



## NORTHWEST SAN PEDRO NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

# Sustainability COMMITTEE REPORT

Meeting held at *San Pedro City Hall, Room 452, on Tuesday, July 19<sup>th</sup>, 2016*

**Committee Member Attendees:** Chuck Hart, Sarah Valdez

**Non-Committee Member Attendees:** Christian L. Guzman, David Hadley, Gwen Henry, John Stammreich, Lee Williams, John Winkler

**Committee Members not in attendance:** Janet Gunter, Bobbi Lisk, Darlene Zavalney

1. **Welcome and introductions**
2. **Announcements**
3. **“Know the Flow” presentation given by Heal the Bay representative, Nancy Shrodes. Join us as we learn about the water cycle in Los Angeles.**

Nancy spoke with us regarding the urban water cycle in Los Angeles and how Angelenos can create water resiliency in the face of continued drought. Mayor Garcetti’s “Sustainability pLAN” sets out a goal for Los Angeles to source 50% of its water from groundwater resources by 2035. In order to attain this goal, Angelenos must “capture, conserve, and reuse” rain water and grey water. Native plants, bioswales, rain barrels, and other sustainable landscaping techniques help return water to groundwater sources. There are 115 groundwater wells in the San Fernando Basin, only half of which are useable due to contamination. DWP is currently building two new water treatment centers to address such contamination. DWP is also expanding the Tillman treatment facility located in Van Nuys, which will increase the amount of recycled water that is returned to local groundwater wells. Political will is necessary to increase funding for such projects. Reach out to your local City Council person and ask that she/he support sustainable water infrastructure in Los Angeles. Heal the Bay does not support the construction of desalination facilities. Such facilities emit massive amounts of carbon, which further exacerbates climate change. Such facilities can also be harmful to marine life. Australia does not use the desalination plants that were built in the midst of their drought crisis. Rather, the country uses conservation, reclamation, and recycling techniques to address its water needs.

4. **Discuss partnership opportunity with Rain Barrels International and TreePeople. How/when can we incorporate a rain barrel giveaway into future NWSPNC outreach events?**

Lee has been in contact with Clean L.A. (Department of Public Works). Clean L.A. has expressed interest in working with the Northwest San Pedro Neighborhood Council (NWSPNC) to setup a FREE rain barrel giveaway for our stakeholders. The Home Depot may be another partner of interest in providing NWSPNC stakeholders with free rain barrels. L.A. Sanitation may also help to supply the rain barrels.

The Sustainability Committee will host an education and outreach event in the month of November. This event may include a rain barrel giveaway, a rainwater harvesting workshop hosted by TreePeople, a native plants seeds exchange, a reusable water bottle giveaway, etc. Further, since November is Native American Heritage Month, Committee will include an educational component with regards to local Native American history and cultural practices.

Committee should promote event through AltaSea and Port of Los Angeles High School (POLAHS) environmental engineering students. Perhaps students can earn credit by volunteering for the event, by creating a “Know the Flow” presentation of their own, etc.

Committee should document what’s in and around town—what have neighbors already installed? Document what drought-resistant landscaping and rain barrel installation can look like.

Committee should tie event with a media announcement regarding the drought status in California.

**5. Discuss status of grant application with the Harbor Community Benefit Foundation (HCBF). Possible motion.**

Letter of Interest was denied. Sarah is scheduled to meet with HCBF in September to discuss our application and garner tips on how to improve future applications.

**6. Discuss next steps in campaign to promote use of reusable water bottles. Possible motion.**

In an effort to promote use of reusable water bottles in the Northwest San Pedro area, Sustainability Committee would like to see bottle filling stations installed at recreation centers and schools. Committee will raise funds to install a bottle filling station at one of the local elementary schools. Such installation will include an educational component for the students, as well as distribution of NWSPNC reusable water bottles. Components to consider: installation cost, maintenance cost, filtration technology.

**7. Review past NWSPNC actions with regards to the Rancho LPG butane and propane tanks located on N. Gaffey St. Discuss possible next steps. Possible motion.**

Item tabled.

Public Comment on this item:

Non-committee stakeholders present at the meeting expressed concern with regards to the location of the Rancho LPG propane and butane storage facility. Concern was also expressed with regards to the safety of the rail cars that are used to transport butane and propane to and from the facility. Stakeholders had questions regarding the facility’s Risk Management Plan. Stakeholders would also like Committee to review regulations placed on the tanks—what modern day regulations have the tanks been exempted from? Stakeholders also expressed concern regarding the Rancho LPG facility’s disaster insurance—is the community covered?

**8. Discuss and consider committee’s principles, goals, and overall mission for the upcoming year. Possible motion.**

Committee would like to see more native plants planted in our neighborhoods. Committee would also like to increase collaboration with other San Pedro and Harbor Area neighborhood councils.

**9. Public comments on items not on the agenda.**

N/A

**Next meeting: *Tuesday, August 16<sup>th</sup>, 6:00-7:30 pm, at SP City Hall, Room 452***