



**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**

**SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES DRAFT**

**TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2016, 4:00 P.M.  
SAN FRANCISCO COUNTY FAIR BUILDING – RECREATION ROOM  
1199 9<sup>th</sup> AVENUE, SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94122**

**COMMISSION MEMBERS:** Commissioners Jacquelyn Omotalade (President), Elmy Bermejo (Vice-President), Lisa Hoyos, Heather Stephenson, Johanna Wald, Sarah Wan

**ORDER OF BUSINESS**

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

- 1. Call to Order and Roll Call.** The Commission on the Environment meeting convened at 4:14 p.m. Present: Commissioners Omotalade, Hoyos, Stephenson, Wald and Wan. Commissioner Bermejo was excused.
- 2. Welcome.** Commissioner Omotalade discussed the purpose of community meetings, thanked community partners, volunteers and presenters.
- 3. Approval of Minutes of the May 24, 2016 Commission on the Environment Regular Meeting.** (Explanatory Documents: May 24, 2016 Draft Minutes) (Discussion and Action)

There was no public comment.

Upon motion by Commissioner Wald, second by Commissioner Hoyos, the minutes of the May 24, 2016 Commission on the Environment Regular meeting were approved without objection (Ayes: Commissioners Omotalade, Hoyos, Stephenson, Wald and Wan; Excused: Bermejo).

- 4. Public Comment:** Members of the public may address the Commission on matters that are within the Commission's jurisdiction and are not on today's agenda.

There was no public comment.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

- 5. Approval of Consent Agenda.** (Action)

- a) **Accept the recommendation of the Policy Committee by approving the Draft 2015 Annual Green Purchasing Report.** (Explanatory Documents: Draft 2015 Annual Green Purchasing Report) Sponsor: Deborah Raphael, Director.  
There was no public comment.

The consent agenda was approved without objection (Ayes: Commissioners Omotalade, Hoyos, Stephenson, Wald and Wan; Excused: Bermejo).

## REGULAR AGENDA

6. **Presentation and discussion on San Francisco's "Roots" goals to protect biodiversity, increase the urban forest and expand access to urban agriculture.** Under the City Charter, the Commission on the Environment conducts public education and outreach to the community on San Francisco's sustainability efforts. Sponsor: Deborah Raphael, Director (Discussion and Action)

Director Raphael discussed the City's climate action goals of 0-50-100 Roots, the meetings focus on the City's Roots goals, the history of open spaces and biodiversity in San Francisco and the collaboration between biodiversity and science.

- a. **Presentation on how our organic waste could help reverse climate change.** Speakers: John Wick, Co-Founder, Marin Carbon Project; Calla Rose Ostrander, Independent Strategic Advisor and Dr. Gary Andersen, Senior Scientist, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory.

John Wick discussed the history of the Marin Carbon Project, the project's efforts to use compost on rangelands, the measurement of carbon in the soil in areas that had been treated with compost and organic waste, the increased carbon sequestration that was the result of the experiment, plant activity and water being stored by the soil and the potential implications of this process on atmospheric carbon levels.

Dr. Gary Anderson, Senior Scientist, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, discussed the benefits of compost, microbes, the experimental process of monitoring and sampling through devices such as the PhyloChip, thermopile temperatures, the various gasses emitted by the composting process, improving sanitation in Haiti, the fate of fecal bacteria during thermophilic composting of human waste in Haiti, the results of a one time application of compost to grasslands, nitrogen conversion and emission during the composting process, the fate of pharmaceuticals in compost, ongoing and future research at Berkeley Lab including increasing available feedstock for compost production, compost application for greenhouse gas reduction and healthy soils through compost amendment.

Calla Rose Ostrander, Independent Strategic Advisor, discussed the findings by the Marin Carbon Project that soil can be used as a carbon sink, the Healthy Soils Initiative to increase the use of compost in California farms and rangelands, the impacts of waste matter on communities and the overall goal to return carbon to the soil.

Commissioner Stephenson asked how much compost needs to be added to land to reverse climate change.

Commissioner Hoyos asked about the impact of chemicals and contaminants that are found in compost and how it breaks down.

- b. Presentation on San Francisco's Urban Agriculture Program.** Speakers: Phil Ginsburg, Director, San Francisco Recreation and Parks Department.

Director Raphael discussed the history of community farms and agriculture, Supervisor Chiu's legislation to create an Urban Agriculture Program, the community building results of urban agriculture and resiliency created by urban gardens.

Phil Ginsburg, Director, San Francisco Recreation and Parks Department, introduced Emily Gogol, Urban Agriculture Coordinator and discussed the work of the Department, green initiatives, the Department's strategic plan, the location of community gardens in San Francisco, benefits of increased participation in urban agriculture, the Department's strategy, urban agriculture program scope, community gardens program scope, future plans, outreach, major focus to increase participation in community gardens.

Emily Gogol, Urban Agriculture Coordinator, discussed her experience working in urban agriculture and the importance of access to public space.

Commissioner Stephenson asked about the focus on integrating policy issues on how to get more food growth and urban gardening.

Commissioner Wan discussed urban agriculture's benefit to public housing and monolingual communities and encouraged Recreation and Parks Department to engage community organizations in their efforts.

- c. Presentation on San Francisco's Pollinator Program.** Speakers: Peter Brastow, Biodiversity Coordinator and Dr. Chris Geiger, Integrated Pest Management Program Manager.

Director Raphael discussed the work of the Department's toxics team, the value of biodiversity and the work of the Pollinator Program.

Dr. Chris Geiger, Integrated Pest Management Program Manager, San Francisco Department of the Environment, discussed the dependence on pollinators by various plants and crops, data on honeybees including a 44 percent loss this past year, native bees, long term pollinator decline including a 24 percent decline in species in the United Kingdom, cases of bee loss, biodiversity, the Departments Integrated Pest Management programs work to reduce insecticides and pesticides, the launch of the San Francisco Pollinator Program on September 11, 2016, Bay City Landscaping and training and the Our Water Our World program.

Peter Brastow, Biodiversity Coordinator, San Francisco Department of the Environment, discussed the San Francisco Plan Finder website, San Francisco and California native plant species, City programs and non-profit initiatives to green San Francisco and preserving the habitat for the green hairstreak.

Dr. Geiger thanked and recognized Mei Ling Hui, Urban Forest and Agriculture Coordinator, San Francisco Department of the Environment for managing the Pollinator Program.

Commissioner Wald thanked the staff for their partnership with other agencies to connect with the residents of San Francisco.

Commissioner Stephenson asked how people can create a pollinator garden of their own.

Public Comment:

Victoria discussed opposition to the Recreation and Parks Department's Natural Areas Program and the use of herbicides.

Greg Gaar discussed efforts to distribute native plants and the natural areas of San Francisco.

Denise Lui discussed recognition of Recreation and Parks Department volunteers, the use of herbicides for weeding and native plants.

Unidentified speaker discussed carbon sequestration, distributed an article about insecticides and native plants.

Unidentified speaker discussed opposition to the use of herbicides.

Eddie Ahn, Brightline Defense Project, discussed access for immigrant and low income communities for urban agriculture programs and workforce development opportunities for individuals interested in careers in the discussed issues.

Kevin Drew, Residential Zero Waste Coordinator, San Francisco Department of the Environment, discussed and recognized the work of Greg Gaar

John Wick, Co-Founder, Marin Carbon Project discussed grazing as a form of weeding.

Unidentified speaker discussed forest fires.

President Omotalade recognized appointed officials in the room.

- 8. Director's Report.** Updates on Department of the Environment administrative and programmatic operations relating to Budget Planning, Strategic Planning, Clean Air/Transportation, Climate, Energy, Public Outreach and Education, Environmental Justice, Habitat Restoration, Green Building, Zero Waste, Toxics Reduction, and Urban Forestry. (Explanatory Document: Director's Report) Speaker: Deborah Raphael, Director (Discussion)

Director Raphael discussed the Better Roofs Ordinance Phase 2 living roofs component before the San Francisco Board of Supervisors, an update of the Green Building Ordinance to bring the Green Building Code into compliance with LEED 4, bringing Cities into zero net energy through solar plus storage, the Pacific Bridge Program, the Department's City Hall Fellow, Coastal Cleanup Day, the San Francisco Pollinators Kickoff, a staff retreat at the San Francisco Food Bank, the upcoming sustainability director conference and SunShare promotion by the Business Council on Climate Change.

There was no public comment.

- 9. Policy Committee Report.** Highlights of the July 11, 2016, August 8, 2016 and September 12, 2016 Policy Committee meetings. (Discussion)

Upon a motion by Commissioner Wald and a second by Commissioner Stephenson, Item 9 was tabled without objection. (Ayes: Commissioners Omotalade, Hoyos, Stephenson, Wald and Wan; Excused: Bermejo).

There was no public comment.

**10. Operations Committee Report.** Highlights of the August 10, 2016 meeting. (Discussion)

Upon a motion by Commissioner Wald and a second by Commissioner Stephenson, Item 10 was tabled without objection. (Ayes: Commissioners Omotalade, Hoyos, Stephenson, Wald and Wan; Excused: Bermejo).

There was no public comment.

**11. Announcements.** (Discussion)

Upon a motion by Commissioner Wald and a second by Commissioner Stephenson, Item 11 was tabled without objection. (Ayes: Commissioners Omotalade, Hoyos, Stephenson, Wald and Wan; Excused: Bermejo).

There was no public comment.

**12. Commission Affairs Manager Written Report.** (Explanatory Document: Commission Affairs Manager Report) Speaker: Anthony Valdez, Commission Affairs Manager (Discussion)

Upon a motion by Commissioner Wald and a second by Commissioner Stephenson, Item 12 was tabled without objection. (Ayes: Commissioners Omotalade, Hoyos, Stephenson, Wald and Wan; Excused: Bermejo).

There was no public comment.

**13. New Business/Future Agenda Items.** Speaker: Guillermo Rodriguez, Policy Director (Discussion and Possible Action)

Guillermo Rodriguez, Policy and Communications Director, San Francisco Department of the Environment announced that the November Commission meeting will be at noon on November 14, 2016 and the meeting will include a discussion of the Department's Strategic Plan and the performance evaluation of Director Raphael.

There was no public comment.

Commissioner Omotalade invited meeting attendees to a reception on the patio.

**14. Adjournment.** The meeting was adjourned at 6:20 p.m.

\*\* 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) within three business days of a meeting. If any materials related to an item on this

agenda have been distributed to the Commission 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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