

Additional Documents

September 24, 2024 NREC Meeting



NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

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REGULAR NREC MEETING
SEPTEMBER 24, 2024 7:00PM
WRITTEN PUBLIC COMMENTS

FROM: MARK G.

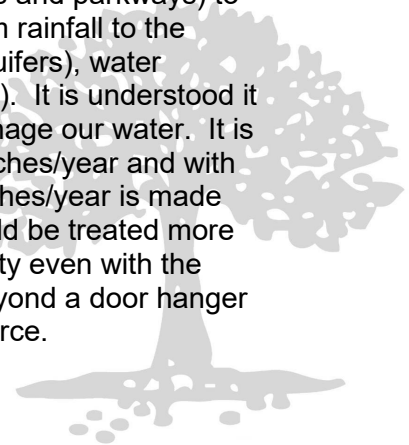
AGENDA ITEM(S): GENERAL COMMENT

#5: PLASTICS REDUCTION AD HOC COMMITTEE DISCUSSION

1. General Comment

Water Conservation Issues

- a) The observation of over 2+ years in a neighborhood of approximately 6 square blocks consisting of single family residences, condominiums/townhouses and South Pasadena High School:
 - a. Approximately only 25% of the properties meet the City's Stage 2: Serious Water Supply Storage limitations.
 - b. Approximately 50% of the properties water 3-7days/week, which is a 50-250% increase over the 2 days/week allowed per the City's Stage 2 restrictions.
 - c. Approximately 80% of the properties have moderate to serious water runoff/pooling onto paved areas such as walkways, sidewalks, streets, street curbs, etc. and flowing to storm drains up to 5 blocks from the origin property. This is not only a waste of such a valuable resource meant for all versus a single property, but also a potential public health safety issue due to water pooling and the creation of mosquito breeding sites. Such sites are have become more of a recent concern with diseases such dengue fever, known previously only in tropical locations, is now found locally in arid Southern California due to climate change leading to increased and over irrigation.
- b) Education is requested for City residents, businesses and City employees on the life of the water we use and how to better evaluate and manage the irrigation of their properties and respective City responsible areas (e.g. parks, medians and parkways) to limit and/or eliminate water waste. The vision is to communicate from rainfall to the energies to transport/move (i.e. pumps), store (i.e. reservoirs and aquifers), water treatment (i.e. treatment plants) and delivery to our home (i.e. pumps). It is understood it takes approximately 20% of the power generated in California to manage our water. It is also understood the average rainfall to maintain a lawn is 30 to 50 inches/year and with the average rainfall in Los Angeles of 14.25inches/year, the 15-35inches/year is made up with irrigation. Water is an extremely valuable resource and should be treated more as such. Much of our water appears to be wasted each day in the City even with the Stage 2 restriction that unfortunately has no violations associated beyond a door hanger to help educate individual properties that continue to waste the resource.



2. Agenda Item 5: Plastics Reduction Ad Hoc Committee Discussion

- a) Please consider working with the South Pasadena Chamber of Commerce to reduce the extensive use of single use plastics (starting with plastic bags) at the South Pasadena Farmer's Market. Patrons should be encouraged to bring and use reusable bags, totes, containers etc. versus relying on the readily available single use plastic bags (handled or not) at each vendor. Often, vendors readily offer the plastic bags to help sell their product(s) but at the detriment of the environment that the products being sold are made/grown from. If the requirement to only allow use of non-handled bags is to reduce plastic use, it is this resident's observation that the requirement is ineffective for this purpose.

It is proposed to ultimately stop or at least charge for providing the single use plastic bags to Market patrons. A phased process over 6 months is envisioned to communicate via highly visible signage at each vendor and on the streets (similar to 'no dogs/pets' signage.) First educating patrons the issues with single use plastics along with calendar dates of a rule(s) implementation that single use plastic bags will only be provided for a fee and instead please consider bringing your own reusable bags, totes, containers etc. The use of reusable bag(s) is better in line with the Farmer's Market products of being better for your health and the environment, and that most or all patrons will understand and appreciate.

- b) Could the City and the Chamber of Commerce investigate working with recyclers like Ridwell, Terracycle, etc. to help manage the City, City residents and businesses, the South Pasadena School District, etc. waste beyond the limited recycling abilities of Athens Waste Management? Such businesses could be good partners at the Farmer's Market and other businesses within the City to help collect, and educate and publicize the issues and with plastic waste.
- c) Setup and offer tour opportunities for City residents and businesses of the MRF (Materials Recovery Facility) at a Athens Waste Management Facility that manages the waste from the City of South Pasadena. My neighbors and it is believed many residents and/or businesses do not believe the MRF is real or effective, and much if not all the recyclables go to the landfill versus being recycled.
- d) Education (including seminars) is requested for City residents and businesses on the life of plastics, from the carbon pollution of extracting petroleum and fabricating the plastic product, to the end of life as plastic, microplastic and/or carbon pollution in our environment that all living beings (including humans) live in and depend on. It should also be communicated that although recycling is good, it's best to avoid plastics (in particular the single use type) as the recycling process itself creates carbon and microplastic pollution (e.g. collection, transportation, transformation back to plastic material to then be remade into a useable product.)

Your time is most appreciated in reviewing the above. The hope is for the NREC to help implement some if not all the proposals and suggestions above to further enrichen the environment for all.

Please feel to reach out to me with any questions, comments and/or concerns.

Regards,
M G

