



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

REGULAR MEETING

May 18, 2011

David Gebhard Public Meeting Room, 630 Garden Street.

CALL TO ORDER

Betsy Weber called the meeting to order at 5:37 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Committee members present: Danielle De Smeth, LeeAnne French, Lee Moldaver, Betsy Weber

Committee members absent: Paul Bullock, Natasha Lohmus

Liaison members present: Parks and Recreation Commissioner Chris Casebeer

Liaison members absent: Planning Commissioner Michael Jordan, Council Member Michael Self

Staff present: Creeks Restoration/Clean Water Manager Cameron Benson, Creeks Administrative Specialist Jen Hollywood, Code Enforcement Officer Jim Rumbley, Water Resources Specialist Autumn Malanca

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion:

Committee Members Moldaver/De Smeth to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of April 20, 2011.

Vote:

Voice vote 4/0.

AGENDA ADJUSTMENTS

None.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No one wished to speak.

COMMITTEE MEMBER AND STAFF COMMUNICATIONS

Ms. French reported that a proposal was made at the Lower Mission Creek Flood Control Project Design Committee Meeting to dissolve the committee and move the conceptual review process for the Flood Control Project and Mission Creek Bridge Replacement projects to ABR; and, that she and Mr. Benson would recommend that current members of the committee have the opportunity to attend the ABR meetings to

discuss changes and plans as well as provide input and expertise rather than in individual Committee meetings.

8. BUSINESS ITEMS

a. Storm Water Management Program Status Update

Recommendation:

That the Committee receive a presentation and discuss the Storm Water Management Program.

Documents:

Staff Report – May 2011
Power Point Presentation – May 2011

Speakers:

Autumn Malanca, Water Resources Specialist

Committee Questions/Discussion:

Committee members asked questions regarding a distinction between trash and green waste in reported amounts of trash removed; whether trash removal from the creeks is a part of the Storm Water Management Program (SWMP); and, whether or not we can sustain these efforts in current challenging economic times.

Ms. Malanca reported that the State Water Board considers green waste and sediment in the same pollution category as trash, which is measured by weight; that trash removal from the creeks is not a specific management program within the SWMP and therefore would not appear in the report, however it may be added to the Best Management Practices for the following Fiscal Year; and, that in spite of current financial restraints and departmental cuts, the City is still meeting the requirements of the permit.

Mr. Benson reported that the Creeks Division administers extensive creek and beach clean ups which weigh and catalog trash which is collected from the creeks and beaches; and, that over 55 tons of trash was removed and disposed of in 2010.

Public Comment:

Penny Owens, Education Coordinator for Channelkeeper read a statement thanking the City for it's hard work to meet or exceed Storm Water Management BMP's, however they are concerned about the City's delay in creating a Storm Water Ordinance and proposal to not adopt an erosion and sediment control ordinance and urge the City to move forward in creating these ordinances.

Mr. Moldaver recommended that a copy of this letter be sent to Council Liaison Michael Self so that she can bring it to the City's Ordinance Committee.

Mr. Benson noted that as part of the city's Storm Water permit, all water discharged into the creeks is strictly regulated; the city is liable for any pollution and can be fined for violations; that after the permit was approved, and before the City was required to create an ordinance, the Regional Water Board began a process to adopt new standards for contaminated runoff which are expected to be approved in 2012; that any ordinance created would have needed to be changed a year later; and, once the Water Board completes these changes an ordinance will be created and adopted by the City.

Ms. De Smeth asked for clarification on who manages the storm drain systems within the city.

Mr. Benson responded that the design and engineering is done within the Public Works Department; the Streets Division maintains the storm drain system and the Creeks Division administers the permit for the city.

Ms. French asked questions regarding whether the Program measures only the Best Management Practices (BMP's), or the end results of cleaner water.

Ms. Malanca responded that the Effectiveness Assessment Program measures whether the BMP's are obtaining the goals, specifically including "is this improving water quality?"; and that the City reports yearly on a Water Quality Monitoring Program BMP which demonstrates improvement in the water quality.

b. Creeks Division Code Enforcement Program Update

Recommendation:

That the Committee receive a presentation and discuss the Storm Water/Urban Runoff Pollution Prevention and Enforcement Program.

Documents:

Staff Report – May 2011

Power Point Presentation – May 2011

Speakers:

Jim Rumbley, Code Enforcement Officer

Committee Questions/Discussion:

Committee members asked questions regarding the differences in calls from year to year; whether building trades and contractors were being educated on the SWMP; whether the Police Department was involved; the difference in number of Notice of Violations issued vs. fines collected; and, the most common types of violations.

Mr. Rumbley reported that 2% of previous calls were regarding construction, currently they make up 28% due to calls from Building Inspectors; that Ms. Malanca provides training as part of the SWMP; the Police Department does not regularly make Enforcement calls, but they will be trained in clean water enforcement reporting later this year; that there are not many repeat offenders or citations issued, and generally a warning letter is sufficient; and that besides construction, commercial businesses are the biggest offenders due to wash runoff not being collected.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion:

Committee members Moldaver/French to adjourn.

Ms. Webber adjourned the meeting at 6:39 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Cameron Benson', written in a cursive style.

Cameron Benson
Creeks Restoration/Clean Water Manager