



# REQUEST FOR COUNCIL ACTION

CITY COUNCIL MEETING DATE:

MAY 13, 2008

TITLE: ESTABLISHMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE AND APPOINTMENTS TO THE COMMITTEE

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Director of Community Development

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City Manager

## RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

1. City Council comments and questions.
2. Adopt Resolution to create the Environmental Committee.
3. Make appointments to the Environmental Committee.

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

At the November 13, 2007 meeting of the City Council, staff presented the recommendations of the Environmental Management Task Force. The Task Force made five recommendations to the City Council, including one to create an Environmental Committee.

The proposed Environmental Committee would make recommendations to the City Council on matters related to climate protection, energy, recycling and waste management, sustainability, transportation and water. The Environmental Committee would help to implement the Energy Plan, which will come before the City Council on June 24, 2008, by reviewing recommendations, strategies and policy initiatives and making recommendations to the City Council. The Environmental Committee, would represent a broad cross-section of stakeholders in the community, and would help to educate and engage public participation; provide community support for advancing policy initiatives and programs, and advise the City Council and staff to maximize and leverage efficient use of resources.

## STATEMENT OF THE ISSUE

### Background:

At its August 14, 2007 regular meeting, the City Council approved the creation of an Environmental Management Task Force and appointed Mayor Pro Tem Kang and Mayor Krom as members. The objectives of the Task Force included working with the City Manager to create a comprehensive inventory of environmental initiatives currently

underway in the City, assess current programs and materials, and integrate environmental stewardship and sustainability initiatives throughout the municipal organization.

The Task Force met on October 30, 2007 and received a full report from staff, discussed the programs and formulated recommendations to the City Council. At the November 13, 2007 meeting of the City Council, staff presented the recommendations of the Environmental Task Force. The City Council approved the following recommendations of the Environmental Task Force:

1. Direct staff to include a Sustainability Element in the next update of the City's General Plan, projected for 2010.
2. Direct staff to ensure that all efforts are being made to support the integration of effort on environmental stewardship and sustainability initiatives throughout the municipal organization.
3. Direct staff to develop written policies on best management practices for sustainable community activities as part of the City's municipal operations (i.e. pest management program, use of water-based paints, and sustainable landscape guidelines).
4. Direct staff to develop print and electronic material for the promotion of the City's environmental management activities to help educate and inform the community and engage active participation in environmental conservation efforts.
5. Direct staff, in consultation with the City Manager, to establish an Environmental Committee comprised of members of the public associated with major organizations or institutions in town to be appointed by Councilmembers for the purpose of creating an additional framework for participation in the City's efforts to advance environmental initiatives and the proposed structure of the committee to be brought back to the City Council for approval.

Analysis/Discussion:

The City's Municipal Code regulates commissions and committees, in Section 1-4 101 through 1-4 304. Chapter 3 of this Section outlines the provisions for creating a Committee, including its structure, appointments, and consultation with the City Manager to determine the committee's assignments.

The attached Resolution (Attachment 1) outlines the objectives, purpose and duties of the Environmental Committee, the procedure for appointments and membership, and the frequency of meetings. Pursuant to the Municipal Code, all commissions and committees are subject to the Brown Act. The Environmental Committee will be required to hold regularly scheduled, noticed public meetings and comply with all other provisions of the Brown Act.

It is recommended that the City Council approve the attached Resolution to create the Environmental Committee, and make appointments to the Committee with the following make-up of members:

- 2 Members of the City Council
- 1 Member appointed by the Planning Commission
- 6 Citizens and Environmental Stakeholders appointed by the City Council
- 6 Community Partners (non-voting) appointed by the City Council

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15 Total

The six Citizens and Environmental Stakeholders appointed by the City Council would be selected from the community, either residents or business persons who have an interest in the City's environmental issues. Examples might include representatives of home owners associations or residents at-large, business leaders or representatives of the Chamber of Commerce, or individuals with a particular interest or expertise in environmental issues, such as energy, water quality, open space, recycling or green building.

The six Community Partners appointed by the City Council would be selected from the local utilities and service providers (i.e. Irvine Ranch Water District, Southern California Edison, Waste Management), local educational institutions (i.e. University of California, Irvine, Irvine Unified School District) and representatives of the development community (The Irvine Company, Lennar). The Community Partners would be non-voting members of the Environmental Committee. Their role would be to provide valuable insight and suggestions on implementation of the City's environmental projects, programs and policies.

#### ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

The creation of the Environmental Committee was approved by the City Council on November 13, 2007. The City Council may select an alternative composition of the Committee.

#### FINANCIAL IMPACT

City staff in the Environmental Programs section of Community Development will provide primary staff support to this Committee. Secondary support will be provided by the Environmental Programs staff in the Public Works Department. No additional staff

or funding is requested. Committee appointees will not receive compensation. The creation of this committee of community members who will review information and make recommendations to the City Council will not result in a financial impact to the City.

## CONCLUSION

The City of Irvine has a long history of environmental stewardship, taking bold steps in preserving open space, protecting the environment, and developing or participating in programs to conserve natural resources. Sustainability, green building, environmental and energy issues have all become increasingly important in local government to address recent legislation to reduce greenhouse gas effects and make more efficient use of our natural resources.

Recognizing the need to address these issues, the City Council has already directed staff to develop policies such as the Energy Plan and incorporating sustainability in to the next comprehensive General Plan update; as well as creating the County's first green building program in 2006, and recently creating the Environmental Programs section within the Community Development Department to oversee energy, sustainability and green building programs. In addition, the Public Works Department's Environmental Programs section oversees waste management, recycling and water issues.

The City Council has recognized the importance of these issues and the need to engage the residents, businesses and their employees, visitors, and the greater Irvine community in this issue. The creation of the Environmental Committee will fulfill this need and provide the City Council with input from the community as future steps are taken to ensure the sustainability and quality of life in Irvine.

Report prepared by: Brian Fisk, Manager of Planning and Redevelopment

### Attachments:

1. City Council Resolution No.

cc: Manuel Gomez, Director of Public Works  
Marcia Beckett, Fiscal & Environmental Programs Administrator  
Chandra Krout, Environmental Programs Administrator  
Shawn Thompson, Environmental Programs Coordinator

