



**CITY OF SANTA BARBARA
CREEKS RESTORATION/WATER QUALITY IMPROVEMENT
CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES**

SPECIAL MEETING

May 15, 2024

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Chris Cline called the meeting to order at 6:00pm.

ROLL CALL

Committee members present: Chris Cline, Penny Owens, Lee Heller, Anne Burdette, Stephanie Moret

Committee members absent: Lori Gaskin

Liaison members present:

Liaison members absent: Council Member Kristen Sneddon, Parks and Recreation Commissioner Sebastian Aldana, Planning Commissioner Sheila Lodge

Staff present: Acting Creeks Manager Erin Markey, Water Quality Research Analyst Jill Murray, Resilience Program Supervisor Melissa Hetrick, Administrative Assistant Stephanie Lopez Lozano

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion:

Committee Members Heller/Burdette to approve the minutes of the Special meeting of April 24, 2024

Vote:

Voice vote 5/0. (Gaskin absent)

AGENDA ADJUSTMENTS

Order of Business Items were asked to be switched with item b. Southern Coastal Santa Barbara Creeks Bioassessment Program and 2023 Report being presented prior to item a. Research on Beach Swimming Risk Assessment.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

COMMITTEE MEMBER AND STAFF COMMUNICATIONS

Staff briefly updated the Committee on the City's budget deficit and how City Council suggested looking into Measure B funds to alleviate some of the budget constraints.

BUSINESS ITEMS

a. Research on Beach Swimming Risk Assessment

Recommendation:

That the Committee receive a presentation and discuss results of the Beach Swimming Risk Assessment research project.

Documents:

Staff Report – Beach Risk
Power Point Presentation – May 2024

Speakers:

Jill Murray, Water Quality Research Analyst

Committee Questions/Discussion:

Committee members asked questions on when wet weather samples will be collected, if there had been any testing related to salt water and how that impacts pathogens and how much private property monitoring happened related to sewage leaks.

The Committee also commented on promoting Santa Barbara beaches as safe and potentially using report cards and tying in watershed stewardship as a contributing factor of safe beaches.

Dr. Murray responded that wet weather samples were collected and some results are expected at the end of the year. Dr. Murray replied that pathogens are different so there is a different reaction to saltwater as it can react as a preservative to some pathogens but also increase decay rates in others. She also responded that monitoring and testing near septic tanks has happened before but that there was a potential to redo this testing during the wet weather season. there were some issues but the Public Works Department managed the property acquisition.

b. Southern Coastal Santa Barbara Creeks Bioassessment Program and 2023 Report

Recommendation:

That the Committee receive an update on the Santa Barbara Streams and Estuaries Bioassessment Program and a summary of the 2023 report.

Documents:

Staff Report – Bioassessment and 2023 Report
Power Point Presentation – May 2024

Speakers:

Jill Murray, Water Quality Research Analyst
Jeff Brinkman, Ecology Consultants

Committee Questions/Discussion:

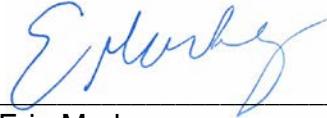
Committee members asked questions related to whether there were any significant human disturbances that contribute to creek variation in their index of biological integrity scores or if it is generally episodic in which it coincides with fires, floods, etc. The Committee thanked Jeff Brinkman for the presentation.

Mr. Brinkman references the graph showing the natural variations with regard to rainfall and peak q effect and explains that the difference between the highly disturbed and reference graph line is going to be related to human disturbances, but that it cannot be viewed without the context of the natural events occurring at the same time.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Cline adjourned at 7:16pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Erin Markey
Acting Creeks Restoration/Clean Water Manager