



Date: November 9, 2006
To: Honorable Mayor and City Council
From: Gerrie Schipske, Councilmember, Fifth District *gschipske*
For:
Subject: Recommendation to amend Charter to establish an Environmental Commission and a Board of Commissioners

DISCUSSION:

On May 16, 2006, the City Council voted to "receive and adopt the appointment of an 11-member Environmental Commission" and to date, no further action has been taken. This Commission was established as a result of the 2000 Strategic Plan recommendation that such a citizen body be developed.

In August 2006, the City Council established a standing Council Committee on the Environment.

Both of these actions recognize the importance of environmental issues to the City Council and citizens of Long Beach.

The issues of the environment are multi-faceted and are of a major importance to Long Beach as we decide how best to balance economic growth with its impact upon our environment.

Establishing an Environmental Commission as a Charter Commission not only indicates the City's commitment to the issues of the environment but also raises the consciousness of our citizens to the effect of their actions on the environment and their roles as stewards of the resources of our community.

The mission of the Environmental Commission would be to improve, enhance, and preserve the environment and the quality of life in Long Beach and to promote Long Beach's long-term environmental sustainability in the areas of solid waste management, recycling, energy conservation, natural resource conservation, environmental justice, toxics, urban forestry and natural resources, habitat restoration, hazardous materials, transportation, and protection of the natural world.

SUGGESTED ACTION: Approve the establishment of an Environmental Commission in the City Charter and a Board of Commissioners to serve on such Commission without compensation.