



**CITY OF SANTA BARBARA
CREEKS RESTORATION/WATER QUALITY IMPROVEMENT
CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES**

REGULAR MEETING

January 19, 2011

Council Chambers, 735 Anacapa Street

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Moldaver called the meeting to order at 5:38pm.

ROLL CALL

Committee members present: Chair Moldaver, Paul Bullock, Danielle DeSmeth
Leeanne French, Natasha Lohmus, Betsy Weber

Committee members absent: None

Liaison members present: Councilmember Michael Self, Planning Commissioner
Michael Jordan

Liaison members absent: Parks and Recreation Commissioner Chris Casebeer

Staff present: Creeks Restoration/Clean Water Manager Cameron Benson, Creeks
Planner George Thomson, Creeks Research Coordinator Jill Murray, Creeks
Administrative Specialist Jen Hollywood, Creeks Outreach Coordinator Liz Smith

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Moldaver asked the new Committee members to introduce themselves.

Motion:

Committee Members Bullock/Lohmus to approve the minutes of the regular
meeting of November 17, 2010.

Vote:

Voice vote 4/0 (French and DeSmeth abstained).

AGENDA ADJUSTMENTS

Mr. Benson welcomed new Committee members Danielle DeSmeth and Leeanne
French, and introduced Jen Hollywood, the new Creeks Administrative Specialist.

Mr. Moldaver recognized outgoing Committee member Daniel Wilson for his service to
the Committee, and presented him with a certificate of appreciation.

Mr. Wilson read a letter of encouragement to the Committee, staff, and the public at
large; and, strongly encouraged public/private partnership and restoration on private
land in the future, noting that the majority of creek side property in the city is privately
owned.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Wilson relayed information from a community member, who expressed support for the City's Mutt Mitt program, but noted that he has found bags of dog waste left on the trails, and suggested public education regarding proper disposal; suggested bright orange or yellow bags rather than green Mutt Mitt bags; and, reported that another community member asked to what extent the Harbor dredging potentially affects water quality in and around public beaches.

COMMITTEE MEMBER AND STAFF COMMUNICATIONS

Ms. Self thanked Mr. Wilson for his service, and welcomed the new Committee members.

BUSINESS ITEMS

a. Santa Barbara Zoo Wetland Margin Enhancement Project

Recommendation:

That the Committee receive a presentation and discuss the Santa Barbara Zoo Wetland Margin Enhancement Project.

Documents:

Staff Report – January 2011

Power Point Presentation – January 2011

Speakers:

George Thomson, Creeks Planner

Committee Questions:

Committee members asked questions regarding the cost of the project; whether the project includes retreatment; whether funding is available to continue the project if additional retreatment is needed; and, what is done with the Arundo once it is removed.

Mr. Thomson reported that Arundo cannot be removed by heavy equipment, which makes it very labor intensive to remove, particularly in sensitive areas, and that Phase 2 provides for less labor intensive removal of invasive plants, bringing the cost down but acreage up; that retreatment for two years is included in the scope of this project; that both Phase 1 and 2 are part of a larger scope invasive plant removal project including Arundo removal in all of the City's watersheds, so even if this particular project does not proceed, there may still be funding for removal of the plants at this site; and, that some of the removed Arundo is chipped and left on site, and some goes to a green waste dump.

Ms. French noted that she has contacts that may be able to provide reuse opportunities for the removed Arundo.

Mr. Moldaver acknowledged the partnership with Channel Islands Restoration, and expressed his hope that the City will continue working with them.

Public Comment:

No one wished to speak.

b. Water Quality Monitoring and Research Program Fiscal Year 2010 Report

Recommendation:

That the Committee receive a presentation and discuss the results from the Water Quality Monitoring and Research Program Fiscal Year 2010 Report.

Ms. Self left at 6:30pm.

Documents:

Staff Report – January 2011

Power Point Presentation – January 2011

Speakers:

Jill Murray, Creeks Research Coordinator

Committee Questions:

Committee members asked questions regarding whether staff is testing for fire retardants and fertilizers in sediment testing; whether there is a working hypothesis as to why pyrethroid pesticide levels are rising; and, how the study on biofilm growth hypothetically relates to the Arroyo Burro Estuary.

Ms. Murray reports that staff tests for nutrients in water but not in sediment, and currently test for phosphates, which are high, but that more testing would be needed to find out whether they were specifically from fire retardants; that commercial pyrethroid use is increasing as other pesticides are phased out, as well as increased over the counter pesticides use; and, that there could be a lot of biofilm covering sediment surfaces in the Arroyo Burro Estuary and bacterial growth in the water column, and that it is a nutrient rich environment that leads to rapid bacteria growth.

Mr. Moldaver suggested a special meeting to provide a more in depth background report on water quality to the new Committee members; and, asked Committee members to look over the 2011 meeting schedule and note any conflicts with meeting dates.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion:

Committee members Lohmus/Webber to adjourn.

Chair Moldaver adjourned the meeting at 6:42 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Cameron Benson
Creeks Restoration/Clean Water Manager