



R-17

Date: April 24, 2007

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Council Member Gerrie Schipske, Fifth District *GS*
Council Member Tonia Reyes Uranga, Seventh District *TRU*
Council Member Rae Gabelich, Eighth District *RG*

Subject: **AGENDA ITEM: Consideration of Assembly Bill 704 (Eng) - Resident Advisory Commission on the Environment Act**

The 2010 Strategic Plan established a goal of transforming Long Beach into a sustainable city by, among other objectives, coordinating all City departments with relevant activities under the umbrella of a Sustainable City Program. (Goal E1.1) This vision was articulated by Mr. David Sundstrom, the Chair of the 2010 Plan's Environmental Task Force, "We are committed to pristine waterways, beaches and open spaces, raising the aesthetics of our neighborhoods and providing an excellent outdoor experience. Great things happen automatically when you create a healthy environment." With the goals of the 2010 Plan as our guiding document, the City Council and staff have initiated the formation of a Sustainable City Commission.

The California State Legislation is considering Assembly Bill 704 (Eng) that would require local governments to adopt a comprehensive general plan that addresses various elements, including the conservation element. This bill would enact the Resident Advisory Commission on the Environment Act, which would require the legislative body of each city, county, and city and county to establish a Resident Advisory Commission on the Environment, as specified, thereby creating a state-mandated local program. The Resident Advisory Commission on the Environment would be charged with advising the legislative body on various matters related to the environment, as specified. The bill would also make legislative findings and declarations regarding environmental concerns.

The City should take a proactive role to ensure that AB 704 (Eng) is aligned with the goals of the 2010 Strategic Plan. I am requesting that this matter be referred to the Environmental Committee for analysis and development of the City's position for City Council consideration.

Suggested Action: Refer to the Environmental Committee for consideration of the City's position on Assembly Bill 704 (Eng) Resident Advisory Commission on the Environment Act.