



The City of San Diego

Staff Report

DATE ISSUED: 7/9/2019  
TO: City Council  
FROM: Office of Councilmember Jennifer Campbell,  
District 2  
SUBJECT: Creation of an Environment Advisory Board

Primary Contact: Jordan Beane

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Council District(s): Citywide

OVERVIEW:

For years, the City of San Diego's environmentally-focused boards have had a narrow purview to help guide the City. The advice and input provided by the Community Forest, Sustainable Energy, and Wetlands Advisory Boards have been invaluable. New challenges with implementing and monitoring the city-wide climate action plan, advising the new Sustainability Department, monitoring resilience planning at a high level requires a board dedicated to evaluating environmental issues in a holistic manner. Such consolidated efforts were recommended in a recent audit of Boards and Commissions and meet the Office of Boards and Commissions tactical plan to increase efficiencies in volunteer and staff time, while enabling subject matter experts to weigh in on policy direction. The creation of an Environment Advisory Board that will cover a broader scope and will be tasked to participate in the decision-making process of policy updates to the Climate Action Plan and advise the Mayor and Council on all issues related to environment.

PROPOSED ACTIONS:

Introduce an ordinance amending the San Diego Municipal Code to add sections that establish the Environment Advisory Board and to repeal sections that established the Community Forest Advisory Board, the Sustainable Energy Advisory Board and the Wetlands Advisory Board.

DISCUSSION OF ITEM:

The City currently has three separate boards advising on environmental and sustainable issues. They include the Community Forest Advisory Board, the Sustainable Energy Advisory Board and the Wetlands Advisory Board with 15, 11 and 9 appointed volunteer members, respectively. The goal of the new Environment Advisory Board is to combine the functions of these three boards while adding additional oversight opportunities to create a true overarching environmental advisory board that will provide

strategies and suggestions for a cleaner and greener San Diego. Recommendations and policies from the new board include, but are not limited to:

- Assistance in updating the Climate Action Plan
- Municipal code review
- Policy change recommendations

### *Advisory Capacity*

The Environment Advisory Board shall advise the Mayor and Council on policies and projects that help the City lower its greenhouse gas emissions, protect open space and wetlands and support our tree canopy.

The Board shall advise the Mayor and Council on the implementation of the City's Climate Action Plan and future climate resiliency plan.

The Board will advise on ways City departments can coordinate with stakeholder groups and other government agencies on policies and projects related to sustainability in the city.

The Board will provide the Mayor and Council with information on other city's best practices related to environmental policy.

The Board will advise the Mayor and Council on policies that encourage City participation in programs that promote the implementation of the Climate Action Plan from energy efficiency, renewable energy, economic benefits of sustainability, environmental justice and the combination of our natural and built environments.

### *Composition*

The Board will be composed of fifteen (15) members who shall serve without compensation, subject to the following:

- For the initial board formation, one member is to represent each of the three collapsed boards - the Community Forest Advisory Board, the Sustainable Energy Advisory Board and the Wetlands Advisory Board.
- At least one member is designated as a student working towards an associate, bachelor or master degree or graduating from a technical school.
- At least one member is designated as an environmental justice representative.
- At least one member is designated as a small business owner or representative of a small business organization.
- At least one member is designated as a cutting edge clean or sustainable technology expert.
- Each member of the committee shall possess expertise in one or more of the following areas: energy and water efficiency, renewable energy, sustainable technology, environmental justice, mobility, climate resilience, clean technology & green workforce, urban tree canopy and zero waste.
- Additional members may be chosen from areas of expertise listed below.

### Potential Areas of Expertise

- Clean Tech

- Green Financing/Sustainable Business
- Mobility/Transit
- Infill Housing
- Water
- Recycling
- Labor
- Renewable Energy
- Climate Resilience
- Sea Level Rise/Oceanography
- Local Utility
- Green Workforce
- Urban Agriculture
- Carbon Sequestration
- Regenerative Aquaculture

This will be a board pursuant to Charter section 43(a), with members appointed by the Mayor and confirmed by the Council.

- The Mayor shall appoint six of the fifteen members.
- The Mayor shall approve the remaining nine members, based on nominations provided by each Councilmember, with the intent that each of the City's nine council districts would be represented on the new Board.
- The Mayor shall appoint among the members a Chairperson.
- Appointments shall be made for two-year terms and each member shall serve until a successor is duly appointed and confirmed.
- Appointments shall be made in such a manner that the terms of not more than seven members shall expire in any one year.

Fiscal Considerations: N/A

City Strategic Plan Goal(s)/Objective(s):

Goal 3: Create and sustain a resilient and economically prosperous City with opportunity in every community

Objective 1: Create dynamic neighborhoods that incorporate mobility, connectivity, and sustainability

Objective 2: Increase water independence

Objective 4: Prepare and respond to climate change

Environmental Impact:

This activity is not a project as defined by the California Environmental Quality Act Section 21065 and State CEQA Guidelines Section 15378(b) (5), as it is an organizational or administrative activity of government that will not Result in direct or indirect physical changes in the environment. The determination that this activity is not subject to CEQA, pursuant to Section 15060(c) (3), is not appealable and a Notice of Right to Appeal the Environmental determination (NORA) is not required.

Equal Opportunity Contracting Information (if applicable): N/A

Previous Council and/or Committee Actions: N/A

Key Stakeholders and Community Outreach Efforts: Existing Community Forest Advisory Board, the Sustainable Energy Advisory Board, the Wetlands Advisory Board.

Venus Molina

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District 2