



Wednesday, May 4, 2022
6:30 P.M.
via Zoom

**AGENDA
REGULAR MEETING
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION**

Commissioners:

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

Alternates:

Vacant, Alt 1
Celia Villalpando, Alt 2
Vacant, Alt 3

Staff:

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

Lona Laymon, Deputy City Attorney

***“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://us06web.zoom.us/j/5219151079>

Meeting ID: 521 915 1079

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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. ROLL CALL

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

IV. INTRODUCTIONS/PRESENTATIONS

- a. New Environmental Commission Member, Breana Fonteno

V. PUBLIC ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

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 April 6, 2022

VII. CONTINUED/UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

2. Discussion on Fireworks
 - a. Recommend that the City Council consider additional measures to deter illegal fireworks in the City of Carson.
3. California Fair Political Practices Commission - AB 1234 - Ethics Training for Local Officials
 - a. Recommend that the Commissioners take the free online course and submit their Certification of Completion.

IX. COMMISSION MEMBERS REQUESTS TO ADD ITEMS TO FUTURE AGENDAS

X. COMMISSION MEMBERS ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

XI. STAFF ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

XII. ADJOURNMENT

Upcoming Meetings:

June 1, 2022

July 6, 2022

August 3, 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.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 1

MINUTES
APRIL 6, 2022
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

AGENDA POSTING: March 30, 2022

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: Chair – Hourie Taylor called to order the meeting of the Environmental Commission Meeting at 6:33 PM

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Chair – Hourie Taylor

ROLL CALL: Recording Secretary Coria noted the following:

Present: Commissioners Koons, Hopson, Taylor, Pulido, Watkins, Love, Gills-Ward, Isiah-Payne and Alternate Villalpando and Brillantes

Absent: None

Also Present: Public Works Director Whitman, Sustainability Administrator – Utilities Kulcsar and Recording Secretary Coria Deputy City Attorney – Lona Laymon

INTRODUCTIONS/ PRESENTATIONS:

1. New Environmental Commission Member, Roye Love

PLEASE SEE BELOW NEW BUSINESS ITEM #3, IT WAS MOTIONED AND PASSED TO MOVE BEFORE PUBLIC ORAL COMMUNICATION.

PUBLIC ORAL COMMUNICATIONS ON AGENDA ITEMS:

Email was sent by a resident, Miss Miller regarding the Dominguez Channel, and was read out loud by Recording Secretary Coria. Commissioners express that this matter should be answered by City Council because it is a closed session issue.

CONSENT CALENDAR:

1. Approval of minutes for March 2, 2022

Commissioner Pulido comments that Director Eliza Jane's comments are not in the minutes. Eliza Jane states she doesn't recall making any comments during the last meeting and other Commissioners agree.

Commissioner Gillis-Ward motions to approve the minutes. Commissioner Isiah-Payne seconded the motion.

AYES: Koons, Hopson, Taylor, Watkins, Gills-Ward, Isiah-Payne, Villalpando

NOES: Pulido

ABSTAIN: Love

CONTINUED/ UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

2. Continue Discussion on the Priority List & Finalize

Staff member Kulcsar provided a presentation about the priority list and the Commissioners discussed the list and provided input.

Chair Taylor motions to take out Robert's Rule of Order in the top 6 items and replace it with tree planting/beautification. The final priority list is: (1) Update on oil refineries, trash companies, and other companies that may be polluting, (2) Fireworks, (3) Local and regional water efforts, (4) Assessing truck routes, truck idling, enforcement, and impacts, (5) Long-term plans for the Dominguez Channel, and (6) Increase tree planting to help with climate change and beautification.

Commissioner Koons seconds motion,

AYES: Koons, Hopson, Taylor, Pulido, Watkins, Gills-Ward, Isiah-Payne, Love, Villalpando

NOES:

ABSTAIN:

NEW BUSINESS:

3. Presentation and Discussion about Fireworks

a. Carson Sheriff Department

b. Carson Public Safety – Zak Gonzalez

Chair Taylor made a motion to move this item up before Public Oral Communication.

Commissioner Isiah-Payne seconds motion

AYES: Koons, Hopson, Taylor, Pulido, Watkins, Love, Gills-Ward, Isiah-Payne, Villalpando

NOES:

ABSTAIN:

Emergency services staff Zak Gonzalez asks the Commissioners about their firework concerns. The Commissioners ask the following questions: What is the Sheriff's Department doing to prevent illegal fireworks being on the street? Are there steps being taken prior to the 4th of July? Are block parties being regulated for illegal fireworks? How much illegal fireworks were confiscated? Can illegal fireworks fines be increase? Do you know the environmental impact regarding air quality during the 4th of July? What is the best way to get in contact to report illegal fireworks? How successful has the City been with prosecution?

The representatives for the Sheriff's Department discuss their action plan on how they confiscate illegal fireworks. 2,000lbs of fireworks were confiscated last year and they anticipate that same amount this year. Zak Gonzalez recommends getting in contact with AQMD when it comes to air quality concerns about fireworks. It is recommended to call the station when fireworks are released on non – 4th of July days. For detailed investigation, the public can contact a special operations supervisor. Alternate Villalpando shares an experience where illegal fireworks were being used in her neighborhood and wants staff to pull the letter that was submitted to council from the previous commission. Staff member Kulcsar goes over the fines that the City currently has and will send a copy of the letter to the Commissioners. Commissioner Pulido recommends submitting a new letter to raise the fines for the fireworks. Commissioner Love wants to know how many tickets have been issued and how many people have been prosecuted for fireworks. Commissioner Pulido wants to ask for overtime for the sheriffs, double the fines, and recirculate the fireworks letter that was sent in 2019 to council and update.

Commissioners thank the presenters for the presentation and excuse the presenters.

Commissioner Pulido motions to bring this item with recommendations to the next commission meeting. Commissioner Isiah-Payne seconds motion.

AYES: Koons, Hopson, Taylor, Pulido, Watkins, Gills-Ward, Love, Isiah-Payne, Villalpando

NOES:

ABSTAIN:

4. Brown Act Presentation about Fair Process and Laws Avoiding Bias by Lona Laymon

COMMISSION MEMBERS REQUESTS TO ADD ITEMS TO FUTURE AGENDAS:

Commissioner Koons wants to be put on the agenda on what is on the priority list and starting with the tree planting and truck routes. Commissioner Pulido wants a report from the CRA about the remediation for the 157 acre lot and a site visit. Chair Taylor recommends to put on the agenda fireworks, the 157 acre lot, and an update on the Dominguez Channel. Commissioner Pulido does a sub-motion to add CRA update to the agenda. Alternate Villalpando recommends educating the community of the Dominguez Channel. Commissioners Isiah-Payne and Gillis-ward feel that that information should come from Council and not the commission.

COMMISSION MEMBERS ORAL COMMUNICATION:

Commissioner Pulido makes an announcement for a fundraiser.

STAFF ORAL COMMUNICATIONS:

Staff Kulcsar shares the City's Earth Day Event flyer.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further discussion, on a motion by Chair Taylor and seconded by Vice Chair Hopson, the meeting was adjourned at 8:58 p.m. to the next regular meeting to be held on the 4th day of May 2022, at the hour of 6:30 p.m., via zoom.

CHAIRPERSON

ATTEST:

RECORDING SECRETARY

DRAFT

AGENDA ITEM NO. 2

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION STAFF REPORT

April 6, 2022

TO: ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

FROM: REATA KULCSAR, SUSTAINABILITY ADMINISTRATOR – UTILITIES

SUBJECT: DISCUSSION ON FIREWORKS

On April 6, 2022, the Environmental Commission (EC) listened to a presentation from the Carson Sheriff's Department and from the City's Acting Emergency Services Manager about fireworks. At the request of the EC, a copy of a letter dated May 2, 2019 about eliminating the City's Safe and Sane Firework Program, was emailed to the EC to review and comment. Staff received comments from one commissioner requesting to increase fines, add educational requirements, increase the budget for enforcement, enhance data collection and analysis, invest in air quality monitoring, and increase the City's communication efforts in advance of the July 4th holiday. A draft letter is attached for review and discussion.

RECOMMENDATION

To recommend that the City Council consider additional measures to deter illegal fireworks in the City of Carson.

ALTERNATIVES

Take another action that the Commission deems appropriate.

ATTACHMENT

1. Draft Letter



May 4, 2022

City of Carson City Council
701 E. Carson Street
Carson, CA 90745

SUBJECT: ADDITIONAL MEASURES TO DETER ILLEGAL FIREWORKS IN THE CITY OF CARSON

Dear Honorable City Council:

The members of the Environmental Commission have identified fireworks as one of their top priority items for the 2022 calendar year. On April 6, 2022, the Commission listened to a presentation from the Carson Sheriff's Department and from the City's Acting Emergency Services Manager about fireworks and steps they were taking to combat illegal fireworks. On May 4, 2022, the Commission met to discuss the increase in the amount of illegal fireworks activity, impacts of illegal fireworks, and additional steps the City should take to prevent the sale and use of illegal fireworks in Carson. There is a negative impact on the public health, safety, and general welfare of the City's residents.

Safety and Fire Danger - Per CAL FIRE, California continues to experience longer wildfire seasons as a direct result of Climate Change. Extended dryness originating from January is expected to continue into the Spring with little precipitation leaving most of the state in moderate to extreme drought conditions prior to Summer. These continued dry conditions with above normal temperatures through Spring will leave fuel moisture levels lower than normal increasing the potential for wildland fire activity.

Health - In general, an increased number of residents suffer from respiratory ailments such as asthma. Residents also remain indoors to avoid negative impacts from the saturation of noxious smoke from burning fireworks that dissipates slowly and lingers for hours. Veterans who have PTSD may also be adversely affected.

Noise - The sale and use of fireworks typically occurs before the 4th of July, peak on the holiday, and continue for weeks afterward. Fireworks are set-off in the morning and through the night. The loud noise adversely affects the community particularly our senior residents, small children, and pets. Family pets are traumatized by the loud sounds and some runaway and become lost. Animal shelters become full, and many animals are euthanized because of overcrowded conditions during this season.

Improper Disposal - Fireworks are disposed of improperly. Fireworks material/debris is left in the street or ends up in storm drains resulting in contaminants in the ocean.

Given the concerns listed above, the Commission recommends that the City Council consider one or more of the following measures to prevent the use and sale of illegal fireworks and ensure the safe use and disposal of legal fireworks.

- Increase penalties/fines, if possible, for all offenses.
- Increase the enforcement budget and create dedicated task forces.
- Invest in air quality monitors to measure and track the quality of the air before, during, and after the holiday.
- Enhance data collection and analysis (number of citations issued, amount collected from citations, convictions, quantity of illegal fireworks confiscated, number of complaints, location of complaints, reported fires, reported injuries, etc.)
- Develop educational marketing material that can be shared with neighborhood block captains, schools, places of worship, and on the City’s social media channels to educate and inform the community about firework safety, fines, and the dangers of illegal fireworks.

We respectfully ask the City Council to consider one or more of these measures in advance of the July 4th holiday. We look forward to your response and appreciate your time and attention.

Best Regards,

The City of Carson’s Environmental Commission

Commissioners’ Vote from May 4, 2022:

Commissioner	Vote	
	Aye	No
Isaiah-Payne		
Fonteno		
Watkins		
Taylor (Chair)		
Hopson (Vice Chair)		
Gills-Ward		
Pulido		
Love		
Koons		
Villalpando, Alt 2		

AGENDA ITEM NO. 3

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION STAFF REPORT

May 4, 2022

TO: ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

FROM: LONA N. LAYMON, DEPUTY CITY ATTORNEY

SUBJECT: CALIFORNIA FAIR POLITICAL PRACTICES COMMISSION - AB 1234 - ETHICS TRAINING FOR LOCAL OFFICIALS

Many public officials (including appointed commissioners) are required to periodically take an ethics training course to educate them on general ethics principles, as well as specific laws related to conflicts of interests, receiving gifts and honoraria, and government transparency. Commonly known as AB 1234, the basic thrust of this law is to require covered officials to take *two hours of training in ethics principles and laws every two years*. Each commissioner must complete their first training within one year of taking office.

There are several resources to help local officials comply with AB 1234. Links to the California Fair Political Practices Commission (FPPC) website and free training course are below:

Link to California FPPC website:

<https://www.fppc.ca.gov/learn/public-officials-and-employees-rules-/ethics-training.html>

Link to AB 1234 Local Ethics Training for Local Officials:

<https://localethics.fppc.ca.gov/login.aspx>

RECOMMENDATION

Recommend that the Commissioners take the free online course and submit their Certification of Completion. When the training is finished, *you must print the Certification of Completion provided at the end*; please provide a copy of the Certification to the City Clerk's Office.

ATTACHMENT

None

FUTURE ITEM LIST

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION ITEMS TO ADD FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

- Update on the Dominguez Channel (Resources and educational efforts)
- Update on the CRA / 157 acre site and tour, if possible.
- Presentation from Harold Williams, West Basin Municipal Water district
- City-wide tree update
- Truck queuing/parking on Lomita
- Invite local environmental groups to present about their top issues