

# City of Brisbane

## Agenda Report

**TO:** Honorable Mayor and City Council

**FROM:** Karen Kinser, Deputy Director of Public Works

**VIA:** Randy Breault, Director of Public Works/City Engineer via Clay Holstine, City Manager

**DATE:** Meeting of January 15, 2015

**SUBJECT:** Open Space and Ecology Committee Report of Accomplishments

**CITY COUNCIL GOALS:** To develop plans and pursue opportunities to preserve open space (7) and natural resources (8).

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

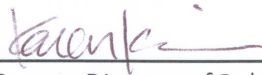
**RECOMMENDATION:** Accept the attached report.

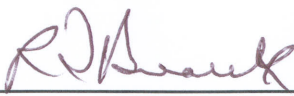
### **BACKGROUND and DISCUSSION:**

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 2014.

### **FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING ISSUES**

None.

  
Deputy Director of Public Works

  
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 (OSEC) 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 plan. Below is a summary of the work the Committee has undertaken during calendar year 2014.

### Baylands Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR)

Review of the DEIR began in July 2013. The Open Space and Ecology Committee completed their review of the Baylands DEIR and submitted comments to the Planning Department in January.

### Invest From the Ground Up - Tree Planting

OSEC approved the application for a grant that allocated free trees and publicity materials. Seven new trees were planted in the Community Park near the picnic tables on February 15.

### Habitat Restoration Day - Earth Day

Thirty volunteers participated in a Habitat Restoration Day at Costaños Canyon on April 26. Peter Steihler led the restoration efforts with removal of ivy from the upper third of the canyon and pulling of resprouts from the previous clean-up. T-shirts donated from Recology were provided to volunteers. The work was collaboration between the City of Brisbane, the Open Space and Ecology Committee, the Parks and Recreation Commission and San Bruno Mountain Watch.

### Fossil Fuels Divestment Letter to CalPERS

City Council adopted a resolution to divest and refrain from investing funds in fossil fuel companies on June 19, 2014. A letter was also approved to be sent to CalPERS president, Rob Feckner, signed by Mayor W. Clarke Conway, to urge them to refrain from investing in the fossil fuels industry.

### Quarry Road Clean-Up Day

Thirty two volunteers participated in clean-up efforts along Quarry Road on June 21, starting from the intersection of San Francisco Avenue and Inyo Street to the drainage ditch/ad hoc skate park. Trash was removed, as well as ivy and broom. Several representatives from Recology also volunteered. The project was collaboration between the City of Brisbane, the Open Space and Ecology Committee, the Parks and Recreation Commission and San Bruno Mountain Watch.

### Invasive Species Brochure

An Invasive Species brochure was drafted by city staff and the Open Space and Ecology committee. San Bruno Mountain Watch assisted in shaping content for the brochure by making target species recommendations. The Arthur and Elena Court Nature Watch Conservancy donated resources to format the content and print 1,500 pamphlets, which were completed in October, in time to hand out at the Community Festival.

### Community Festival - Day in the Park

OSEC sponsored a booth and promoted several topics at the fair in October including: calculating an individual's carbon footprint, breaking a carbon footprint piñata, and providing handouts on green practices during the holidays, invasive species information, and energy and water savings measures.

### Polystyrene Ban

San Mateo County's Polystyrene (Styrofoam) Food Ware Ordinance has been in effect since July 2011. OSEC approved the San Mateo County ordinance as written to pass onto City Council for approval. The ordinance was adopted by City Council on November 6, 2014.

### Environmental Action Plan

At the July 9 OSEC meeting an Energy Subcommittee was formed consisting of OSEC members Fieldman and Ebel. Staff has researched the development of an Environmental or Energy Action Plan and will guide the development and implementation of the plan. Consultant DNV-GL, working for the San Mateo City/County Association of Governments, held a kickoff meeting for preparation of the plan with OSEC members on November 12. The subcommittee has met twice since then to begin selecting measures to recommend including in the plan.

### Monterey Pine Removal

Prior OSEC member Court developed an inventory of diseased trees in Crocker Park in February. The bark beetle that Monterey Pines can contract is contagious to neighboring trees, causing pitch canker and death. Management Analyst Muñoz gathered reports from arborist companies between the months April and July regarding the health of the trees on the list. In October, Public Works staff sent a letter to business owners informing them of specific trees on their property that were infected and were considered a nuisance, thus should be removed. Arborist contact information and a tree removal permit application were also provided with each letter.

### Plastic Bag Ban

Letters were sent by the Mayor to affected retail businesses, and information was given to the public via the City News and the city website regarding the increase in cost of reusable bags purchased at retail establishments from \$ 0.10 to \$ 0.25 as of January 1, 2015. The San Mateo County's Reusable bag ordinance has been in effect since April 2013. The ordinance was adopted by City Council on March 18, 2013.