

Natural Resources Commission

2007 Goals & Objectives

COMMISSION CHARGE: To provide recommendations to the City Council on natural resources issues facing the City of Davis, including water and aquatic site management, air quality, waste management, recycling and monitoring the cleanup of hazardous waste sites. Specifically, to

- Advise the City Council on:
 - preservation, management, and enhancement of the City's natural resources.
 - use of renewable sources of energy.
 - environmental matters relating to global warming and toxic and hazardous substances.
- Investigate, review, and make recommendations to the City Council regarding:
 - maintaining the quality and quantity of the City's water supply, wastewater treatment processes and promoting water conservation.
 - the degradation of air quality in the Yolo-Solano-Sacramento region.
 - ways to implement the Yolo County Solid Waste Plan and improve city-wide recycling efforts.
- Report to the City Council, other City Commissions and department's recommendations for legislation and other actions that would limit actual or potential threats to the natural resources of the region.
- Advise the City Council on other matters upon request.

VISION STATEMENT: A community that maintains a low impact on the natural environment, including the air, water and land that surrounds us, and that seeks to improve the natural resources that already are impacted.

VALUES:

- Public Involvement
- Community Education and Awareness
- Environmental Stewardship
- Innovative and Proactive Practices

2007 ACTION PLAN:

- 1:** Monitor the progress of remediation activities at various hazardous waste sites in the Davis area.
- a:** Produce annual status reports for the City Council and updates to the Commission and/or Council should critical developments occur requiring immediate action.
 - b:** Review proposed redevelopment alternatives for the Frontier Fertilizer site.

2: Pursue regional long-term water supply options.

- a:** Communicate with the University of California-Davis administration and student organizations involved in campus water needs to identify common concerns.
- b:** Support alternative water supplies and conservation and other aspects of the water vision.
- c:** Review City's water rights application to the State Water Resources Control Board, financing options for conveyance facilities and gauge interest by other Yolo County communities.
- d:** Monitor the City's Water Conservation Incentive Program.
 - 1: Promote the conservation program through the news media and City publications.
 - 2: Review results of water conservation program after one year.
 - 3: Review 3 tier water rate program.
- e:** Implement the Stormwater Quality and Wastewater Management Plans.
 - 1: Identify ways that Davis citizens can contribute to improving stormwater quality.
 - 2: Review progress, effectiveness, and extent of constructed wetlands.

3: Promote the use of alternative fuel vehicles and public transit as a way to improve local air quality and reduce use of non-renewable energy resources.

- a:** Hold a joint meeting with the Planning Commission to review transportation issues.
- b:** Meet with the Unitrans Advisory Board and UCD TAPS, Yolo Bus and other public transit providers to discuss ways to reduce automobile traffic and improve air quality.
- c:** Develop a long-term plan for improving incentives for alternative fuel vehicles and promoting greater use of transit options.
- d:** Review use of alternative fuel vehicles and environmental impact of city fleet.
- e:** Work with the Planning Commission on land use and air quality relationship.

4: Identify ways to improve air quality and reduce green house gas emissions.

- a:** Reduce the use of gasoline powered lawn and garden equipment.
- b:** Promote the maintenance of automobiles in order to increase fuel efficiency and reduce air pollution.
- c:** Study ways to promote and improve upon the Air Management District's current voluntary "No Burn Day" program for wood burning stoves.
- d:** Review city policy and ordinance on vehicle idling.
- e:** Study and recommend ways to reduce the City's contribution to the problem of global warming.

- 5:** Monitor progress of Dark Sky Program.
- a: Investigate options to bring existing facilities into compliance.
 - b: Obtain nighttime aerial photography for light and infrared (heat loss) information.
 - c: Support and promote dark sky related activities such as the annual star party.
 - d: Recommend further implementation activities in light of new standards and technology.
- 6:** Promote the principles of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) for City facilities and the entire community.
- a: Identify key contaminant products and work with local garden retailers to help them promote IPM alternatives.
 - b: Provide background to City Council on invasive species impacts and alternatives.
 - c: Monitor city use of biosolids, herbicides and pesticides with the intention of reducing overall use.
 - d: Review policy and framework of IPM ordinance.
 - e: Coordinate ongoing public education campaign. This would include expanded public notification of City pesticide use and quarterly articles to educate the public on household pesticide use.
 - f: Investigate the feasibility of a City-wide IPM coordinator. The ultimate desire would be that this person works with DJUSD and UCD.
 - g: Commission to review IPM plan.
- 7:** Promote regional environmental resource planning to preserve our natural resources.
- a: Make recommendations for city - county 2x2 agenda and with local special districts to discuss common interests in regional environmental resources planning.
 - b: Integrate actions for other goals into regional approach for resource planning (e.g., water supply, air quality, and natural habitat).
 - c: Monitor potential impacts to natural resources, including open space from development.
- 8:** Recognize individual, business, and community actions to improve natural resources stewardship.
- a: Encourage city to develop outreach to residents and commercial customers for education on pollution load reduction.
 - b: Conduct Environmental Recognition Program and review award categories.

- 9:** Promote public involvement, increase community education and awareness, and identify topics of interest related to natural resource issues and energy efficiency.
- a:** Hold public forums on specific subjects of significant interest a minimum of two times each year.
 - b:** Develop public outreach program similar to National Water Quality Day.
 - c:** Study and promote economic benefits of Davis environmental stewardship.
- 10:** Promote the City's Urban Wildlife Program.
- a:** Investigate and develop recommendations related to sensitive species, native plants, wildlife management, domestic animals, and other related issues.
 - b:** Investigate and develop recommendations regarding promotion of eco-tourism including bird watching activities.
 - c:** Investigate ways of controlling adverse impacts of urban wildlife.
- 11:** Review and recommend implementation of natural resource, environmental and energy policies in the City's General Plan.
- a:** Review existing goals and policies and identify activities to advance implementation.
 - b:** Participate in General Plan process.
- 12:** Identify way to improve energy efficiency and sustainability.
- a:** Monitor MUD options.
 - b:** Monitor recommendations for Green Building Program.
 - c:** Monitor Energy Task Force recommendations.