

From: [Brian Yamaguchi](#)
To: [City Clerk](#)
Cc: [Brian Yamaguchi](#)
Subject: Public Comment - Monrovia City Council Meeting 12/7/2021 Agenda Item CC-4 "Public Meetings by Teleconference"
Date: Tuesday, December 7, 2021 11:56:09 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Councilmembers,

If the City Council, Community Services Commission, Planning Commission, Traffic Safety Committee, Monrovia Old Town Advisory Board, Library Board, Historic Preservation Commission, Art in Public Places Committee, and Measure K Citizens Advisory Committee can all conduct their public meetings via Zoom during this pandemic, it doesn't make sense to me why the Developmental Review Committee cannot have live public participation via Zoom as well. **The Brown Act reads:**

"The people of this State do not yield their sovereignty to the agencies which serve them. The people, in delegating authority, do not give their public servants the right to decide what is good for the people to know and what is not good for them to know. The people insist on remaining informed so that they may retain control over the instruments they have created." Gov't Code § 54950.

While there might be a technicality in the act that allows the Development Review Committee to be excluded, the spirit of the sunshine law is that actions of our government be transparent and not behind closed doors. Please consider reopening the Developmental Review Committee meetings to the public via Zoom.

Sincerely,
Brian Yamaguchi

From: [Brian Yamaguchi](#)
To: [City Clerk](#)
Cc: [Brian Yamaguchi](#)
Subject: Public Comment - Monrovia City Council Meeting 12/7/2021 Agenda Item AR-1 "Water Conservation Plan"
Date: Tuesday, December 7, 2021 1:28:40 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Councilmembers,

There needs to be some perspective in the proposed "Water Conservation Plan".

This is where water in California is used:

- 50% Environmental
- 40% Agricultural
- 6% Residential
- 4% Commercial/Industrial

While there is nothing wrong with conserving 15% of residential use, conserving 15% of the 6% will only save 0.9% of California's water. Saving just 1.8% of the environmental slice of water usage from running into the ocean would conserve the same quantity of water.

There have been 8 water bonds approved by voters since the year 2000 totaling over \$21 billion dollars of funding with very little to show for it. A water plan should not only be about conservation but also include generation including desalination, atmospheric water generation, and cloud seeding; reuse including gray water, stormwater capture, and sewage reclamation; and storage including groundwater recharge, reservoir expansion and new reservoir construction. The City of Monrovia should work with the Southern California Association of Governments to apply pressure on Sacramento to put the \$21 billion dollars of voter approved funding into motion and create tangible, practical projects that produce double digit percentage increases in available water volume.

I have a concern about the excess water usage penalty surcharge proposed in

AR-1. The concern is that any penalty will disproportionately affect those who can least afford to pay them. Many residents are struggling during this pandemic as it is since we currently have the worst inflation rate in three decades at 6.2%. It is an incredibly heavy burden especially on the economically marginalized. Additionally, most of the current significant conservation options are rebate based. Those living paycheck to paycheck don't have the upfront money to buy a high efficiency washing machine or dishwasher and wait for a rebate months later. And last I checked, buying a low flow toilet from Home Depot wasn't allowed on an EBT card.

Instead of the stick approach, I propose a 4 pronged carrot approach to increase conservation in the city:

1. Lead by example. Have a competition among the elected members of City government to see who can conserve the most. The winner would have his or her percentage announced publicly and would have bragging rights for the upcoming 2022 election.
2. Have a competition among public facilities like City Hall, Public Works, the Community Center, Library, Police Station, Fire Stations, etc. The staff at the site with the greatest conservation would be rewarded with recognition and a party.
3. Have a competition among residential customers with financial rewards and a yard sign for the top one hundred.
4. Have a similar competition among commercial users.

However, if you do go forward with a resolution that implements Phase II penalties, at least put an expiration date on the resolution which would need to be renewed as appropriate, specify what water related project would receive the penalty revenues and please, please make accommodations for those within the City who are financially disadvantaged.

Sincerely,
Brian Yamaguchi

From: [Brian Yamaguchi](#)
To: [City Clerk](#)
Cc: [Brian Yamaguchi](#)
Subject: Public Comment - Monrovia City Council Meeting 12/7/2021 Agenda Item AR-2 "Organic Waste Disposal Reduction"
Date: Tuesday, December 7, 2021 1:52:18 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Councilmembers,

The goal of SB1383 is the reduction of organic waste to landfills. Partnering with Athens Services is necessary but your implementation plan should also include public education. The green bin should be the instrument of last choice as there are many higher value uses for organic waste that should be considered first that will achieve the goal of landfill reduction and provide added optimal use:

- Cooking oil should be collected and recycled into biodiesel.
- Vegetable scraps can be made available to local residents who have pets like chickens, ducks or turtles.
- Other organic waste can be composted in residential yards.
- Residents without yards can compost indoors via the Bokashi method.
- Those residents unable to compost can take the organics to local community composting facilities like the Monrovia Community Garden or like those at some of the public schools.

Sincerely,
Brian Yamaguchi