



## NORTHWEST SAN PEDRO NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL (NWSPNC) Sustainability COMMITTEE REPORT

Meeting held at *San Pedro City Hall, Room 452, on Tuesday, May 16, 2017*

**Committee member attendees:** Gwen Henry, Laurie Jacobs, Sarah Valdez, Darlene Zavalney

**Non-committee member attendees:** Dr. Allen Franz, Coastal San Pedro Neighborhood Council;  
Cindy Berglund, Rain Barrels International

**Committee members not in attendance:** Chuck Hart, Bobby Lisk, Chris Valle

### 1. Welcome and introductions

### 2. Public Comment on items not on the agenda.

- a. The City of Los Angeles Harbor Department (LAHD) has prepared an Initial Study/Negative Declaration (IS/ND) to address the environmental effects of the Removal of Underground Storage Tanks at Cabrillo Marina Project. The IS/ND is being circulated for a period of 30 days for public review and comment, from May 1, 2017 to May 31, 2017, and can be found at a number of locations, including online at [www.portoflosangeles.org](http://www.portoflosangeles.org). Comments on the IS/ND should be submitted in writing prior to May 31, 2017. Please submit comments to:  
Christopher Cannon, Director  
City of Los Angeles Harbor Department  
Environmental Management Division  
425 S. Palos Verdes Street  
San Pedro CA 90731
- b. White Point Nature Preserve to host “Big Saturday,” on Saturday, May 20<sup>th</sup>, at the White Point Nature Education Center. Big Saturday is the largest volunteer event at the preserve.
- c. Port of Los Angeles High School to host its annual Green Festival this Friday, May 19<sup>th</sup>, from noon to 3 PM. The Northwest San Pedro Neighborhood Council will host a booth at the event.

### 3. **Rain barrel distribution event: Discuss rain barrel distribution event to be hosted in conjunction with Rain Barrels International.**

- a. Cindy Berglund of Rain Barrels International (RBI) was in attendance. RBI is a company that repurposes plastic barrels previously used by food and beverage companies that would otherwise send the barrels to landfill. The company works with 42 municipalities to offer rain barrels to constituents at an affordable rate, and helps its customers apply for rain barrel rebate programs offered in the region.
- b. RBI will host a water conservation education booth at the Marine Mammal Care Center's upcoming Seal Day event, to take place on June 25, 2017, from 11 AM – 4 PM, where the company will also take preorders for their barrels. The Marine Mammal Care Center expects to host approximately 2,000 community members at its Seal Day event.
- c. RBI would like to host a follow-up event to distribute the rain barrels that have been sold at Seal Day. RBI will host the follow-up distribution event at the Friendship Park Nature Center. Possible dates include July 1, 2, 8, and 9.
- d. RBI has asked the Northwest San Pedro Neighborhood Council for sponsorship in the form of outreach via digital media platforms. In exchange for such sponsorship, the Northwest San Pedro Neighborhood Council will host a booth at the distribution event, as well as have its logo placed on all outreach materials.
- e. Rain barrels distributed by RBI are sold at a rate of \$65 per barrel. The Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) is currently offering a rebate of \$50 per rain barrel, maximum of

- two barrels per household. Rebate is received 10-12 weeks from submitting an application. Rain barrel dimensions are 39" (height) by 23" (diameter).
- f. Committee discussed potential of hosting a second, expanded event in partnership with Rain Barrels International that would include an educational component on the day of the event. Such event would be planned in conjunction with the Youth and Outreach Committee, possibly scheduled for the month of August. Educational component would cover topics of rainwater harvesting, how to set up a rain barrel, etc. Attendees not obliged to purchase barrel if they attend the class. Attendees who do choose to purchase rain barrel(s) may do so prior to the event, or on the day of the event.
  - g. A motion was made by Darlene Zavalney and seconded by Gwen Henry. **Motion:** The Northwest San Pedro Neighborhood Council shall sponsor the rain barrel distribution event to be hosted by Rain Barrels International, the Marine Mammal Care Center, and the Friendship Park Nature Center in the month of July. Sponsorship will include outreach via neighborhood council digital media platforms, in exchange for NWSPNC logo placement on outreach materials, as well as booth presence on the day of the event. *Motion unanimously approved.*
- 4. Native plants landscaping on the San Pedro Peninsula: Discuss Gaffey Street median landscaping and possibilities for replanting species that are native to the San Pedro Peninsula. Further, can committee advocate that the city implement a landscaping policy that supports biological diversity in addition to water conservation?**
- a. Committee discussed landscaping of Gaffey Street median. Palm trees recently planted in median do not support biological diversity, as they are not species that are native specifically to the San Pedro Peninsula. Further, the palm trees look too short to allow for passage of busses and trucks. Committee discussed that the palm trees actually may have to be removed.
  - b. Committee discussed letter that requests the use of plants specifically native to the San Pedro Peninsula in all Gaffey Street landscape design. Purpose of request is to support biological diversity in addition to water conservation.
  - c. Letter amended to include information regarding an ordinance recently passed by City Council and sponsored by Coastal San Pedro Neighborhood Council. Ordinance calls for a landscaping policy that supports biological diversity.
  - d. A motion was made by Sarah Valdez and seconded by Darlene Zavalney. **Motion:** The Northwest San Pedro Neighborhood Council sponsors letter urging the city and its partners to incorporate plants specifically native to the San Pedro Peninsula in all Gaffey Street landscape designs. *Motion unanimously approved.*
- 5. Tesoro refinery expansion project: Discuss letter to Councilman Joe Buscaino, Mayor Eric Garcetti, and the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD), demanding that the SCAQMD send the Tesoro refinery expansion project's environmental impact report back to the analysis phase.**
- a. SCAQMD Executive Officer, Wayne Nastri, approved Tesoro's Los Angeles Refinery Integration and Compliance (LARIC) project on Friday, May 12, 2017.
  - b. Committee discussed letter addressed to Mr. Wayne Nastri regarding his decision to approve the LARIC project. Letter condemns the inaccurate information conveyed in the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) submitted by Tesoro, the SCAQMD agency's decision to approve such inaccurate information, and demands that the SCAQMD "use currently available scientific data to make its decisions according to the best interest of the public it is supposed to serve."
  - c. Letter amended to include reference to statements made by Senator Kevin De Leon, Congresswoman Nannette Barragán, and Mayor Eric Garcetti.
  - d. Letter amended to include further data points from SCAQMD/Swedish study, as well as data points from recently conducted public health studies.
  - e. A motion was made by Darlene Zavalney and seconded by Laurie Jacobs. **Motion:** The Northwest San Pedro Neighborhood Council sponsors letter regarding recently approved Tesoro LARIC project. *Motion unanimously approved.*
- 6. STAND: Discuss resolution and letter in support of the Stand Together Against Neighborhood Drilling (STAND) campaign, Council File # 17-0447.**
- a. Committee discussed Council File # 17-0447. Council file calls for "comprehensive analysis regarding the possible implementation of changes to the City's land use codes relative to oil and gas development."

- b. Committee discussed letter written in support of council file #17-0047, calling for implementation of a public health setback of 2,500' from all oil drilling operations in the city.
  - c. Letter amended to include mention of the Rancho LPG storage tanks located at 2110 N. Gaffey Steet in San Pedro, urging that the city apply a similar safety setback to oil and gas storage tanks as well.
  - d. A motion was made by Sarah Valdez and seconded by Gwen Henry. **Motion:** The Northwest San Pedro Neighborhood Council sponsors a resolution in support of council file #17-0047, calling for a 2,500' set back from all oil and gas operations in the city. *Motion unanimously approved.*
7. **GMO: Preliminary discussion regarding GMO grass and GMO agriculture corporations merger.**
- a. —Tabled—
8. **Adjourn**

**Next meeting: Tuesday, June 20<sup>th</sup>, 6:00-7:30 pm, at SP City Hall, Room 452**