



AGENDA

LA MESA ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION

A Regular Meeting on Monday, February 18, 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 - January 28, 2019
5. CITY STAFF UPDATES
6. LA MESA COMMUNITY TREES (URBAN FORESTRY)
Approval of Recommendations to the City Council (Robin Rivet)
7. CHEMICAL USE SUBCOMMITTEE
Approval of Recommendations to the City Council (Maria Hesse)
8. CLIMATE ACTION PLAN SUBCOMMITTEE
Letter of Support for CAL FIRE Grant (Jenny Lybeck)
9. COMMUNITY GARDEN SUBCOMMITTEE (Andrea Beth Damsky)
10. GREEN/FOOD WASTE RECOVERY SUBCOMMITTEE
Selection of subcommittee members
11. LA MESA PARK & RECREATION FOUNDATION EARTH/ARBOR DAY EVENT – APRIL 27
12. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS
13. NEXT REGULAR MEETING DATE - Monday, March 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.

**SPECIAL 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
January 28, 2019

1. CALL TO ORDER (6:00 p.m.)
2. ROLL CALL (X indicates present)

Jim Stone, Chair	X
Stephen Guiland, Vice Chair	X
Robin Rivet	X
Maria Hesse	X
Stephen Grooms	X (Arrived 6:15)
Andrea Beth Damsky	X
Ashley Simmons	X
Maggie Eggers (EDCO)	Excused absense
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; Misty Thompson, Management Analyst

Public: Mark Gracyk, Helix Water District; Jean Costa, Angela Deegan, Wendy Mihalic, David Harris of San Diego 350; Chardá Fontenot, LMSVSD; Elle (last name not recorded)

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Angela Deegan asked about the La Mesa advocacy at SANDAG/MTS and Scott Munzenmaier stated that the approved letter would be submitted to the City Council with the 2019 Work Plan. Jean Costa asked if EDCO would be doing a recycling presentation and Jim Stone asked Scott to coordinate with them. Jim also asked if they could address the issue of the materials being accepted overseas.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – December 17, 2018

Action:	Motion to approve minutes with changes
Vote:	6-0-0
Ayes:	Stone, Guiland, Rivet, Hesse, Damsky, Simmons
Noes:	None
Abstained:	
Absent:	Grooms

5. CITY STAFF UPDATE

Jenny Lybeck announced that the City Council approved a Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) feasibility study cost sharing plan with the City of Chula Vista. The City of Santee is interested in joining the process.

6. LA MESA PARK & RECREATION FOUNDATION EARTH/ARBOR DAY EVENT – APRIL 27

Misty Thompson informed the group that the Foundation was sponsoring an event similar to past environmental festivals by the Commission. The Commission committed to having a booth at the event and providing advice.

7. 2019 WORK PLAN

Action: Motion to approve attached work plan with changes
Vote: 7-0-0
Ayes: Stone, Guiland, Rivet, Hesse, Grooms, Damsky, Simmons
Noes: None
Abstained:
Absent:

8. CLIMATE ACTION PLAN SUBCOMMITTEE

Jenny Lybeck presented the draft CAP Implementation Plan that incorporated input from the CAP subcommittee and the public.

Action: Motion to approve CAP Implementation Plan with provision that needed changes would be addressed over time
Vote: 6-1-0
Ayes: Stone, Guiland, Hesse, Grooms, Damsky, Simmons
Noes: Rivet
Abstained:
Absent:

9. COMMUNITY GARDEN SUBCOMMITTEE

Andrea Beth Damsky presented her draft recommendations for including community gardens in La Mesa's zoning regulations.

Action: Motion to approve recommendation letter to the City Council
Vote: 7-0-0
Ayes: Stone, Guiland, Rivet, Hesse, Grooms, Damsky, Simmons
Noes: None
Abstained:
Absent:

10. CHEMICAL USE SUBCOMMITTEE

Maria Hesse is working to finalize a presentation to the City Council and will complete a report of recommendations.

11. LA MESA COMMUNITY TREES (URBAN FORESTRY)

This item was tabled until the next meeting.

12. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Andrea Beth Damsky thanked San Diego 350 for their help.

13. NEXT MEETING DATE

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

The meeting was adjourned at 8:02 p.m.

Prepared by:

Scott Munzenmaier, Purchasing Officer

February 18, 2019

To the La Mesa City Council

Re: Enhancing Green Infrastructure for Climate Mitigation

Dear Members of the City Council:

At our public meeting on February 18, 2019 the Commission voted on these recommendations and to have them presented to the City Council.

Premise: For sustainable cities, managing the Urban Forest requires science-driven policy management and adherence to the State of California's Public Resources Codes and the Urban Forestry Act of 1978¹. This is one of the most cost-effective tools a city can take to mitigate urban heat islands, lessen stormwater runoff and flooding², recharge groundwater, reduce pollution of air and water, sequester and store atmospheric carbon, protect habitat and lower energy consumption of buildings³. Key positive side effects also greatly improve public health⁴, reduce crime⁵, bolster commerce⁶ and raise property values⁷. An average ROI for urban trees is \$2.25 for each dollar invested⁸.

Three key goals:

1. Recognize the urban forest as critical community infrastructure⁹.
2. Reverse the trend of tree canopy loss, and do so equitably across all neighborhoods.
3. Assume stewardship for canopy infrastructure, including adherence to ANSI Standards for all urban trees – whether on public or privately-owned land.

Laudable as these goals are, it is understood that it takes time to develop a document and implement a comprehensive urban forestry plan. Due to pressing timelines for CAP implementation, a few critical elements can and should be addressed immediately by updating zoning, city tree ordinances¹⁰, pursuing code enforcement, and integrating vital green infrastructure into existing projects and those under review.

¹ https://leginfo.ca.gov/faces/codes_displayText.xhtml?lawCode=PRC&division=4.&title=&part=2.5.&chapter=2.&article=

² <https://www.epa.gov/soakuptherain/soak-rain-trees-help-reduce-runoff>

³ <https://www.nrs.fs.fed.us/news/release/trees-reduces-building-energy-use>

⁴ https://thought-leadership-production.s3.amazonaws.com/2016/10/28/17/17/50/0615788b-8eaf-4b4f-a02a-8819c68278ef/20160825_PHA_Report_FINAL.pdf

⁵ <https://www.citylab.com/equity/2012/05/can-trees-actually-deter-crime/2107/>

⁶ http://depts.washington.edu/hhwb/Thm_Economics.html

⁷ https://www.fs.fed.us/nrs/pubs/gtr/gtr_nrs62.pdf

⁸ <https://www.greenbiz.com/article/we-calculated-how-much-money-planting-trees-can-save-your-city>

⁹ <https://www.fs.fed.us/managing-land/urban-forests/ucf>

¹⁰ <http://phytosphere.com/treeord/treeord.pdf>

Problem: *Urban trees in the municipal right-of-way don't seem to be tracked or managed equally. Perhaps there is a general lack of understanding about what defines a ROW tree due to variable sidewalk distributions, variable parkway sizes and lack of continuity, as well as uncertain property lines.*

- Clarify and mandate proper management for any tree that falls within a certain number of feet of city streets, easements, or public lands.
- Evaluate existing codes and ordinances regarding nursery quality, tree planting techniques and pruning standards, and bring them up to date according to current ANSI (American National Standards Institute)¹¹ requirements.
- Designate an appropriately skilled staff member or independent contracted arborist to monitor and spot-check - on a regular basis, all urban forestry contractor's work to comply with ANSI standards.

Problem: *Tree removal and tree-topping occur without permits throughout the city on public and private holdings, and this is not only hazardous to public safety, it is not aligned with meeting new climate action plan thresholds for improving and increasing the tree canopy.*

- Reduce citywide tree-topping as per CA Public Resources Codes¹² and to improve public safety¹³.
- Require permits for all tree removals of determined size within city boundaries¹⁴.
- Establish a path to protect¹⁵ and preserve significant heritage, landmark or valued tree species¹⁶.
- Penalize non-permitted tree removals on commercial properties. Enforce development approved planning documents regarding the number of required trees in commercial spaces: EX: parking lots, shopping malls, banks, gas stations, street-side businesses and HOA's¹⁷.
- Mandate standards of care to follow current ANSI guidelines for all commercially-situated trees.

Problem: *Urban soils are a key component of green infrastructure¹⁸ for decreasing urban heat islands, maximizing carbon storage¹⁹, reducing stormwater runoff, and amplifying the success for healthy urban trees, yet this is not sufficiently addressed or reflected by current urban planning²⁰.*

- Develop land use codes that ensure the largest setbacks possible for every new building upgrade, remodel or any re-development projects; *similar zoning updates are key to sustainable cities²¹*.
- Improve public buy-in for urban infill projects²² by allocating greater greenspace for mature, large-scale landscape trees, aesthetic landscape qualities, and shaded walkability for pedestrians.

¹¹ http://www.tcia.org/TCIA/TCIA/BUSINESS/A300_Standards/A300_Standards.aspx

¹² <https://ufei.calpoly.edu/files/pubs/CGC53067-TreePruning.pdf>

¹³ https://www.ansi.org/news_publications/news_story?menuid=7&articleid=2118ed75-792c-446f-8093-b25fcc4a8a0b

¹⁴ <http://www.walnut-creek.org/departments/public-works/tree-removal-permit>

¹⁵ <https://www.cityofpal Alto.org/civicax/filebank/documents/31783>

¹⁶ <http://www.sanjoseca.gov/index.aspx?NID=3655>

¹⁷ https://qcode.us/codes/sunnyvale/view.php?topic=19-6-19_94-19_94_160

¹⁸ <http://www.vpic.info/Publications/Reports/GreenInfrastructure/MissouriIntegratingGreenInfrastructureIntoOrdinances.pdf>

¹⁹ https://www.researchgate.net/publication/6960615_Carbon_Storage_by_Urban_Soils_in_the_United_States

²⁰ <https://www.epa.gov/water-research/urban-soils-ecosystem-services-and-application-green-infrastructure-practices>

²¹ <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/01944363.2014.981200>

²² <https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2014-06/documents/developer-infill-paper-508b.pdf>

- Compel developers to adhere to greenspace standards that maintain a percentage of tree canopy along with specified permeable soil after construction is completed, and enforce in perpetuity.

Problem: *Gray infrastructure enhancement projects appear to be planned and monitored independently from the CAP goals of improving green infrastructure.*

- Update sidewalk policies to reflect the 2013 ANSI standards on tree root management that minimize damage to street tree roots for public safety, and consider new methods and materials²³.
- Incorporate street tree planting, greater soil volumes and robust greenspace allocation into every sidewalk, stormwater upgrade or transit-related improvement plan²⁴.
- Remove tree stakes in a timely manner, and avoid their use whenever possible²⁵.
- Update municipal tree selection tree list to reflect correct taxonomy, species health and diversity using up-to-date science and datasets with the assistance of a trained tree professional.
- Include resident participation on city “tree board” as recommended by TREE CITY USA guidelines²⁶.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

James D. Stone
Chair, La Mesa Environmental
Sustainability Commission

²³ <http://www.austintexas.gov/edims/document.cfm?id=222048>

²⁴ <http://ced.berkeley.edu/downloads/research/LUP.parks.pdf>

²⁵ <https://s3.wp.wsu.edu/uploads/sites/403/2015/03/staking.pdf>

²⁶ <https://www.arboday.org/programs/treecityusa/standards.cfm>



February 18, 2019

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection
Attn: Grants Management Unit
P.O. Box 944246
Sacramento, CA 94244-2460

SUBJECT: Support for City of La Mesa Urban Forest Management Planning Initiative (Project Tracking Number 18-P68-UF-01-MGMT-016) application for the 2018/2019 – Proposition 68 Urban and Community Forestry Program Grant

To whom it may concern,

The La Mesa Environmental Sustainability Commission (Commission) is proud to submit this letter of support for the City of La Mesa Urban Forest Management Planning Initiative grant application in the Urban Forest Management Activities category.

With our broad membership, we will be a key partner to ensure the urban forest management plan is developed through a collaborative and inclusive public engagement process. We will leverage our diverse membership, networks, and communications channels to support community engagement and ensure the Urban Forest Management Plan is robust and well informed by community voices.

The Commission serves as an advisory body to the La Mesa City Council and provides recommendations on key actions and policies to benefit the quality of La Mesa's environment. The Commission is made up of members of the public, subject-matter experts (including a Certified Arborist), EDCO Waste & Recycling Services, Helix Water District, and others. It also remains a key stakeholder in the implementation of the City's Climate Action Plan and urban forestry activities. The City Council established the Commission in June 2009 and urban forestry has been a strategic priority since its inception.

The Commission is excited to support the City of La Mesa's efforts to expand the urban tree canopy and develop an urban forest management plan through a collaborative and inclusive public engagement process.

Sincerely,

James D. Stone
Chair, La Mesa Environmental
Sustainability Commission