

**Natural Resources Commission Minutes**  
**January 25, 2016**

Present: Mark Braly, Matt Holland, John Johnston, Anya McCann (Alt),  
Michelle Millet, Alan Pryor, Steven Westhoff

Absent: Kristin Burford

Staff: Mitch Sears, Sustainability Manager

Council Liaison: Rochelle Swanson

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1. **Approval of Agenda** - Approved unanimously
2. **Approval of Minutes**- November 30, 2015 minutes approved unanimously.
3. **Commission and Staff Announcements** – None.
4. **Council Liaison Comments** – None.
5. **Public Communications** – Alan Hirsch noted the work of the Nishi Working Group on movement of that proposed project toward zero net energy and LEED ND.
6. **Consent Calendar** – None.
7. **Mace Ranch Innovation Center - Project Review.** Heidi Tschudin, City contract project manager for the MRCI project reviewed previous presentations to the Commission. Project proponents presented on background and specific project design/elements that enable and maximize the value of advanced sustainability measures included in the proposed project. Tschudin outlined the December 15, 2015 City Council direction for Commissions to provide a recommendation on four questions, including consideration of a mixed use project that includes housing.

The Commission discussed the following topics: single land use option v. a mixed use option and the longevity of the type of site use that the City might expect; if housing is included, how would MRIC employees be prioritized; what amount of housing best achieves the City goals related to zero net energy and carbon or other City objectives; what are the advantages of zero net electricity, LEED certification, or other standard for sustainability; how does the overall project meet the City's zero net carbon goals with a downward trajectory over time (similar to discussion on Nishi proposal); why is the TDM reduction only 10%; goals for storm water should be capture and use onsite 100% of non-potable not 80%; if only 50% of energy will be generated onsite then can other 50% come from renewables or CCE?

Following discussion, on a motion by Burford, Seconded by Millet, the Commission, based on the information and analysis to date, finds that including a mixed use component on the site appears to have the potential to minimize the environmental impacts, particularly greenhouse gas emissions and may offer innovative sustainability features.

Passed 7-0 (Braly, Burford, Holland, Johnston, Millet, Pryor, Westhoff)

The Commission agreed to consider the other 3 City Council questions at its February meeting.

8. **Water Conservation Program.** Staff provided an update on water production.

- 9. Subcommittee Updates – no updates given**
- 10. Long Range Calendar/Future Agenda Items.** 2016 long-range calendar review scheduled for next meeting.
- 11. Adjourn:** 9:45 p.m.