

SAN DIEGO UNIFIED PORT DISTRICT

MEMORANDUM

Date: March 30, 2009

To: Environmental Advisory Committee Members

From: Commissioner Scott Peters
Committee Chairman



Subject: Environmental Advisory Committee 2009 Work Plan

At its first meeting in any year, each Port Advisory Committee is charged with approving a work plan for that year. Since this is our first "official" meeting as a Committee (our new composition was approved at the March Board of Port Commissioners meeting), we will need to act to adopt a work plan for 2009 at our April 2 meeting.

Following are the topics I propose we cover this year for the purpose of advising the Board of Port Commissioners, based on input from the Port's Environmental staff, Port Commissioners themselves, and Committee members:

1. Energy Use and Conservation – The Committee will evaluate the Port's Energy Plan, introduced at our last meeting by SDG&E, propose modifications it sees as appropriate, and advise the Board of Port Commissioners on its implementation.
2. Air Quality – Closely related to energy use is the Port's effort to institute shore powering at the 10th Avenue and Cruise Ship terminals. The Commissioners are working closely with the Environmental Health Coalition on its priority for the 10th Avenue Marine Terminal. This will be a topic of discussion at the April meeting as funding issues make some decisions time sensitive.
3. Water Use and Conservation – Given the likelihood of water shortages and rationing, staff has identified water conservation as a major concern, and an issue on which they may seek advice from the Committee.
4. Bay Water Quality – The Port is subject to regulation by the State Regional Water Quality Control Board. The Committee will continue to hear updates and give input on how we can exceed our compliance requirements. With respect to copper pollution, the Port is subject to total maximum daily loads ("TMDLs"); there may be additional actions we want to recommend that are "beyond compliance." We have already heard about the Port's anti-fouling bottom paint efforts. The Committee may be asked to provide input on opportunities to work with other agencies (Department of Pesticide Regulation, CARB, or the Integrated Waste Management Board) to help prevent degradation of water quality in the Bay.

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5. Bay Wildlife – The staff has been aggressive in planning for bay & shoreline wildlife habitat protection, enhancement and restoration. I anticipate seeking input from the Committee on our progress in these areas, and on securing funding for implementation of our Natural Resources Management Plan.
6. Climate Change – The San Diego Foundation has funded significant research on the effects of climate change in our region, including sea level rise. This will have inevitable implications for the operations of the Port, and the Committee should begin the discussion of how we can adapt, and how we should set development policy moving forward.

Status Reports – The Committee should continue to be briefed from time to time on activities and events in and around the Bay that may not require recommendations for actions. For instance, there are extensive sediment cleanup efforts that are being handled in litigation processes. There are efforts to close the South Bay Power Plant, pursuant to policy direction already adopted by the Board.

Meeting Format – I have received requests from some members that we precisely target our discussions so that in addition to periodic status reports, we have enough time to tackle a particular issue in each meeting. I intend to devote significant time in each of our remaining meetings for these discussions, and to indicate to add to our calendar which topic will be highlighted at each meeting. This will also allow members of the Committee to suggest possible **speakers/presentations and invite appropriate staff or stakeholders with special interest or expertise in the issues being covered.**

CC: Board of Port Commissioners
Charles Wurster
David Merk
Eileen Maher
Karen Holman
Michelle White