



Environmental Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes from July 10, 2007, 10am-Noon
Scripps Institute of Oceanography
Martin Johnson House, La Jolla, CA



Attendees:

Chairman Rocky Spane – Port of San Diego
Commissioner Laurie Black – Port of San Diego
David Merk – Port of San Diego
William Hall – Port of San Diego
Eileen Maher – Port of San Diego
Chris Anderson – Port of San Diego
Leslie Fitzgerald – Port of San Diego
Michelle White – Port of San Diego
Kelly Makley – Port of San Diego
Jim Peugh – San Diego Audubon Society
John Robertus – Regional Water Quality Control Board
Laura Hunter – Environmental Health Coalition
Rudy Murillo – Scripps Institution of Oceanography
Roy Hobbs – Shelter Island Boatyard (SD PTA)
Shaun Halvax – BAE Systems (SD PTA)
Lee Wilson – Continental Maritime San Diego (Northrop Grumman)
Amy Havens – Scripps Institution of Oceanography
Timothy Hushen – SDSU Research Foundation
Leo Miras – Environmental Health Coalition

Ayoola Folarin – U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Megan Johnson – Southern California Wetlands Recovery Program
Carisia Pritchard – Port of San Diego
Dave Massey – San Diego Natural History Museum
Nick Buhbe – AMEC Earth & Environmental
David Gibson – Regional Water Quality Control Board
Eylon Shumit – Hydrologic Research Center
Erica Cunningham – Tierra Data
Jennifer Pettis – NOAA Fisheries
Ken Melville – Scripps Institution of Oceanography
Marsha Gear – California Sea Grant
Ray Mahr – Ocean Innovations
Roland Moritz – Coronado Cays HOA
Russ McCarthy – Continental Maritime San Diego (Northrop Grumman)
Jonathon Hardy – Senator Ducheny's Office
Elizabeth Taylor – Daley & Heft
Rachel Verhoeks – Port of San Diego (Minutes)

I. Agenda Items

A. Introductory Remarks:

Committee Chairman Rocky Spane and David Merk welcomed everyone, including new member Commissioner Laurie Black, and thanked everyone for attending. They also thanked Scripps Institute of Oceanography Executive Director Dr. Tony Haymet and his team for hosting the meeting at their facility.

B. Revision of Committee Policy and Charter:

The Committee was informed of recent changes approved at the July 10th BPC meeting. Changes included the adoption of the Committee Charter and the revision and clarification of the language in BPC Policy #730, the Port Environmental Policy. In order to avoid possible conflict of interest concerns, three Commissioners were approved to be the voting members of the Committee; Commissioners Spane, Black, and Najera. All other members of the committee are for knowledge, expertise, and stakeholder input only.

State of the Bay:

The State of the Bay report can be found at http://www.portofsandiego.org/sandiego_environment/, and then click the **State of the Bay** link found on the left. David Merk reminded the group that any input on the State of the Bay was still requested and always appreciated. Due to the constant fluctuation of the topic, Air Quality portions will continually be revised. Laura Hunter stated she had comments and would get them in soon. The Committee was also informed that the Draft INRMP was being reviewed, and a meeting is tentatively scheduled for August.

Proposed Green Port Program:

Port staff is looking at options on how to implement a Green Port Plan, which would include segments such as sustainable or green building, and the issues that can be tackled to make a better

plan. Issues include but aren't limited to energy conservation, water conservation, sustainable development and redevelopment, and investment options for tenants. Some Commissioners and tenants have already expressed concern about LEED certification and possible consequences if it were required. A discussion ensued about how the Real Estate Committee and Environmental Committee could work together to address tenant concerns and come up with solutions. Port staff will discuss options on how to approach the issue. Commissioner Black suggested a workshop be held that would include input from the Environmental Committee, Real Estate Committee, and Port tenants. Recommendations would be gathered and a policy could be developed. No decision or direction was given.

Progress on projects funded by the Board on December 5, 2006, and May 8, 2007:

Eileen Maher provided the following update on projects previously approved.

- **GRANTS:** Research has been initiated and first payments have been issued to seven university students awarded grants at the May 8 BPC meeting.
- **FISH STRUCTURES:** 401 permits have been obtained and locations for fish structures are planned at the Embarcadero Marina Park South fishing pier, off the Coronado Marriott Hotel (adjacent to existing eelgrass mitigation area), and at the Chula Vista borrow pit (adjacent to the existing reef structures).
- **TURTLE MONITORING:** Four GPS turtle tags, 30 hydrophone tags, and 20 data loggers have been received. GPS tags track by satellite and the hydrophone tags track by data loggers. The Committee was shown the locations of three turtles. Please see the Port's Turtle Track website http://www.portofsandiego.org/sandiego_environment/turtle-tracks/ to review turtle movement in the Bay. Please note that the website is currently being updated. It was also suggested that the Port try to get an article about the subject in the Union Tribune.
- **A-8 DEBRIS REMOVAL:** Currently waiting to find out if \$42,000 grant from NOAA was awarded for this project. ACOE and RWQCB permit applications are pending. Debris removal is scheduled for September 2007.
- **J STREET MARSH RESTORATION:** This will be done in conjunction with the A-8 debris removal. Work would begin in September.
- **STORMDRAIN MESH FILTERS:** Currently reviewing report of best technology to implement with General Services.
- **OSPREY NESTS:** Locations in Coronado, National City, Shelter Island, and Spanish Landing are waiting approval for osprey nesting platforms. Nesting platforms have been installed at the Chula Vista Wildlife Reserve and adjacent to Pond 20. It was suggested that the platforms have webcams installed. With the Chula Vista Nature Center being so close, webcams could help educate.
- **ALTERNATIVE FUEL VEHICLES:** A request for proposals will go out October or November 2007. Hybrid vehicles are anticipated to arrive early 2008.
- **SOLAR PANELS:** The Engineering department is reviewing a proposal to install a 15kw system and is evaluating a "fixed rate energy service".
- **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:** The scope of work section of the Tierra Data contract regarding water quality monitoring and research is being refined.
- **ENDANGERED SPECIES:** A contract with Chula Vista Nature Center was set up for a propagation program for the light-footed clapper rail. Nine birds will be released in August. Five birds will have radio telemetry tags placed on them and will be released at the Bay.
- **SUMMARY:** The total cost of projects to date is \$740,000. An amount of \$230,000 in matching funds has been acquired. \$1,872,266 in matching funds is still available. \$3,248,894 in non-matching funds is available. Total funds remaining are \$5,121,160, which excludes FY08 funds and the third round of projects.

- **BIG PROJECT:** It was reiterated that we still need ideas of big projects. Since no ideas have been presented, it was suggested that a “large project” RFP be done. In it would spell out what type and size of projects are requested. It is preferred that a big project be researched and approved by the first of the year.

Environmental Funds:

The Committee reviewed a spreadsheet concerning the financial status of the Environmental Fund.

Coastal Conservancy Meeting:

Port staff recently met with the Coastal Conservancy to discuss Prop 84 and funds available. Through Prop 84, \$27 million in funds is available for the County of San Diego. Funds will be paid over five years in equal increments. There are also four projects the Conservancy is looking at funding; however, those projects (106, 109, 111, and 122 of project list) equaling \$400,000 are on hold at this time and will be presented later.

Third Round of Projects:

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

- **(#96) Resource Conservation District:** Create a watershed council for San Diego County to provide education and outreach to improve the water quality of the watershed.
- **(#98) WildCoast:** Conservation of sea turtles and education of ocean users on health risks associated with pollution.
- **(#104) SDSU and NMFS:** Using isotope and element analysis to understand impacts of contaminants on endangered species in the Bay.
- **(#112) Merkel and Associates:** Removal of derelict fishing gear from nine sites in the Bay.
- **(#113) Coastkeeper:** Conduct four cleanups in South Bay, three in the watershed, and one along the Bay, as well as quantify debris and conduct outreach to residents.
- **(#114) AMEC:** Used oil and oil filter bins for boaters in San Diego Bay.
- **(#118) MH Systems and Scripps:** Treat ballast water with inert gas on oceanographic research ship.
- **(#119) City of Chula Vista:** Evaluate land uses and pre- and post-construction BMPs for watershed planning.
- **(#125) SDSU:** Research healthy eelgrass beds, fishes, trophic diversity and ecosystem function.
- **(#126) Scripps:** Magnitude and extent of copper pollution effects on benthic faunal communities in San Diego Bay.
- **(#131) SDSU:** Assessing eelgrass habitat function for recreationally important fish species in San Diego Bay.

After review by the Committee, projects 96, 119, and 126 were placed on hold. The two Commissioners present at the meeting approved the remaining eight projects to recommend to the BPC for final approval. Once approved by the BPC, you'll be able to view the third list of projects on the Port's website at:

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

C. Remaining 2007 Environmental Committee meeting dates:

Tuesday, September 18, 2007, at 10:00 a.m. in the Training Room

Tuesday, November 6, 2007, at 10:00 a.m. in the Training Room

D. Public Comments:

There were no public comments.

E. Presentation of Scripps Geotech Study:

From Scripps, Neal Driscoll and Graham Kent presented the Geotech Study on the sub-bottom and bathymetric survey of San Diego Bay.