



CITY OF HUNTINGTON BEACH

ENVIRONMENTAL BOARD

Meeting Minutes and Action Items: April 2, 2015

Chair:	Nicholson
Others Present:	Coffman, Gordon, Sheldon, Schaaf, Soriano, Gordon
Absent:	Budica
City Staff:	Hayden Beckman, Antonia Graham
Commission:	Michael Hoskinson, Dan Kalmick
Council Members:	None
Public:	Debbie Killey,
Speaker:	Joe Berg, Jennelle Bader

I. Call to Order/Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 5:34 p.m.

II. Public Comments

Speaker – Joe Berg – Presentation on the State of our Water Shortage and Implementation of Contingency Plans. Emergency regulations by the State Board. Water Use Efficiency Programs Manager, MWDOC.

Joe stated that his presentation is timely, in regards to the severe drought that we are experiencing. (Past out presentation material). Spoke about State water regulation, conserving water and ways to minimize water usage. Spoke about the 16 years of rain fall in Orange County averaging 13 ins of rain per year. Last four years we are well below normal. Water agencies are scrambling to find solutions. State water projects where we draw water from Northern California are measuring precipitation in at 8-station index location. Discuss our snow pack; a month ago was reasonable but now shows on the graphics that we have very little snow pack with our reservoirs are peaked out. Impact of water supply a must to remove turf grass in our street Medias, water continues to erode street surfaces. Cities need to take action. Actions to curb water wasting; updating water use regulations; restaurants not to give out water until requested for example. Orange County imports water, and has underground sources; Huntington Beach just completed meter reading project. Implementation of budget base tiered rate based on #of people living in a home's – wastefulness goes up or down and fines can be as much as \$10,000 a day. Joe encouraged us to read the marketing materials in our water bill that talks about rebate programs offered. Dan Kalmick asked if there might be more money available for turf grass removal which he has done for his home. Joe said it's at \$3.50 now. Joe said that other rebates are available with the use of rain barrels. Gordon asks about the pot on the top of the barrel (in the picture shown) Joe replied that this is for plants; Gordon said that Rainbow has barrels for \$10. Joe's said to check for other rebates on watersmart.com. Other cost savings would be to bring in ocean friendly landscaping; Joe said that he has contact information on ocwatersmart.com. Antonia asked about budget base tier rates and penalizing people for wasting water. Sheldon asked if there is something for residents. Identify water wasters. Joe talked about scanning the city parcel with inferred imagining. Gordon asked if there is someone from public works that can speak on this.

Disruption during meeting – another committee is scheduled for our conference room? Do we have a room to shift to? Nicholson said we have to be done by 6:30 pm

Speaker from Edison: Jennelle Bader – Presentation on the “Grassy Knoll”

Jennelle referred to the “Grass Knoll” Coffman said, “We try not to talk about it” Jennelle referred that the project was at Hamilton and Brookhurst and where the heck was Edison going to get the money? Fortunately, Edison does have a set aside fund for that project like some of the other ones in Ontario, Westminster with their bio swells and sustainable landscapes. Inviting us to their Irwindale Center for training and class at no charge. Part of nature several awards were given for it Hamilton substation, which was the brains of Aurora, they passed out plans for a sustainable landscape project with rebate of \$73,000 from MODOC to help decrease the cost of the project. Edison is one of the largest property owners and customers pay for Edison's infrastructure. Edison is breaking ground on the project and should be completed by end of June. There are planning to repurpose it but found the soil to be very sandy and a high water table at the Hamilton substation. The community helps with discussions from the Environmental Board and found both entities can work together. Jeff is donating bios wells and has his own business that does this; Surfrider Foundation's Greg Goran who teaches at Huntington Beach High School has his students involved; Surfrider will provide an Ocean Friendly Garden's plaque and also a sign that recognizes the Environmental Board and Surfrider Foundation. Jenel thanks us for bring us the project to their attention. Aurora, Edison has been using many of the ideas provided; smart controls, satellite based imaging; 3-different types of irrigations, sustainable landscaping. Aurora spoke about the controls; maintenance is cut down after they planted plants 24 inches apart which takes at least 6-months to fill-in watering once a week at the beginning then once a month there after.

Presentations are over.

Antonia brought out the final discussion of tonight's meeting: Hayden on the update of the plastic ban repeal EIR and the Bi-laws needing updates

Hayden – Monday April 20th will be the meeting by the council to discuss and prepare to draft an EIR Addendum to finalize for no formal comment action; non-public hearing and place in the papers. Sheldon, asked if there was any individual speaking because of the compressed time frame? Hayden, option to submit a comment on-line; group response. Sheldon, the short time frame to respond on the EIR because of our once a month meeting ties our hands. Antonia said that it happens! Write a letter... Sheldon, do we want a sub-committee to review? Yes, Coffman, Sheldon and Soriano will form the sub-committee to send letter to Nicholson before the due date of the hearing. Hayden said it can be before the meeting itself or on the day of the meeting.

Antonia, said that we've been operating with the bi-laws from 1993 and the 2007 bi-laws was never approved; told us to review (take a week or two) and will take to City Council in June. Also, Antonia wants to help with lining up the speakers to ease the burdens of on-time and to send speakers to her. Sheldon asked if there was a speaker for May. She will get.

Coffman asked when are we filling the open positions. Antonia, not until the bi-laws are updated.

End of meeting 6:37 pm

Sheldon moves to thank Hayden for all the work he's done. Thanks from everyone.