



**SF Environment**

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



EDWIN M. LEE  
Mayor

MELANIE NUTTER  
Director

**COMMISSION ON THE ENVIRONMENT ANNUAL REPORT 2011**  
**DRAFT**

**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 laid out 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 and Board of Supervisors on environmental matters. Appointed by the mayor, the seven-member commission develops policies and programs in zero waste, toxics reduction, environmental justice, clean air, energy efficiency, green building, commute alternatives, greenhouse gas reduction, green jobs, and the city's urban forest. The Commission's office is located at 11 Grove Street, San Francisco, California, 94102.

**Membership - 2011**

Commissioner Matt Tuchow, Commission President  
Commissioner Ruth Gravanis, Commission Vice President  
Commissioner Angelo King  
Commissioner Alan Mok, Operations Committee Chair  
Commissioner Rahul Prakash  
Commissioner Heather Stephenson  
Commissioner Johanna Wald, Policy Committee Chair

**Commissioners Leaving Office in 2011**

Special thanks to Commissioner Emeritus Jane Marie Francis Martin who served on the Commission from May 10, 2007 to January 7, 2011 and Commissioner Emeritus Jason Elliott who served on the Commission from January 7, 2011 to April 20, 2011.

**Meetings--** All meetings are open to the public. The Commission on the Environment 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 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 Operations Committee meets quarterly on the third Wednesday at 5:00 p.m. in January, April, July and October. Meetings are held at the Department of the Environment Eco Center, 11 Grove Street 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 two types of activities: 1) oversight of the work of the Department of the Environment and its staff and 2) the generation of new policies, practices and ideas for consideration by the staff and by the Board of Supervisors. The Commission carries out its oversight responsibilities principally by reviewing and commenting on oral and written presentations from the staff at both full Commission meetings and at committee meetings. It carries out its other **strategic** responsibilities principally through its committees.

**Comment [j1]:** I am not sure that this is the correct word

In its relatively short history, the Commission has seen the Department grow from 8 employees in 2000 to 114 employees as of this reporting period, and has been directly responsible for a number of San Francisco's most well-known environmental initiatives, including its bans on single serve water bottles and on plastic bags. Other major initiatives that the Commission has spearheaded include the Department's green jobs program, the City's mandatory composting requirement and \_\_\_\_\_. As the result of these initiatives, in 2011,

- 3,500 jobs supported annually by San Francisco Department of the Environment's policies and programs in areas such as zero waste, energy efficiency and renewable energy.
- \_\_\_\_ tons of waste were diverted from landfill and San Francisco achieved 78% diversion/recycling rate, making it #1 in the country for a city our size and saving the equivalent of \_\_\_\_\_.
- \_\_\_\_ cities around the country have plastic bag bans.
- San Francisco's greenhouse gas emissions are nearly 12% below 1990 levels and have exceeded emission reduction goals set by both the United Nations and the State of California, even as our population has grown.
- San Francisco was identified as the "greenest" city in North America in the first North American Green Cities Index.

### Major accomplishments of the Commission in 2011

In 2011, the Commission's major accomplishments include:

- Adoption of a resolution acknowledging the importance of protecting, restoring and enhancing San Francisco's biodiversity and encouraging development staff to seek funding for biodiversity staffing and programs. This resolution, sponsored by Commissioner Ruth Gravanis, added biodiversity to the suite of issues that the Environment Department addresses, thus taking the first step toward filling a major gap in the Department's portfolio. The need for and text of this resolution was discussed in several meetings of the Policy Committee and in two meetings of the full Commission, with adoption of the resolution occurring on November 22, 2011.
- In response to public concerns and with the leadership of Debbie Raphael, formerly the Department's Toxics Reduction Program Manager, the Commission spearheaded the development of policy for, and legislative language requiring, disclosure of radiation levels associated with cell phone use. The San Francisco Board of Supervisors and Mayor adopted legislation requiring such disclosure on January 7, 2011. With adoption of this legislation, San Francisco became the first city to have such a requirement in place.

Adopted

- Playing a major role in the Department's development of its Strategic Plan since 2002. The Policy Committee reviewed and discussed in detail draft versions of every section of the plan as well as the final draft, while the full Commission provided advice on both a draft version of the plan and the final draft, which was approved on May 24, 2011.
- Providing feedback to the America's Cup authority, particularly on its Sustainability and Zero Waste Plans. Both the Policy Committee and the Commission provided this feedback as well as opportunities for members of the public to provide feedback on these plans and other actions that will need to be taken if the America's Cup events that will be held in San Francisco in 2012 and 2013 are to be truly environmentally responsible events. As the result of Commission feedback, an environmental justice component was added by the Event Authority to its \_\_\_\_\_ plan.
- Providing feedback to the Department of the Environment regarding the launch, content and operation of the Community InSight Project, an online idea forum to engage San Franciscans on plans for a greener future.

Oversight accomplishments of the Commission include:

- Approval of the Department of the Environment's Fiscal Year 2011-2012 Budget. The Department's budget was reviewed by the Operations Committee on January 19, 2011 and approved by the full Commission on January 25, 2011.
- Approval of the 2010 San Francisco Buy Green Program Annual Report on November 22, 2011. This program encourages City Staff to buy products such as office paper and computers, that the Department has determined are environmentally preferable and as such allows the City to use its purchasing power to protect the environment.
- Adoption of a Revised Reduced Risk Pesticides list for 2011. On January 25, 2011, 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, 2011 accomplishments of the Operations Committee include:

(requires elaboration by Operations Committee at its January meeting)

- Department Budgets for Fiscal Year 2011-12 and 2012-13. Operations Committee Members were provided a report on the Department's Draft Budget at three of its meetings in 2011. The Committee provided their recommendations, reviewed and approved the 2011-12 Department budget and received a preliminary report on the 2012-13 draft budget.
- Grant Reviews and Approval. The Operations Committee reviewed and approved the Department of the Environment's Solar Monitoring System Grant and City and County Bike Fleet Grant Solicitation.
- Administrative Reviews. The Operations Committee reviewed and made recommendations on the Department of the Environment's proposed office

Adopted

move location, size requirements, and other space considerations, and the Department's new website redesign.

- Assessing how Department of the Environment Programs Help Create Green Jobs and Stimulate Economic Opportunity.
- Reviewing and providing input into Environment Justice Program Grants and Special Projects including the San Francisco Healthy Homes, a Project to Address Health Disparities in San Francisco.
- Reviewing plans for the reorganization of the Department of the Environment's Public Outreach Program.

In addition to the accomplishments referenced above, 2011 accomplishments of the Policy Committee include:

- Overseeing the launch of the groundbreaking Green Finance SF-commercial program to help San Francisco businesses green their buildings, cut down on carbon emissions, save energy and create jobs in San Francisco.
- Treasure and Yerba Buena Island Development Project. Policy Committee members were briefed on a revised Draft Sustainability Plan by representatives of the Office of Economic and Workforce Development and the development team (Treasure Island Community Development) and provided suggestions for improving the Plan as well as for making more understandable the decision-making process and time line.
- Resource conservation and waste management. The Policy Committee received updates and provided input to staff regarding the effort to encourage the use of refillable water jugs as an alternative to using single-use plastic bottles. 'Also emphasized restricting the sale of plastic water bottles at the America's Cup events.

#### **Other Work of the Commission in 2011**

In 2011, the full Commission passed resolutions commending the service and contributions of former commissioners and former staff of the Department of the Environment. Jane Marie Francis Martin was commended for her service on the Commission from May 10, 2007 to January 7, 2011 by a resolution adopted on January 25, 2011. Debbie Raphael, former Toxics Reduction Program Manager, and Mark Westlund, former Outreach and School education Program Manager, were commended for their service to the Department and the Commission by resolutions adopted on May 24, 2011 and September 27, 2011, respectively.

Adopted