

Tonia Reyes Uranga, Chair
Patrick O'Donnell, Vice Chair
Suja Lowenthal, Member



CALL TO ORDER

At 3:31 P.M., Chair Reyes Uranga called the meeting to order.

ROLL CALL

Councilmembers Reyes Uranga and O'Donnell

Present:

Councilmembers S. Lowenthal

Absent:

Also present: Craig Beck, Director of Development Services; Mike Mais, Chief Assistant City Attorney; Meredith Reynolds, Administrative Analyst; Alfre Vaille, Administrative Intern; and Gloria Harper, City Clerk Specialist.

1. 08-0374 Recommendation to receive and file the minutes of the Environmental Committee meeting of Tuesday, November 28, 2007.
A motion was made by Vice Chair O'Donnell, seconded by Chair Reyes Uranga, to receive and file the minutes of the November 28, 2007 meeting. The motion carried by the following vote:
Yes: 2 - Reyes Uranga and O'Donnell
Absent: 1 - S. Lowenthal

SECOND ROLL CALL

Councilmembers Reyes Uranga, O'Donnell and S. Lowenthal

Present:

S. Lowenthal joined the meeting.

2. 07-0647 Recommendation to revisit the discussion regarding the Plastic Bag Reduction and Recycling Program.

Chair Reyes Uranga spoke briefly regarding recommendations made at the November 28, 2007 meeting.

Councilmember O'Donnell spoke.

Craig Beck, Director of Development Services, introduced Meredith Reynolds, Administrative Analyst.

Meredith Reynolds, Administrative Analyst, gave a staff report.

Alfre Vaille, Administrative Intern, gave a staff report.

Councilmember O'Donnell spoke.

S. Lowenthal joined the meeting.

Chair Reyes Uranga spoke.

Councilmember O'Donnell spoke.

Craig Beck, Director of Development Services, spoke.

Councilmember O'Donnell spoke.

Chair Reyes Uranga spoke.

Craig Beck, Director of Development Services, spoke.

Chair Reyes Uranga spoke.

Councilmember O'Donnell requested staff to return to the committee with a proposal for a phase out and eventual ban of plastic bags in Long beach, seek colleague input as well as best practice models on what this program would look like; and welcome conversation with industry environmentalists and other concerned businesses and residents in our community.

Councilmember S. Lowenthal requested staff to look at the option to include a point-of-sale fee on the plastic bags, offer a waiver, an opt-out fee or a pre-pay fee to grocers.

Coby Stein, Long Beach resident and representative of Los Angeles County, spoke.

A motion was made by Vice Chair O'Donnell, seconded by Member S. Lowenthal, to request staff return to the committee with a proposal to phase out and eventually ban plastic bags in Long Beach; consider any fees, waivers or other alternatives to help incentivise the plan; to work with the City Attorney on legal options or framework; and request that the City participate in the County Educational Program. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 3 - Reyes Uranga, O'Donnell and S. Lowenthal

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: Members of the public are invited to address the Committee.

Harvey Cochran, Long Beach resident, spoke.

Ben Rockwell, Long Beach resident, spoke.

Chair Reyes Uranga spoke.

Jennifer Forkish, California Grocer's Association, spoke.

Councilmember O'Donnell spoke.

A dialogue ensued.

Chair Reyes Uranga spoke.

A dialogue ensued.

Elliot Gonzalez, Long Beach resident, spoke.

Kirsten James, Heal the Bay representative, spoke.

Coby Stein, Long Beach resident and Los Angeles County representative spoke.

Chair Reyes Uranga spoke.

A dialogue ensued.

Gabrielle Weeks, Long Beach resident, spoke.

Chair Reyes Uranga spoke.

Tom Modica, Manager, Government Affairs, spoke regarding AB28, AB29, and AB2058.

Coby Stein, Long Beach resident and Los Angeles County representative spoke.

Elliot Gonzalez, Long Beach resident, spoke.

Chair Reyes Uranga spoke.

Harvey Cochran, Long Beach resident, spoke.

A dialogue ensued.

ADJOURNMENT

At 4:19 P.M., there being no objection, Chair Reyes Uranga declared the meeting adjourned.