

MINUTES  
ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY SUBCOMMITTEE  
SPECIAL MEETING  
MARCH 25, 2021  
TELECONFERENCED - VARIOUS LOCATIONS  
10:00 A.M.

**The following meeting was held pursuant to the Governor's Executive Orders N-25-20 and N-29-20 and fully teleconferenced from various locations during the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic.**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Pierson called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m.

**ROLL CALL**

The following persons were recorded in attendance by the Recording Secretary:

PRESENT: Mayor Mikke Pierson and Councilmember Steve Uhring

ALSO PRESENT: Yolanda Bundy; Environmental Sustainability Director; Christine Shen, Environmental Sustainability Analyst; Mark Johnson, Environmental Programs Coordinator; Rebecca Nelson, Administrative Assistant; Parker Davis, Media Technician; and Mary Linden, Executive Assistant

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

MOTION Councilmember Uhring moved and Mayor Pierson seconded a motion to approve the agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

**REPORT ON POSTING OF AGENDA**

Executive Assistant Linden reported that the agenda for the meeting was properly posted on March 19, 2021, and the amended agenda was posted on March 20, 2021.

ITEM 1 PRESENTATIONS

None.

ITEM 2 OLD BUSINESS

None.

ITEM 3 NEW BUSINESS

- A. Approval of Minutes – November 14, 2019  
Recommended Action: Approve the minutes for the Environmental Sustainability Subcommittee Special meeting of November 14, 2019.

MOTION Councilmember Uhring moved and Mayor Pierson seconded a motion to approve the minutes for the Environmental Sustainability Subcommittee Special meeting of November 14, 2019. The question was called and the motion carried unanimously.

B. Environmental Programs Update

Recommended Action: Receive and file a presentation on the Environmental Programs activities and provide feedback to staff.

Environmental Sustainability Director Bundy introduced Environmental Sustainability Analyst Shen and Environmental Programs Coordinator Johnson.

Environmental Sustainability Analyst Shen provided the presentation. She stated Southern California Edison (SCE) increased delivery charges by 10-11 percent for all customers last month. She clarified the increase was unrelated to Malibu joining the Clean Power Authority (CPA) for green power. She stated presentations on the Dark Sky Ordinance were postponed due to COVID-19. She stated three gas stations were scheduled for Dark Sky compliance. She discussed no-cost services the City received from CPA, including a full city audit and power for Bluffs Park. She stated the Malibu Smart program offered Malibu residents the highest lawn replacement rebate in California thanks to contributions from West Basin Municipal Water District and Los Angeles County Waterworks District 29.

Environmental Programs Coordinator Johnson provided a presentation on the City's compliance programs. He discussed regular reports required for various County and State compliance programs. He discussed inspections being conducted at the La Paz development project. He described enforcement of recreational vehicle (RV) illicit discharges, including daily site visits at Las Tunas Beach. He stated staff coordinated with the Sheriff's Department for enforcement. He stated he was working with the City's consultant to complete modifications to the Enhanced Watershed Management Program (EWMP) to be presented to the Council before the June 2021 deadline. He stated he served on the Watershed Area Steering Committee for Safe Clean Water LA. He explained Safe Clean Water Program funding could only be used for projects that provided a stormwater benefit. He stated staff submitted a comment letter on the Santa Monica Bay Marine Debris Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) to extend the deadline to March 2023.

Environmental Sustainability Analyst Shen discussed recycling programs. She stated City staff were working closely with local restaurants and with Pepperdine on a food recovery pilot program. She discussed assisting grocery stores on compliance with plastic bag bans during the pandemic. She discussed the Malibu Living Shoreline Project, which encompassed three acres of dune sand and the use of native plants. She stated the Bay Foundation was preparing interpretive signage for the Zuma Lagoon project area. She discussed activities offered in the Virtual

Environmental Center during the pandemic at [www.MalibuCity.org/VirtualEnviroCenter](http://www.MalibuCity.org/VirtualEnviroCenter). She discussed upcoming programs, including CPA free battery storage, comparative energy analysis, and a virtual firescaping workshop. She discussed work on a draft food recovery program ordinance for SB 1383 compliance. She stated SB 1383 approach details would be presented to the Subcommittee next month. She discussed Earth Month 2021 activities.

Environmental Programs Coordinator Johnson stated the City would continue to seek funding for water quality improvements projects. He discussed a rural drainage inlets survey. He stated staff's TMDL comment letter requested some catch basins be classified as rural drainage inlets. He discussed the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board's efforts on a regional-wide MS4 permit with new requirements for the City. He discussed dry weather outfall inspections.

Environmental Sustainability Director Bundy thanked Environmental Sustainability Analyst Shen and Environmental Programs Coordinator Johnson for their work. She discussed budget impacts of COVID-19, including the elimination of one Environmental Programs staff position. She discussed Work Plan items postponed due to the pandemic and work distribution with only two staff members. She confirmed plan check for gas station compliance with the Dark Sky Ordinance would continue. She stated ESD needed input from the Council on prioritization of work plan items due to limited staffing while also meeting outside agency compliance requirements. She commended Environmental Sustainability Analyst Shen and Environmental Programs Coordinator Johnson. She discussed ESD program modifications during COVID-19, including online permit applications and Woolsey Fire rebuild tasks. She stated building in Malibu did not stop during the pandemic. She stated ESD staff were passionate and dedicated to working with and for the community.

Mayor Pierson commended staff for an excellent presentation and thanked them for their dedication.

Councilmember Uhring thanked staff for a very impressive presentation. He stated he needed to learn more about compliance efforts.

Pamela Conley Ulich deferred her time to Dean Kubani.

Kian Schulman commended staff for an excellent job. She stated ESD staff needed more help. She commended Environmental Sustainability Director Bundy. She requested the Council establish an Environmental Commission. She stated assistance from youth in Calabasas helped reduce that city's budget impacts. She suggested Malibu utilize youth support. She discussed neighboring city efforts on locking lid bins. She requested more outreach materials regarding rodenticide issues.

Dean Kubani, Malibu Foundation Senior Advisor on Climate Change, commended staff on their presentation and ongoing work. He discussed the City's emergency climate emergency declaration. He recommended the City prioritize climate change. He discussed the need for a climate resiliency action plan and for the City to adopt a target on reducing greenhouse gases. He stated he would be happy to make a presentation at a future City Council meeting. He stated Malibu Foundation was speaking with the Las Virgenes-Malibu Council of Governments since four of the five cities did not have climate action plans. He stated he would suggest one plan be developed for all cities without a plan to reduce cost.

Candace Bond McKeever was not available at the time of the hearing.

Pamela Conley Ulich expressed support for the City to work with Malibu Foundation. She suggested the proposal be added to the Subcommittee's next agenda.

Mayor Pierson stated he worked with Mr. Kubani on bringing the climate plan forward. He discussed his work with the group working on a plan for the Santa Monica area.

Councilmember Uhring asked what was stopping gas stations from being compliant with the Dark Sky ordinance. Environmental Sustainability Director Bundy explained the process for obtaining an electrical permit necessary for compliance. She stated only five of seven gas stations had submitted for Planning approval. She stated four had passed Planning and were under review by ESD for permit approval.

In response to Councilmember Uhring, Environmental Sustainability Analyst Shen stated the Malibu Smart program had reached 94% of its total target. Councilmember Uhring stated it was important for the community to know how well it was doing. He agreed with Mr. Kubani regarding the goals related to climate change. He requested Malibu Foundation present more details to the Subcommittee before going to the City Council.

Environmental Sustainability Director Bundy stated she and her staff were available to meet with Councilmember Uhring at any time to answer his questions.

Mayor Pierson agreed with scheduling media outreach about Environmental Programs. He suggested Councilmember Uhring join the Resilient Santa Monica Mountains Plan's Project Advisory Committee.

Councilmember Uhring stated he was willing to join the group and work with the Malibu Foundation. In response to Councilmember Uhring, Mayor Pierson confirmed climate change was not currently a City project.

Mayor Pierson commended staff again. He stated he and Councilmember Uhring also served on the Administration and Finance (A&F) Subcommittee that would review unfunded projects. He stated the environmental program was important to everyone. He stated it would be helpful to understand estimates on budget and staffing, including outside consultants, for projects being considered. Environmental Sustainability Director Bundy stated she could prepare that information. Mayor Pierson stated he continued to work on a microgrid project to get City Hall and the Civic Center Water Treatment Facility (CCWTF) off the grid with solar power and battery backup. He stated much had changed and some funding mechanisms would not hurt the City.

Councilmember Uhring agreed the current work plan was more than sufficient for the upcoming year. He stated he did not see a need to add more to the plan. Environmental Sustainability Director Bundy stated she knew Dark Sky was a Council priority.

Councilmember Uhring asked if an Environmental Commission would be helpful to staff. He stated he did not want to add more to staff's plate. In response to Councilmember Uhring, Environmental Sustainability Director Bundy stated she would have to do research about the impacts of a new commission. She stated SB 1383 was a top priority and would be brought forward in upcoming months. She discussed SB 1383 mandated deadlines from the State. She stated Woolsey Fire rebuilds continued to be ESD's highest priority.

Councilmember Uhring stated he would talk to the community pushing for the Commission to see what was expected. Environmental Sustainability Director Bundy stated it would be helpful to know more about what items would be brought to the new commission. Councilmember Uhring stated he did not want it to be a burden to staff.

Mayor Pierson stated a new environmental commission was a high priority for him. He stated the microgrid project and undergrounding power lines were important and having the right people helping would be a benefit. He suggested the commission initially start with quarterly meetings.

Councilmember Uhring discussed how the Public Safety Commission took specific actions to get things done. He stated he could agree with an environmental commission if it would actually get things done.

Mayor Pierson requested more clarity on potential budget and staff estimates and a developable plan for outreach.

In response to Ms. Shulman, Environmental Sustainability Director Bundy stated staff could work on outreach related to rodenticide use. Mayor Pierson stated his neighborhood placed signs about rodenticides.

In response to Councilmember Uhring, Mayor Pierson stated the rodenticide ban was being considered by the California Coastal Commission. Councilmember Uhring asked how outside companies could be monitored on enforcement of the ban.

Councilmember Uhring agreed with seeking student involvement in projects such as the Zuma Lagoon project. Environmental Sustainability Director Bundy stated staff could reach out to the schools about making presentations.

Mayor Pierson suggested partnering with Pepperdine University on outreach. Councilmember Uhring agreed and stated Pepperdine students seemed to understand the value of the Dark Sky ordinance more than many residents.

Environmental Sustainability Analyst Shen stated staff had good contacts at Pepperdine and the schools and would reach out to them.

Mayor Pierson stated the Council was prepared to be supportive of staff. Environmental Sustainability Director Bundy stated regular Subcommittee meetings would also provide the opportunity for Councilmembers to learn more about the programs.

Mayor Pierson suggested Councilmember Uhring take the lead on the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission and he could take the lead with CPA. Councilmember Uhring stated working with these groups helped educate him.

Mayor Pierson thanked staff and all the speakers. Councilmember Uhring stated this was one of the more informative meetings he had attended.

Environmental Sustainability Director Bundy thanked the Subcommittee for their support and feedback.

## ADJOURNMENT

MOTION At 11:35 a.m., Mayor Pierson moved and Councilmember Uhring seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

Approved and adopted by the Environmental Sustainability Subcommittee of the City of Malibu on April 29, 2021.

  
MIKKE PIERSON, Councilmember

ATTEST:

  
MARY LINDEN, Executive Assistant