



CITY OF SIGNAL HILL

2175 Cherry Avenue • Signal Hill, California 90755-3799

THE CITY OF SIGNAL HILL
WELCOMES YOU TO A REGULAR
SUSTAINABLE CITY COMMITTEE MEETING
October 04, 2022

*** * * Pursuant to Government Code Section 54953 (as amended by AB 361) and City Council Resolution No. 2020-03-6557, this meeting will be conducted using a hybrid meeting format in which members of the Committee, members of the public, and City staff may physically attend the meeting or virtually participate by audio and/or video. To protect members of the Committee, members of the public, and City staff, face masks are encouraged but not required. The City will evaluate the current circumstances before each meeting to decide if it is safe to change COVID-19 safety protocols. * * ***

To listen to the meeting live at 6:00 p.m.:

- Call (408) 638-0968 (audio only) and enter meeting ID: 822-9130-0660, press # when prompted to provide participant ID, and enter passcode: 322986. If you would like to make a public comment, please notify the meeting host by pressing *9 on the telephone keypad.

To view and participate live at 6:00 p.m.:

- In-person: Council Chambers of City Hall, 2175 Cherry Avenue, Signal Hill, California.
- Visit <https://zoom.us/> on your desktop computer or laptop, click on "Join a Meeting", and enter meeting ID: 822-9130-0660 and password: 322986.
- If you are using a smart phone, download the app from the app store and enter meeting ID: 822-9130-0660 and password: 322986.
- Please note that you will be placed in a "listen only" mode and your video feed will not be shared with the Committee or public. If you would like to make a public comment, please notify the meeting host by raising your virtual hand (see hand icon at bottom of screen) and you will be invited to speak when the Committee is taking public comments. Please do not simultaneously use a microphone through Zoom and a cellphone/telephone. That combination results in audio problems for all participants.
- To make a general public comment or comment on a specific agenda item, you may also submit your comment, limited to 250 words or less, to the Community Development Department no later than 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, October 4, 2022, and your comment will be read into the record.

- The City is not responsible for meeting disruptions or technical difficulties; however, if you are disconnected, please repeat the steps above.

The City of Signal Hill thanks you in advance for taking all precautions to prevent spreading the COVID-19 virus.

The City of Signal Hill appreciates your attendance. Citizen interest provides the Sustainable City Committee with valuable information regarding issues of the community. Meetings are held four times in the 2022 calendar year, on the first Tuesday of February, May, August, and October. Meetings commence at 6:00 p.m. There is a public comment period at the beginning of the regular meeting, as well as the opportunity to comment on each agenda item as it arises. Any meeting may be adjourned to a time and place stated in the order of adjournment.

The agenda is posted 72 hours prior to each meeting on the City's website and outside of City Hall and is available at each meeting. The agenda and related reports are available for review online at www.cityofsignalhill.org. You may also contact the Community Development Department at comdev@cityofsignalhill.org or by calling (562) 989-7340.

During the meeting, the Chair presents agenda items for Committee consideration. The public is allowed to address the Committee on all agenda items. The Chair may take agenda items out of order and will announce when the period for public comment is open on each agenda item. The public may speak to the Committee on items that are not listed on the agenda. This public comment period will be held at the beginning of the public portion of the meeting. Please direct your comments or questions to the Chair.

The City of Signal Hill Sustainability Committee is committed to striking a balance between economic growth, social responsibility, and environmental well-being by partnering with our neighbors, businesses, and the community to provide a healthy and enduring environment for future generations. The purpose of the Committee is to develop and recommend a sustainability framework to the City of Signal Hill City Council that promotes environmentally sound and financially practical objectives.

Sustainable City Committee Members receive no compensation.

(1) CALL TO ORDER – 6:00 P.M.

(2) ROLL CALL

Local Business Representative:
DEBRA LAYTON

Community Representatives:
CECILIA FIDORA
BOZENA JAWORSKI
DAVID PERZYNSKI
LISA WONG

Commission Representatives:
PERICA BELL

JULIE DOI
PAMELA DUTCH HUGHES

Commission Alternates:
TIM ANHORN
DARITZA GONZALEZ
SONIA SAVOULIAN

Council Representatives:
ROBERT COPELAND – CHAIR
LORI WOODS

City Staff Representatives:
CARLOS LUIS
JESUS SALDAÑA

(3) PUBLIC BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR ON ITEMS NOT LISTED ON THIS AGENDA

(4) EDUCATION

- a. GUEST PRESENTATION - LOS ANGELES COUNTY CHIEF SUSTAINABILITY OFFICE

Summary:

Raj Dhillon, Sustainability Policy Advisor, The County of Los Angeles's Chief Sustainability Office provides comprehensive and coordinated policy support for the Board of Supervisors, County Departments, the unincorporated areas, and the region to make our communities healthier, more livable, economically stronger, more equitable, more resilient, and more sustainable.

Recommendation:

Receive and file.

(5) STAFF NEW BUSINESS

- a. 2023 MEETING DATES

Summary:

The SCC meets four times per calendar year. In 2022, the Committee met on February 1st, May 3rd, August 1st, and October 4th. The Committee will discuss and decide meeting dates for calendar year 2023.

Recommendation:

Select the 2023 meeting dates and update calendars.

(6) LOCAL ACTIONS

a. STREET TREE MASTER PLAN

Summary:

SWA Group, Inc. will provide a brief update on the Street Tree Master Plan.

Recommendation:

Receive and file.

b. SCC SUBCOMMITTEE: ORDINANCE PROHIBITING POLYSTYRENE PACKAGING

Summary:

Following a brief staff report, the SCC Chair will lead a discussion regarding the Plastics Ban Ordinance proposal from the subcommittee and will request the SCC consider one of the following options for how to proceed:

- Vote to table the Ordinance to allow time to study the impacts of AB 1276, the State law restricting distribution of plastic utensils and condiments;
- Vote to recommend City Council consideration of the Ordinance; or
- Vote to create an educational campaign providing information to local businesses and residents promoting the use of alternative products other than plastics.

Recommendation:

The SCC will discuss options and determine how to proceed.

c. SCC SUBCOMMITTEE: FARMERS' MARKET

Summary:

Following a brief staff report, the SCC Chair will lead a discussion regarding the budget and facilitation of a farmers' market and will request the SCC consider how to proceed:

- Vote to further research feasibility of start-up costs and location; or
- Vote to table the item.

Recommendation:

The SCC will discuss options and determine how to proceed.

d. SCC SUBCOMMITTEE: "PICK-IT-UP" CAMPAIGN

Summary:

Representatives from the Pick-It-Up subcommittee will provide a brief status

report on their item.

Recommendation:

Receive and file.

e. SB 1383 ORGANIC WASTE REDUCTION

Summary:

Staff will provide a brief update on the City's adoption of the new organics ordinance.

Recommendation:

Receive and file.

f. WATER CONSERVATION AND WATERSHED NEWSLETTER

Summary:

The most current water conservation chart identifies the City's overall average reduction of 15%, better than the targeted 12% conservation goal; however, the US Drought Monitor website lists the City of Signal Hill in the D2 Severe Drought category. It is extremely important to continue water conservation efforts in order to replenish the water table supply and meet the City's targeted goal.

The City's Stormwater Consultant, John L. Hunter & Associates, provided the September 2022 quarterly newsletter which includes updates on stormwater related items.

Recommendation:

Receive and file.

g. CALIFORNIA INDEPENDENT SYSTEM OPERATOR

Summary:

The California Independent System Operator (ISO) is a nonprofit public benefit corporation that oversees an open energy distribution marketplace. The ISO manages the marketplace for the electricity that comes from electricity generators and is sold to utility providers, and that ultimately goes to approximately 32 million consumers in California and parts of Nevada. Visit the California ISO website www.caiso.com to see historical, current, and forecasted electricity demand in California as well as the amount of electricity being provided by renewable sources.

Recommendation:

Receive and file.

(7) PUBLIC OUTREACH**a. MAYOR'S CLEAN-UP EVENT**Summary:

The Fall Mayor's Clean-Up event will be held on Saturday, October 22, 2022, in the Southeast Neighborhood. Basecamp will be located at Raymond Arbor Park.

Recommendation:

Sign-up to volunteer for outreach team and take down shift.

b. SUSTAINABILITY AWARD PROGRAMSummary:

On August 23, 2022 the City Council awarded ReJoule the Sustainability Award during the City Council meeting. The committee is welcome to solicit and nominate other Signal Hill businesses or residents for consideration.

Recommendation:

Submit nominations to staff.

c. BULKY ITEM PICK UPSummary:

The City of Signal Hill and EDCO sponsor two free bulky item collection weeks a year for Signal Hill residents. The collections occur during the fall and spring. The 2022 fall bulky item pick-up week is scheduled for the week of November 7th through 11th, 2022. Single family residences should set out bulky items at the curb for collection on their regularly scheduled collection day. Residents in multi-family complexes should call EDCO to arrange for a special free pick-up prior to the scheduled free pickup week.

Recommendation:

Receive and file.

(8) CONSENT CALENDAR

The following Consent Calendar items are expected to be routine and non-controversial. Items will be acted upon by the Committee at one time without discussion. Any item may be removed by a Committee or member of the audience for discussion.

a. PREVIOUS MINUTESSummary:

Regular meeting of August 1, 2022.

Recommendation:

Approve.

b. IN THE NEWS

Summary:

Articles compiled by staff that may be of interest to the Committee.

Recommendation:

Receive and file.

(9) COMMITTEE NEW BUSINESS

(10) ADJOURNMENT

Tonight's meeting will be adjourned to the next scheduled meeting of the Sustainable City Committee at 6:00 p.m. (hybrid meeting format, including in-person, and video and teleconference participation options). Instructions to participate will be provided on the meeting agenda.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

If you need special assistance beyond what is normally provided to participate in meetings, the City will attempt to accommodate you in every reasonable manner. Please call the City Clerk's office at (562) 989-7305 at least 48 hours prior to the meeting to inform us of your particular needs to determine if accommodation is feasible.

AFFIDAVIT OF POSTING

I, Phyllis Thorne, Administrative Assistant for the Community Development Department, do hereby certify that the foregoing agenda was posted at City Hall, at the Library, at Discovery Well Park, and at Reservoir Park 72 hours in advance of this meeting.



CITY OF SIGNAL HILL
STAFF REPORT

2175 Cherry Avenue • Signal
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10/4/2022

AGENDA ITEM

TO:
**HONORABLE CHAIR
AND MEMBERS OF THE SUSTAINABLE CITY COMMITTEE**

FROM:
**COLLEEN T. DOAN
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR**

SUBJECT:
GUEST PRESENTATION - LOS ANGELES COUNTY CHIEF SUSTAINABILITY OFFICE

Summary:

Raj Dhillon, Sustainability Policy Advisor, The County of Los Angeles's Chief Sustainability Office provides comprehensive and coordinated policy support for the Board of Supervisors, County Departments, the unincorporated areas, and the region to make our communities healthier, more livable, economically stronger, more equitable, more resilient, and more sustainable.

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Summary:

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Recommendation:

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SUBJECT:
SCC SUBCOMMITTEE: ORDINANCE PROHIBITING POLYSTYRENE PACKAGING

Summary:

Following a brief staff report, the SCC Chair will lead a discussion regarding the Plastics Ban Ordinance proposal from the subcommittee and will request the SCC consider one of the following options for how to proceed:

- Vote to table the Ordinance to allow time to study the impacts of AB 1276, the State law restricting distribution of plastic utensils and condiments;
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- Vote to create an educational campaign providing information to local businesses and residents promoting the use of alternative products other than plastics.

Recommendation:

The SCC will discuss options and determine how to proceed.

ORDINANCE TO BAN POLYSTYRENE

Survey of Local Businesses

(At the time of the survey, plastics were included. Therefore, the responses address use of plastic.)

QUESTIONS – Set One

1. Presently, how is business? Has business more or less returned to pre-COVID levels, doing better, or still feeling the economic impact of COVID?
2. What are your thoughts on using recycled paper or other more sustainable to-go boxes, packaging, bags, and ancillary single-use products?
3. If it increases costs to switch to recycled paper or more sustainable single-use products, would you be able to absorb the increase, adjust menu prices, or recoup costs in some way?
4. If the city approves a policy to reduce or ban plastics and polystyrene (foam) single-use products, would the business make good faith efforts to be in line with such a policy?
5. If the city passes an ordinance to ban polystyrene single-use products, would the business be able to be in compliance?
6. Any concerns, input, or questions?

Food 4 Less – Manager Robert – Responses need to be from corporate

Insights:

- They are experiencing the impact of the usual, e.g., delays, shortages, lack of employees, people going out to eat more and buying less groceries.
- Already participates in program to aim for zero waste; they regularly donate to food banks
- If surrounding cities already have ban, it renders it easier to comply--already implemented in other stores, uniformity facilitates compliance
- An ordinance would have the same impact on other stores, presumably competitors.

Golden Eagle Restaurant – Manager Chris

1. Doing great. Business is back to normal.
2. Don't mind using. Some orders are on hold (restaurant depot); if need to use recycled materials, should be fine.
3. Hard to say. Difficult to answer. Ultimately, believes the restaurant survived COVID as a family restaurant, should be able to make back any increase in overhead costs.
4. Policy -- would need to look into alternatives and whether it'll work for certain juicier dishes (couldn't really answer at this time)
5. Ordinance -- if there are alternatives, should be able to be in compliance
6. No.

Black Bear Diner SH – Manager Henry

1. Business has returned to pre-COVID levels (initially mentioned busier)
2. They use whatever the purveyor supplies. *
3. That is a question for corporate. They use what is approved.
4. That is a question for corporate.
5. Yes. Believes they should be able to comply.
6. No.

*

- He doesn't believe they consider what is environmentally friendly.
- If there is a shortage from the purveyor, they can substitute from local retailers.
- Doesn't happen often, just sometimes; Uses what fits their needs and approved--doesn't consider sustainability

Big E Pizza – Jimmy Eleopoulos

1. Still feel the impact--50% of pre-COVID levels (August 2021)

2. I'm ok with using recycled.
3. I would raise prices.
4. I don't use foam currently anyway. I do use some plastic utensils.
5. Yes.
6. We are worried about the food waste recycling, it would be a big burden on us. But everything else is ok.

Chinese Gourmet – Manager

1. Getting back to normal.
2. All for that -- however, it will be an increase in costs.
3. Recoup in a different way -- not sure how at this time.
4. More or less yes, as to being able to comply, but it will be a bit more difficult.
5. Yes, would be more difficult due to costs (main concern).

Kashiwa Japanese Cuisine – Saki, the manager

1. Business is doing poorly, believes it's due to COVID (September 2021)
2. The business already uses recycled paper packaging (not all, only some).
3. Would consider increasing menu prices due to increase in costs.
4. If it's going to be an (ordinance), we'll have no choice, but should be able to comply.
5. Yes.

QUESTIONS – Set Two

1. Thoughts on an ordinance on avoiding Styrofoam?
2. Thoughts on an ordinance on avoiding Plastic?
3. If the city banned Styrofoam, would you be in compliance?
4. If the city banned plastic, would you be in compliance?
5. If an ordinance passed, would you make good faith business efforts to comply?
6. If an ordinance passed, would prices increase, or would there be no impact?
7. How is business presently? Has it returned to pre-Covid levels?
8. Questions, comments, input, concerns?

Rocco's Italian Deli

1. They do not have Styrofoam, so no impact.
2. They only have plastic lids, so it isn't too much of a problem.
3. Yes
4. Not yet
5. Yes
6. Do not know
7. Business is better / doing great right now.
8. No input

Owl Owl

1. Only used in water cups
2. Significant amount of plastic use for takeout
3. No, but an easy fix
4. It would be a challenge to comply immediately
5. Yes - for Styrofoam easily
6. Potentially an increase
7. Business is presently somewhat busy
8. n/a

Panini's

1. Do not have any Styrofoam. Customers do not like / want it so they don't use it.
2. Removing plastic would be somewhat more challenging but not impossible
3. Yes

4. Not yet
5. Would try to comply
6. Unsure if there would have to be a price increase
7. They are short staffed post Covid
8. N/a

GD Bro Burger

1. No Styrofoam
2. Plastic is used in some lids and straws and utensils
3. Yes
4. Not yet
5. Yes would try to comply
6. Potential increase but do not know
7. There has been MAJOR disruptions on their supply chain for food, drinks, etc. They have also had significant staffing problems. They were planning on converting to a pizza joint, but Covid disruptions have all but completely prevented that. Big changes like plastic ban would be yet another hurdle that they have to jump over. Styrofoam is less worrisome.
8. N/a

Sub King

1. Significant Styrofoam stockpile for drink cups
2. Plastic is used in utensils lids and straws
3. Not in compliance
4. Not in compliance
5. Did not want to comment
6. Did not want to comment
7. Did not want to comment
8. Did not want to comment



TOMÁS J. ARAGÓN, MD, DrPH
Director and State Public Health Officer

State of California—Health and Human Services Agency
California Department of Public Health



GAVIN NEWSOM
Governor

Assembly Bill 1276 Fact Sheet

Governor Gavin Newsom signed into law AB 1276. The new law changes the **Public Resource Code** in the area of single-use food accessories and standard condiments. This is an addition to the single-use plastic straws law. The law will take effect January 1, 2022.

SUMMARY OF THE CHANGES:

Public Resource Code

Chapter 5.2 Single-Use Foodware Accessories and Condiments

Sec. 2. 42270 – new definitions

(e) “Single-use foodware accessory” means all of the following single-use items provided alongside ready-to-eat food:

1. Utensils, which is defined as forks, knives, spoons, and sporks
2. Chopsticks
3. Condiment cups and packets
4. Straws
5. Stirrers
6. Splash sticks
7. Cocktail sticks

(f) “Standard Condiment” means relishes, spices, sauces, confections, or seasoning that require no additional preparation and that are usually used on a food item after preparation, including ketchup, mustard, mayonnaise, soy sauce, hot sauce, salsa, salt pepper, sugar, and sugar substitutes.

Important Information for Retail Food Industry by Section

Sec.3. 42271

In order to reduce the amount of waste created from single-use items the retail food industry is now required to:

1. Only provide single-use accessories to consumers upon request
2. Only provide single-use accessories required to eat the ready-to-eat food

3. No bundling of single-use accessories or condiments
4. Only offer those single-use items needed to eat or prevent spillage of the ready-to-eat food at a drive-through as well as in a public use airport
5. A third-party delivery platform shall provide consumers with the option to request single-use accessories
6. A food facility that uses a third-party platform shall customize their menu with a list of available single-use accessories or condiment. Only those items chosen by the consumer will be delivered. If no single-use accessories or condiments are requested non will be provided
7. Unwrapped single-use foodware accessories that are self-serve, standard condiments that are self-serve, and/or bulk dispensed condiments may still be used

Sec. 4. 42272

1. A city, county, or city and county have until June 1, 2022 to authorize an enforcement agency for the law
2. First and second violations results in a notice of violation, any additional violation carries a \$25 fine not to exceed \$300 annually

Sec. 5. 42273

The law does not apply to the following:

1. Correctional institutions
2. Licensed health care facilities
3. Residential care facilities
4. Public and private school cafeterias

[PROPOSED ORDINANCE]

PROHIBITION OF POLYSTYRENE FOOD PACKAGING

PURPOSE.

The purpose of this ordinance is to regulate the use of polystyrene food packaging to reduce and prevent litter in the environment, protect public health, and promote environmentally sustainable practices in Signal Hill.

DEFINITIONS.

- A. "Applicant" means any person, firm, limited liability company, association, organization, partnership, political subdivision, government agency, municipality, industry, public or private corporation, or any other entity who applies for a City of Signal Hill special events permit or an exemption to the requirements of this Chapter.
- B. "City" means the City of Signal Hill, California.
- C. "City facility" means any building, structure, property, park or public space owned, managed or leased by the City, its agents, agencies, or departments.
- D. "City contractor" means any person, firm, limited liability company, association, organization, partnership, industry, public or private corporation, or any other entity who enters into an agreement with the City to furnish products or services to or for the City.
- E. "City-permitted event" means any event, activity, or meeting occurring under the auspices of a City-issued permit.
- F. "City-sponsored event" means any event, activity, or meeting organized or sponsored, in whole or in part, by the City or any department of the City.
- G. "Compostable" means all the material in the product or package will break down, or otherwise become part of, usable compost (e.g., soil-conditioning material, mulch) in a safe and timely manner. Compostable material must be made of paper, certified compostable plastics that meet **ASTM D6400 or ASTM D6868** for compostability or **cellulose-based** packaging capable of being decomposed through composting or anaerobic digestion. The material shall be compostable via the City's organics, green waste, program implemented pursuant to California Senate Bill 1383. (Need to check with EDCO on details.)
- H. "Department" means the Department of Public Works.
- I. "Director" means the Director of the Department of Public Works, or his/her designee, who is hereby designated to issue a compliance order or an administrative citation to enforce this Chapter pursuant to Chapter --- of the Signal Hill Municipal Code or to grant an exemption to compliance with this Chapter pursuant to Section --- of the Signal Hill Municipal Code.
- J. "Food service ware" means single use, disposable, or intended to be and generally deemed single use or disposable products used for serving or transporting prepared food, including but not limited to plates, bowls, trays, wrappers or wrapping, platters, cartons, clamshells, condiment containers, cups or drink ware, cup lids, or any other container in or on which prepared foods are placed or packaged for consumption. This does not include utensils. Product labeling shall not serve to define the product for the purposes of this subsection.
- K. "Food Provider" means any person or place that provides or sells prepared food within the City to the general public to be consumed on the premises or for take-away consumption. "Food Provider" includes but is not limited to: (1) a grocery store, supermarket, restaurant, drive-thru, cafe, coffee shop, snack shop, public food market, farmers market, convenience store, or similar fixed place where prepared food is available for sale on the premises or for take-away consumption, and (2) any mobile store, food vendor, caterer, food truck, vending machine or similar mobile outlet. "Food Provider" also includes any Franchise restaurant, drive-thru, café, coffee-shop or the like. "Food Provider" also includes any organization, group or individual that regularly provides prepared food to its members or the general public as a part of its activities or services.

- L. "Franchise" means a food facility in the City that operates under common ownership or control with the same name that offer for sale substantially the same menu items or operates as a franchised outlet of a parent company with the same name in the state that offer for sale substantially the same menu items.
- M. "Person" means any individual, business, corporation, or event organizer or promoter; public, nonprofit or private entity, agency or institution; or partnership, association or other organization or group, however organized.
- N. "Plastic or Bio-Plastic straw" means a tube made predominantly of plastic derived from either petroleum or biologically based polymer, such as corn or plant sources, for transferring a beverage from its container to the mouth of the drinker. This includes compostable and biodegradable petroleum or biologically based polymer straws, but does not include straws that are made from non-plastic materials, such as paper, sugarcane, bamboo, etc.
- O. "Polystyrene" means a thermoplastic petrochemical material utilizing the styrene monomer, including but not limited to, polystyrene foam or expanded polystyrene, processed by any number of techniques, including but not limited to fusion of polymer spheres (expandable bead polystyrene), injection molding, foam molding, or extrusion-blow molding (extruded foam polystyrene), and clear or solid polystyrene (oriented polystyrene). The recycle code for polystyrene is "6" or "PS," either alone or in combination with other letters. This definition applies to all polystyrene food service ware, regardless of whether it exhibits a recycle code.
- P. "Polystyrene Beads" means expanded polystyrene foam beads used as filler for toys and beanbags and in crafts.
- Q. "Polystyrene Cooler" means any cooler or ice chest made of polystyrene foam, where such foam is not fully encased in a durable material.
- R. "Polystyrene food service ware" means disposable food service ware that contains or utilizes polystyrene. This includes but is not limited to cups, cup lids, condiment cups, food trays, plates, bowls, clamshells, containers, and any other product made primarily for food service use.
- S. "Prepared food" means any food or beverage that: (1) can be consumed without any further food preparation, alteration or repackaging; and (2) is prepared, provided, sold, or served by a Food Provider using any cooking, packaging or food preparation technique. Prepared food may be eaten either on or off the Food Provider's premises.
- T. "Recyclable" means material that can be sorted, cleansed and reconstituted using the City's Recycling Program, **excluding plastic containers labeled #6 and any polystyrene** (Do we recycle this in Signal Hill?).
- U. "Recycle code" means a resin identification code placed on plastics to identify the material composition for separation of different types of plastics for recycling.
- V. "Special events" means events that are open to the general public and take place within the public right-of-way or are located within a park and/or are coordinated through the City's special events permit process.
- W. "Utensil" means a knife, fork, spoon, spork, chopstick, or the like used for eating food.

PROHIBITION AGAINST DISTRIBUTION OR SALE OF POLYSTYRENE FOOD SERVICE WARE.

- A. No food provider shall distribute or sell any polystyrene food service ware or utensils in conjunction with the sale of prepared food or beverages at any location within the City of Signal Hill.
- B. Food providers that distribute or sell prepared food or beverages in food service ware shall: (1) distribute or sell only food service ware that are either recyclable or compostable, and if plastic, exhibit a recycle code other than No. 6 or PS; and/or (2) maintain documentation about the composition of any food service ware that does not exhibit a recycle code. Documentation may include information from the

supplier or manufacturer, bulk packaging for the food service ware, and any other relevant information demonstrating that the food service ware material is not polystyrene and is either recyclable or compostable.

- C. No person shall distribute or sell prepared food or beverages in any polystyrene food service ware at City facilities that have been rented, leased, or are otherwise being used with permission of the City. If food service ware is distributed or sold, they shall be either recyclable or compostable. This subsection is limited to use of City facilities for which a person has entered into an agreement with the City to rent, lease, or otherwise occupy a City facility. All facility rental agreements for any City facility shall include a provision requiring contracting parties not distribute or sell polystyrene food service ware while using City facilities. The facility rental agreement shall indicate that a violating contractor's security deposit will be forfeited if the Director determines that polystyrene food service ware that are neither recyclable nor compostable was used in violation of the rental agreement.
- D. No person shall distribute or sell polystyrene food service ware at City-sponsored events, activities, and City meetings. This subsection shall apply to the function organizers, agents of the organizers, City contractors, and food providers.
- E. The City, its departments, its City contractors, agents, and employees acting in their official capacity, shall not purchase, acquire, or distribute for public use any polystyrene coolers or polystyrene food service ware that are neither recyclable nor compostable.
- F. All food providers shall certify compliance with this chapter as part of any business license or permit application or renewal process.
- G. No person, vendor, business, or event promoter in the City shall distribute, sell, rent, or otherwise provide any polystyrene food service ware product which is not wholly encapsulated or encased within a more durable material, except as exempted herein. This specifically includes, but is not limited to, cups, cup lids, condiment cups, food trays, plates, bowls, clamshells, containers, coolers, ice chests, and other products primarily for food service use.
- H. No person, vendor, business, or event promoter in the City shall distribute, sell, rent, or otherwise provide any polystyrene packing material, including, but not limited to, foam peanuts, packing peanuts, foam popcorn, packing noodles, or other similar packaging.
- I. No person, vendor, business, or event promoter shall distribute, sell, rent, or otherwise provide within the City trays or cartons for meat, poultry, fish, vegetables, fruit, produce, eggs, or other foods made, in whole or in part, from polystyrene, either as separate items or as part of the sale of meat, poultry, fish, vegetables, fruit, produce, eggs, or food sold to consumers.
- J. Straws and utensils shall only be provided upon customer request at all establishments of food providers, including at City facilities and events. All straws must not be plastic or bio-plastic straws and must be compostable.

EXEMPTION FROM COMPLIANCE WITH THIS CHAPTER.

- A. The following are exempt from the provisions of this chapter:
 - 1. During a locally declared emergency, the City, emergency response agencies operating within the City, users of City facilities, and food or beverage providers shall be exempt from the provisions of this chapter.
 - 2. Food or beverage provider that distributes a straw upon request to individuals with disabilities as needed to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act.
 - 3. Food prepared or packaged outside of the City, provided such food is not altered, packaged or repackaged within the City limits.
 - 4. Food brought by individuals for personal consumption to City facilities, including but not limited to City parks, provided the City facility is being used for individual recreation or similar purposes

and such facility use is not part of a larger organized event.

5. Coolers and ice chests, other than those defined as polystyrene coolers in this chapter.
 6. City-sponsored or City-permitted events for which authorizations or permits were issued prior to the operative date of this ordinance; except events for which multi-year authorizations or permits were issued--such events must comply within three hundred sixty-five (365) days of the operative date of this ordinance.
 7. Food providers who are obligated to purchase, or have purchased, polystyrene food service ware under a contract entered into within the year prior to the operative date of this ordinance are exempt from the provisions of this chapter for six (6) months following this chapter's operative date.
- B. The Director may exempt any person from Section --- (Prohibition Against Distribution or Sale of Polystyrene Food Service Ware.) following the operative date of this ordinance, as follows:
1. The Director may only grant an exemption upon finding that compliance would create an undue hardship for a maximum of one (1) year, with or without conditions. Applications for exemption renewals will also be considered. Undue hardship shall be construed to include, but not be limited to, situations where:
 - i. There are no reasonable alternatives to polystyrene food service ware for reasons that are unique to the applicant; or
 - ii. Compliance with the requirements of this chapter would deprive a person of a legally protected right.
 2. A request for an exemption shall be filed in writing with the Director and shall include documentation of the reason for the claimed exemption and any other information necessary for the department to make its decision. The department may require and request the applicant to provide additional information as necessary to make the determination.
 3. The Director's written decision on the exemption is effective within ten (10) days of the decision. Decisions of the Director may be appealed by the person applying for the exemption utilizing the process outlined in the section labeled "Appeal."

ADMINISTRATIVE RULES & REGULATIONS.

The Director may adopt administrative rules and regulations not inconsistent with provisions of this chapter and state law as needed for the purpose of clarifying any of the administrative requirements of this chapter, such as, but not limited to, specifying the types of acceptable alternative food packaging that meet the requirements of this chapter and/or establishing frequency and protocol of City regulatory inspections and overall compliance monitoring. A proposed rule or regulation shall be posted at City Hall and public counters, providing notice that it is to be adopted no earlier than twenty-one (21) calendar days from the date on the posted notice and indicating the manner in which written comments may be provided to the Director. A copy of the final adopted rule or regulation shall be posted in City Hall and public counters no later than ten (10) days prior to the effective date of the rule or regulation. A copy of all adopted administrative rules and regulations shall be on file in the Director's office.

AUTHORITY TO INSPECT & TO MONITOR.

This Chapter shall be enforced by the City's Director of the Department of Public Works, or his/her designee. These persons shall be known as enforcement officials and are authorized to take any actions necessary to enforce this chapter, including inspection and monitoring of affected locations and establishments to determine compliance with this chapter. The City may also rely on complaints from the public or consumers to initiate an investigation, inspection, monitoring activity, or notices of noncompliance.

ENFORCEMENT & VIOLATION – PENALTY.

- A. Failure to comply with any provision of this chapter shall be deemed a violation that shall be punishable under the administrative citation procedures set forth in (the chapter re administrative citations and

penalties). The fine imposed for a particular violation shall be in the amount set forth in the administrative citation schedule established by resolution of the City Council. The Director has primary responsibility for enforcement of this Chapter.

- B. All fines collected pursuant to this chapter shall be deposited in the --- Fund to assist the department with its costs of implementing and enforcing the requirements of this chapter.

ENFORCEMENT.

- A. The public will be permitted to submit complaints of noncompliance of this Chapter of any business within the City via electronic mail, US mail addressed to the Public Works Department, all City social media portals, and phone call to the City. To be deemed a valid complaint, the complaint must include the following information:
- Name of the Business
 - Address of the Business
 - Date(s) of visit
 - Brief description of violation
- B. Photos and other media to assist with assessment of the complaint may be included but are not required to have the complaint deemed valid. The complainant must provide their full name for the City's records. The City must obtain permission from the complainant to disclose the complainant's name.
- C. The City's Building Safety Division shall include whether a business is in compliance with this Chapter during any building inspections. Upon identifying any noncompliance, the inspector for the City's Building Safety Division shall notify the appropriate City department. Such notifications shall be deemed a valid complaint.
- D. Upon receiving three valid complaints against a business, the City shall impose a fine in an amount set forth in the citation schedule. The fine will be in addition to the business license renewal fee(s). The three valid complaints must be within the fiscal year (July 1st of the year through June 30th of the following year) prior to the due date of the business license renewal fee(s). All fees and fines on the business license renewal must be timely paid for the business license to be issued.

APPEAL.

- A. Any person or entity aggrieved by a decision or finding under the provisions of this chapter regarding citations or the granting or denying of an exemption from compliance may appeal.
- B. An appeal shall be timely filed within three (3) days after receipt of notice of a decision or finding. A written letter of appeal shall be filed with the Director, briefly stating the basis for the appeal. The Director will provide a response or decision within thirty (30) days of receiving the letter of appeal.
- C. The appeal process set forth in this section does not apply to administrative citations or to orders to comply pursuant to any other chapter of the City's ordinances.

OPERATIVE DATE.

The operative date of this ordinance shall be immediate upon adoption. Enforcement shall begin six (6) months after adoption of this ordinance.

SEVERABILITY.

If any part, provision, section, subsection, subdivision, paragraph, sentence, clause, phrase, or term of this chapter is held to be unconstitutional, invalid, or ineffective by any court of competent jurisdiction, such decision or finding shall not affect the validity, effectiveness, or enforceability of the remaining portions of this chapter. The City Council hereby declares that it would have passed each part, provision, section, subsection, subdivision, paragraph, sentence, clause, phrase, or term of this chapter irrespective of the fact that one or more parts, provisions, sections, subsections, subdivisions, paragraphs, sentences, clauses, phrases, or terms may be declared unconstitutional, invalid, or ineffective. To this end, the provisions of this chapter are declared to be severable.



CITY OF SIGNAL HILL
STAFF REPORT

2175 Cherry Avenue • Signal
Hill, California 90755-3799

10/4/2022

AGENDA ITEM

TO:

**HONORABLE CHAIR
AND MEMBERS OF THE SUSTAINABLE CITY COMMITTEE**

FROM:

**COLLEEN T. DOAN
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR**

SUBJECT:

SCC SUBCOMMITTEE: FARMERS' MARKET

Summary:

Following a brief staff report, the SCC Chair will lead a discussion regarding the budget and facilitation of a farmers' market and will request the SCC consider how to proceed:

- Vote to further research feasibility of start-up costs and location; or
- Vote to table the item.

Recommendation:

The SCC will discuss options and determine how to proceed.



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STAFF REPORT

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10/4/2022

AGENDA ITEM

TO:

**HONORABLE CHAIR
AND MEMBERS OF THE SUSTAINABLE CITY COMMITTEE**

FROM:

**COLLEEN T. DOAN
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR**

SUBJECT:

SCC SUBCOMMITTEE: "PICK-IT-UP" CAMPAIGN

Summary:

Representatives from the Pick-It-Up subcommittee will provide a brief status report on their item.

Recommendation:

Receive and file.



CITY OF SIGNAL HILL
STAFF REPORT

2175 Cherry Avenue • Signal
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10/4/2022

AGENDA ITEM

TO:

**HONORABLE CHAIR
AND MEMBERS OF THE SUSTAINABLE CITY COMMITTEE**

FROM:

**COLLEEN T. DOAN
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR**

SUBJECT:

SB 1383 ORGANIC WASTE REDUCTION

Summary:

Staff will provide a brief update on the City's adoption of the new organics ordinance.

Recommendation:

Receive and file.



CITY OF SIGNAL HILL
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10/4/2022

AGENDA ITEM

TO:

**HONORABLE CHAIR
AND MEMBERS OF THE SUSTAINABLE CITY COMMITTEE**

FROM:

**COLLEEN T. DOAN
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR**

SUBJECT:

WATER CONSERVATION AND WATERSHED NEWSLETTER

Summary:

The most current water conservation chart identifies the City's overall average reduction of 15%, better than the targeted 12% conservation goal; however, the US Drought Monitor website lists the City of Signal Hill in the D2 Severe Drought category. It is extremely important to continue water conservation efforts in order to replenish the water table supply and meet the City's targeted goal.

The City's Stormwater Consultant, John L. Hunter & Associates, provided the September 2022 quarterly newsletter which includes updates on stormwater related items.

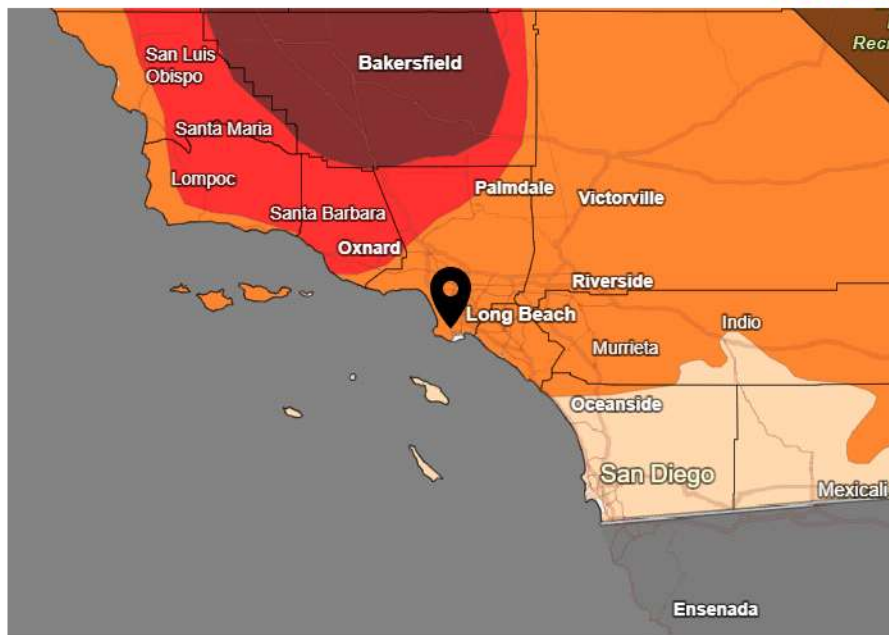
Recommendation:

Receive and file.

Background and Analysis:

The most recent Water Conservation Report data is as follows:

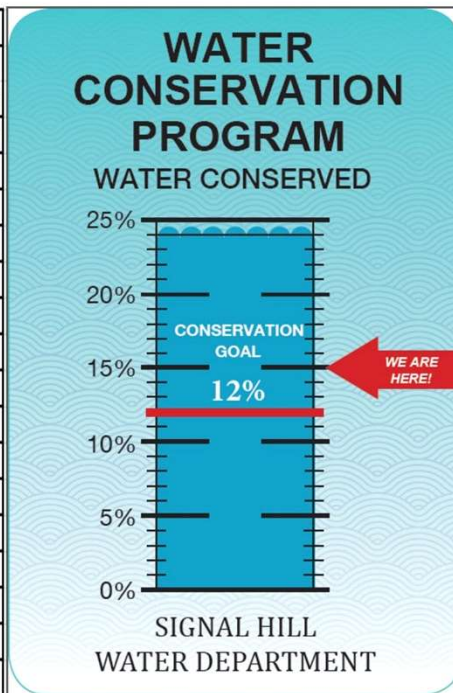
U.S. Drought Monitor



U.S. Drought Monitor for Los Angeles County



2021-22 Monitoring Period				
	Current	2013-14	Goal from 2013-14	Calc'd Current
Month	Actual	Actual	2013 Acre Ft	Reduction
Jul-21	178	214	188	-20%
Aug-21	194	213	187	-10%
Sep-21	190	196	174	-3%
Oct-21	181	203	178	-12%
Nov-21	165	166	146	-1%
Dec-21	151	165	145	-9%
Jan-22	154	174	153	-13%
Feb-22	142	157	138	-11%
Mar-22	158	175	154	-11%
Apr-22	161	183	161	-14%
May-22	175	204	180	-17%
Jun-22	168	204	180	-21%
Jul-22	159	214	188	-35%
Aug-22	167	213	187	-28%
Average	167	192	169	-15%



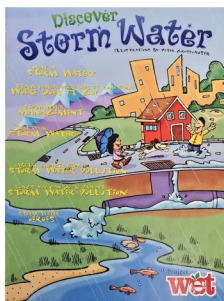
City of Signal Hill Watershed Update



Prepared by JLHA. Volume 7, Issue 1.

September 2022

Update On Urban Runoff Pollution Prevention Activities



Stormwater pollution prevention educational materials were distributed at city events such as Summer Concerts in the Park 2022.

Reminder: Stormwater and urban runoff in the City of Signal Hill drains to the Lower Los Angeles River (LLAR) and the Los Cerritos Channel (LCC). The City continues to do its part to protect these waterbodies and the ocean from polluted runoff. This includes activities such as

sweeping streets, cleaning storm drain inlets installing trash capture screens, ensuring City staff, businesses, land development projects, and construction sites prevent pollution, investigating pollution complaints, educating the public, and constructing and supporting municipal projects that capture and treat polluted urban runoff.

Updates: Some recent City pollution prevention activities include, but are not limited to:

- * Heritage Point Park was completed, including the stormwater capture project (July 2022).
- * Training City staff in pollution prevention practices (August 2021).

- * Distributing stormwater pollution prevention educational materials at the City's Summer Concerts in the Park (July-August 2022)
- * Updating the City's urban runoff ordinance to meet new NPDES regulations (September 2022).
- * Identifying and requiring the correction of 5 water quality violations at construction sites and businesses (in 21-22).

Also, the Willow Springs Park stormwater capture project was awarded Safe Clean Water design funding. The project is located in Long Beach, but the City makes up most of the drainage area.

Upcoming Dates

- 9/17: COASTAL CLEAN-UP DAY
- 12/15: NPDES ANNUAL REPORT DUE
- 12/15: WMP PROGRESS REPORT DUE
- 12/31: SCWP ANNUAL REPORT DUE

Looming Stormwater Quality Regs for Large Properties

In July 2022 the Regional Water Board issued a draft NPDES Permit for stormwater discharges from commercial, industrial, and institutional facilities with ≥ 5 acres of impervious land that are within the LCC. If approved, the Permit will be precedential: For the affected proper-

ties, NPDES Permit compliance will transfer from municipalities to the property operators. This could significantly reduce the City's NPDES Permit compliance costs. However, it will place an additional financial burden on the affected facilities. The Draft Permit also encour-

ages facilities to comply by entering in project funding agreements with the LCC Management Group (WMG).

Comments on the Draft Permit are due by October 24, 2022. The WMG plans to submit comments.

Inside this issue:

UPDATE ON POLLUTION PREVENTION ACTIVITIES	1
LOOMING REGULATIONS FOR LARGE PROPERTIES	1
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UPDATE ON THE WMP	2
\$17 MILLION FINE PROPOSED FOR DC DISCHARGE	2
MUNICIPAL NPDES PERMIT UPDATE	3

City of Signal Hill Watershed Update

Update on the Safe Clean Water Program



Reminder: The Safe Clean Water Program (SCWP), aka Measure W, funds urban runoff pollution prevention projects and programs. 10% of the funds are for administration by the Flood Control District, 40% are for City use, and 50% fund regional stormwater capture projects, which are selected through a competitive process.

City Update: For fiscal year 2022-23 the City plans to use its local SCWP funds to

support the support O&M activities related to water quality monitoring and inspections and drainage facility cleaning, Heritage Point Park, Hillbrook Park Improvement Project, Los Cerritos Channel Sub-basin 4 Stormwater Capture Facility, Signal Hill Library Low Impact Development (LID), and Signal Hill Dog Park LID.

District Update: The District continues to develop the SCWP. Within the year, the District provided guidance documents for municipalities and funding applicants, and also revised the project application form.

Yet to be developed are the District's Workforce Training and School Education Programs.

"THE CITY MUST CONSTRUCT STORMWATER CAPTURE PROJECTS WITH A TOTAL CAPACITY OF **13.88** AC-FT BY 2026 IN THE LCC WATERSHED, AND **7.16** AC-FT BY 2028 IN THE LLAR WATERSHED TO ADDRESS THE RESPECTIVE METALS TMDLS."

Update on the Watershed Management Program (WMP)

Reminder: The WMP is the City's plan to meet water quality limits for the LCC and LLAR. The updated WMP predicts the City must construct stormwater capture projects with a total capacity of **13.88** ac-ft by 2026 in the LCC Watershed, and **7.16** ac-ft by 2028 in the LLAR Watershed to address the respective Metals TMDLs. More stormwater capture volume will be needed to

address Bacteria TMDLs.

Update: In 2022 the Regional Water Board reviewed the implementation status of all WMPs within LA County. Board staff ruled that many agencies missed compliance milestones. This resulted in the agencies losing regulatory protection for water quality exceedances. For the LLAR and LCC WMPs, Board staff asked agencies for more info

to determine the implementation status. The information was provided by the deadline. In 2021, as required by the Regional Board, the agencies participating in the LCC and LLAR WMPs submitted revisions to the WMPs. Board staff has yet to approve or provide comment on the revised WMP. However it is anticipated that a "conditional approval" will be coming soon.

\$17 million fine Proposed for Dominguez Channel Discharge

The Regional Water Board has proposed a \$17 million fine for a polluted discharge to the Dominguez Channel.

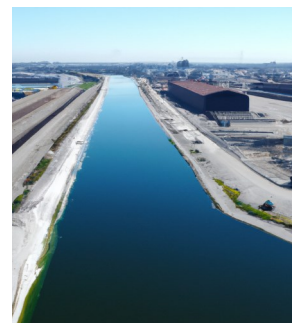
The Board has been coordinating with the County of Los Angeles and other government agencies to investigate the hydrogen sulfide odors from the Dominguez Channel Estuary since October 2021. As part of that investigation, the Los Angeles Water Board

learned of a warehouse located in Carson, where alcohol-based products, such as hand sanitizer and antibacterial wipes, caught fire on September 30, 2021.

The companies' alleged violations include the discharge of polluted water and hazardous substances, failure to comply with cleanup and abatement orders, and failure to obtain a discharge

permit. On July 14, 2022 the Los Angeles Water Board Prosecution Team issued three administrative civil liability complaints. A hearing is scheduled for October 12, 2022.

If approved, the penalties against the warehouse operator and property owners would be the largest issued by the State Water Resources Control Board.



Municipal NPDES Permit Update

Reminder: The LA Municipal NPDES Permit is issued to coastal cities in LA County (and Ventura) by the Regional Water Board. It requires that Permittees' (cities') urban runoff discharges comply with surface water quality limits and deadlines. It also lists specific actions that cities must implement, with the goal of meeting these limits. The

primary water quality deadline for the City is meeting limits for toxic chemicals by 2032.

Update: The current Municipal NPDES Permit became effective in September 2021. It has not significantly changed the City's pre-existing Permit requirements. The most significant change are new state prohibitions on

trash, related to the installation of trash capture devices in storm drain inlets. The City is several years ahead of schedule in complying with the new trash prohibitions.

The current Permit will expire in 2026. Sometimes Permits are "reopened" early to include new requirements. At this time we are not aware of plans to reopen the Permit.





JOHN L HUNTER AND ASSOCIATES (JLHA)

John L Hunter and Associates
6131 Orangethorpe Ave
Suite 300
Buena Park, CA 90620
Email: info@jlha.net

JLHA is an environmental consulting corporation founded in 1985. We specialize in assisting municipalities implement water quality and conservation programs. We currently implement elements of these programs to over 40 local municipalities.

Disclaimer:

The content of this newsletter is a summary that has been prepared specifically for the use of clients of JLHA. Reliance on the information herein should be done only after consulting the source documents.

**We've joined the
interweb!**

jlha.net



CITY OF SIGNAL HILL
STAFF REPORT

2175 Cherry Avenue • Signal
Hill, California 90755-3799

10/4/2022

AGENDA ITEM

TO:

**HONORABLE CHAIR
AND MEMBERS OF THE SUSTAINABLE CITY COMMITTEE**

FROM:

**COLLEEN T. DOAN
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR**

SUBJECT:

CALIFORNIA INDEPENDENT SYSTEM OPERATOR

Summary:

The California Independent System Operator (ISO) is a nonprofit public benefit corporation that oversees an open energy distribution marketplace. The ISO manages the marketplace for the electricity that comes from electricity generators and is sold to utility providers, and that ultimately goes to approximately 32 million consumers in California and parts of Nevada. Visit the California ISO website www.caiso.com to see historical, current, and forecasted electricity demand in California as well as the amount of electricity being provided by renewable sources.

Recommendation:

Receive and file.



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10/4/2022

AGENDA ITEM

TO:

**HONORABLE CHAIR
AND MEMBERS OF THE SUSTAINABLE CITY COMMITTEE**

FROM:

**COLLEEN T. DOAN
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR**

SUBJECT:

MAYOR'S CLEAN-UP EVENT

Summary:

The Fall Mayor's Clean-Up event will be held on Saturday, October 22, 2022, in the Southeast Neighborhood. Basecamp will be located at Raymond Arbor Park.

Recommendation:

Sign-up to volunteer for outreach team and take down shift.

Background and Analysis:

October 22, 2022 Mayor's Clean-Up Event: Raymond Arbor Park

SET-UP SHIFT: 8:45am - 10am	TAKE DOWN SHIFT: 10am - 11:15am	OUTREACH TEAM
Name	Name	Name
Cecilia Fidora	Perica Bell	
Bozena Jaworski		
Pam Dutch Hughes		



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10/4/2022

AGENDA ITEM

TO:

**HONORABLE CHAIR
AND MEMBERS OF THE SUSTAINABLE CITY COMMITTEE**

FROM:

**COLLEEN T. DOAN
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR**

SUBJECT:

SUSTAINABILITY AWARD PROGRAM

Summary:

On August 23, 2022 the City Council awarded ReJoule the Sustainability Award during the City Council meeting. The committee is welcome to solicit and nominate other Signal Hill businesses or residents for consideration.

Recommendation:

Submit nominations to staff.



CITY OF SIGNAL HILL

2175 Cherry Avenue • Signal
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STAFF REPORT

10/4/2022

AGENDA ITEM

TO:

**HONORABLE CHAIR
AND MEMBERS OF THE SUSTAINABLE CITY COMMITTEE**

FROM:

**COLLEEN T. DOAN
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR**

SUBJECT:

BULKY ITEM PICK UP

Summary:

The City of Signal Hill and EDCO sponsor two free bulky item collection weeks a year for Signal Hill residents. The collections occur during the fall and spring. The 2022 fall bulky item pick-up week is scheduled for the week of November 7th through 11th, 2022. Single family residences should set out bulky items at the curb for collection on their regularly scheduled collection day. Residents in multi-family complexes should call EDCO to arrange for a special free pick-up prior to the scheduled free pickup week.

Recommendation:

Receive and file.



CITY OF SIGNAL HILL
STAFF REPORT

2175 Cherry Avenue • Signal
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10/4/2022

AGENDA ITEM

TO:

**HONORABLE CHAIR
AND MEMBERS OF THE SUSTAINABLE CITY COMMITTEE**

FROM:

**COLLEEN T. DOAN
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR**

SUBJECT:

PREVIOUS MINUTES

Summary:

Regular meeting of August 1, 2022.

Recommendation:

Approve.



CITY OF SIGNAL HILL

2175 Cherry Avenue • Signal Hill, California 90755-3799

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING SIGNAL HILL SUSTAINABLE CITY COMMITTEE August 01, 2022

DRAFT

A Regular Meeting of the Signal Hill Sustainable City Committee was held in-person and via video/teleconference on August 1, 2022 pursuant to the provisions of Government Code Section 54953 (as amended by AB 361).

(1) **CALL TO ORDER – 6:00 P.M.**

Chair Copeland called the meeting to order at 6:01pm.

(2) **ROLL CALL**

PRESENT: ROBERT COPELAND
LORI WOODS
JULIE DOI
PERICA BELL
SONIA SAVOULIAN
CECILIA FIDORA
BOZENA JAWORSKI
DAVID PERZYNSKI
LISA WONG
DEBRA LAYTON

ABSENT: DARITZA GONZALEZ
PAM DUTCH HUGHES
TIM ANHORN

(3) **PUBLIC BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR ON ITEMS NOT LISTED ON THIS AGENDA**

There was no public business from the floor.

(4) **EDUCATION**

- a. GUEST PRESENTATION - REJOULE, INC. (LOCAL SIGNAL HILL BUSINESS)
Zora Chung, ReJoule's co-founder and CFO, and Eduardo Fonesca, Mechanical Engineer, introduced ReJoule and discussed their solution to create a more economical and streamlined process to reuse electric vehicle (EV) batteries.
It was moved by DEBRA LAYTON and seconded by BOZENA JAWORSKI to Receive and File the report.

(5) STAFF NEW BUSINESS

- a. NEW EMPLOYEE INTRODUCTION - PLANNING MANAGER CARLOS LUIS
Carlos Luis introduced himself as the new Community Development Planning Manager.

(6) LOCAL ACTIONS

- a. STREET TREE MASTER PLAN
SWA Group, Inc. provided a brief update on the Street Tree Master Plan.
It was moved by BOZENA JAWORSKI and seconded by DEBRA LAYTON to Receive and File the report.
- b. (NEW) AB 1276 RESTRICTIONS ON SINGLE-USE FOOD WARE AND CONDIMENTS
Staff discussed AB 1276 which restricts eating establishments from automatically providing single-use food ware and condiments.
It was moved by DEBRA LAYTON and seconded by LORI WOODS to Receive and File the report.
- c. SCC SUBCOMMITTEES
Representatives from the multiple subcommittees provided a brief status report on their respective items.
It was moved by DAVID PERZYNSKI and seconded by SONIA SAVOULIAN to Receive and File the reports.
- d. SB 1383 ORGANIC WASTE REDUCTION
Staff provided a brief update on the City's adoption of the new organics ordinance.
- e. WATER CONSERVATION
Staff provided a brief update on the City's water conservation.

(7) PUBLIC OUTREACH

- a. MAYOR'S CLEAN-UP EVENT

The Fall Mayor's Clean-Up event will be held on October 22, 2022 in the Southeast Neighborhood. Basecamp will be located at Raymond Arbor Park. Staff encouraged Committee members to sign up for the various shifts for outreach, set-up, and break-down.

b. **SUSTAINABILITY AWARD PROGRAM**

Staff inquired if the Committee would like to formally nominate ReJoule, Inc. as a recipient for a Sustainability Award

It was moved by ROBERT COPELAND and seconded by DEBRA LAYTON to nominate ReJoule, Inc. for a Sustainability Award.

(8) CONSENT CALENDAR

a. **PREVIOUS MINUTES**

b. **IN THE NEWS**

It was moved by JAWORSKI and seconded by PERZYNSKI, to approve the Consent Calendar.

(9) COMMITTEE NEW BUSINESS

CECILIA FIDORA noted that the book donation for the Friends of the Library is on August 6, 2022.

(10) ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by LORI WOODS and seconded by BOZENA JAWORSKI to adjourn the meeting to the next regular meeting of the Sustainable City Committee to be held on Tuesday October 4, 2022, at 6:00 p.m., (hybrid meeting format, including in-person, and video and teleconference participation options).

CHAIR COPELAND adjourned the meeting at 8:35 p.m.

ROBERT D. COPELAND
CHAIR

Attest:

COLLEEN T. DOAN
COMMITTEE SECRETARY



CITY OF SIGNAL HILL
STAFF REPORT

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10/4/2022

AGENDA ITEM

TO:

**HONORABLE CHAIR
AND MEMBERS OF THE SUSTAINABLE CITY COMMITTEE**

FROM:

**COLLEEN T. DOAN
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR**

SUBJECT:

IN THE NEWS

Summary:

Articles compiled by staff that may be of interest to the Committee.

Recommendation:

Receive and file.

Background and Analysis:

Articles include:

- California Extends Diablo Canyon Nuclear Plant Operations Until 2030 to Boost Grid Reliability _ Engineering News-Record
- California landfills are filling up with toxic solar panels - Los Angeles Times

ENRCalifornia

Power

California Extends Diablo Canyon Nuclear Plant Operations Until 2030 to Boost Grid Reliability

By C.J. Schexnayder



With approval by the state, California's Diablo Canyon nuclear power plant will now begin the regulatory effort to continuing operations past 2025.

Photo by AP/ Michael A. Mariant

September 6, 2022

California's last operating nuclear power plant, Diablo Canyon, has been given a new lease on life after Gov. Gavin Newsom signed into law a measure allowing it to remain open past its scheduled 2025 shutdown date.

The plant, located in San Luis Obispo County, was slated for decommissioning with the expiration of its current operating license. Keeping the facility online became a priority recently as the state's aggressive efforts to eliminate carbon-emitting power sources collided with statewide power reliability.

"This is critical in the context of making sure we have energy reliability going forward as part of our energy plan and yes, part of our climate plan," Newsom said in a press conference. "Because that energy does not produce greenhouse gases."

Diablo Canyon has been in operation since the mid-1980s and can generate 2,200 MW of baseline electricity. It currently provides approximately 8.6% of the state's total electricity supply and almost 17% of California's zero-carbon supply. The new law allows the plant to operate through 2030 and provides its owner and operator, Pacific Gas and Electric Co. (PG&E) a \$1.4-billion loan from the state to keep it running.

"We will do our part to help the state achieve its energy reliability and decarbonization goals, while continuing to run one of the top performing plants in the country," said PG&E CEO Patti Poppe in a statement.

Regulatory hurdles still remain. PG&E must now obtain a new operating license from the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission. State regulators must weigh in as well although the new law instructs state agencies to coordinate with PG&E to fast track the effort to keep the facility operating.

While California is providing the utility funding for the plant's continued operation, the new law instructs PG&E to seek federal funds to pay back the loan, primarily through the U.S. Dept. of Energy Civil Nuclear Credit program. It is a \$6-billion strategic investment under the 2021 Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act to help preserve the existing U.S. reactor fleet.

Last May, Gov. Newsom made several requests to DOE that would make Diablo Canyon eligible for the funds. These items were later adopted as they applied to nuclear plants nationwide that had already announced intention to cease operation. Among the requests granted was the extension of the application deadline for the first award cycle until Sept. 6.

Environmental groups opposed allowing the plant to continue operating, arguing that it would postpone much needed renewable energy investment. They also argue the plant's location near a fault line presents a danger.

"The rush by lawmakers and Gov. Newsom to keep Diablo Canyon running is dangerous and dumb and will only set back California's drive to make solar and wind the prevailing sources of electricity in the state," said Ken Cook, president of the non-profit Environmental Working Group.

California officials opted to shutter Diablo Canyon in 2016 after the California Public Utilities Commission (PUC) found it was not cost effective to operate and system reliability could be maintained without it. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission's withdrew license renewal for the facility in 2018.

The PUC assessment did not take into the account the state's ensuing push to require zero-carbon sources for electric power. Reliability needs have grown as well. In 2020, blackouts occurred statewide as available electrical capacity fell below demand due to extreme heat. A current heatwave enveloping the state has prompted calls for electricity conservation to prevent a similar round of blackouts.

On Aug. 31, the governor issued a state of emergency proclamation to increase energy production and reduce demand that was later extended through Sept. 9. Flex Alerts asking for state residents to conserve power have been issued over the week since. On Sept. 6, power grid peak demand hit 52,061 megawatts, a new all-time record although power conservation efforts avoided the need for rolling blackouts.

A Stanford/MIT study last year found that continuing to operate the plant would not only help the state reduce carbon emissions, it would also offer significant power system cost savings while improving reliability.

During the last legislative session, a number of bills aimed at tackling climate concerns were passed. These included efforts aimed at accelerating renewable energy targets, switching to only zero-emission vehicles by 2035 and prioritizing carbon renewal and capture efforts.

Many of these efforts will increase demand on the state's power grid in the short term while renewable energy sources will still be in development.

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BUSINESS

California went big on rooftop solar. It created an environmental danger in the process



Solar panels purchased for home use under incentive programs many years ago are nearing the end of their lifecycle. Many are already winding up in landfills. Above, an illustration of a pile of solar panels. (Jim Cooke / Los Angeles Times)

BY RACHEL KISELA

JULY 14, 2022 5 AM PT



California has been a pioneer in pushing for rooftop solar power, building up the [largest](#) solar market in the U.S. More than 20 years and [1.3 million rooftops later](#), the bill is coming due.

Beginning in 2006, the state, focused on how to incentivize people to take up solar power, showered subsidies on homeowners who installed photovoltaic panels but had

no comprehensive plan to dispose of them. Now, panels purchased under those programs are nearing the end of their 25-year lifecycle.

Many are already winding up in landfills, where components that contain toxic heavy metals such as selenium and cadmium can contaminate groundwater.

“People just don’t realize that there are toxic materials in those electronics, that it’s fine if it’s just sitting in a box in your house,” said Natalie Click, a doctoral candidate in materials science at the University of Arizona who studies the issue. “But once it gets crushed and put into the landfill, a lot of those toxic chemicals and materials are going to leak into your groundwater.”

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Sam Vanderhoof, a solar industry expert, says that only 1 in 10 panels are actually recycled, according to estimates drawn from International Renewable Energy Agency data on decommissioned panels and from industry leaders.

The looming challenge over how to handle truckloads of contaminated waste illustrates how cutting-edge environmental policy can create unforeseen hazards down the road.

“The industry is supposed to be green,” Vanderhoof said. “But in reality, it’s all about the money.”

California came early to solar power. Small governmental rebates did little to bring down the price of solar panels or to encourage their adoption [until 2006](#), when the California Public Utilities Commission formed the California Solar Initiative. That granted \$3.3 billion in subsidies for installing solar panels on rooftops.



BUSINESS

Brewers need cans. California’s broken recycling system is making them hard to find

July 12, 2022

The measure exceeded its goals, bringing down the price of solar panels and boosting the share of the state's electricity produced by the sun. Because of that and other measures, such as requirements that utilities buy a portion of their electricity from renewable sources, solar power now [accounts](#) for 15% of the state's power.

But as California barreled ahead on its renewable-energy program, focusing on rebates and — more recently — a proposed solar tax, questions about how to handle the toxic waste that would accrue years later were never fully addressed. Now, both regulators and panel manufacturers are realizing that they don't have the capacity to handle what comes next.

"This trash is probably going to arrive sooner than we expected and it is going to be a huge amount of waste," said Serasu Duran, an assistant professor at the University of Calgary's Haskayne School of Business in Canada. "But while all the focus has been on building this renewable capacity, not much consideration has been put on the end of life of these technologies."

Duran co-wrote a recent article in the Harvard Business Review that noted the industry's "capacity is woefully unprepared for the deluge of waste that is likely to come."

It's not just a problem in California but also nationwide. About 140,000 panels are [installed](#) every day in the United States, and the solar industry is expected to [quadruple](#) in size between 2020 and 2030.

Although [80%](#) of a typical photovoltaic panel is made of recyclable materials, disassembling them and recovering the glass, silver and silicon is extremely difficult.

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"There's no doubt that there will be an increase in the solar panels entering the waste stream in the next decade or so," said AJ Orben, vice president of [We Recycle Solar](#), a Phoenix-based company that breaks down panels and extracts the valuable metals while disposing of toxic elements. "That's never been a question."

The vast majority of We Recycle Solar's business comes from California, but the company has no facilities in the state. Instead, the panels are trucked to a site in Yuma, Ariz. That's because California's rigorous permitting system for toxic materials makes it exceedingly difficult to set up shop, Orben said.



CLIMATE & ENVIRONMENT

We're going on a clean energy tour of the American West. Come along for the ride

April 28, 2022

Recycling solar panels isn't a simple process. Highly specialized equipment and workers are needed to separate the aluminum frame and junction box from the panel without shattering it into glass shards. Specialized [furnaces](#) are used to heat panels to recover silicon. In most states, panels are classified as hazardous materials, which require [expensive](#) restrictions on packaging, transport and storage.

Orben said the economics of the process don't make a compelling case for recycling.

Only about \$2 to \$4 worth of materials are recovered from each panel. The majority of processing costs are tied to labor, and Orben said even recycling panels at scale would [not](#) be more economical.

Most research on photovoltaic panels is focused on recovering solar-grade silicon to make recycling economically viable.

That skews the economic incentives against recycling. The National Renewable Energy Laboratory estimated that it costs roughly \$20 to \$30 to recycle a panel versus \$1 to \$2 to send it to a landfill.

Most experts assume that is where the majority of panels are ending up right now. But it's anyone's guess. Click said there is no uniform system "for tracking where all of these decommissioned panels are going."

The California Department of Toxic Substances collected its first data on panels recycled by universal waste handlers in 2021. For handlers that accepted more than 200 pounds or generated more than 10,000 pounds of panels, the DTSC counted 335 panels accepted for recycling, said Sanford Nax, a spokesman for the agency.

The department expects the number of installed solar panels in the next decade to exceed hundreds of millions in California alone, and that recycling will become even more crucial as cheaper panels with shorter lifespans become more popular.

A lack of consumer awareness about the toxicity of materials in the panels and how to dispose of them is part of the problem, experts said.

“There’s an informational gap, there’s a technological gap, and there’s a financial gap that we’re working on,” said Amanda Bybee, co-founder of SolarRecycle.org, a website aimed at helping people understand how to recycle solar panels and how the process works.

The website lists two locations in California that recycle panels, but Bybee notes that the website is based on user-submitted information and isn’t comprehensive. At least one of the California locations listed, Fabtech Enterprises, ships panels to confidential off-site recycling partners.

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Last year, new DTSC regulation came into effect that [reclassified the panels, changing](#) the way they can be collected and transported. Previously, all panels were required to be treated as hazardous waste upon removal, which restricted transportation and storage.

Both business and residential consumers, or generators as they are called in the recycling industry, were supposed to transport the cells themselves to certified recycling or hazardous waste disposal facilities. With little tracking, it’s unclear how frequently that occurred.



Solar panels are now classified as universal waste and can be collected at more than 400 universal waste handlers in California, where they are then assessed and transported to disposal, reuse or recycle facilities. Above, solar panels are installed on a roof. (Irfan Khan / Los Angeles Times)

Now, panels are classified as universal waste and can be collected at more than 400 universal waste handlers in California, where they are then assessed and transported to disposal, reuse or recycle facilities. The new regulations were intended to make it easier for people to turn in their panels, but it does not directly address the next step — recycling.

“What that [rule] does is really just changes how that material is handled, managed, stored, and transported,” said Orben of We Recycle Solar. “It doesn’t change how that material is actually processed.”

In 2016, the Solar Energy Industry Assn., a nonprofit trade association for the U.S. solar industry, started a recycling program for panels. Robert Nicholson, the manager of PV Recycling at the association, said it aims to help the industry group’s recycling partners — five so far — “develop compliant, cost-effective recycling services for end-of-life modules.”

“The majority of recyclers are already existing recyclers; they’re primarily doing e-waste or they’re doing glass,” said Jen Bristol, the Solar Energy Industry Assn.’s senior director of communications. “So we have had to work with them to kind of take that leap, to say: ‘We believe that the processes you’re using can accommodate the technology.’” The association also works with regulators to draft legislation that decreases the number of panels heading to landfills.

Government subsidies are one way to make solar panel recycling economically viable for the waste generators, who now bear much of the cost of recycling.

In Europe, a recently enacted regulation called the European Union Waste of Electrical and Electronic Equipment Directive places responsibility on producers for supporting their products through responsible end-of-life disposal. It requires all producers that manufacture panels for countries in the EU to finance end-of-life collection and recycling.

Similar legislation has been attempted in several U.S. states, including Washington, where the Photovoltaic Module Stewardship and Takeback Program will require solar panel manufacturers to finance end-of-life recycling. The initiative was passed in 2017 and will begin implementation in 2025. It's the [only](#) producer-responsibility law in the United States.

It's part of a larger strategy in the recycling industry [called](#) extended producer responsibility, in which the cost of recycling is built into the cost of a product at its initial purchase. Business entities in the product chain — rather than the general public — become responsible for end-of-life costs, including recycling costs.

Jigar Shah, co-founder of Generate Capital, a fund that invests in sustainable infrastructure, said the problem can be addressed at the very start of the product chain — by manufacturers. He said that policymakers need to require manufacturers to come up with a standard design that makes panels easier and cheaper to recycle.

“It's far more cost-effective for manufacturers to be forced to work together ... where they try to greatly reduce the cost of all that collectively. That happens through policy,” he said. “It doesn't happen through people opting in.”

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Although 80% of a typical photovoltaic panel is made of recyclable materials, disassembling them and recovering the glass, silver and silicon is extremely difficult. (Jim Cooke / Los Angeles Times)

In April 2022, Santa Monica concluded a solar panel recycling pilot [program](#) in partnership with the California Product Stewardship Council, a public-private partnership. The stewardship council surveyed local residential solar owners and found that many, at a loss for what to do with end-of-life panels, called up installers for help.

“We did find that the solar installers were the best contact for us to learn about how many decommissioned panels were in our region,” said Drew Johnstone, a sustainability analyst for Santa Monica. “Some contractors did end up just having to pile them in their warehouses, because there’s no good solution for where to bring them.”

Johnstone says the universal waste reclassification has made a big difference, cutting down on cost and paperwork needed for handling modules, and more handlers can accept the panels from generators.

“It’s going to be a really large issue in a number of years,” Johnstone said. “So it would behoove local governments, county, state, and it can go federal too, to have a plan in place for all these panels that will reach their end of life in 10 to 15 years.”

Kisela is a special correspondent.

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