



Wednesday, February 2, 2022
6:30 P.M.
via Zoom

REVISED

**AGENDA
REGULAR MEETING
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION**

Commissioners:

Angela Isaiah-Payne
Freeman Watkins
Hourie Taylor
Lillian Hopson
Nadine Gills-Ward
Rick Pulido (**Chair**)
William Koons (**Vice Chair**)
Vacant
Vacant

Alternates:

Eleanor Mack, Alt 1
Celia Villalpando, Alt 2
Rudolfo "Val" Brillantes, Alt 3

Staff:

Eliza Jane Whitman, PE, LEED AP, ENV SP Director of Public Works
Jessica Coria, Senior Clerk
Reata Kulcsar, Sustainability Administrator - Utilities

"In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, if you require a disability related modification or accommodation to attend or participate in this meeting, including auxiliary aids or services, please call the Public Works Department office at 310-952-1700 ext. 1823 at least 48 hours prior to the meeting."
(Government Code Section 54954.2)

PUBLIC INFORMATION

SPECIAL NOTICE: DUE TO CORONA VIRUS COVID-19, NO MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WILL BE ALLOWED INTO CITY HALL DURING THE ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING. THE MEETING WILL BE CONDUCTED VIA REMOTE TELECONFERENCING USING THE ELECTRONIC "ZOOM" APPLICATION.

Join Zoom Meeting:
<https://zoom.us/j/5219151079>

Meeting ID: 521 915 1079

One tap mobile

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Meeting ID: 521 915 1079

Find your local number: <https://zoom.us/j/5219151079>

Any members of the public wishing to provide public comment for the item(s) on the agenda may do so as follows:

1. Live via Zoom Application. Members of the public wishing to provide public comment in real-time can join the Zoom meeting remotely to provide their public comment live with their audio/video presented to the Environmental Commission. Members of the public wishing to do so should email jcoria@carsonca.gov, providing their real name and the phone number they will use to call in from, no later than 6:00 p.m. on the date of the meeting. For further details/requirements and meeting invite information, please email jcoria@carsonca.gov no later than 6:00 p.m. on the date of the meeting.
2. Email: You can email comments to jcoria@carsonca.gov no later than 3:00 p.m. before the meeting. Please identify the Agenda item you wish to address in your comments. Written public comments received will not be read aloud and will be circulated to the Environmental Commissioners and incorporated into the record.
3. Telephone: You can provide real-time public comment by calling 1-669-900-6833, entering the **Meeting ID: 521 915 1079** on the date of the meeting up until the time that the applicable public comment period (generally during the portion of the agenda entitled "Oral Communications") concludes. While participating, please state your name and identify the agenda item you wish to address in your comments.

- I. CALL TO ORDER
- II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
- III. ROLL CALL
- IV. INTRODUCTIONS/PRESENTATIONS
- V. PUBLIC ORAL COMMUNICATIONS ON AGENDA ITEMS

The public may address the Commission on any matters within the jurisdiction of the Carson Environmental Commission or on any items on the agenda of the Carson Environmental Commission, prior to any action taken on the agenda. Speakers are limited to no more than three minutes, speaking once. Oral communications will be limited to one (1) hour unless extended by order of the Chair with the approval of the Environmental Commission.

VI. CONSENT CALENDAR

1. Approval of Minutes for December 1, 2021

VII. CONTINUED/UNFINISHED BUSINESS

2. Nominate and Elect Members to Serve as Chair and Vice Chair
3. Brown Act Training
 - a. Topic: Serial / Extra Meeting Communications

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

IX. PUBLIC ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FOR MATTERS NOT LISTED ON THE AGENDA

The public may at this time address the members of the Environmental Commission on any matters within the jurisdiction of the Environmental Commission. No action may be taken on non-agendized items except as authorized by law. Speakers are requested to limit their comments to no more than three minutes each, speaking once.

X. COMMISSION MEMBERS REQUESTS TO ADD ITEMS TO FUTURE AGENDAS

XI. COMMISSION MEMBERS ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

XII. STAFF ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

Upcoming Meetings:

March 2, 2022

April 6, 2022

May 4, 2022

This Board/Commission/Committee is subject to the Ralph M. Brown Act. Among other things, the Brown Act requires that the Board/Commission/Committees agenda be posted at least 72 hours in advance of each meeting and that the public be allowed to comment on agenda items before the Board/ Commission/ Committee and items not on the Board/Commission/Committee agenda but are within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Board/ Commission/ Committee. The Board/Commission/Committee may limit public comments to a reasonable amount of time, generally three (3) minutes per person.

ITEM NO. 1

CITY OF CARSON

MINUTES
DECEMBER 1, 2021
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

AGENDA POSTING: November 24, 2021

Given the emergency declaration through the State related to COVID-19 this meeting is being held pursuant through zoom application. Members of the public wishing to provide public input may do so in real time, via the zoom meeting link that is provided in the agenda packet. They may also email comments and may provide real time public comments by calling the number that is listed in the agenda packet. In accordance with the Brown Act, as amended on January 1, 1987, a copy of the Agenda Face Sheet for this meeting was posted in five (5) public places throughout the City designated for the posting of such notices seventy-two (72) hours prior to this meeting.

CALL TO ORDER: Vice Chair – William Koons called to order the meeting of the Environmental Commission Meeting to start recording via zoom at 6:38 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Vice Chair – William Koons

ROLL CALL: Recording Secretary Coria noted the following:

Present: Commissioners Koons, Hopson, Isiah-Payne, Taylor, Watkins, and Alternates Mack, Villalpando

Absent: Commissioners Gills-Ward and Alternate Brillantes

Also Present: Public Works Director Whitman, Sustainability Administrator – Utilities Kulcsar and Recording Secretary Coria

INTRODUCTIONS/ PRESENTATIONS:

- a. Introduction of alternate Villalpando

NOTE:

Due the interest of time, the agenda was done out of order as follows:

VIII. NEW BUSINESS:

5. PRESENTATION AND TRAINING ON THE BROWN ACT

City Attorney gave a presentation but due to time this item was moved to a future meeting date. Commissioner Koons asked if we can double check what the majority entails such as vacancies included in the majority or not.

V. PUBLIC ORAL COMMUNICATIONS ON AGENDA ITEMS:

Resident Ana Meni wants the commission to investigate the Dominguez Channel and Inland Star along with having a staff report that addresses both. Resident Yvette states that there is still something in the air due to the Dominguez Channel and wants City Council to step up and investigate more and not rely on LA County.

VII. NEW BUSINESS:

6(a). STAFF WILL PROVIDE AN ORAL UPDATE ON THE DOMINGUEZ CHANNEL AND INLAND STAR

Director Eliza Jane provide a brief update on this issue. City. Vice Chair Koons comments on what residents are experiencing when returning to their homes from the hotel. Alternate Villalpando addresses that there is still something in the air and it needs to be addressed. Commissioner Isaiah-Payne wants to work with the other commissioners in looking into trying to help residents and with mental health with the impacts of the Dominguez Channel.

ACTION: Vice Chair Koons motions staff to draft a form of communication to Council to express the commissions concerns on the status on the channel and the long-term County plan. The drafted letter is to be reviewed by the three (3) commissioners, Koons, Villalpando, and Isaiah-Payne. Seconded by Alternate Villalpando. It was approved and carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Koons, Taylor, Isiah-Payne, Mack, Gills-Ward, and Villalpando

Noes: None

Abstain: Hopson, Watkins

ACTION: Vice Chair Koons motions to split item 6 into items 6(a) and 6(b) and hear 6 (b) later in the agenda. Seconded by commissioner Taylor. It was approved and carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Hopson, Koons, Taylor, Isiah-Payne, Mack, Gills-Ward

Noes: Villalpando

Abstain: Watkins

Public Comments:

Resident Imelda Perez comments on there was no real update on what is going on the Dominguez Channel.

VI. CONSENT CALNEDAR

- 1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR OCTOBER 28, 2021**
- 2. RECEIVE AND FILE – ARTICLE FROM THE LA TIMES TITLED, “POOR NEIGHBORHOODS BEAR THE BRUNT OF EXTREME HEAT.”**

3. RECEIVE AND FILE – PRESS RELEASE, “SOUTH COAST AQMD GOVERNING BOARD ADOPTS RULES TO REDUCE POLLUTION FROM REFINERIES BY NEARLY 8 TONS PER DAY, ROTECT COMMUNITIES.”

ACTION: Vice Chair Koons motions to table all three items to next meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Taylor. It was approved and carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Hopson, Koons, Taylor, Isiah-Payne, Mack, Villalpando
Noes: None
Abstain: Watkins

VII. CONTINUED/ UNFINISHED BUSINESS

4. CONTINUE TO DISCUSS WORK PLAN FOR FISCAL YEAR 2021-2022

ACTION: Vice Chair Koons motions to continue to next meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Taylor. It was approved and carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Hopson, Koons, Taylor, Isiah-Payne, Mack, Villalpando
Noes: None
Abstain: Watkins

VII. NEW BUSINESS:

6(b). STAFF WILL PROVIDE AN ORAL UPDATE ON INLAND STAR

Staff member Kulcsar provided an update on this item. Staff shared that the previous commissioners were provided documents such as an inspection report and a formal response from the Director of Community Development in March 2020. Staff stated that they would work with the City Attorney’s Office and the Community Development Director to arrange for an update or presentation on this item in the future when they are available.

7. DISCUSSION ON COMMISSION’S MEETING SCHEDULE – JANUARY 5, 2022

Commissioners and alternates were roll called to see if they available to meet for the January 5th commission meeting which the majority are.

IX. PUBLIC ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FOR MATTERS NOT LISTED ON THE AGENDA

Resident Yvette spoke about the meeting and thanked staff. Commissioner Isiah-Payne spoke and apologized. Resident Ana Meni spoke and wants to know why the commission was given to Public Works and did not stay with the Planning Department. Also, states that there should be more training about the Brown Act, about being apologized to, and thanked staff.

X. COMMISSION MEMBERS ORAL COMMUNICATION:

Alternate Villalpando thanks the residents who have voiced their concerns. Commissioner Isiah-Payne thanks commission and staff. Commissioner Koons wants to plant new trees and wants staff member Gregory MacDonald to speak on planting trees and getting grants.

STAFF ORAL COMMUNICATION:

None.

ADJOURNMENT:

At 9:09 p.m., the meeting was formally adjourned to the next regular meeting to be held on the 5th day of January 2022, at the hour of 6:30 p.m., via zoom.

CHAIRPERSON

ATTEST:

RECORDING SECRETARY

ITEM NO. 2

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION STAFF REPORT

February 2, 2022

TO: ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

**FROM: ELIZA JANE WHITMAN, PE, LEED AP, ENV SP
DIRECTOR, PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT**

**BY: REATA KULCSAR, SUSTAINABILITY
ADMINISTRATOR – UTILITIES**

SUBJECT: ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

I. SUMMARY

The Commission will nominate and elect a Chair and Vice-Chair to serve for the balance of this year. Most recently, Commissioner Pulido served as Chair and Commissioner Koons serves as Vice-Chair.

II. RECOMMENDATION

To nominate and elect members to serve as Chair and Vice Chair.

III. ALTERNATIVES

Postpone the election to a future meeting.

IV. BACKGROUND

The election of Chair and Vice-Chair is governed by the City Charter Article 6, Section 603. Chairs; Meetings; Staff; Rules, which states, "As soon as practicable, following the first day of every calendar year, or such other time as may be designated by resolution of the city council, the members of each advisory board, committee or commission shall appoint a member to serve as chair and/or as vice-chair(s) of such board, committee or commission..." The past Chair will ask for nominations for the position of Chair. Any member may nominate another to serve. Once a member has been nominated for Chair, the Commission will vote. If a majority of members approve, that member will be deemed Chair. The process will then repeat for the election of Vice-Chair.

The Chair and Vice-Chair will serve in the role for the balance of the calendar year.

Upon the conclusion of the election process for Chair and Vice-Chair, the person elected Chair will take over as president of the meeting.

V. FISCAL IMPACT

None.

VI. EXHIBITS

None.

ITEM NO. 3

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
STAFF REPORT

February 2, 2022

TO: ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

FROM: LONA N. LAYMON, CITY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

SUBJECT: BROWN ACT TRAINING - SERIAL / EXTRA MEETING
COMMUNICATIONS

RECOMMENDATION

Receive and File.

ATTACHMENT

1. Presentation

What is the Brown Act?

“All meetings of the legislative body of a local agency shall be open and public, and all persons shall be permitted to attend any meeting of the legislative body of a local agency.”
(Gov. Code § 54953.)



All City Business Must be Conducted at Open Meetings

- The Brown Act requires all meetings of legislative bodies and advisory bodies to be open and public, including meetings of the Council / City Commissions / any committee bodies
- A majority of the Council or Commission Members may not consult outside a City-convened meeting
- Key concept: what constitutes a meeting
 - Example: Serial communications
- Exceptions for certain kinds of events
 - Meetings of an individual councilmember with staff
 - As long as a majority does not consult among themselves

What is a Meeting?

- Definition: "Meeting" includes any gathering of a *majority* of the members of a legislative body to *hear, discuss, or deliberate* upon any item which is within *its subject matter jurisdiction*.



What is a Meeting?

- Means of Communication: A meeting includes *any use of direct communication, personal intermediaries, or technological devices* which are employed by a *majority* of the members of the legislative body *to develop a collective concurrence* on action to be taken by members of the legislative body. (Gov. Code § 54952.2)

Serial Meetings

- Meetings take place if quorum receives information on, discusses, or deliberates on any item on which the body may legally act.
 - ❖ Daisy-chain
 - ❖ Hub-and-spoke
- Ways of creating a serial meeting
 - ❖ Traditionally - in-person, telephone, letters
 - ❖ Today - emails, text messages, social media

Open Meeting Requirement & Social Media (AB 992)

- A councilmember or commission member **may not respond directly** to any communication posted or shared by another member regarding agency business on social media.
- This includes likes, emojis, sharing, or commenting
- Social media is any online platform that “is open and accessible to the public.” Includes traditional social media sites such as Facebook, Twitter, or Instagram, but also smaller forums such as a discussion section on a news website.

