

SAN DIEGO UNIFIED PORT DISTRICT

MEMORANDUM

**Date:** June 30, 2009

**To:** Board of Port Commissioners

**From:** David Merk  
Director, Environmental Services  
[dmerk@portofsandiego.org](mailto:dmerk@portofsandiego.org)

**Subject:** Summary of June 11, 2009, Environmental Advisory Committee Meeting

---

The Environmental Advisory Committee met on June 11, 2009.

The following members, constituting a quorum, were in attendance: Commissioner Scott Peters (Committee Chair); Andrew McAllister, CA Center for Sustainable Energy; Bob Hoffman, National Marine Fisheries Service; Bruce Reznik, San Diego Coastkeeper; Craig Anderson, Solar Turbines; Diane Takvorian, Environmental Health Coalition (EHC); Dr. Rick Gersberg, SDSU Coastal & Marine Institute; Emily Young, San Diego Foundation; John Robertus, Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB); and Megan Johnson, CA Coastal Conservancy.

Board of Port Commissioners present: Chair Steve Cushman and Lee Burdick.

Port staff members present were: David Merk, Eileen Maher, Irene McCormack, John Gilmore, Leslie Fitzgerald, Ron Powell, Karen Holman, Michelle White, Kelly Makley, Cody Hooven, Jenny Lybeck, Danny Arredondo, Darlene Nicandro, Marvin Castillo, Matt Valerio, Stephen Kirkpatrick, Kristine Zortman, Shaun Sumner, and Rachel Verhoeks (minutes).

Other interested parties in attendance were: Sharon Cloward, Port Tenants Association; Dave Carey, David Carey & Associates; Elizabeth Taylor, Brown & Winters; Stanley Maloy, SDSU; Laura Hunter, EHC; Jim Peugh, San Diego Audubon Society; Lee Wilson, Northrop Grumman; Nick Buhbe, Nautilus Environmental; Risa Baron and Michelle Menvielle, SDG&E; Barry Snyder and Michelle Woo, AMEC Earth & Environmental; Mo Husain, MH Systems; Mike Shane, Hubbs-Sea World Institute; Rob Manriquez, Tetra Tech; Christina Magee, Pasha Automotive; Clark Dawson, Clark Dawson Company; Gerardo Dominguez, UCSD; James Barrett, Metropolitan Water District Board Member/City of San Diego Public Utilities; Mike Madagan and Peter MacLaggan, Poseidon Resources Corporation; and Tracy Cambre, Assistant to Commissioner Peters.

The following members were absent: Laurie Black, LJ Black Consulting Group; Lorena Gonzalez, San Diego and Imperial Counties Labor Council AFL/CIO; Mitch Perdue, U.S. Navy; and Patti Krebs, Industrial Environmental Association.

**Subject:** Summary of June 11, 2009, Environmental Advisory Committee Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 9:04 am. The following is a summary of the meeting.

**WELCOME / INTRODUCTIONS:**

Commissioner Peters welcomed everyone, including Board of Port Commissioners Chair Steve Cushman and newly appointed Commissioner Lee Burdick.

**REPORTS / DISCUSSION / ACTION ITEMS:**

**Water Conservation-**

James Barrett, Metropolitan Water District Board Member and Director of City of San Diego Public Utilities, gave a presentation regarding the region's water supply entitled *San Diego County Water Supply 2009-2010 Outlook*.

Mike Madagan and Peter MacLaggan, Poseidon Resources Corporation, gave a presentation regarding the desalination of seawater, the Carlsbad plant, and the feasibility of a desalination plant on tidelands. Many Committee members stated that the key to the region's water situation is conservation and/or pricing, not desalination.

Lee Wilson, Northrop Grumman and Port Tenants Association, provided a presentation entitled *San Diego Port Tenants Association - No Time to Waste, No Water to Waste*, in which he described the various conservation efforts implemented by Port Tenants. Seaport Village has a good example of a low water landscape.

Kelly Makley, Port Environmental Services, gave a brief presentation on the water conservation efforts being conducted by the Port and on surrounding Port tidelands. The Port is in compliance with all Level 2 drought alert mandates. Staff will continue to explore other conservation opportunities.

Shaun Sumner, Port Real Estate, gave a presentation regarding the proposed amendments to the 2010 California Plumbing Code, which may allow treated gray water to be reused in commercial buildings. The Committee supports these changes occurring.

**Projects to be funded thru Environmental Fund-**

Due to a lack of time, project proposals received via the latest Request for Proposals (RFP) will be presented by Port staff at the July 16 Environmental Advisory Committee meeting.

**Subject:** Summary of June 11, 2009, Environmental Advisory Committee Meeting

**DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS:**

Remaining 2009 meeting dates and topics are: July 16 – Air Quality, September 10 – Climate Change, October 15 – Bay Wildlife, November 19 – Water Quality.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Megan Johnson asked if a desalination project proposal was received; no.

Bruce Reznik stated that more discussion is needed on priority topics and that goals should be set prior to each meeting so the Committee can research and potentially set policy at meetings. He also mentioned that the Port needs to work with agencies to determine tenant water use.

Emily Young stated that due to the region's current water situation, significant water measures are needed for long-term solutions.

Bob Hoffman suggested that rainwater harvesting and on-site storage be considered; it's a viable water source. Megan Johnson stated there is a downspout conversion project in Los Angeles. Commissioner Peters asked that they both provide him information regarding this topic.

John Robertus stated that there is a large amount of dewatering occurring around the Bay, and that there should be a policy in place to look at where dewatering occurs and consider desalination as an alternative.

Diane Takvorian stated that the current meeting structure does not allow enough time to discuss policy. She suggested two meetings for each topic; information presented at the first meeting and decisions made at the second meeting. She also suggested that sub-groups work with Port staff on priority topics.

Commissioner Peters stated that he'll discuss with staff and develop policies to address these issues and ideas.

Jim Peugh stated it takes less energy to process waste water than it takes to desalinate seawater, and that it should be looked into as a potential long-term solution.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting adjourned at 11:06 am.