



Public Works Commission

Regular Meeting
PUBLIC WORKS COMMISSION
Agenda
Thursday, June 5, 2014 at 7:00 p.m.
City of Berkeley Corporation Yard, Willow Conference Room

7:00 pm CALL TO ORDER: Chair will call the meeting to order; Secretary will call roll.

7:05 pm PUBLIC COMMENT: Each speaker is limited to three (3) minutes.

7:10 pm APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Regular Meeting of May 1, 2014 *

7:15 pm CHAIR REPORT: None

7:20 pm STAFF REPORT:

1. Solano stroll preparations and City booth
2. Report on status of Allston Street project
3. Report on EV pilot project actions at May 20 City Council meeting

7:30 pm PRESENTATION: Permeable Pavers by Paul Hathaway, Pacific Interlock Pavingstone

7:45 pm ACTION ITEMS: (Matters for discussion and possible action)

1. Water conservation sub-committee will report on their draft response to City Council and vote on their recommendations.*

8:15 pm INFORMATION ITEMS: (Action may be taken on any information item at this meeting if a majority of Commissioners votes to move it to an action item. This vote may take place at or before the time the item is scheduled to come up).

1. Report on job walk with Nichols Engineering on May 23
2. Report on June 3 City Council agenda on the 5 year paving plan
3. Sacramento Street garden
4. Approaches to stormwater catchment
5. Public outreach sub-committee report

9:20 pm FUTURE AGENDAS:

1. Transportation grants

9:30 pm ADJOURNMENT

* Indicates written material included in packet.

** Indicates material to be delivered at meeting.

A complete agenda packet is available for public review at the Engineering Division front desk.

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SB 343 Disclaimer:

Any writings or documents provided to a majority of the Commission regarding any item on this agenda will be made available for public inspection at the Public Works Department located at the address below.

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Acting Commission Secretary:

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Public Works Commission

**Regular Meeting
PUBLIC WORKS COMMISSION
Minutes
Thursday, May 1, 2014
1326 Allston Way, Ratcliff Building**

CALL TO ORDER: 7:05 PM

Present: Henry, Kelley, Neal, Schueler, Swift, Yep

Absent: Abramson

Leave of absence:

Staff: Sean Rose (Acting PWC Secretary)

PUBLIC COMMENT: No members of the public were present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The minutes of the Regular Meeting of April 3, 2014 were approved without amendment. (MSC Swift/Neal, with a vote of 6-0-0)

CHAIR REPORT: None

STAFF REPORT: None.

PRESENTATION: Richard Harris, Director of Water Conservation at EBMUD, gave a presentation on water conservation measures EBMUD is taking in response to the drought. Mr. Harris also discussed some of the things EBMUD is working on with the City of Berkeley.

ACTION ITEMS:

1. **Review of the Updated 5-Year Paving Plan:** The Measure M and Paving Subcommittee (Yep, Swift, Henry) provided the Commission with a summary of the subcommittee meeting held with City staff on April 24, 2014 to review the City's proposed update to the 5-Year Paving Plan. Per the Commission's request, staff revised the 2016 plan to consider cul-de-sacs and other streets adjacent to streets being paved. The Commission passed the following motions:

“The PWC recommends approval to the City Council of the 2015 paving plan as proposed by staff, and the proposed 2016 Woolsey Street Green Infrastructure Project. The Measure M and Paving Subcommittee is empowered to update the recommendation to Council.” (MSC Kelly/Henry, 6-0-0)

“The PWC wants to review the 2016 paving plan as soon as possible to bring the 2016 plan to Council in November 2014.” (MSC Schueler/Neal, 6-0-0)

2. **Water Conservation Referral:** The PWC delegated the water conservation referral from City Council to Commissioner Swift. She will draft a response to Council for PWC review at the June 3, 2014 meeting.

INFORMATION ITEMS:

The following information items were discussed:

1. Grant update – EPA Water Quality Improvement Fund (Rose)
2. Rainwater harvesting conference call (Swift)
3. Sidewalk Policy Update (Rose)

FUTURE AGENDA TOPICS:

1. Sacramento Street median garden
2. Water harvesting

ADJOURNMENT: 10:05 pm



Public Works Commission

CONSENT CALENDAR

July 8, 2014

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
From: Public Works Commission
Community Environmental Advisory Commission
Submitted by: Ray Yep, Chair PWC, and Max Gomberg, Chair CEAC
Subject: City of Berkeley Water Conservation Measures

RECOMMENDATION

Direct the Public Works Department to establish a long-term water conservation plan according to principles set out herein, with immediate goal to reduce municipal water use by 20% from 2012-2013 levels within 12 months, to move toward EBMUD WaterSmart Certification for all facilities, and to replace lawns not used for recreation with mulch until appropriate low-impact development measures or drought-tolerant plantings can be established.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

Uncertain. Expect cost savings on reduced water use, but initial increased cost for conservation planning and repurposing landscaping.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

California is in a severe drought. Based on climate data and projections we expect more frequent and more severe droughts than we've seen since the 1500s¹. What are our alternatives? One of the least expensive and most practical alternatives for increasing available water supply is conservation. Initiating a program of water conservation will establish practices on which we will need to rely increasingly into the future.

Water conservation should not be considered a stop-gap measure, to be done just until we get more rainfall. Rather, ongoing wise use of existing supply will be needed into the future for both fiscal and quality of life reasons, to maintain a pleasant urban environment, sustain human health, and sustain other essential uses.

BACKGROUND

In 2013 residents, businesses, and government in the City of Berkeley used a total of 4.1 billion gallons of water, with residential uses consuming the largest share. Consumption was less than the 2006-2007 water year when we used 4.4 billion gallons, as seen in the following table.

¹ See National Climate Assessment's analysis of water supply in the Western US: <http://nca2014.globalchange.gov/>, accessed May 30, 2014.

	Water Use (million gal/yr)	
	2013	2006-2007
Residential	2,359	2,460
Non-residential	1,671	1,870
Municipal	83*	106
TOTAL	4,112*	4,436

*estimated

Although the municipal sector of the City of Berkeley uses only about 2% of the total water consumed in the City, every resident should do his or her part to cut back on water use. We believe the City of Berkeley should lead the conservation effort by example, so others may observe these new practices and be encouraged to follow them.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR MUNICIPAL WATER CONSERVATION

In a February 28, 2014 document to Council, the City Manager provided information on the City's current drought response and water conservation measures². Although the steps taken to date are excellent, the Public Works and Community Environmental Advisory Commissions recommend that we establish a longer term and more aggressive water conservation plan.

Establish Accountability: A point person, such as the Public Works Director, should be tasked with the goals and execution of water conservation actions, with metrics based on the water budgets and progress toward them. The point person will need to coordinate with other departments, such as Parks and Waterfront.

Build a Baseline: The Public Works Department needs to build a baseline, i.e. determine our historic water use and cost, facility by facility, for all of the City of Berkeley's water use. Historic data can be supplied by EBMUD.

Build a Water Budget: Next we need to build a water budget for each facility and/or account based on a schedule of measures to reduce water use, including cost-benefit analysis.

Key water uses and some excellent conservation measures are set out in detail in EBMUD's WaterSmart Guidebook available online at <http://www.ebmud.com/customers/conservation-rebates-and-services/commercial/watersmart-guidebook>. Key water uses applicable to Berkeley municipal use are landscape – to be coordinated with Parks and Waterfront – domestic and restroom, heating and cooling. Examples of key conservation strategies include finding and repairing leaks, landscape conversion (especially replacing lawns), and installation of increasingly efficient hardware (toilets, showerheads, and faucets).

Set Immediate Goals: The PWC and CEAC recommend the following immediate goals:

² City Manager February 28, 2014 memo to Council
www.cityofberkeley.info/uploadedFiles/Clerk/Level_3_-_General/Drought%20Response%20022814.pdf

- Cut municipal water use by at least 20% in our first year.
- Establish a plan toward having all City facilities obtain EBMUD WaterSmart certification. See information at <http://www.ebmud.com/for-customers/for-commercial-customers/watersmart-business-certification-program>.
- Identify lawns on City properties, such as boulevard medians, that could be replaced by mulch with the goal to modify with LID or replant with drought tolerant plantings in the future. Begin replacing lawns this year.

To monitor progress, PWC and CEAC recommend that Public Works report back to Council on progress by December 2014. The report should include goals for continued reductions as part of the on-going plan, with metrics to mark progress.

Use EBMUD Support Services: EBMUD has an array of services, rebates and ideas for conservation. The EBMUD Water Conservation Master Plan: 2011 provides a review and is available at: www.ebmud.com/sites/default/files/pdfs/EBMUD_WCMP%202011.pdf.

For information on EBMUD services contact: Richard Harris, EBMUD Manager of Water Conservation, email: rharris@ebmud.com, phone: 510-287-1675.

Education and Outreach: As shown in the table on page 2, residential and non-residential users account for most water use. To modify behaviors of all of us we need to expand our education and outreach concerning water conservation. Education materials are available but need to be compiled for use in outreach meetings. These meetings could be sponsored by the Commissions, as we did with Measure M, or by City Councilmembers within their districts, to name two possibilities.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

Reducing water use would improve our sustainability especially in adapting to climate change.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

Given the current severe drought and possibility of sustained drought, conservation measures are required.

ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS CONSIDERED

None.

CITY MANAGER

The City Manager [TYPE ONE] concurs with / takes no position on the content and recommendations of the Commission's Report. [OR] Refer to the budget process.

CONTACT PERSON

Ray Yep, Chair, Public Works Commission
Max Gomberg, Chair, Community Environmental Advisory Commission
Sean Rose, Secretary, Public Works Commission, 981-6435