

Jomsky, Mark

Subject: RE: MSC Follow Up

From: <wesley@godayone.org>

Date: Tue, 22 Jul 2014 18:23:15 -0700

To: Margaret McAustin <mmcaustin@cityofpasadena.net>, Terry Tornek <ttornek@cityofpasadena.net>, Bill Bogaard <bbogaard@cityofpasadena.net>

Subject: MSC Follow Up

Good afternoon MSC Committee Members,

Following up on today's meeting, I wanted to share a few additional comments on the conservation issue facing the City, as well as information and links to resources on the issue of single-use polystyrene.

Water Conservation

- **City hall landscaping** - City Hall is currently surrounded with sections of grass and other water-intensive landscaping (e.g., parkways, adjacent to stairs on Euclid). The City could lead by example by removing these sections of turf - which are generally not used for the public to recreate or congregate - and replacing them with examples of attractive, drought tolerant landscaping treatments. This would be a high profile example of what could also be replicated at other public properties.
- **Parkways** - Residential parkways are an example of an underutilized, often water-intense space, particularly if landscaped with lawn. A concerted effort on the part of the City could accelerate the phasing out of such landscaping by strongly incentivizing and potentially even mandating a transition to more water sensitive landscaping.
- **Graywater** - To date it appears that PWP has done very little public education/outreach/encouragement on opportunities to utilize graywater to maintain more water intensive landscaping while simultaneously reducing overall water use. This is another area of potential water savings in the City.
- **Development** - While new development can and should be held to the highest standards insofar as water use is concerned, the question of whether water rationing is a grounds to halt growth appears to miss the point insofar as it fails to justify the incredible amount of water used for decorative landscaping. Should the development of a more vibrant, walkable downtown, with more affordable housing and residents who use a fraction of their suburban counterparts, be halted to accommodate those who continue to utilize

Single Use Polystyrene

A final point we wanted to share was that members of the public, Day One staff included, were informed by City staff in 2011 (Ursula Schmidt, I believe) that the City would begin working on a polystyrene policy once the bag ban was implemented.

3.5 years later the lack of forward progress on this issue has compelled community groups such as Day One, Transition, Arroyo Seco Foundation, and the Sierra Club Foothills Chapter, as well as the City's Environmental Advisory Commission in recent months, to advocate for a green policy that aligns with the City's existing sustainability and zero waste goals, and should be viewed as "low hanging fruit". Local polystyrene policies have been legally defensible for over a decade, are far simpler than bag bans to implement from the public's perspective (no need to bring your own cup!), and have already been voluntarily adopted by several large retailers (e.g., Starbucks, McDonalds). Over 70 cities in the state have successfully implemented such policies, some as far back as 1990 (e.g., West Hollywood).

Statewide polystyrene bills have been introduced for years, but like the bag ban, continue to fall victim to the lobbying muscle of the American Chemistry Council and other industry groups. Fortunately such

industry groups do not have the same sway on a local level, as evidenced by the growing number of Cities who have moved on this issue.

For your information, here are a few links to additional information on this opportunity to bolster the City's green record.

Californians Against Waste - The Problem of Polystyrene
http://www.cawrecycles.org/issues/plastic_campaign/polystyrene/problem

List of Local Polystyrene Policies in California (includes links to City ordinances)
http://www.cawrecycles.org/issues/plastic_campaign/polystyrene/local

Best regards,

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Day One builds vibrant, healthy cities by advancing public health, empowering youth, and igniting change.

Jomsky, Mark

Subject: RE: Pasadena water day restrictions

From: Donald Simpson <DonSimpson@att.net>

Reply-To: Donald Simpson <DonSimpson@att.net>

Date: Tue, 22 Jul 2014 10:21:07 -0700

To: Margaret McAustin <mmcaustin@cityofpasadena.net>

Cc: Margo Morales <mlmorales@cityofpasadena.net>

Subject: Pasadena water day restrictions

Hello Council person McAustin,

I caught a bit of a news item this morning saying that the City of Pasadena was going to, once again, restrict outdoor watering to certain days.

I find it unsettling that I must now water more often than I now do—I water every third day. That means I only water three days in a week every third week. Last time, Margo sent me a terse reply of “no exceptions”...

The “certain days” regimen is bad for several reasons, although I’m sure from the City’s perspective, the positive press and perhaps ease of enforcement is all that matters.

Here are the reasons:

1. You take the randomness out of water use. Everyone waters on the same days, so water pressure drops, and may be insufficient to ‘pop’ the sprinkler, causing it to merely run off. Silly me, that will generate lots of \$500 fines!
2. Should enough people complain about low water pressure, the Water Department will need to raise the pressure, which risks water main breaks, as experienced in the City of Los Angeles. BTW, the last time the “certain days” regimen was instituted, I complained to the head of the Water Department personally—he did not know about the change, thus had taken no city-wide action.
3. In order to span the three-day period, most people setting their sprinkler time—most often, the Gardener—will over-water the two-day period. Keep in mind, the Gardener has a vested interest in keeping the lawn alive and well. Most homeowners do not know how to set their sprinkler timers.

Please let the residents of Pasadena take personal responsibility in this matter. Perhaps the City could explore other means to help people reduce their usage.

While you are at it, perhaps the City Council could remind City Departments and contractors, such as RBOC and Brookside golf course about the watering restrictions.

Don Simpson



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