



CITY OF HUNTINGTON BEACH

ENVIRONMENTAL BOARD

PO Box 190 • Huntington Beach, CA 92648

2014-2015 ANNUAL REPORT



Board Members

Kim Nicolson (Chairman July 2014 - June 2015)
Mark Sheldon (Vice Chairman July 2014 - August 2015)
Jessica Bechtold Budica (Secretary July 2014 - August 2014)
Tony Soriano (Secretary August 2014 - August 2015)
Jeff Coffman, Sue Gordon, Robert Schaaf

City Council Liaisons

Connie Boardman, Jill Hardy and Joe Shaw (July 2014 - November 2014)
Jill Hardy and Barbara Delgleize (from December 2014)

City Staff Liaison

Aaron Klemm (through July 2014)
Hayden Beckman (August 2014 through March 2015)
Antonia Graham (from April 2015)

Planning Commission Liaison

Dan Kalmick

1. Introduction

The Huntington Beach (HB) City Council (Council) established an Environmental Board (Board) over 40 years ago. Much has changed in the intervening years and in 2009 the Council streamlined several Boards and Committees to reflect those changes. The purpose of the Board was revised and expanded to include economic, environmental and social sustainability.

Beginning the 2014-15 year, the Staff Liaison was Energy Project Manager Aaron Klemm, transitioning in August 2014 to Associate Planner Hayden Beckman, and in April 2015 to the Energy and Sustainability Projects Manager, Antonia Graham.

What the Board Does:

- Review and comment on General and Specific Plans as well as Environmental Impact Reports and Negative Declarations to promote sustainability and a healthy community
- Assist with the City's programs by reducing the consumption of water and energy, increasing recycling and waste diversion and promoting sustainable energy practices
- Support the City's evolving environmental goals and sustainability programs through external awareness, educational and advisory projects
- Promote the Board's Sustainability Awards for deserving organizations and individuals who demonstrate commitment to sustainability
- Deliver an Annual Report to the Council on plans and results

2. Goals and Objectives 2014-2015

- Present a guest speaker at each meeting
- Revive the Environmental Awards after a difficult period with participation and outreach
- Participate in green events
- Promote the Metropolitan Water District of Orange County (MWDOC) Turf Removal program
- Initiate a sustainable restaurant program through existing permitting processes
- Support the City's General Plan Update through Board representation on General Plan Action Committee and Task Forces

To help accomplish its goals and objectives, the Board has established one standing committee (the Executive Committee, consisting of the Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary), and ad hoc committees. During 2014-2015 the ad hoc committees included:

- Resource Management Committee
- Ocean Debris Committee, revised to Ocean Debris and Water Quality Committee
- Environmental Awards Committee

3. Accomplishments

Below is a summary of events and accomplishments achieved during 2014-2015 by the Environmental Board.

Presentations:

The Board has a Speakers Program to provide the members of the Board and others with pertinent information on environmental and sustainability issues. Here are some notable presentations:

- **Bay Friendly Restaurants** - is an organization providing sustainable restaurant certifications with a simple checklist completed by city inspectors throughout the entire south bay area. Representatives spoke with the board about the benefits and an invitation to join and have the program active in HB.
- **Janelle Bader, Southern California Edison (SCE)** - discussed plans to re-landscape the Hamilton Service Center, taking advantage of the increased turf removal incentive of \$2 per square foot by The Metropolitan Water District of Orange County (MWDOC). The turf was replaced with ocean friendly plants in partnership with Surfrider, the City of Huntington Beach, and Rainbow Environmental Services.
- **Greg Blake with Biosynthetic Technologies** - discussed the benefits of synthetic motor oil.
- **Stephen O’Kane, Sustainability & Regulatory Compliance Manager, AES** – discussed Energy and Environmental policy, project development of AES HB facility, greenhouse gases and climate change.
- **Bill Conley with OC Sustainability Collaborative, and Director of Facility for Yamaha Motor Corporation** - spoke on municipality sustainability, Smart City, and population growth.
- **Joe Berg, Manager, MWDOC** - gave a presentation on the state of our water shortage, implementation of contingency plans, emergency regulations by the State Board, and water use efficiency programs.
- **Toby Gant, Discovery Cube** - spoke about the Discovery Science Center.

Green Events

The Board staffed a booth at the Huntington Beach Green Expo on September 13, 2014. This was the seventh year participating in the Huntington Beach Chamber of Commerce event.

Development Planning

The Board reviewed environmental documents and provided comments to reduce environmental impacts and enhance sustainability. The documents included:

- Le Bard Park Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND)
- Reusable Bag Ordinance Repeal: Addendum to adopted Environmental Impact Report (EIR)
- ASCON Re-circulated Draft EIR
- Historic and Cultural Resources Element Update Draft Negative Declaration

Committee Activity/Reporting

Some projects (in addition to others mentioned elsewhere) which Board committees/representatives participated in or observed included:

- Executive Committee:
 - Assisted with the Southern California Edison Hamilton Substation Turf Removal and Ocean Friendly Gardens project

- Board members participated in General Plan Action Committee and Task Forces
- Resource Management Committee:
 - Kept up to date with the Surfrider Foundation's Ocean Friendly Restaurant program
 - Inquired into proper disposal of personal fireworks
- Ocean Debris and Water Quality Committee
 - Inquired into the status of introducing covered trash receptacles in the beach area
 - Followed Beach Clean-up reports on trash & debris removal classifying plastic materials with documentation from Surfrider Foundation, Huntington/Seal Beach Chapter

Environmental Awards

One of the most effective tools for outreach is the Environmental Awards. Each year, the Environmental Board has awarded residents, businesses, and organizations for outstanding efforts in sustainability. This year, Rainbow Environmental Services sponsored the awards and the Board gave three schools \$500 each for their projects in recycling, and sustainability. The awards went to Moffett Elementary, Mesa View Middle School, and Village View Elementary.

4. Goals and Objectives for 2015-2016

- Continue to incorporate guest speakers at each meeting to provide the Board and others with pertinent information on environmental and sustainability issues
- Continue to have monthly guest speakers that promote the mission of the Environmental Board and educate members on current environmental and sustainability issues.
- Hold quarterly field trips for Environmental Board members.
- Continue the Sustainability Award Program.
- Research and provide recommendations to the City of Huntington Beach staff on the state of waste management on beaches, parks, and in public areas.
- Facilitate public-private partnerships for sustainability projects like Community Home Energy Retrofit Program (CHERP), energy performance districts, and landscape projects.
- Develop an anti-litter campaign.
- Encourage public involvement in the Environmental Board meetings and events.
- Sponsor a Beach Clean-up Day in partnership with Surfrider.
- Sponsor a Park Clean-up Day.
- Each Board Member should participate in one community event that supports the Environmental Board's mission of promoting sustainability, economic, ecological, and social environments of the City of Huntington Beach.