



**SF Environment**

**Our home. Our city. Our planet.**



EDWIN M. LEE  
Mayor

DEBORAH O. RAPHAEL  
Director

**DRAFT**

## **COMMISSION ON THE ENVIRONMENT ANNUAL REPORT 2014**

### **The Commission on the Environment**

The mission of the Commission on the Environment is to improve, enhance, and preserve the environment and to promote San Francisco's long-term environmental sustainability as set forth in Section 4.118 of the City Charter. The Commission on the Environment sets policy for the Department of the Environment and advises the Mayor, Board of Supervisors, and other City departments on environmental matters. Appointed by the Mayor, the seven-member commission develops policies and programs on a wide range of environmental topics including zero waste, toxics reduction, environmental justice, clean air, energy efficiency, green building, habitat restoration, commute alternatives, greenhouse gas reduction, green jobs, biodiversity, and the city's urban forest. The Commission's office is located at 1455 Market Street, 12<sup>th</sup> Floor, San Francisco, CA 94103.

### **Commission and Committee Membership - 2014**

Joshua Arce, President; Angelo King, Vice President and Operations Committee Chair; Ruth Gravanis (Policy Committee); Nicholas Josefowitz (Policy Committee); Heather Stephenson (Operations Committee) Johanna Wald (Policy Committee Chair); Sarah Wan (Operations Committee).

### **Commissioners Leaving Office in 2014**

Special thanks to two commissioners who left office in 2014: Commissioner Ruth Gravanis and Commissioner Nicholas Josefowitz. Commissioner Josefowitz served on the Commission from January 31, 2013 to May 28, 2014. Commissioner Gravanis served on the Commission from July 12, 2006 to November 30, 2014. Both Commissioners Gravanis and Josefowitz also served as members of the Policy Committee.

### **Meetings**

All meetings of the Commission on the Environment and its committees are open to the public. The full Commission meets bimonthly on the fourth Tuesday at 5:00 p.m. in January, March, May, July, September and November. Meetings are held at City Hall, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Jr. Place, Room 416, in the City and County of San Francisco unless otherwise noted.

The Commission's Policy Committee meets monthly on the second Monday at 5:00 p.m. with the exception of the fourth Monday in October. Meetings are held at City Hall, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Jr. Place, Room 421 in the City and County of San Francisco unless otherwise noted.

The Commission's Operations Committee meets quarterly on the second Wednesday at 5:00 p.m. in February, May, August and November. Meetings are held at City Hall, 1 Dr.

Carlton B. Goodlett Jr. Place, Room 421 in the City and County of San Francisco unless otherwise noted.

### **Background on the Commission**

In carrying out its mission, the Commission and its two committees engage in three general types of activities: 1) providing oversight of and strategic advice on the work of the Department of the Environment and its staff; 2) generating and reviewing new policies, practices and ideas relating to sustainability for consideration by the staff, the Mayor, the Board of Supervisors and by other city agencies as relevant; and 3) providing public outreach and education. The Commission carries out its responsibilities principally by reviewing and commenting on oral and written presentations from the staff at both full Commission meetings and at committee meetings.

### **Update for 2014?**

The Commission is directly responsible for a number of San Francisco's most well known environmental initiatives including its ban on City purchase of single-serve water bottles and its groundbreaking ordinance on check-out bags, which was recently upheld by a second state court, the 1<sup>st</sup> District Court of Appeals, in response to a legal challenge from a plastic bag industry-supported organization. Other major initiatives that the Commission has spearheaded include the Department's green jobs program, its Climate Action Plan, and the City's mandatory composting requirement. As the result of these initiatives, in 2013:

- San Francisco's landfill diversion rate is 80%, making it #1 in the country for a city our size.
- Successfully implemented the expanded checkout bag ordinance at 14,000 retail and food establishments.
- 69 plastic bag ordinances have been adopted in the state of California, covering a total of 90 cities or counties.
- Composting and recycling collection have essentially been brought to the last of the 8,600 apartment buildings in San Francisco.
- San Francisco's greenhouse gas emissions are nearly 14.5% below 1990 levels. We are very close to meeting the City's goal of reducing emissions 20% below those levels by 2012 and have exceeded emission reduction goals set by both the United Nations and the State of California, even as our population has grown substantially.
- Through the GoSolarSF program, 237 new solar systems were installed in the city, including 74 low-income residential installments, totaling 970.4 kW capacity
- The 2013 America's Cup reported that the event was carbon neutral, used no single-use plastic bags, and had an 85% landfill diversion rate from America's Cup Park and America's Cup Village spectator venues.

### **Awards - 2014**

Will be in Department of the Environment's section. Does Commission want to include here also? I THINK NOT. THERE IS NO NEED TO DUPLICATE.

Approved \_\_\_\_\_

## Major accomplishments of the Commission in 2014

In 2014, the Commission's major accomplishments included:

Adopting a Resolution to support Supervisor Chiu's proposed ordinance amending the Environment Code to restrict the sale or distribution on City property of drinking water in plastic bottles of 21 ounces or less, setting City policy to increase the availability of drinking water in public areas, and barring the use of City funds to purchase bottled water.

Adopting a Resolution in support of amendments to the Clean Construction Ordinance.

Adopting a Resolution approving the Department of the Environment's Integrated Pest Management 2014 Reduced Risk Pesticide List for City Properties.

Adopting a Resolution in support of San Francisco Solar Policy for New Construction.

Adopting a Resolution in support of working with the Port of San Francisco to create a policy prohibiting transportation and export of hazardous fossil fuel materials such as coal, crude oil, and petroleum coke in the City and County of San Francisco.

Adopting a Resolution in support of San Francisco's Vision Zero Program to eliminate all traffic-related fatalities in the next ten years.

Adopting a Resolution in support of Assembly Bill (AB) 2188 (Muratsuchi), "Solar energy: permits".

Adopting Resolutions commending Commissioners Emeritus Alan Mok and Nicholas Josefowitz for their service to the Commission on the Environment as well as Resolutions commending Melanie Nutter, Director; David Assmann, Acting Director/Deputy Director; and Ann Kelly, San Francisco Department of the Environment Senior Manager, Energy Programs, for their service to the Department and the San Francisco Commission on the Environment.

Approval of the 2012 Buy Green Ordinance for City Staff Annual Report: Environmentally Preferable Purchasing Ordinance.

Providing education and outreach presentations to the public on Department of the Environment programs such as the Tenant Bicycle Parking in Existing Commercial Buildings Ordinance and Energy Upgrade California, energy efficiency for city residents.

Briefing on the previous year's implementation of the Healthy Air and Clean Transportation Ordinance.

Providing guidance and recommendations on updated Climate Action Strategy Priorities for 2014. **Tentative based on contributions made**

Approved \_\_\_\_\_

Approval of the Department of the Environment's Fiscal Year (FY) 2013-14 Budget.

Providing recommendations to the Mayor on the Department of the Environment's Executive Director-position.

Holding a public joint meeting with the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission to discuss shared responsibilities and plans to advance the City's environmental goals in toxics reduction and environmental safety, water conservation, wastewater management, clean vehicle adoption, and renewable generation and energy efficiency, including a discussion of opportunities, challenges, and potential future collaboration in pursuit of environmental objectives.

Holding a full Commission community meeting in the Mission neighborhood of San Francisco and providing a forum for discussion of (1) community resiliency and empowerment in the neighborhood; (2) the Office of Economic and Workforce Development's Invest in Neighborhoods Initiative on Lower 24<sup>th</sup> Street; and (3) sustainable community efforts to establish the Calle 24 Latino Cultural District. Resolution was adopted in Support of Calle 24 Latino Cultural District.

#### **Oversight activities of the Commission in 2014 included:**

Approving the Department of the Environment's Fiscal Year 2014-2015 Budget on March 25, 2014 and recommending approval of that budget by the full Commission.

Adopting a Revised Reduced Risk Pesticides list for 2014. On January 28, 2014, the Commission approved this list as required by Environment Code Chapter 2, Section 203, Ordinance 115-05. In so doing, the Commission and the Department help the City protect residents, visitors, City staff and the City's biodiversity from the effects of unnecessary and avoidable pesticide use.

#### **Accomplishments of Environment Commission Committees**

In addition to the accomplishments referenced above, 2014 activities of the Operations Committee included:

Reviewing and providing input into the Department of the Environment's Fiscal Year 2014-15 Budget recommendation to the Commission and make recommendations on unfunded mandates.

Recommendations made on the Department of the Environment's Comprehensive Grantmaking Program. **TENTATIVE BASED ON WHETHER RECOMMENDATIONS WERE INCORPORATED**

Reviewing and making recommendations on the process for Commission on the Environment's community meetings and outreach component.

Approved \_\_\_\_\_

In addition to the accomplishments referenced above, 2014 activities of the Policy Committee included:

Adopting Committee Resolution in support of proposed San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA) Commuter Shuttle Policy and Pilot Program.

Adopting Committee Resolution in support of the Municipal Transportation Agency's Transit Effectiveness/MUNI Forward Project (TEP).

Recommending that the Commission approve the 2012 Buy Green Ordinance for City Staff Annual Report.

Providing guidance on updated Climate Action Strategy priorities for 2014.

Providing guidance and recommending that the Commission adopt Resolutions referenced in the section of this report entitled "Major Accomplishments of the Commission in 2014.

Approved \_\_\_\_\_