



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

REGULAR MEETING

June 19, 2013

Council Chambers, 735 Anacapa Street.

CALL TO ORDER

Danielle DeSmeth called the meeting to order at 5:39pm.

ROLL CALL

Committee members present: Lee Moldaver, Natasha Lohmus, LeeAnne French, Danielle De Smeth

Committee members absent: Chair Betsy Weber, Paul Bullock, Stephen Macintosh

Liaison members present: Parks and Recreation Commissioner Nick Ferrara, Council Member Frank Hotchkiss

Liaison members absent: Planning Commissioner Michael Jordan

Staff present: Creeks Restoration/Clean Water Manager Cameron Benson, Creeks Administrative Specialist Jen Hollywood, Water Quality Research Coordinator Jill Murray, Code Enforcement Officer Jim Rumbley

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion:

Committee Members Moldaver/Lohmus to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of May 15, 2013.

Vote:

Voice vote 4/0.

Motion:

Committee Members Moldaver/Lohmus to approve the minutes of the special Budget Subcommittee meeting of May 28, 2013.

Vote:

Voice vote 3/0 (Ms. DeSmeth abstained).

AGENDA ADJUSTMENTS

Mr. Benson announced that at the May Committee meeting, the Committee heard about the proposed Storm Water Ordinance, which will be heard by City Council on Tuesday, June 15th at noon.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No one wished to speak.

COMMITTEE MEMBER AND STAFF COMMUNICATIONS

None.

7. BUSINESS ITEMS

a. Water Quality Research and Monitoring Program Update and Fiscal Year 2014 Research and Monitoring Plan

Recommendation:

That the Committee receive an update on the Water Quality Research and Monitoring Program and concur with the staff recommendation to implement the proposed Research and Monitoring Plan for Fiscal Year 2014.

Documents:

Staff Report – June 2013
Power Point Presentation – June 2013

Speakers:

Jill Murray, Water Quality Research Coordinator

Committee Questions/Discussion:

Committee members asked questions regarding whether pollutant load data will need to be collected every year on the LID projects; whether the incident on Canon Perdido Street Saturday night was a sewer pipe or water pipe; what were the two highest toxic pollutants found at the Westside Center; whether the samples were collected after significant rainfall; what organism is used when testing for toxicity; whether different types of chromium were found; whether we have enough data to know if programs in place are helping to reduce the levels of chemicals; and, whether any of the data in this report is from the MacKenzie Park parking lot project, or testing will continue there.

Ms. Murray reported that the pollutant load data for the MacKenzie Park parking lot will remain static because there is no runoff anymore, so staff will only know how much water is detained; that the incident Saturday was a water pipe; that the toxicity results were from all parking lot sites, and we don't know which compounds add up to create the toxic effect, but only that when organisms are exposed to the sample, it exhibited toxicity; that we did not have significant rainfall, but tried to collect samples at specific times during the storm then combine the samples and average the results; that fathead minnows were used for toxicity testing on this particular project; that the test was only for total chromium; that chromium found was coming off the parking lot, and once the project is in, it will go into the ground and will be many years before it reaches surface water and will be degraded before it reaches the creek; and, that this report does not include data from MacKenzie Park, it is all infiltrating into the ground so it would be difficult to sample, and there are no plans to continue sampling at this time.

Motion:

Committee Members Moldaver/Lohmus to recommend approval of the proposed Research and Monitoring Plan for Fiscal Year 2014.

Vote:

Voice vote 4/0.

b. Enforcement Program Update

Recommendation:

That the Committee receive a presentation on the Fiscal Year 2013 status of the Storm Water/Urban Runoff Pollution Prevention and Enforcement Program and the related creek clean-ups.

Documents:

Staff Report – June 2013

Power Point Presentation – June 2013

Speakers:

Jim Rumbley, Code Enforcement Officer

Committee Questions/Discussion:

Committee members asked questions regarding who is responsible for checking Arroyo Burro Beach on the County side; how often each site gets cleaned up; whether staff works with volunteer groups; who should a community member report pollution to, can it be reported online, and if after hours how should it be reported; and, asked for more information on the incident Saturday night at Laguna Street and Canon Perdido Street.

Mr. Rumbley reported that we only check the area within the City limits; that the outreach coordinator works with volunteer groups often to arrange beach clean-ups, and staff does not send contractors out before and after those clean-ups; contractor clean-ups are generally more site specific, but they clean five beach sites every week, and various creek locations two to three times per week; after hours community members can call 911, and are encouraged to call for any type of flow in the street and we will investigate, and with the new City website there will be an online reporting form; regular trainings are done with other City staff, and the Creeks Division partners with Public Works, Police, and Fire on water main breaks, sewage spills, and hazardous spills; and, as with the event Saturday, when a water main break occurs, it requires digging up the street, and City workers do their best to block storm drains to prevent sediment from reaching the storm drain, and clean up any sediment in the street after the event.

Committee members asked whether a discharge of water based paint is considered a violation; whether sediment from a construction site is a pollutant;

whether \$86,000 is a good estimate of what staff has spent this year; whether homeless encampments are more populated during the summer months; and, asked staff to announce the Enforcement hotline number again.

Mr. Rumbley reported that any paint is a pollutant and a discharge is a violation of the Municipal Code; that the Municipal Code is very restrictive, and while sediment is not called out specifically, it has a significant impact on water quality, and is also a violation of erosion control requirements for construction projects; that the cost of clean-ups remains relatively constant between \$95,000 to \$100,000 each year, and clean-up locations and frequency are adjusted as needed; that encampments are more populated during the summer, but still exist during the rest of the year; that most of the human waste comes from encampments which are transient and temporary locations; and, that the community is encouraged to call the Enforcement Hotline at (805) 897-2688 to report anything that they may suspect is a violation, and staff is happy to investigate.

Ms. Lohmus noted that sediment is a natural process in creeks, but during rain events too much sediment can smother steelhead eggs that have to be laid in gravel, and can deprive them and other aquatic organisms of dissolved oxygen.

Mr. Benson also noted that hydrocarbons, bacteria, and other pollutants can adsorb or attach to sediment in urban areas, and then wash into the creek where they would not otherwise be present.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion:

Committee members Moldaver/Lohmus to adjourn.

Vote:

Voice vote 4/0.

Ms. DeSmeth adjourned the meeting at 6:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Cameron Benson
Creeks Restoration/Clean Water Manager