



CITY OF HUNTINGTON BEACH

ENVIRONMENTAL BOARD

PO Box 190 | Huntington Beach, CA 92648

2016 ANNUAL REPORT



Board Members

Tony Soriano (Chairman 7/2015 – 9/2016)
Jessica Budica (Vice Chairman 7/2015- 9/2016 & Chairman – 9/2016 – Present)
Debbie Killey (Secretary Chairman J7/2015 – 9/2016 & Vice-Chairman 9/2016 – Present)
Mark Sheldon (Secretary 9/2016 – Present)
Michelle Claud-Clemente
Jeff Coffman
Kim Nicolson
Kyle Scrimgeour
Shawn Thompson

City Council Liaisons

Jill Hardy and Barbara Delgleize

City Staff Liaison

Antonia Graham

Planning Commission Liaison

Dan Kalmick

I. 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.

What the Board Does:

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

II. Goals and Objectives 2016

- 1) Continue to incorporate guest speakers at each meeting to provide the Board and others with pertinent information on environmental and sustainability issues
- 2) Continue to have monthly guest speakers that promote the mission of the Environmental Board and educate members on current environmental and sustainability issues.
- 3) Hold quarterly field trips for Environmental Board members.
- 4) Continue the Sustainability Award Program.

- 5) Research and provide recommendations to the City of Huntington Beach staff on the state of waste management on beaches, parks, and in public areas.
- 6) Facilitate public-private partnerships for sustainability projects like Community Home Energy Retrofit Program (CHERP), energy performance districts, and landscape projects.
- 7) Develop an anti-litter campaign.
- 8) Encourage public involvement in the Environmental Board meetings and events.
- 9) Sponsor a Beach Clean-up Day in partnership with the city or non-profit organization.
- 10) Sponsor a Park Clean-up Day in partnership with the city or non-profit organization.
- 11) 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.

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 and Water Quality Committee
- Natural Environment
- Energy Issues

III. Accomplishments

Below is a summary of events and accomplishments achieved during 2016 by the Environmental Board.

A. 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:

- January 2016: Gordon Smith from Huntington Beach Wetlands Conservancy gave an overview of the organization and their current projects.
- February 2016: Wendy Marshall from ExplorOcean gave overview of Ocean Literacy programs and Open House programs that her organization is involved in. Many already involve Huntington Beach schools.
- March 2016: No Speaker
- April 2016: Jim Miller and Debbie Killey from JR Miller and Associates discussed the state of organics collection in California and anaerobic digestion technology for the future.
- May 2016: Dr. Darren Haver from the University of California Cooperative Extension is the Water Resources/Water Quality Advisor and Director who spoke on his organization and the research that he conducts.
- June 2016: Kacen Clapper is the Chief Storm Water Compliance officer at Orange County Public Works who gave a presentation on the OC Watersheds and online available tools.
- July 2016: Jennifer Villasenor, Planning Manager for the City of Huntington Beach's Community Development Department gave background on the General Plan Update document and next steps for its review/approval.
- August 2016: Ray Hiemstra, Director gave overview of Orange County Coast Keepers programs.

- September 2016: Mary Urashima spoke on “Historic Preservation – A Green Approach.” She discussed the environmental benefits of structure preservation, citing examples from historically significant sites throughout Huntington Beach.
- October 2016: No Speaker
- November 2016: No Speaker
- December 2016: Jim Merid, Environmental Specialist, Public Works gave an update on Huntington Beach’s Stormwater program.

B. Green Events

- The Board helped staff the City of Huntington Beach’s booth at the Huntington Beach Green Forum on October 8, 2016. This was the eighth year participating in the Huntington Beach Chamber of Commerce event.
- Participated in the planning and execution of a Coastal Clean-up Day event at Central Park on 09/17/2016

C. Development Planning

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

- Letter Commenting on the Notice of Preparation of a Supplemental Environmental Impact Report and Notice of Public Scoping Meeting – Seawater Desalination Project at Huntington Beach Outfall/Intake Modifications and General Lease (December 2016)
- Admiralty Dr. Bridge Rehabilitation (February 2016)

D. Committee Activity/Reporting

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

- Letter of Support for EPIC Challenge grant (February 2016)
- Letter of Support for trail expansion and improvement in Central Park grant. (September 2016)
- Cool California Challenge – Board members promoted competition by sharing information online and participating at the City’s Surf City Nights booth to encourage participation. (Winter 2016)

E. Environmental Awards

One of the most effective tools for outreach is the Environmental Awards. Unfortunately, in 2016, the Board was not able to provide an award as funds were not secured from an outside source.

F. Field Trips

- Huntington Beach Wetlands Conservancy Education Center (January 2016)
- UCI Microgrid Tour (March 2016)
- Algeria Fresh Tour (March, 2016)
- Banning Ranch Conservancy Tour (April, 2016)
- Fullerton Arboretum (June 2016)
- Goodwill Facility Tour in Santa Ana (September 2016)
- Coast Keeper Garden at Santiago College (October 2016)

- South Coast Research and Extension Center Tour (November 2016)

IV. Goals and Objectives for 2017

- 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.
- Secure funds to 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 City or non-profit.
- Sponsor a Park Clean-up Day in partnership with City or non-profit.
- 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.
- Each board member shall provide public comment at a city council meeting at least once. Board members should be communicating to city council on a monthly basis.
- Each board member shall provide at least one contact per year as a public speaker for board meetings.