



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

BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING

May 28, 2013

Parks & Recreation Conference Room, 620 Laguna Street.

CALL TO ORDER

Betsy Weber called the meeting to order at 12:07 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Committee members present: Chair Betsy Weber, Paul Bullock, Lee Moldaver

Committee members absent: Danielle De Smeth, Natasha Lohmus, LeeAnne French,
Stephen Macintosh

Liaison members present: Council Member Frank Hotchkiss

Liaison members absent: Planning Commissioner Michael Jordan, Parks and Recreation
Commissioner Nick Flores

Staff present: Creeks Restoration/Clean Water Manager Cameron Benson, Creeks
Administrative Specialist Jen Hollywood

PUBLIC COMMENT

No one wished to speak

BUSINESS ITEM

a. Fiscal Year 2014/2015 Budgets

Recommendation: That the Committee discuss the Fiscal Year 2014/2015
Budgets.

Committee Questions/Discussion:

Regarding the May 21, 2013 Budget Proposal from Councilmember Randy Rowse to use \$400,000 in Measure B funding to cover 2/3 of the cost of the State Street Plaza Maintenance Contract: Committee members made comments and asked questions regarding the lack of a nexus between the State Street maintenance contract (landscaping, parades, power-washing, flags, etc.), the Metropolitan Transit District, and Measure B (clean water/creek restoration) funds; whether using Measure B funds for the State Street maintenance contract conflicts with what voters were told during the Measure B campaign, thereby undermining

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the voters' trust in City government; whether the Budget Proposal represents a conflict of interest due to the positive effect of the maintenance contract on Councilmember Rowse's business; how power-washing the State Street sidewalks is viewed by the Water Board and whether the power-washing is permitted in the City's Storm Water Management Plan; that the funding changes proposed are inconsistent with Measure B and the Creeks Program Funding Guidelines; and that the proposal is not legal because there is no nexus to water quality or creek restoration.

Public Comment:

Brian Trautwein, Environmental Defense Center: Mr. Trautwein spoke in opposition to Councilmember Rowse's Budget Proposal. He said the funding changes were not consistent with the will of the voters or the Measure B Funding Guidelines, which specify that Measure B funds must be used to fund new or expanded clean water projects, not to backfill funds for existing programs. He mentioned that he has witnessed wash water not being collected on State Street and allowed to run into storm drains, which is harmful to water quality. He noted that the Creeks Advisory Committee was created by the City Council to oversee the Measure B funds, and encouraged the Committee to maintain voter trust and send a strong message to the City Council in opposition to this proposal.

Gregg Hart: Mr. Hart spoke in opposition to Councilmember Rowse's Budget Proposal. He said that he was the original author of Measure B, and that the intent of the measure was to bring in new revenue to pay for new programs and projects, not to backfill funding for programs already in place.

Eddie Harris, Santa Barbara Urban Creeks Council: Mr. Harris spoke in opposition to Councilmember Rowse's Budget Proposal. He stressed the importance of honoring the intention of Measure B, and expressed concerns that the proposed changes would jeopardize the future efforts and success of the Creeks program.

Sharyn Main: Ms. Main spoke in opposition to Councilmember Rowse's Budget Proposal as someone who campaigned for Measure B. She stated that a 2/3 majority of voters were required to pass the special tax measure. She said the voters were promised and assured that the funds would be used only for water quality, and that including the Advisory Committee was critical to the passage of the Measure. The Committee is charged with supporting the original intent of the measure and providing oversight of the funds. If changes need to be made to the program, then there needs to be a discussion about that. Measure B funds should not be used for existing programs unrelated to water quality or creek restoration.

Motion:

Committee Members Moldaver/Bullock to oppose Councilmember Rowse's May 21, 2013 Budget Proposal because the proposal is not consistent with the Measure B ordinance approved by City voters in 2000, or the Creeks Program Funding Guidelines approved by Council in 2003 and reapproved by the Creeks Advisory Committee in 2009.

Vote:

Unanimous voice vote 3/0

Motion:

Committee Members Moldaver/Bullock to authorize the Committee Chair (or the Chair's appointee) to deliver the recommendation to Council at the scheduled meeting on June 3, 2013.

Vote:

Unanimous voice vote 3/0

ADJOURNMENT

Motion:

Committee members Moldaver/Bullock to adjourn.

Vote:

Unanimous voice vote: 3/0

Ms. Weber adjourned the meeting at 12:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cameron Benson
Creeks Restoration/Clean Water Manager

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