



**SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION**  
**CITY OF PALM SPRINGS, CALIFORNIA**  
[www.palmsprings-ca.gov](http://www.palmsprings-ca.gov)    [www.yoursustainablecity.com](http://www.yoursustainablecity.com)

**November 15, 2016**  
**5:00 PM**

**REGULAR**  
**MEETING AGENDA**

**Palm Springs City Hall**  
**Large Conference Room**  
 3200 E. Tahquitz Canyon Way  
 Palm Springs, CA 92262

<b>COMMISSIONERS</b>	
<b>Joe Jackson, Chair</b>	<b>Grant Wilson, Vice Chair</b>
<b>Roy Clark</b>	<b>David Freedman</b>
<b>Nancy Ferguson</b>	<b>Robert McCann</b>
<b>Jennifer Futterman</b>	<b>Nate Otto</b>

Staff representatives: Marcus L. Fuller, Assistant City Manager/City Engineer  
 Staci Schafer, Director of Maintenance and Facilities  
 Dan DeGarmo, Clerical Assistant  
 Gary Calhoun, Recycling Coordinator

*City of Palm Springs Vision Statement: Palm Springs aspires to be a unique world-class desert community, where residents and visitors enjoy our high quality of life and a relaxing experience. We desire to balance our cultural and historical resources with responsible, sustainable economic growth and enhance our natural desert beauty. We are committed to providing responsive, friendly, and efficient customer service in an environment that fosters unity among all our citizens.*

Please **MUTE OR TURN OFF** all audible electronic devices for the duration of this meeting. Thank you!

**CALL TO ORDER**

**FLAG SALUTE**

**ROLL CALL**

**ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA**

**CITY MANAGER REPORT**

Review of Sustainability Commission budget for FY 2016-17  
 City Manager David Ready

**CITY ATTORNEY REPORT**

Discussion of Standing Subcommittees vs. Ad-Hoc Subcommittees, Brown Act requirements  
 City Attorney Doug Holland

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** This time is for members of the public to address the Sustainability Commission on Agenda items and items of general interest within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Commission. The Commission values your comments but, pursuant to the Brown Act, cannot take action on items not listed on the posted Agenda. Three (3) minutes are assigned for each speaker.

- A. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS** **(5 MINUTES)**
- B. MEETING MINUTES** **(5 MINUTES)**  
 October 18, 2016 meeting minutes approval
- C. PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION REPORT** **(5 MINUTES)**  
 Report on Integrated Pest Management Subcommittee, Commissioner Ferguson

**D. RECYCLING REPORT, Gary Calhoun (10 MINUTES)**  
December 17, 2016 E-Waste and Recycling Event  
Recycling Tonnage Report for October 2016

**E. OLD BUSINESS (15 MINUTES)**

1. Sustainability Commission Priorities, Vice Chair Wilson  
**Motion: Approve priorities of the Commission as listed in the Ad Hoc Sub-committee Report, and forward to City Council and Staff**
2. Report on Joint Study Session with Planning Commission, Dec 14, 11am, Commissioner Freedman
3. Receive report of the Ad Hoc Committee on Leaf Blowers, discussion on proposed regulations on leaf blowers, direction as appropriate to Ad Hoc Committee (no action to be taken) Commissioners Clark and Futterman, Chair Jackson

**F. NEW BUSINESS (10 MINUTES)**

1. Landscaper Certification for Water Efficiency, Marcus Fuller
2. Affordable Housing report, Commissioner Ferguson

**G. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS (30 MINUTES)**

1. Water Conservation Subcommittee, Commissioner Freedman
2. Outreach Subcommittee, Commissioners Futterman and Clark
3. Green Building/Solar Subcommittee, Commissioners Otto and Freedman
4. Waste Reduction Subcommittee, Commissioner McCann and Clark
5. Wellness Subcommittee, Chair Jackson and Commissioner Futterman
6. Active Transportation Subcommittee, Commissioner Ferguson and Vice-Chair Wilson

**H. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS (5 MINUTES)**

**I. ADJOURNMENT** - The meeting of the Sustainability Commission will adjourn to a Special Joint Study Session Meeting with the Planning Commission to be held at 11:00 a.m. on Wednesday, December 14, 2016, in the City Hall Large Conference Room. The Sustainability Commission's regular meeting schedule is at 5 p.m. the third Tuesday each month except August unless otherwise noted or amended.

It is the intention of the City of Palm Springs to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) in all respects. If, as an attendee or a participant at this meeting, you need special assistance beyond what is normally provided, the City will attempt to accommodate you in every reasonable manner. Please contact the Office of the City Clerk at (760) 323-8204 at least 48 hours prior to the meeting to inform us of your needs and to determine if accommodation is feasible.

Pursuant to G.C. Section 54957.5(b)(2) the designated office for inspection of records in connection with the meeting is the Office of Sustainability, City Hall, 3200 E. Tahquitz Canyon Way, Palm Springs, CA 92262. Agenda and staff reports are available on the City's website [www.palmspringsca.gov](http://www.palmspringsca.gov). If you would like additional information on any item appearing on this agenda, please contact the Office of Sustainability at 760-323-8248.

AFFIDAVIT OF POSTING: I, Staci Schafer, Director of Maintenance & Facilities of the City of Palm Springs, California, certify this Agenda was posted at or before 5:00 p.m. on November 10, 2016, as required by established policies and procedures.

Staci A. Schafer, Director of Maintenance & Facilities

**SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION  
CITY OF PALM SPRINGS, CALIFORNIA**



**MEETING MINUTES**

Tuesday, October 18, 2016 Palm Springs City Hall, Large Conference Room

**CALL TO ORDER:** Chair Jackson called the meeting to order at **5:00** p.m.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Led by Chair Jackson

**ROLL CALL:** A quorum was present for this Regular Meeting of the City of Palm Springs Sustainability Commission.

**AGENDA APPROVAL:** The agenda was presented by Chair Jackson. A motion to approve as presented by Commissioner Freedman and seconded by Commissioner Clark and unanimously carried.

	<u>This Meeting</u>	<u>Present to Date</u>	<u>FY 2016/2017 Excused Absences</u>	<u>FY 2016/2017 Unexcused Absences</u>
Joe Jackson	X	40		
Grant Wilson	X	42		
Roy Clark	X	3		
Nancy Ferguson	X	13	1	
David Freedman	X	15		
Jennifer Futterman	X	4		
Robert McCann	X	6	1	
Nate Otto	E	21	2	

X = Present

E = Excused (notified Chair and Staff of absence)

L = Late

U = did not notify of absence

**CITY STAFF PRESENT:** Dan DeGarmo, Clerical Assistant; Gary Calhoun, Recycling Coordinator; Marcus Fuller, Assistant City Manager/City Engineer; Staci Schafer, Director of Maintenance and Facilities

**CITY MANAGER AND ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER REPORT –**

Assistant City Manager Fuller reported that City Manager Ready was unable to attend meeting but will be at the November meeting.

**Public Comments:**

Sheila Cobrin, Palm Springs - Chair of Ecology Committee of ONE-PS reported that she is unhappy with the communication with her committee regarding the information they have gathered.

**A. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS - None**

**B. MEETING MINUTES**

September 13, 2016 meeting minutes approval. Motion by Commissioner Wilson to approve as presented, second by Commissioner McCann and unanimously approved.

**C. PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION REPORT**

Parks and Recreation Liaison Commissioner Ferguson stated no meeting to report on. No report.

**D. RECYCLING REPORT, Gary Calhoun**

1. Gary Calhoun reported on the October 15, 2016 Shredding Event at City Hall and the City Wide Clean-up. Two five-ton trucks were filled up with e-waste.
2. City-Wide Clean-up happening this week with large item collection at City Hall on Saturday, October 22, 2016.
3. Discussion with Chris Cunningham at PSDS regarding AB 341 and AB 1826 recycling issues. Comments and questions from the commissioners were presented and discussed.

**E. OLD BUSINESS**

1. Update on the Leaf Blower Study Session on October 24, 2016. Chair Jackson reviewed the process for the Leaf Blower Study Session and the expectations of the session. The Commission will listen to all Public Comments and the subcommittee will make recommendations to the Commission.
2. Review of Film Series Funding using recycling funds. Staff reported that a Purchase Order for \$700.00 has been prepared for the funding of two films for the Cultural Center at Camelot Theatre.

**F. NEW BUSINESS**

1. Assign a Subcommittee on Affordable Housing  
Commissioner Ferguson reported that she has an outline of a report and that she will be ready to report at the next meeting.
2. Discussion of Sustainability Commission Priorities for referral to City Staff and Council.  
Chair Jackson reported on the results from the survey that was sent to the Commissioners.  
Chair Jackson stated that he and Vice-Chair Wilson will get together and organize the priorities and present at the November meeting.  
Comments and questions from the commissioners were presented and discussed.

**G. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS**

1. Water Conservation Subcommittee, Commissioner Freedman  
Commissioner Freedman reported on the DWA meeting and that the water conservation number for September was at 8%. DWA will be focusing more on violations. He also reported that DWA will be raising rates. Jim Cioffi, President of DWA, will be available to speak at the December meeting if the Commission would like for him to come. DWA also gave the City of Palm Springs special permission to water 5 days a week subject to special restrictions. Other subjects included Turf Buy Back programs, recycled water at Demuth Park, tree replacement. Commissioner Freedman also stated that his Neighborhood Organization will be making a donation to the Legacy Tree Program and that other Neighborhood Organizations could also make donations if possible.  
Director Schafer volunteered to make a presentation for the ONE-PS meeting in November.
2. Outreach Subcommittee, Commissioner Futterman  
Commissioner Clark reported that they are working on promoting the film series at Camelot.
3. Green Building/Solar Subcommittee. Commissioner Freedman reported that the Planning Commission is agreeable to a Study Session for Solar mandates and a subsidy workshop.
4. Waste Reduction Subcommittee. Commissioner McCann reported that the overall goal of the committee is to convert 90.1% of solid waste by 2021. Currently we are at 80%. Also reported on recycling efforts at HOA's and businesses. Commissioner McCann also requested that the Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) tour be scheduled as soon as a date can be determined. He also reported that the Edom Hill Waste Facility is now full and is only used as a transfer facility.
5. Wellness Subcommittee, Chair Jackson – No Report
6. Active Transportation Subcommittee, Commissioner Ferguson reported on efforts to promote public outreach and education on bicycle and pedestrian facilities.  
Comments and questions from the commissioners were presented and discussed.

**H. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS**

Chair Jackson commented on the badges that were provided to the Commissioners.

- I. **ADJOURNMENT** - The meeting of the Sustainability Commission adjourned at 6:01 PM by a motion from Commissioner McCann and seconded by Commissioner Freedman. Unanimously approved. They adjourned to the Special Study Session to be held at 5:00 p.m. on Monday, October 24, 2016 in the City Hall Council Chambers. The Sustainability Commission's regular meeting schedule is at 5 p.m. the third Tuesday each month except August unless otherwise noted or amended.

Respectfully Submitted,

Staci Schafer, Director of Maintenance and Facilities  
For the Office of Sustainability

# **FREE** Electronic Waste & Shredding **RECYCLING EVENT** Saturday, December 17, 2016

8 a.m. to 12 noon. (or until trucks are full)

**Located at Palm Springs City Hall Parking Lot**  
3200 East Tahquitz Canyon Way, Palm Springs, CA 92262

For more information: 760-323-8214 or 760-323-8248

Limit three normal size file containers of shredding per vehicle, per day. Size of container should be no larger than 9" X 13" X 17". Recycling available on a first come, first served basis or until trucks are full.

**Protect Yourself Against Identity Theft** - Protect yourself and destroy unneeded documents containing confidential information at the City's free document shredding event.



**Electronic Equipment** - All electronic equipment received at the event is dismantled and recycled. Any information stored on hard drives or cell phones is destroyed during the processing.

## What Can You Bring?

- Computers & Monitors
- Microwaves and small appliances
- Keyboards, Printers & Televisions
- Cell Phones & Fax Machines
- Batteries sizes AAA, AA, C, D, button cell, 9 Volt,
- Any rechargeable batteries.



## Items Not Accepted



- NO Tires
- NO Household Hazardous Waste
- NO Large Household Appliances
- NO Trash
- NO Car Batteries
- NO Air Conditioning or Heating Units



the 24<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL  
 — Palm Springs —  
**FESTIVAL**  
*of*  
**LIGHTS**  
 — PARADE —

**Saturday,  
 December 3, 2016**

**Downtown Palm Springs**

**5:45 p.m. Palm Canyon Drive**

**It begins at Ramon Road and Palm Canyon Drive and heads northbound on Palm Canyon Drive to Tamarisk Road.**

**Presented by the  
 City of Palm Springs**

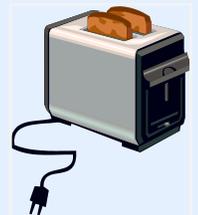


The City of Palm Springs Office of Sustainability offers **FREE** Sharps Containers and assistance in safely disposing of Medicines. Palm Springs Residents can pick up **FREE** Sharps Containers and Drop off Medicines at City Hall at 3200 East Tahquitz Canyon Way or at the Palm Springs Fire Department at 300 El Cielo Rd, Palm Springs, CA 92262.

**PLEASE ONLY DROP OFF SHARPS CONTAINERS @ 1100 VELLA ROAD.**  
**Saturdays from 8:00 am to 12:00 pm**

**24-HOUR ELECTRONIC WASTE DROP-OFF IS AVAILABLE AT  
 425 CIVIC DRIVE IN PALM SPRINGS**

**Properly dispose of anything with a plug at this location! Questions?  
 Gary Calhoun, Recycling Resource Consultant 760-574-2582  
 Or 760-323-8214 or [www.yoursustainablecity.com](http://www.yoursustainablecity.com)**



**FOUNTAIN GRASS**  
**DANGER - Don't Plant This Grass!**

**What You Should Know  
 About This Plant:**

- ❖ **Fire Hazard!**
- ❖ Invasive and Fast Growing
- ❖ Sold as an Ornamental
- ❖ Seeds Spread by Wind
- ❖ **Overtakes Landscapes**
- ❖ Chokes out Native Plants
- ❖ Disrupts Flow of Water



Fountain Grass  
 (*Pennisetum setaceum*)  
 Visit our website for more photos!

**How To Identify Fountain Grass**

- Approx. 3'-5' tall with feathery purple or white plumes
- Dense clumping growth with erect stems
- Basal leaves have tiny 'teeth' when brushed backward
- During dormancy it appears straw yellow as if it is dead



**paint recycling  
 made easy**

[www.paintcare.org](http://www.paintcare.org)



# Ad Hoc Committee Report

Presented for Commission Meeting Date: November 15, 2016

Submitted by: Grant Wilson

Ad Hoc Committee Topic: Commission Priorities

Submitted Date: November 5, 2016

Ad Hoc Committee Meeting Date: October 29, 2016

Next Ad Hoc Committee Meeting Date:

## Ad Hoc Committee Meeting Goal:

Determine sustainability-related priorities through 2018.

## Summary:

The chair of the commission, Joseph Jackson, and the vice chair, Grant Wilson, met on October 29, 2016, to review and categorize the priority items that other commissioners had submitted to staff prior to the October commission meeting. The goals are based on the new sustainability master plan and previous staff input regarding projects underway by the City. The items were put into the following four categories:

### City Ordinance

1. Leaf Blower Restrictions
2. Construction and Debris
3. Solar Mandate for Single Family Homes
4. Green for Life Standards

### Education and/or Outreach

1. Bike Routes/Lanes interpretation to the general public
2. Multi-family (condo and apartment) recycling emphasis (partner with PSDS)
3. Backyard Composting
4. Food Share and Restaurant Package Recycling

### Policy and Planning

1. Pedestrian Plan, either independently developed or included with the next General Plan Update cycle
2. Pesticide Policy/Integrated Pest Management

### Topics/Policies Already in Process

1. No Idling Policy for City Fleet (and Commercial Vehicles by 2020)
2. Tree Protection Ordinance and Replacement/Removal Policy
3. Product Stewardship—state requirements and corporate initiatives

The municipal ordinance covers topics that would be considered for adoption and may go above and beyond current and anticipated state standards. These items would generally require work by and with City staff. Education/Outreach items are those that would for the most part be conducted by commissioners with assistance from City staff. Policy/Planning items likely require budget allocation for consultants to conduct the work (pesticide policy may

belong elsewhere).

This list is not meant to exclude other goals and objectives of the sustainability master plan. Instead, it is meant to draw focus to a succinct list of goals that can clearly be achieved in a two-year timeframe.

**Recommendation/Request**

The ad hoc committee requests concurrence by vote of the commission to forward the listed goals to the City Council by Staff.

<b>ACTION ITEMS REQUEST TO COMMISSION</b>	<b>Vote for concurrence on listed goal priorities.</b>
<b>ACTION ITEMS REQUEST TO OFFICE OF SUSTAINABILITY</b>	<b>Present goals to City Council for concurrence.</b>
<b>POTENTIAL FISCAL IMPACT/REQUEST IF ANY:</b>	<b>Staff time for some items; no cost for commission volunteer time; undetermined consultant fees for policy/planning items probably in the low five figure range</b>

**Report to the Sustainability Commission  
Ad Hoc Sub-Committee on Leaf Blowers**

**for Nov. 15, 2016 meeting**

Date of Meeting: October 26, 2016

Members: Roy Clark, Jen Futterman, Joe Jackson

On June 23, 2016, the Palm Springs City Council directed staff and the Sustainability Commission “to continue to conduct studies and develop options for the reductions and/or elimination of gas powered leaf blowers including grant or incentive options, educational components, health protection for workers, and a potential phased-in regulations.” At the regular Sustainability Commission meeting, July 19, 2016, an ad hoc sub-committee was appointed including members of the Health & Wellness and Outreach Sub-committees.

Over the summer months, the ad hoc sub-committee reviewed data from prior work of the Sustainability Commission in 2012-13 and 2015-16, staff reports which included research on action by other California cities, ONE-PS Ecology Sub-Committee minutes, leaf blower manufacturer noise and emission specifications, and Air Quality Management District (AQMD) communications.

A public study session was set for October 24, 2016. Postcards were sent to all applicable licensed business owners and community organizations, as well as on-line notices through the City website, ONE-PS, Nextdoor, Facebook, and other social media outlets. The *Desert Sun* printed an invitation to the study session on the Opinion Page, Oct. 21. Persons could also submit comments in writing to city staff and the Commission chair. Translation into Spanish was available at the meeting.

Approximately 28 persons attended the Study Session and 13 persons spoke in public comment. 65+ emails were received in advance of the meeting, as well as many other messages through social media. The ad hoc sub-committee reviewed all these comments. The responses were approximately 70% for some sort of ban of leaf blowers.

Based on all the information we have reviewed to this time, the members of the ad hoc group are in consensus on these statements:

1. Gas powered leaf blowers should be phased out in the City of Palm Springs. There is some belief that current technology is not sufficiently advanced for battery-powered blowers (eliminating all emissions and reducing noise) to become a viable solution, especially in larger City, HOA, and commercial settings. Longer lasting lithium-ion batteries are well known for their problems. Some battery-powered blower users report that their batteries degrade when stores in temperatures over 100 degrees, which we experience in the City about one-third of the year. However, a technical representative from Stihl, one manufacturer of battery-powered blowers,

recently stated that their batteries work well in temperatures over 100 degrees (this would need to be verified by testing). We wish there were a wider variety of other battery, green and/or solar options. Electric corded blowers and vacuums, rakes and brooms are possible in some settings, but not in all. We acknowledge differences of opinion on this point among public comments.

2. The City of Palm Springs must show leadership by example as a “sustainable city.” We believe it is unreasonable for the City to regulate homeowners, HOA’s, and businesses without first showing how City staff and contractors can clean City property, parks, medians, and streets without gas powered blowers. We commend prior efforts by City staff to be a pilot project with South Coast AQMD in using electric equipment, and we urge action on this point by Facilities management, supported by Council funding for new equipment as needed.
3. We believe the City and the Sustainability Commission should begin an immediate gas powered leaf blower buy-back program, especially for the less efficient and problematic 2-stroke engine leaf blowers. We hope this program could be in partnership with the AQMC, CVAG, other regional bodies, and perhaps with grant assistance for more robust funding. Our preference is that a special price could be available for battery or corded equipment when a gas-powered blower is returned.
4. Training of professional gardeners and landscapers on the use of leaf blowers (whether gas or electric) is currently required of business owners at their city license renewal. We believe that training just one representative or supervisor at each business is not sufficient for a thorough communication of proper use and safety. City contractors have demonstrated that proper training can minimize noise, dust, and the oft-cited problem of just “blowing debris from one place to another.” Therefore, we would like to require a process (a bi-lingual video that is independently produced?) that would ensure all employees get appropriate training. Rakes and brooms are needed to clean up and dispose of this green waste after collecting it in one place. And it would also be helpful if residents can also adjust their expectations for “perfection” in landscape maintenance as we move forward in this transition.
5. With proactive and successful City leadership as described above, we believe Council should proceed with a phase-out of gas powered blowers in all areas/zoning of the City of Palm Springs by Dec. 31, 2018. We believe this to be in the best interest of the health and well being of all our residents.

Finally, we have rejected, at this point, possible restrictions on leaf blowers by noise/decibel level, emissions levels, or by hours or days of the week, or by zoning. Many persons expressed concern regarding unenforceable or half-measures in our recommendations, which we believe would be the case in these options. We

recognize the ability of any homeowner, HOA, or business to move forward at any time with other green solutions, which we commend and encourage.

We also wish to acknowledge that many in our city have responded heartily to the water crisis by eliminating unnecessary and water-thirsty turf. A relevant metric from the Desert Water Authority is that about one million square feet of turf were removed (and replaced with desert landscape) in Palm Springs in 2014-15 and 2015-16 rebate programs. This represents over 500 projects. As many persons have stated, this conservation movement toward new desert landscape, which is difficult to clean without some kind of blower, means leaf blower use is more necessary now than when maintaining turf.

**As an Ad Hoc Sub-committee, we move this report for approval by the Sustainability Commission, to be forwarded to the City Council with supporting Staff Reports as required.**

# Landscaper Certification Class Outline

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The class will be available in both English and Spanish through COD. There will be a short quiz between each section of the class.

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- Introduction
  - Removing turf and replacing with desert landscaping is our first choice
  - If you have grass, how do you irrigate it efficiently
- Define efficiency
  - In a technical way, as it relates to different types of irrigation
  - Understanding irrigation system water use
- Know your soil
  - Gravelly sand, sand, sandy loam
    - Characteristics of each
  - How to irrigate each soil type
- Know your weather
  - Weather determines Evapotranspiration
    - The amount of water drawn from a plant by the atmosphere
  - How to use Evapotranspiration to irrigate efficiently
- Know your turf grass
  - Understanding the needs of different types of grass
  - Understanding root depth
- Know your irrigation system
  - Types of irrigation
  - Irrigation system performance
  - Precipitation rates
  - Sprinkler uniformity
- Match your irrigation system to your soil, your weather and your turf grass
  - Programming the irrigation controller
  - Scheduling a baseline for run times
  - The difference between entire areas and “spots” of stress
  - How to cut back
- CVWD rebate programs

# Take the Online Landscaper Certification Class

Learn about the best water conservation practices including the following topics:

- Soil types
- Irrigation system efficiency
- Understanding turf grass

**This class is now required to apply for any landscaping related business licences within the Coachella Valley. Check your city's website for more information.**

Note: This class is in addition to the AQMD certificate.

Class is available in English and Spanish.

**FREE  
REGISTRATION**  
Visit [www.cvag.org](http://www.cvag.org)  
to register online.



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**ITEM 7C**

**Coachella Valley Association of Governments  
Executive Committee  
June 6, 2016**



**Staff Report**

**Subject:       Landscaper Certification Program for Water Efficiency**

**Contact:       Katie Barrows, Director of Environmental Resources (kbarrows@cvag.org)**

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**Recommendation: Approve an Amendment to the Model Landscaper Overseeding Certification Ordinance to include a course on Water Efficiency as part of the Landscaper Certification Program.**

**Energy & Environmental Resources Committee: CONCURS (Meeting of May 12<sup>th</sup>)**

**Technical Planning Subcommittee: CONCURS (Meeting of May 17<sup>th</sup>)**

**Technical Advisory Committee (May Meeting canceled)**

**Background:** At the January 2016 meeting, staff reported on plans by the Coachella Valley Water District (CVWD) to implement a water use efficiency course and landscaper certification program focused on professional landscapers, to increase their knowledge and use of best practices in water conservation. Last fall, CVAG staff began working with CVWD staff to model this program after CVAG's existing Landscaper Overseeding Certification Ordinance and our online course. Since that time, CVAG staff has been working with CVWD and College of the Desert on options to combine the water efficiency course with the existing Landscaper Overseeding Certification Program. By doing so, landscape professionals could be certified in best practices to meet regional goals to improve our air quality and increase water efficiency in a "one-stop shop" approach.

Since this was discussed in January, CVWD staff has developed the draft water efficiency curriculum with their professional staff. The draft curriculum is being circulated for review by various landscape professionals and educators at College of the Desert. CVWD will then work with COD to prepare the course to be offered online. COD will ultimately manage the course along with CVAG's smart scalping course currently available online. Educational outreach in coordination with CVWD, COD and CVAG member agencies is planned. The goal is to complete the curriculum and amended ordinance by fall 2016.

An amendment to the existing Model Landscaper Overseeding Certification Ordinance to add the requirements for water efficiency certification is attached for your review. This amendment has been reviewed by CVAG general counsel and CVWD staff. The original model ordinance for a landscapers' course on the Overseeding Alternative ("smart scalping") was developed and approved by the CVAG Executive Committee in July 2007 and subsequently adopted by CVAG member agencies. The smart scalping course has been offered since 2007 and continues to be a very effective part of our regional air quality program. The course is offered free of charge to landscape professionals and there is no cost to member agencies. In the first 18 months of the course approximately 630 overseeding certificates were issued. The water efficiency course will be combined with the air quality course and will be free to participants.

This amendment to the existing "smart scalping" model landscaper certification ordinance was reviewed by the Energy and Environmental Resources Committee at their meeting of May 12. They recommended approval of the proposed amendment. The online water efficiency course and proposed amendment were also discussed with the Technical Planning Subcommittee of planning directors and community development directors at their May 17 meeting. They were supportive of the approach. CVWD and Desert Water Agency also participated in that meeting.

Pending approval by the Executive Committee, the model ordinance will be circulated for consideration by member agencies. By combining course material on overseeding and water efficiency, participants could be certified in one simple process. Thus, implementation of this program should require little to no staff time on the part of the local jurisdictions.

CVWD has also been working with the State Water Resources Control Board on a settlement related to an alleged violation by CVWD of the Emergency Regulation for Statewide Urban Water Conservation. At their April meeting, the CVAG Executive Committee authorized a letter of support for this settlement which was sent to the State Water Resources Control Board. Under the proposed settlement agreement, CVWD has agreed to implement a Landscaper Certification Program that will focus on water use efficiency. CVWD and the SWRCB have also agreed that the \$61,000 fine paid by CVWD will be suspended pending completion of the water conservation project. The settlement is described in the notice from the SWRCB:

[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/public\\_notices/comments/docs/notice\\_cvwd\\_settlement.pdf](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/public_notices/comments/docs/notice_cvwd_settlement.pdf).

At this time, staff is requesting the Executive Committee approve the attached amendment to the Model Landscaper Overseeding Certification Ordinance to include a course on Water Efficiency.

**Fiscal Analysis:** The costs associated with developing the program with College of the Desert would be funded by Coachella Valley Water District.

**Attachments:**

1. Draft Model Landscaper Certification Ordinance Amendment

**ATTACHMENT 1  
DRAFT MODEL LANDSCAPER CERTIFICATION ORDINANCE AMENDMENT**

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE [CITY OF \_\_\_\_\_ or  
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE] AMENDING SECTION XXX [OF  
CHAPTER XXX] OF THE [CITY/COUNTY] CODE TO ADD  
WATER EFFICIENCY CURRICULUM TO THE  
EDUCATIONAL PREREQUISITES FOR ISSUANCE OF A  
BUSINESS LICENSE TO LANDSCAPE-RELATED  
BUSINESSES**

**THE [CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF \_\_\_\_\_, CALIFORNIA or BOARD  
OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE], DOES ORDAIN AS  
FOLLOWS:**

WHEREAS, the [City Council/Board of Supervisors] has previously adopted Ordinance XXX to require Landscape-Related Businesses to present proof that at least one employee has, within the preceding twelve-month period, completed a two-hour course on grass overseeding alternatives as a prerequisite to issuance or renewal of a business license;

WHEREAS, air quality and water efficiency are among the most essential issues associated with public health and safety, which in turn is essential to the continued economic well-being of the Coachella Valley and to the needs of its residents;

WHEREAS, the majority of water use in the Coachella Valley is for outdoor landscaping and our ability to meet water conservation goals and maintain the high quality of our water supply depends on water conservation best practices in landscaping;

WHEREAS, one of the reasons for the failure to meet water conservation goals within the Coachella Valley is a lack of familiarity by landscape professionals with best practices in reducing water use in landscaped areas;

WHEREAS, the Coachella Valley Water District (CVWD), in partnership with the Coachella Valley Association of Governments (CVAG), College of the Desert (COD), other local water districts, and local stakeholders, has developed a two-hour water efficiency course to provide guidance to Landscape-Related Business professionals regarding reduction of water use in turf and other landscape areas and encourage the use of water efficient desert landscaping;

WHEREAS, by combining the existing two-hour educational course on overseeding alternatives and smart scalping with the recently developed two-hour course on water efficiency, landscape professionals can be certified in best practices to meet regional goals to improve our air quality and increase water efficiency in a “one-stop shop” approach;

WHEREAS, the curriculum for the water efficiency course is high quality and appropriate for the Coachella Valley region; the course has been developed by professional staff at CVWD who hold licenses and certifications in irrigation efficiency, plant water use, horticultural practices, arboriculture, and landscape/golf course irrigation

auditing; and the course has been reviewed by industry educators such as College of the Desert (COD) instructors and industry professionals.;

WHEREAS, the water efficiency course developed by CVWD has been reviewed and approved by the State Water Resources Control Board which requires urban water suppliers to reduce potable water use to meet state conservation standards and the implementation of the course will be monitored by the State Water Resources Control Board;

WHEREAS, the water efficiency curriculum can be added to the existing course for the Landscape Certification Program;

WHEREAS, the updated course for the Landscape Certification Program, which will include both the smart scalping curriculum and the water efficiency curriculum, will be available online and/or at a local testing center, and will be available in English and Spanish;

WHEREAS, the most efficient and effective method of promoting the overseeding alternative and water efficiency is to require professionals in the landscaping installation, maintenance, design, and other landscape-related businesses, and their suppliers within the [City or unincorporated Coachella Valley area] to, on an annual basis, complete the four-hour course covering both of these topics, with said course organized by CVAG, AQMD, COD, and CVWD;

WHEREAS, the public health and safety is served by requiring completion of said course as a prerequisite for the issuance and renewal of business licenses for Landscape-Related Businesses within the [City or Coachella Valley]. and

WHEREAS, time for a public information campaign regarding the additional curriculum on water efficiency is required; the additional prerequisite specific to the water efficiency curriculum will, therefore, not be enforced until November 1, 2016.

**NOW, THEREFORE, THE [COUNCIL/BOARD] DOES HEREBY RESOLVE AS FOLLOWS:**

SECTION 1. That the recitals set forth above are true and correct and are incorporated herein by this reference.

SECTION 2. [Sub-Section XXX of the XXX Code] is amended to read as follows:

**XXX. "LANDSCAPE-RELATED BUSINESSES"**

***Effective November 1, 2016, as a prerequisite to the issuance or renewal of a business license for any entity providing services or nursery products [in the unincorporated area within the territorial boundaries of the Coachella Valley Association of Governments] related to or used for landscape installation, maintenance, or design, the applicant shall present proof that at least one employee has, within the twelve months immediately preceding the application, completed a minimum four-hour course developed by the Coachella Valley Association of Governments, the South Coast Air Quality Management District, the***

***Coachella Valley Water District, and local stakeholders, on grass overseeding alternatives to traditional scalping and landscaping water efficiency.***

***Prior to November 1, 2016, said educational prerequisite shall be satisfied by completion of the two-hour course that was in place prior to the addition of the water efficiency segment of the curriculum.***

**SECTION IV. SEVERABILITY**

If any section, subsection or clause of this ordinance shall be deemed to be unconstitutional or otherwise invalid, the validity of the remaining section, subsection and clauses shall not be affected thereby.

**SECTION V. EFFECTIVE DATE**

This ordinance shall become effective on the thirtieth (30th) day following its adoption.

**SECTION VI. POSTING**

The [City Clerk or Clerk of the Board] shall within fifteen (15) days after the passage of this ordinance, cause this ordinance to be posted in at least three (3) public places designated by resolution of the [City Council or Board of Supervisors]; shall certify to the adoption and posting of this ordinance; and shall cause this ordinance and its certification, together with proof of posting, to be entered in the Book of Ordinances of this [City or County].

The foregoing ordinance was approved and adopted at a meeting of the [City Council or Board of Supervisors] held on \_\_\_\_\_, 2016 by the following vote:

Ayes:  
Noes:  
Abstain:  
Absent:

\_\_\_\_\_  
[Mayor or Chairman of the Board]

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
[City Clerk or Clerk of the Board]

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

\_\_\_\_\_  
[City Attorney or County Counsel]

## Palm Springs Municipal Code

[Up](#)[Previous](#)[Next](#)[Main](#)[Search](#)[Print](#)[No Frames](#)[Title 5 BUSINESS REGULATIONS](#)[Chapter 5.78 LANDSCAPE RELATED BUSINESSES](#)

### 5.78.030 Overseeding education requirement.

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All landscape related businesses shall be required to present with an application for business license, or the renewal of a business license, pursuant to Palm Springs Municipal Code Chapter 3.40, proof to the satisfaction of the city that at least one employee of the business has within the preceding twelve-month period successfully completed a two-hour course administered by the Coachella Valley Association of Governments on grass overseeding alternatives to traditional scalping. (Ord. 1737 § 2, 2008)

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# SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT

PRESENTED FOR COMMISSION MEETING DATE: 11/15/16	SUBMITTED BY: David Freedman
SUBCOMMITTEE NAME: Green Building / Solar (with Planning Commission liaison)	SUBMITTED DATE: 11/08/16
SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING DATE: 10/25/16	NEXT SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING DATE: 11/17/16

### Subcommittee Meeting Goals:

Discuss timing and format of upcoming joint study session with Planning Commission on proposed solar mandate.

### Summary:

Subcommittee members met to discuss the timing and format of the upcoming joint study session with the Planning Commission on a proposed solar mandate. After the subcommittee meeting, the study session has been scheduled for Wednesday, December 14, 2016, at 11 am.

We envisage the study session would follow a format generally along the lines of the one the Sustainability Commission held on October 24 on leaf blowers. First, we would have a brief PowerPoint presentation framing the issues and summarizing the cost / benefit analysis included in the report we submitted to the respective Commissions in September. Second, we would like to have some invited stakeholders present their views, for roughly three to five minutes each (depending on the number of confirmed speakers). Our tentative invitation list is as follows:

California Solar Energy Association

City of Santa Monica (which adopted a solar ordinance this past spring)

Climate Action PS (Ellen Lockhart)

CVAG (Katie Barrows)

DVBA (Gretchen Gutierrez)

Energy Policy Initiatives Center of the University of San Diego Law School

GRID Alternatives (administrator of the Single Affordable Solar Homes program)

SCE

Ygrene (PACE loan provider)

We are also inviting several local developers to speak about their experience in building solar homes. Following these presentations, there would be public comment (three minutes per speaker) and comments from the respective Commissioners.

Recommendation/Request

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<b>ACTION ITEMS REQUEST TO COMMISSION</b>	<b>Consider recommended solar ordinance once presented and discussed.</b>
<b>ACTION ITEMS REQUEST TO OFFICE OF SUSTAINABILITY</b>	<b>Provide logistical support as needed for the study session.</b>
<b>POTENTIAL FISCAL IMPACT/REQUEST IF ANY:</b>	<b>None determinable at this time.</b>