



**CITY OF SOUTH PASADENA
NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION**

MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2025, AT 6:30 P.M.

**CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
1424 MISSION STREET, SOUTH PASADENA, CA 91030**

PRESENT: Commissioner Casey Law
 Commissioner Liam R. de Villa Bourke
 Commissioner Michael Noe
 Commissioner Alex Rajewski
 Commissioner Margaret Yi

ABSENT: Chair Emily Ng
 Vice Chair Michael Siegel

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Commissioner Casey Law

PUBLIC COMMENT

1. GENERAL (NON-AGENDA ITEMS)

In Person Public Comments:

Jeff Leon expressed concern for the tree ordinance amendment, specifically towards the reduced replacement requirements, removal of public transparency regarding removals and the ultimate lead to a loss of canopy and community input.

Zoom Public Comments:

None.

PRESENTATION

2. FIRE HAZARD SEVERITY ZONE MAP

Fire Chief Lloyd provided an overview of the new state-mandated Fire Hazard Severity Zone maps, illustrating their history, methodology, required local updates, and community implications – particularly for Monterey Hills. Additionally Chief Lloyd outlined South Pasadena's approach to refine the maps, educate residents and comply with upcoming fire-safe construction and defensible-space laws.

ACTION**3. TREE ORDINANCE SUPPLEMENTIVE FAQ**

Water Conservation Management Analyst, Danielle Garcia and Michael Vartanians, Principal Engineer presented the Tree Ordinance FAQ and requested feedback in preparation for the City Council's upcoming second reading of the amended ordinance. It is recommended by City staff that the commission review the FAQ to ensure clarity for residents as the new protections and permitting requirements are implemented.

In Person Public Comments:

Angelo Gladding urged the Commission to restore strong non-native tree protections, expressing that the proposed ordinance weakens replacement requirements, diverges from regional best practices and fails to address hillside development impacts and ultimately risks significant canopy loss.

Wendy Ryan expressed concern regarding the lack of protection of mature trees and public safety with the amended tree ordinance. Additionally highlighting the exemptions for City work could lead to unsafe conditions and inadequate oversight.

Zoom Public Comments:

None.

COMMISSION ACTION & MOTION

A motion was made by Commissioner Law, seconded by Commissioner de Villa Bourke and approved by roll call vote for the approval of March 25, 2025 NREC Meeting Minutes. The motion carried 5-0-2, by the following vote:

AYES: Law, De Villa Bourke, Noe, Rajewski, Yi

NOES: None.

ABSENT: Ng, Siegel

ABSTAINED: None.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JULY 22, 2025 NREC REGULAR MEETING**Recommendation**

It is recommended that the Commission review and approve the July 22, 2025 Regular Meeting Minutes.

In Person Public Comments:

Angelo Gladding requested that the July 22 2025 NREC meeting minutes public comment be updated to include mention of a previous Special Meeting not being calendared as well as the process being unclear for review of the amendments.

COMMISSION ACTION & MOTION

Commissioner Rajewski moved, and Commissioner Noe seconded, to approve the July 22, 2025 NREC Meeting Minutes, with direction to amend the minutes to incorporate the public comment referenced. The motion passed by a roll-call vote of 5-0-2, as follows:

AYES: Law, De Villa Bourke, Noe, Rajewski, Yi

NOES: None.

ABSENT: Ng, Siegel

ABSTAINED: None

COMMUNICATIONS

5. CITY COUNCIL LIAISON COMMUNICATIONS

Councilmember Cacciotti provided updates on the A Line extension, regional clean-air initiatives, local hazardous-waste and conservancy efforts, and Council's July 4th decision—encouraging the Commission to support a hybrid drone/fireworks show for 2026.

6. COMMISSIONER COMMUNICATIONS

Commissioner de Villa-Bourke reflected on South Pasadena's history of tree protection—shaped more by heritage than environmentalism, and emphasized the need to rethink outdated frameworks, rebuild clearer policies from the ground up, and encourage residents to bring site-specific evidence to help address systemic gaps in tree oversight.

Commissioner Law announced his new role on the Clean Power Alliance Citizens Advisory Committee, highlighted upcoming community benefit grant and testimonial opportunities, and invited residents to share feedback as South Pasadena continues its leadership in 100% renewable energy.

Commissioner Rajewski noted heightened interest in developing an Urban Forestry Management Plan, emphasizing that current decisions on fire hazard maps and the tree ordinance are being made without sufficient data, and encouraged further exploration of protections for additional non-native but significant trees.

7. STAFF LIAISON COMMUNICATIONS

Danielle Garcia, Water Conservation Management Analyst, announced upcoming Athens Office Hours, Farmers Market outreach sessions, and the Fall Compost and Mulch Giveaway this Saturday in the Arroyo Seco, inviting residents to participate and ask questions about the three-stream transition.

8. UPCOMING EVENTS

- Athens Service Office Hours
 - **September 19 | September 22 | September 26 | September 30**
- Athens x City Farmers Market Tabling
 - **September 18 | September 25 | October 2**
- Fall Compost & Mulch Giveaway
 - **September 27**

- Household Hazardous Waste Collection Events
(www.cleanla.lacounty.gov/hhw)
- LA County Smart Gardening Workshops & Webinars
(www.cleanla.lacounty.gov/smартgardening)
- MWD Turf Removal + CA Native Landscape Webinars
(www.greengardensgroup.com/turf-transformation)

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further matters, Commissioner Law adjourned the meeting of the Natural Resources and Environmental Commission at 8:05P.M. PT to the next Regular Commission meeting scheduled for November 25, 2025.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION**FUTURE NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETINGS**

November 25, 2025	Regular Meeting	6:30 p.m.
January 27, 2025	Regular Meeting	6:30 p.m.
March 24, 2025	Regular Meeting	6:30 p.m.

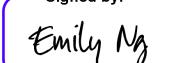
Respectfully Submitted:

Signed by:

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Danielle Garcia
Staff Liaison, Water Conservation Management Analyst

Respectfully Submitted:

Signed by:

51F7727550BB420...

Emily Ng
Chair

Approved at Commission Meeting: **December 16th 2025, Special NREC Meeting**