

City of Brisbane

Agenda Report

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council

FROM: Open Space and Ecology Committee via Clay Holstine, City Manager

DATE: Meeting of March 1, 2010

SUBJECT: Open Space and Ecology Committee Report of Accomplishments

CITY COUNCIL GOALS: City Council Goals # 7 & 8.

PURPOSE: To keep the City Council informed about the activities of the Open Space and Ecology Committee.

RECOMMENDATION:

Accept the attached report.

BACKGROUND and DISCUSSION:

In 2006, the Open Space and Ecology Committee prepared its first Report of Accomplishments to highlight the Committee's achievements. Its purpose is to encapsulate and document activities in order to track the Committee's progress and convey its work to the City Council and the public. This report covers initiatives and accomplishments that have taken place in 2009.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING ISSUES

None.



Department Head



City Manager

ATTACHMENTS:

Open Space and Ecology Committee Report of Accomplishments.

OPEN SPACE AND ECOLOGY COMMITTEE REPORT OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS

In 1998, the City Council established the Open Space and Ecology Committee as an advisory body to recommend policies and programs related to preservation of open space, resource conservation, and sustainability. In the ensuing decade, the Committee has worked on a wide array of ecological issues following a work program which is regularly updated. Below is a summary of the work the Committee has undertaken in 2009.

Vegetation Management Plan

The Committee's 2008-09 vegetation management program included the completion of the eucalyptus tree removal project, extensive follow-up work and expanded invasive plant control, vegetation mapping, and the annual volunteer stewardship workday. In April 2009, Habitat Restoration Day took place at Firth Canyon. The 7th year vegetation management plan for 2009-10 was approved by the City Council on November 9, 2009.

Open Space Report

The Open Space and Ecology Committee presented the annual open space report to the City Council on November 9, 2009. The reports covers acquisitions to the City's publicly owned open space lands; the status of the Open Space Fund; the status of grant funds; strategies for acquiring and preserving open space; and vegetation management issues.

Energy

The City Council directed the Open Space and Ecology Committee to review the C/CAG San Mateo County Energy Strategy report. The Committee carefully studied the report and crafted its response into two parts. The Committee formulated recommendations for developing a Brisbane Energy Strategy, which it then reviewed with the City Council Liaison Subcommittee. The proposed Brisbane Energy Strategy will be brought to the full City Council for its consideration in early 2010. The Committee also crafted comments and suggestions to transmit to the C/CAG Utilities and Sustainability Task Force and County staff for incorporation into any future iterations of the County Energy Strategy report.

Additionally, at the suggestion of the Committee, the City Council adopted Resolution 2009-06 establishing a policy that certain development projects include a renewable energy component.

Baylands

The Committee continues to study and promote sustainability in the Baylands. A joint subcommittee of the Planning Commission and the Open Space and Ecology Committee has been established by the City Council to review the sustainability analysis of the Baylands EIR.

Star Awards

The Committee submitted nominations for Open Space and Ecology Star Awards for outstanding achievements in the following categories: Conservation; Vegetation Management / Landscaping; Green Building; Pollution Reduction (air, water, noise); Energy Conservation; Open Space Preservation; Solid Waste Diversion/ Recycling; and Environmental Education.

Community Festival

Committee members staffed an information booth at the October 2009 Community Festival, offering educational materials, displays and native plants. This year, the Committee engaged the Brisbane school community in an environmental art project.