



**SF Environment**

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A Department of the City and County of San Francisco

Edwin M. Lee  
Mayor

Deborah O. Raphael  
Director

**City and County of San Francisco  
Commission on the Environment  
Policy Committee\***

**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES DRAFT**

**Monday, May 8, 2017, 5:00 p.m.  
City Hall, Room 421  
One Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Jr. Place  
San Francisco, CA 94102**

COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Commissioners Johanna Wald (Chair), Elmy Bermejo, Lisa Hoyos.

**ORDER OF BUSINESS**

Public comment will be taken before the Committee takes action on any item.

**1. Call to Order and Roll Call.**

The meeting was called to order at 5:04 p.m.

Present: Commissioners Wald, Bermejo and Hoyos (arrived at 5:06 p.m.).

**2. Approval of minutes of the February 13, 2017 and March 1, 2017 Commission on the Environment Policy Committee meeting.** (Explanatory Document: February 13, 2017 and March 1, 2017 Draft Minutes) (Discussion and Action)

Commissioner Wald had minor edits to the minutes that will be submitted to the Commission Affairs Manager.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Bermejo, second by Commissioner Wald, the February 13, 2017 and March 1, 2017 Commission on the Environment Policy Committee meeting minutes were approved without objection. (Ayes: Commissioner Bermejo, Hoyos and Wald. Noes: None.)

Public Comment:

David Pilpel said that there may be minor edits that will be submitted to the Commission Affairs Manager.

**3. Public Comment.** Members of the public may address the Committee on matters that are within the Committee's jurisdiction and are not on today's agenda.

Dave Massen, Citizens Climate Lobby, discussed efforts by the United States Congress to address climate change.

Anastasia Glikshtern discussed the use of herbicides in San Francisco.

David Pilpel discussed an update to the agenda language and including future agenda items in the Director's Report or Commission Affairs Manager Report.

4. **Update on illegal dumping in the Bayview Hunters Point Neighborhood.** Sponsor: Deborah Raphael, Director; Speaker: Raymond Manion, Environmental Justice Coordinator (Discussion)

Deborah Raphael, Director, discussed the progress that the Environmental Justice program staff have made on illegal dumping in the Bayview Hunters Point Neighborhood and the Committee's request that the issue be revisited.

Raymond Manion, Environmental Justice Coordinator, San Francisco Department of the Environment discussed the cost of illegal dumping in San Francisco, goals for illegal dumping, successes, hot spots, Yosemite Sough Upland Area on Van Dyke Avenue, preventative actions, next steps, illegal dumping maps based on 311 reports and signage.

Commissioner Bermejo asked if cameras have acted as a deterrent.

Commissioner Hoyos asked about the Keep America Beautiful campaign, identifying perpetrators, deterrence and signage with information on where to properly dispose of items.

Commissioner Wald asked if the local businesses who watch the hot spots should receive an award or recognition, the inability to cite individuals who are not residents of San Francisco and the purchase of additional fake cameras.

Guillermo Rodriguez, Policy and Communications Director, discussed the Department of the Environment's outreach on the proper disposal of waste.

Commissioner Wald discussed communicating with building manager associations.

Commissioner Hoyos asked about the Department's efforts to protect the bay from dumping.

Commissioner Bermejo asked about past bulky item trash collection in each supervisorial district.

Public Comment:

Amber Hasselbring discussed the impacts of illegal dumping on wildlife and the surrounding communities.

Sraddha Mehta, Environmental Justice Coordinator, San Francisco Department of the Environment, discussed attempts by the Department of the Environment to apply for grants to purchase additional cameras, site visits to hot spots by Department of the Environment staff and a potential requirement that all chemical drums have labeling about the origin and the contents.

David Pilpel discussed adding the presentation to the website, the proposal combining the abandoned material collection and bulky item collection programs, outreach for bulky item collection in district events, a recommendation that the Commission make a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors about the enforcement abilities of San Francisco Public Works and the Keep America Beautiful campaign.

5. **Review of Draft Resolution File 2017-04-COE regarding citywide biodiversity goals and the Department of the Environment's role in protecting San Francisco's natural heritage and decision**

**on whether to recommend that the Commission adopt the resolution.** Sponsor: Deborah Raphael, Director; Speaker: Peter Brastow, Senior Environmental Specialist (Explanatory Document: Draft Resolution File 2017-04-COE Biodiversity) (Discussion and Action)

Deborah Raphael, Director, discussed the City's Root's goals, the Natural Areas Program, looking at biodiversity as a whole in San Francisco, the iterations of biodiversity programs in San Francisco, the various agencies involved in biodiversity and a resolution that is replicated by agencies around San Francisco with specific commitments to biodiversity.

Peter Brastow, Senior Environmental Specialist, San Francisco Department of the Environment discussed San Francisco's natural heritage, the dune ecosystem, 468 species of plants, biodiversity during the phanerozoic, existing parks, natural areas and streetscapes, a history of San Francisco's biodiversity policy, the various San Francisco policies relating to nature, citywide biodiversity goals, strategies, San Francisco Department of the Environment as a hub, Yerba Buena Island and Treasure Island management plan, pollinators, San Francisco Plant Finder, the Green Connections Network, inter-city collaboration and World Environment Day on June 5, 2017.

Commissioner Wald discussed the history of the Department of the Environment's Biodiversity Program and asked if the Department of the Environment will be establishing the goals for other departments and asked what the Aichi Biodiversity Targets are.

Commissioner Bermejo offered non-substantive edits, discussed including the federal government in the resolution and asked if there has been reluctance from any City departments.

Commissioner Wald discussed removing mention of specific agencies in the further resolved clauses.

Commissioner Hoyos asked which of the Departments have been most active on biodiversity, developing a structure for inter-department collaboration, the relationship between the proposed resolution and the Reduced Risk Pesticide List, proposed language to ensure the resolution was consistent with the goals of the Reduced Risk Pesticide List.

Public Comment:

Nadine Weil discussed the loss of Peter Ehrlich, native plants, invasive species, carbon sequestration and San Francisco's tree canopy.

Amber Hasselbring discussed shortening the staff presentation and biodiversity work in San Francisco.

Josiah Clark discussed system robustness, ecosystem functions, ecologists being pulled into the end of project planning and McLaren Park.

Lew Stringer, Presidio Trust, discussed partnership with the Department of the Environment.

Rebecca Johnson discussed connecting people with nature.

Anastasia Glikshtern noted the difference between the resolution posted to the website and the one provided to Commissioners and offered various amendments to the resolution.

Anthony Valdez, Commission Affairs Manager, noted that the public and the Commissioners received different versions of the resolution.

Carlos Menia asked about the Department's work with the Department of Public Health and the use of health data.

David Pilpel discussed changes to the resolution process, amendments to the resolution, the Commission's land use restriction and the California Environmental Quality Act relative to the resolution.

Commissioner Hoyos asked about the jurisdiction of the resolution and whether the resolution enables the cutting down of trees and discussed mention of climate resilience and sequestration in the resolution.

Commissioner Wald asked that it be explicit that the resolution is not exclusively about native plants.

Guillermo Rodriguez, Policy and Communications Director, Department of the Environment discussed including mention of the Urban Forestry Plan in the resolution.

Commissioner Wald asked that climate change be discussed throughout the document.

Director Raphael discussed the intention to have the Committee make their edits before the final draft is brought to the Commission.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Wald, second by Commissioner Hoyos, the Committee made a motion to recommend that the Commission on the Environment adopt a resolution regarding citywide biodiversity goals and the Department of the Environment's role in protecting San Francisco's natural heritage based on the conversation had in the Policy Committee. The motion was adopted without objection. (Ayes: Commissioner Bermejo, Hoyos and Wald. Noes: None.)

6. **Director's Update.** Deborah Raphael, Director (Discussion)

Deborah Raphael, Director, discussed a change in the format of the Director's report to be both forward and backward looking, the Mayor's Earth Day Breakfast, the School Awards Ceremony, the Mayor's signing ceremony on an electric vehicle ordinance, a new policy before the Board of Supervisors about electric vehicles in the City's fleet of vehicles, the rate process, the progress of the California bottle bill, a showing of the film Beyond the Ashes, a press conference with the Marriott and Toolworks, a sustainable purchasing award received by the Department, scheduling of the strategic plan community meetings and the filling of vacant positions in the Department.

Public Comment:

David Pilpel discussed a Commission meeting in May and a presentation to the Director's working group on the biodiversity resolution.

7. **New Business/Future Agenda Items.** Guillermo Rodriguez, Policy and Communications Director (Discussion)

Guillermo Rodriguez, Policy and Communications Director, discussed future Policy Committee agenda items including flame retardants in furniture, an ordinance about the right to know about antibiotics in meat and a discussion about the California bottle bill.

Commissioner Wald and Hoyos indicated an inability to be at the regular meeting date of the Policy Committee meeting in June. Commissioners and staff indicated their availability to move the meeting to June 19<sup>th</sup>.

Public Comment:

David Pilpel recommended a discussion of the refuse rate process during the July Commission and Policy Committee meetings and an update on the City's zero waste goals.

## **8. Adjournment.**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

**The next meeting of the Commission on the Environment Policy Committee is scheduled for Monday, June 12, 2017 at 5:00 p.m. in City Hall, Room 421.**

\*\* Copies of explanatory documents are available at (1) the Commission's office, 1455 Market Street, Suite 1200, San Francisco, California, 94103 between the hours of 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Photo identification is required for entry to the building. (2) on the Commission's website <http://www.sfenvironment.org/commission>; (3) upon request to the Commission Affairs Manager, at telephone number 415-355-3709, or via e-mail at [Anthony.E.Valdez@sfgov.org](mailto:Anthony.E.Valdez@sfgov.org). If any materials related to an item on this agenda have been distributed to the Committee after distribution of the agenda packet, those materials are available for public inspection at the Department of the Environment, 1455 Market Street, Suite 1200, San Francisco, CA 94103 during normal office hours or will be made available on the Commission's website <http://www.sfenvironment.org/commission> as attachments to the agenda or meeting minutes.

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