

SAN DIEGO UNIFIED PORT DISTRICT

MEMORANDUM

**Date:** August 11, 2009  
**To:** Board of Port Commissioners  
**From:** David Merk  
Director, Environmental Services  
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**Subject:** Summary of July 16, 2009, Environmental Advisory Committee Meeting

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The Environmental Advisory Committee met on July 16, 2009.

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

Port staff members present were: David Merk, Eileen Maher, Irene McCormack, Ron Powell, Karen Holman, Michelle White, Kelly Makley, Cody Hooven, Jenny Lybeck, Darlene Nicandro, Paul Brown, Matt Valerio, Kristine Zortman, and Rachel Verhoeks (minutes).

Other interested parties in attendance were: Dave Carey, David Carey & Associates; Elizabeth Taylor, Brown & Winters; Eric Chavez, NMFS; Keith Merkel, Merkel & Associates; Lee Wilson, Northrop Grumman; Pam Yochem, Hubbs-Sea World Institute; Rudy Murillo, Scripps Institute of Oceanography; Michelle Menvielle, SDG&E; Tyler Huff and Michelle Woo, AMEC Earth & Environmental; Mo Husain, MH Systems; Christina Magee, Pasha Automotive; Robert Wolf, Tierra Data; Neda Shoushtari, IEA; Heidi Van Lydegraf and John Valencia, San Diego Oceans Foundation; Greg Boeh, Pier 32 Marina; Katherine Timm, Ad Ease; Jeri Nolan, Aquatic Adventures; Daniel Morgan and Chris Chase, Inter Ocean Systems; and Tracy Cambre, Assistant to Commissioner Peters.

The following members were absent: Emily Young, San Diego Foundation; Laurie Black, LJ Black Consulting Group; and Lorena Gonzalez, San Diego and Imperial Counties Labor Council AFL/CIO.

The meeting was called to order at 9:03 am. The following is a summary of the meeting.

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## **WELCOME / INTRODUCTIONS:**

Commissioner Peters welcomed everyone and provided an update regarding the status of shore power funding at the 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue Marine Terminal and Cruise Ship Terminal. The Port was not awarded the latest EPA stimulus grant applied for by staff; however, another EPA grant will be applied for in fall 2009.

Port staff is also applying for EPA funding to be used for a Climate Action Program. And recently, the Port received two funding awards for various South Bay restoration work.

Operation Clean Sweep is scheduled for 9am to noon on August 29, 2009. The cleanup event is sponsored by the Port Tenants Association (PTA); to volunteer, contact PTA at [www.sdpta.com](http://www.sdpta.com).

Commissioner Peters advised the Committee that they would be hearing staff recommendations on new Environmental Fund projects and reminded that he and Commissioner Burdick were voting members of the Committee. Therefore, the input of Committee members would be received and would be valuable in evaluating the recommendations. The final recommendation would then be forwarded to the BPC for final action.

## **ACTION ITEMS / DISCUSSION / COMMENTS:**

### **Input on Recommendations for Funding thru Environmental Fund-**

Eileen Maher gave a presentation regarding the latest Request for Proposals (RFP) for projects to be considered for Environmental Funds. Proposals were due May 4, 2009, and 32 were received. Six projects scored highest (three education, two habitat restoration, one water and sediment quality), for a total cost of \$481,192. Research and monitoring projects are still being evaluated. Projects will be recommended for funding at the September 1, 2009, BPC meeting. Environmental Funds remaining equal \$2.1 million. Committee members provided various input on proposed projects including the move of two projects to the research and monitoring category. Commissioner Peters requested that all comments be emailed to him and Port staff only.

Mitch Perdue suggested the Committee help future proposals by evaluating the consensus environmental needs and stating the need or preferred direction of proposals (i.e. we have problem X – how would a particular project under consideration be helpful in solving problem X).

Robert Wolf, Tierra Data, gave a presentation entitled *Characterizing the Spatial and Temporal Variation in Turbidity and Physical Water Quality Characteristics in San Diego*

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*Bay.* In it he explained the project's goal of researching water quality and turbidity in order to establish a long-term monitoring strategy.

Lisa Komoroske, SDSU student, gave a progress report on her project *Contaminant Accumulation and Health Effects in East Pacific Green Turtles*.

Jeri Nolan, Aquatic Adventures, gave a progress report on the *Sea Series* Education Program offered by Aquatic Adventures and partially funded by the Environmental Fund.

**AIR QUALITY:**

Due to a lack of time, the presentation on Air Quality was postponed until the next Environmental Advisory Committee meeting.

**DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS:**

Remaining 2009 meeting dates and topics are: September 10 – Bay Wildlife, October 15 – Climate Change, and November 19 – Water Quality. Note: the priority topics for the September and October meetings were switched.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Bruce Reznik thanked staff for sending information out prior to the meeting, and requested a meeting with Port staff in August regarding water quality.

Diane Takvorian brought a hand-out regarding air quality and climate change. Due to a lack of time, the hand-out was not discussed.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting adjourned at 11:00 am.