses with list of vendors for alternatives
- Include educational materials on diapers, personal care products, and medical waste
- Do more work with schools
- Provide information on composting/incinerating toilets as alternatives to traditional toilets
- Provide information on closed-loop showers
- Provide information on biodigestors; consider incorporating into school events
- Include having organics bins at Farmer's Market
- Reassess waste service levels for residents to eliminate oversized bins
- Provide information on where to dispose electronic waste
- Change wording for 4.3.1 to "heat-tolerant" instead of drought-tolerant, also provide sources for obtaining trees
- Create a neighborhood food library/harvest where neighbors can share the foods from their trees/gardens
- Include mapping resident trees in the Urban Forest Management Plan
- Provide workshops on gardening and permaculture
- Provide information on electric kitchens
- Add to the communications section: Transition South Pasadena, Realtors (Welcome Packet)

Staff was directed to look into City gardening ordinances. A motion was made to recommend to the City Council to adopt the proposed City Green Action Plan. (Jones, Liu; unanimous)

## **COMMUNICATIONS:**

**7) City Council Liaison Communications:** Mayor Khubesrian announced the arrival of goats to clear brush. She expressed that being the barrier between the public's individual requests and City staff has allowed Staff the time to work on projects for the greater good such as the City Green Action Plan. Mayor Khubesrian announced that the City Manager will have a weekly blog that will allow the City to share its accomplishments with the public.

## **8) Commissioner Communications:**

Commissioner Liu announced a video contest for middle and high school students. The contest is held by "Democrats of Pasadena Foothills," and the subject of the video contest is getting the word out about voting. Kasparian will forward the information to the youth members. Commissioner Bortz had no comments. Commissioner Di Giorgi shared that the local high school students participated in the Global Climate Strike. She announced another climate strike taking place in front of the Brazilian consulate on Friday, September 27<sup>th</sup>. Commissioner Jones had no comments.

**9) Staff Liaison Communications:** Kasparian announced that the FY19-20 Water Conservation Program was approved at the September 18, 2019 City Council Meeting and that the tentative launch of the new rebate program will be December 2019.

## **10) Upcoming Events:**

- Watershed Restoration Program – 10/5/19 (San Gabriel Canyon Environmental Center)
- Free Smart Gardening Workshop – 10/12/19 (Pasadena)
- Upper District's WaterFest – 10/12/19 (Arcadia)
- Dumpster Day – 10/19/19 (South Pasadena Unified School District Headquarters)

**Adjournment** – Meeting adjourned at 9:18p.m. (DiGiorgi; unanimous)

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing minutes were adopted by the Natural Resources and Environmental Commission of the City of South Pasadena at a meeting held on October 22, 2019.

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Madeline Di Giorgi, Chair



# Natural Resources & Environmental Commission Agenda Report

ITEM NO. \_\_\_\_\_

**DATE:** October 22, 2019 (Carryover from September 24, 2019)

**FROM:** Kristine Courdy, Deputy Public Works Director  
Arpy Kasparian, Water Conservation & Sustainability Analyst

**SUBJECT:** Update on Current City Weed Control Practices

## Recommendation

It is recommended that the City continue its current weed control practices in accordance with our Qualified Applicator License with the California Department of Pesticide Regulation.

## Background

Recently, glyphosate has become controversial due to the fact that the World Health Organization's International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) said that the chemical is "probably" carcinogenic to humans. To address this expressed concern, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) – Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention (OCSPP) reviewed the use of glyphosate, and issued a report on April 30, 2019 reiterating that EPA continues to find no risks to public health when glyphosate is used in accordance with its current label and that glyphosate is not a carcinogen. The EPA also states that its findings on human health risk are consistent with the conclusions of science reviews by many other countries and federal agencies.

## Discussion/Analysis

In South Pasadena, glyphosate-based weed control products (ex: Roundup) are used on an as-needed basis in limited areas, which include only planters, medians, and hardscape cracks. Glyphosate is not used on any turf areas. For reference, Attachment 1 is a map of Garfield Park. The areas highlighted in blue are the only areas that are treated with glyphosate. The table below shows the amount of glyphosate used in the previous months.

Month	Roundup Used (oz)
October 2018	18 oz
November 2018	24 oz
December 2018	0 oz
January 2019	46 oz
February 2019	17 oz
March 2019	0 oz
April 2019	0 oz
May 2019	0 oz
June 2019	0 oz
July 2019	24 oz



In addition, efforts are made to minimize the use by increasing dilution. Currently, two ounces of Roundup is used per one gallon of water (a mixture with one and a half percent Roundup). The product label suggests dilution rates up to thirteen ounces of Roundup per one gallon of water (a mixture with ten percent Roundup).

The City has a Qualified Applicator License with California Department of Pesticide Regulation to oversee pesticide use in landscaped areas. The vendors contracted by the City also have licensed applicators overseeing their pesticide programs and report to the LA County Agricultural Commissioner (LACAC). The LACAC has an inspector assigned to the City who annually conducts inspections on the City's spray program.

Staff has evaluated the use of glyphosate in the City, researched the alleged health hazards with its use, and the alternative herbicides available to alleviate the hazardous risks. Alternatives are generally less effective and require more frequent applications to produce the same results as glyphosate-based herbicides. This results in higher product and labor costs. One of the alternatives reviewed by the University of Maryland is acetic acid (vinegar). Although it has a rapid kill rate and breaks down quickly in the environment, acetic acid does not kill roots, will kill or damage desirable plants, and if misused can cause severe health issues such as burns and chronic bronchitis. A list of alternative herbicides, compiled by North Carolina State University (Attachment 2) highlights that some organic herbicides can be more dangerous than chemical-based herbicides.

Staff foresees the following challenges with switching to alternative methods of weed control:

1. Higher product and labor costs.
2. Less effectiveness of the alternatives resulting in more frequent and concentrated applications.
3. Installation and maintenance of three-inch layers of mulch would be needed in areas currently being sprayed with glyphosate-based herbicides to suppress weed growth.
4. Public perception of lower service level and reduced property values due to appearance.

Given the substantial increase in costs, the lack of effectiveness of alternatives, and the City is currently using glyphosate in a limited and compliant manner, staff does not recommend making any changes to current weed control practices at this time.

### **Alternatives Considered**

1. Non-glyphosate based conventional herbicide (ex: Lifeline)
2. Organic herbicide (ex: Mirimichi Green)
3. No herbicides (manual labor pulling weeds)

### **Fiscal Impact**

City staff received a lump sum estimate from the Contractor that alternative treatments could cost the City up to an additional \$12,000 per month. This would bring the total landscape maintenance cost from \$25,783.15 to \$37,783.15 per month (an increase of \$144,000 per year) to

maintain the existing level of service. The effectiveness of these alternatives in South Pasadena remains unknown.

**Public Notification of Agenda Item**

The public was made aware that this item was to be considered this evening by virtue of its inclusion on the legally publicly noticed agenda, posting of the same agenda and reports on the City's website and/or notice in the *South Pasadena Review* and/or the *Pasadena Star-News*.

Attachments:

1. Map of Garfield Park
2. List of Alternative Herbicides

**ATTACHMENT 1**  
**Map of Garfield Park**

# GARFIELD PARK



**ATTACHMENT 2**  
List of Alternative Herbicides

## List of Alternative Herbicides

North Carolina State University

### Signal words and Organic Materials Review Institute (OMRI) certifications for glyphosate and chemical alternatives for use in managed landscapes

Herbicide	Trade name(s)	Signal word	OMRI certified
glyphosate	Roundup Pro and many more	Caution	No
glufosinate <sup>†</sup>	Finale	Warning	No
pelargonic acid	Scythe	Warning	No
ammonium nonanoate (=pelargonic acid)	Axxe	Warning	Yes, with restrictions
ammonium soaps of fatty acids	FinalSan	Warning	Yes
caprylic and capric acid	Suppress	Warning	Yes
vinegar / acetic acid	WeedPharm, many others	Danger	Yes, check specific labels
d-limonene	AvengerAG	Caution	Yes
plant oils (clove, cinnamon, citric, others)	many	Danger	Yes, check specific labels

### Selective Broadleaf Weed Control and Sedge Control

Herbicide	Trade name(s)	Signal word	OMRI certified
triclopyr	Southern Ag Brush Killer, and others	Caution	No
clopyralid <sup>†</sup>	Lontrel & others	Caution	No
bentazon	Basagran TO	Caution	No
halosulfuron	Sedgehammer	Caution	No
sulfentrazone <sup>†</sup>	Dismiss	Caution	No

### Selective Grass Control

Herbicide	Trade name(s)	Signal word	OMRI certified
clethodim	Envoy, others	Caution	No
fenoxaprop-ethyl	Acclaim Extra	Caution	No
fluazifop-p	Fusilade II, others	Caution	No
sethoxydim	Segment and others	Caution	No



# You're invited to a free Smart Gardening Advanced Workshop



Saturday • October 26, 2019 • 9:30 am - 11:30 am



Learn the fundamentals of drought-tolerant landscaping, organic gardening, and integrated pest management. No reservations needed.

## Bring friends and neighbors!

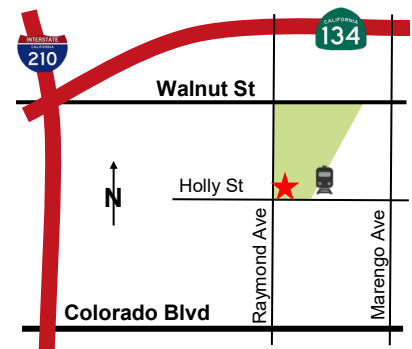


Compost bins will be available for purchase at a discount after you attend the workshop by cash, check, or credit card.

**\$40** (\$100 value)  
Backyard Compost Bin



**\$65** (\$140 value)  
Worm Compost Bin  
(includes worms)



**Pasadena Senior Center  
85 E Holly St  
Pasadena**



# Watershed Restoration Program



Upper District & USDA Forest Service  
Watershed Restoration Partnership



**Sat., October 5, 2019**  
**and**  
**Sat., November 2, 2019**

**8:00 am to 12:00 pm**



Students can earn community service hours.

All ages welcome.

Adult supervision of children is required.



Meet at the San Gabriel Canyon Environmental Education Center.



Poor weather may cause cancellation of an event. Call (626) 443-2297 and press #223 anytime after 5:00 pm the day before an event to verify event status.

## REMEMBER TO:

- Bring drinking water.
- Must have own transportation for duration of event: dropping off attendees and leaving them without transportation during the event is not permitted.
- Start with a full gas tank. During the event, participants are usually directed to drive from the meeting area to a different location further up Azusa Canyon.
- Consider bringing work or garden gloves.
- Wear sturdy, non-skid, closed-toe shoes (*sneakers, hiking boots, etc.*).
- The drive along Highway 39 is on typical mountain terrain roads which means that during some portions of the drive there are twists, sharp curves, and narrow lanes.
- Dress in comfortable clothes that are safe and appropriate for working outdoors in the mountains. Bring a jacket since the weather may get cold. Sunscreen and hats are also suggested.
- Please arrive on time: volunteers arriving late may miss participating since work is often done at other locations.

If you have a group of six or more people planning to attend, please contact Freddie Duncan of the US Forest Service via email [fduncan@fs.fed.us](mailto:fduncan@fs.fed.us) or phone (626) 335-1251 or contact Ruben Gallegos of the Upper District via email [ruben@usgvmwd.org](mailto:ruben@usgvmwd.org) or phone (626) 443-2297.