



Environmental Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes from September 18, 2007, 10am-Noon
Port of San Diego Administration Building, Training Room
3165 Pacific Highway, San Diego, CA 92101



Attendees:

Chairman Rocky Spane – Port of San Diego
Commissioner Mike Najera – Port of San Diego
David Merk – Port of San Diego
William Hall – Port of San Diego
Eileen Maher – Port of San Diego
Leslie Fitzgerald – Port of San Diego
Karen Holman – Port of San Diego
Michelle White – Port of San Diego
Kelly Makley – Port of San Diego
Allison Gutierrez – Port of San Diego
Jim Peugh – San Diego Audubon Society
John Robertus – Regional Water Quality Control Board
Leo Miras – Environmental Health Coalition
Chris Cohen – Scripps Institution of Oceanography
Carlos Neira – Scripps Institution of Oceanography
Andrew Yuen – U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Shaun Halvax – BAE Systems (SD PTA)

Lee Wilson – Continental Maritime San Diego (Northrop Grumman)
Timothy Hushen – SDSU Research Foundation
Brian Gordon – U.S. Navy
Craig Anderson – Solar Turbine (SD PTA)
Irene McCormack – Port of San Diego
Nick Buhbe – AMEC Earth & Environmental
Mike Chee – NASSCO (SD PTA)
Catherine Hughes – California Sea Grant
Erica Cunningham – Tierra Data
Jennifer Pettis – NOAA Fisheries
Amy Kosifas – Port of San Diego
Marsha Gear – California Sea Grant
Tom Keegan – ECORP Consulting, Inc.
Al Sorensen – Coronado Cays HOA
Manna Warburton – ECORP Consulting, Inc.
Dave Meyer – Brown & Caldwell
Elizabeth Taylor – Daley & Heft
Diana McCaskill – Recon Recycling
Mo Husain – MH Systems
Rachel Verhoeks – Port of San Diego (Minutes)

I. Agenda Items

A. Introductory Remarks

Committee Chairman Rocky Spane and David Merk welcomed everyone, and thanked all for attending.

B. Coastal Cleanup Day and Port Environmental Award

The Committee was informed of Coastal Cleanup Day which occurred Sept. 15. This year, the Port sponsored D Street Fill. 41 people volunteered and 1.14 tons of trash was removed from the area. The Committee was also told about the recent environmental awards presented to two Port employees, Cesar Romero and Tim Deuel, for their individual efforts to protect the environment.

Proposed Port Sustainability Program

Kelly Makley from the Port's Environmental Services Department (ESD) updated the Committee on the proposed Port Sustainability Program. Examples were presented on what other ports and municipalities are doing regarding sustainability and the programs or initiatives already implemented. A draft vision and mission statement for the Port's proposed program was presented. Four objectives were identified: minimize environmental impacts of Port operations; improve economic prosperity by maximizing long-term benefits of energy and resource conservation; prevent pollution and improve personal, community, and environmental health; and foster socially and environmentally responsible behavior among Port staff, tenants, and the community. Categories that fall under the Sustainability Program "umbrella" currently include but may not be limited to: water, energy, air, waste management, sustainable business practices, and social responsibility. While many aspects of the program are still being worked on (i.e. enforcement, fees required, etc.), the goal is to present the program to the Board of Port Commissioners (BPC) for approval in early 2008. Committee members emphasized they'd like to see an implementation timeline of the program. Participants also suggested a draft document be presented to the Committee to receive input.

Draft Stormwater Ordinance

Karen Holman from the Port's ESD updated the Committee on the draft Stormwater Ordinance. The draft ordinance is to ensure compliance with the Regional Water Quality Control Board's (RWQCB) new Stormwater Permit implemented January 2007. Comments on the draft ordinance should be sent to Karen Holman (kholman@portofsandiego.org) by October 19th. The new ordinance will be implemented early next year, after approval by the BPC.

Progress on projects funded by the Board on Dec. 5, 2006, May 8, 2007, and Aug. 7, 2007

Eileen Maher provided the following update on projects previously approved.

- **A-8 DEBRIS REMOVAL**: Received grant award of \$42,000 from NOAA. ACOE and RWQCB permit applications are pending.
- **J STREET MARSH RESTORATION**: This will be done in conjunction with the A-8 debris removal.
- **STORMDRAIN MESH FILTERS**: Currently reviewing report of best technology to implement.
- **OSPREY NESTS**: Platforms have been installed at Pepper Park in National City, Shelter Island, adjacent to Pond 20, and Chula Vista Wildlife Reserve. A Coronado location is still pending.
- **ALTERNATIVE FUEL VEHICLES**: Proposals are due October 2007. Ten hybrid vehicles are anticipated to arrive early 2008.
- **SOLAR PANELS**: The Engineering Department is currently reviewing a 15kw system proposal.
- **EDUCATION**: The Board previously approved contracts with five educational organizations to teach pollution prevention and natural resources to students. The organizations are Endangered Habitats League, Aquatic Adventures, Coastkeeper, High Tech High, and the Birch Aquarium.
- **RESEARCH & MONITORING**: Tierra Data Systems will be performing water quality monitoring, and currently is conducting lab tests on instruments. In-water work is scheduled for November.
- **ENDANGERED SPECIES**: A contract with Chula Vista Nature Center is in place for the light-footed clapper rail propagation program. Nine birds were released in August.
- **THIRD ROUND CONTRACTS**: The following contracts are awaiting signatures - Coastkeeper, SDSU, Wildcoast, and Merkel & Associates. Contracts being negotiated are AMEC and MH Systems.
- **SUMMARY**: The total cost of projects to date is \$1,282,981. An amount of \$532,203 in matching funds has been acquired. \$1,578,586 in matching funds is still available. \$3,666,978 in non-matching funds is available. Total funds remaining are \$5,245,564, which includes interest thru July 2007 and excludes the fourth round of projects.
- **BIG PROJECT**: The Committee and participants in attendance discussed big project options. The BPC can conduct projects off tidelands ("exercise of powers off tidelands") if the following criteria is met – activity is adjacent to Tidelands, the activity can not be done on Port Tidelands, activity is part of trust purposes, SLC notification is greater than \$100k, SLC approval is greater than \$100k, and not adjacent land is less than \$250k SLC notification. If it's decided that a big project must happen off tidelands, the Committee charter would need to be revised and the State Land Commission would have approval power. Staff recommends picking a "Big Project" from the existing list, choose projects greater than \$100k, select a balance of projects between all six categories, do a very large project in phases, or as an option, use the \$5mil as an endowment. Habitat restoration is a top priority for the "Big Project". A list of projects will be presented at the next Committee meeting.

Environmental Funds

The Committee reviewed the financial status of the Environmental Fund. Participants suggested the spreadsheet be color coded for easier understanding in the meetings. Color coding might help easily show what projects are moving forward as scheduled, are stalled, need matching funds, effectiveness of project vs. cost of project, etc.). The idea of having an outside consultant manage the projects was briefly discussed.

Fourth Round of Projects

The fourth round of projects was scored by Port staff and presented to the Committee for input.

- (#126) Scripps: Magnitude and extent of copper pollution effects on benthic faunal communities in San Diego Bay (\$193,321; no matching funds).
- (#106) Audubon Society: Enhance D Street Fill for Western Snowy Plover. Contour eroding slopes to provide access to the water from nesting areas (\$25,515; \$22,153 in matching funds).
- (#109) Urban Corps of San Diego County: Chollas Creek student stream restoration teams (\$82,640; \$95,200 in matching funds).
- (#118) MH Systems & Scripps: Previously reviewed but change in Scope of Work required re-approval. Design treatment system for ballast water using inert gas on oceanographic research ship R/V Melville (\$100,000; \$75,000 in matching funds).

The two Commissioners in attendance approved the four projects to be recommended to the BPC for final approval. These projects will be presented at the BPC meeting on October 9, 2007. Once approved, the fourth list of projects will be available on the Port's website at:

http://www.portofsandiego.org/sandiego_environment/environmental_advisory_committee.asp

C. **Remaining 2007 Environmental Committee meeting dates**

Tuesday, November 5, 2007, at 10:00 a.m. in the Training Room (rescheduled from Nov. 6th)

D. **Public Comments**

There were no public comments.