

**Natural Resources Commission Minutes**  
**January 27, 2014**

Present: Kristin Burford (Alt), Matt Holland, Michelle Millet, Dean Newberry,  
Alan Pryor, Steven Westhoff, Matt Williams, Eugene Wilson (Chair)

Absent:

Staff: Mitch Sears, Sustainability Program Manager

Council Liaison: Lucas Frerichs

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1. **Approval of Agenda**  
Approved. Item 7 moved to later in agenda to accommodate public input.
2. **Approval of Minutes**  
Motion to approve November 18, 2013 minutes passed unanimously.
3. **Commission and Staff Announcements** – None
4. **Council Liaison Comments** - None
5. **Public Communications** – Becky Johnson from PG&E introduced herself to the Commission.
6. **Consent Calendar** – None
7. **Crude Oil by Rail.** Staff provided introductory remarks related to the scope of the Commission’s responsibilities. Davis resident Lynn Nittler provided background on the issues of transport of Bakken oil by rail and potential impacts to public health and the environment in general and specifically to communities up-rail from the proposed rail terminal located in Benicia, CA. Twenty members of the public spoke to express concerns with transport of Bakken oil through Davis where potential safety issues with existing switching equipment may pose greater risk of derailment.

Following Commissioner questions and discussion, on a motion by Commissioner Wilson, seconded by Commissioner Pryor, the Commission recommended the following:

1. That the City submit formal comments signed by members of the City Council to the Draft Environment Impact Report for the Benicia Valero Project when it is made public at the end of January (or later).
2. That the City reach out to civic leaders in neighboring up-rail communities and the Yolo, Solano and Sacramento County Board of Supervisors to invite them to sign the comments document.
3. That the City Council consider taking a position on the Valero Project to build a rail terminal that will allow increased crude-by-rail shipments.
4. That the City emergency response plan be reviewed by the Fire Chief and Police Chief to assess whether it is designed to address the potential risk associated with bulk shipment of Bakken crude oil through the City.

5. That the City engage with State and Federal agencies to insist on better enforcement of state and federal standards in order to prevent derailments in Davis and improve the safety of oil rail cars.

Motion passed 7-0

**8. Program Updates.**

- a) Solid Waste Program Update. Staff provided a brief presentation on the City's Solid Waste Program and responded to questions. Staff clarified that the draft anti-scavenging ordinance only applies to Davis Waste Removal recycling bins, not to the City recycling containers in downtown and in parks. Bulky waste drop off will be April 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup>.
- b) PACE Update. Staff provided a brief update on the PACE program; 1<sup>st</sup> residential PACE loan in process.
- c) Alternative Fuel Readiness Planning grant. Staff provided a brief presentation on this California Energy Commission grant – the City is being recommended for funding.

9. **Forest Friendly Resolution.** Staff provided introductory remarks followed by a presentation by Juliette Beck from the Yolano chapter of the Sierra Club on the potential impact of clearcut forest management practices on watersheds in the Sierras.

Following Commissioner questions and discussion, on a motion by Commissioner Newberry, seconded by Commissioner Millet, the Commission recommended the following:

That the City Council adopt the attached Davis Forest Friendly Initiative resolution with references to genetic engineering removed.

Motion passed 5-1  
(Commissioner Pryor recused)

10. **2014 Environmental Recognition Award.** Commissioners Holland, Millet, and Westhoff were appointed to serve as the selection sub-committee and will report recommendations at the February Commission meeting.
11. **2014 Commission Goals.** Postponed to February.
12. **Subcommittee Updates.** No updates.
13. **Long Range Calendar/Future Agenda Items.** Postponed to February.
14. **Adjourn:** 10:15pm

**Attachments**

1. Davis Forest Friendly Initiative Resolution – Draft

**RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_, SERIES 2014**  
**RESOLUTION BY THE DAVIS CITY COUNCIL ENDORSING THE FOREST**  
**FRIENDLY INITIATIVE TO ENHAHCE PROTECTION OF CALIFORNIA’S FORESTS**  
**THAT PROVIDE CRITICAL ECOLOGICAL SERVICES UPON WHICH DAVIS**  
**RESIDENTS AND BUSINESSES DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY DEPEND**

WHEREAS, Our forests provide 75% of California's clean water supply by capturing snow, rain and fog and then storing, filtering, and gradually releasing water throughout the year; and this process increases humidity and rainfall, cools temperatures, and helps protect us from extreme weather; and

WHEREAS, Our forests continuously remove carbon dioxide from the air and store it in trees, roots, and forest soil, and this natural process is significant in the fight to reverse the climate crisis; with deforestation causing 15% of all greenhouse gas emissions, and intact forests absorbing up to 40% of human caused carbon dioxide releases; and

WHEREAS, Our forests provide other essential environmental services as they release oxygen, prevent flooding and siltation, resist fire, and support a wide diversity of plant and wildlife; and

WHEREAS The forests of California generate tremendous social, cultural and economic value from recreation, tourism, sport and commercial fishing, and wood products; and

WHEREAS, The widespread industrial logging method called clearcutting<sup>1</sup> commonly involves the removal of virtually all trees and vegetation in 20-30 acre tracts and their replacement with even-aged, single species tree plantations, and employs broad and repeated application of toxic herbicides; and

WHEREAS, Clearcut logging destroys many benefits of forests as it contaminates our water supply with herbicides and sediment, greatly increases greenhouse gas emissions for many decades, and promotes drought, wildfires, soil erosion, landslides, pest invasion, and tree diseases; and

WHEREAS, the City of Davis soon will rely upon a dependable supply of clean surface water and is endeavoring to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and mitigate climate change; and

WHEREAS, Within the counties of Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, San Mateo, San Francisco, and Marin, the outmoded practice of clearcutting is prohibited; and

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<sup>1</sup> For the purposes of this resolution “clearcutting” is defined as any public or private forest management or timber harvest method in which sixty percent (60%) or more of cubic tree volume of any area greater than two and one-half (2 ½) acres is felled within any 15-year period; and “clearcutting” also refers to any forest management or timber harvesting practice that results in the above conditions and includes, but is not limited to, methods referred to as “even aged management,” “seed tree removal,” “shelterwood removal,” “fuels reduction,” “forest type conversion,” “regeneration cutting,” “patch cutting,” and “plantation forestry”.

WHEREAS, Selective logging and modern forest management methods that promote fire-resistant, productive forests with trees of multiple ages and species can produce a sustainable supply of wood and forest products, and stable long term jobs.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Davis calls on the state legislature and Governor of California to prohibit the practice of industrial clearcut logging in the forests of California and require full immediate public disclosure of the locations and extent of clearcutting in California forests.