



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

**A G E N D A
SPECIAL MEETING
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2025, AT 6:30 P.M.**

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

South Pasadena Commission Statement of Civility

As your appointed governing board, we will treat each other, members of the public, and city employees with patience, civility and courtesy as a model of the same behavior we wish to reflect in South Pasadena for the conduct of all city business and community participation. The decisions made today will be for the benefit of the South Pasadena community and not for personal gain.

NOTICE ON PUBLIC PARTICIPATION & ACCESSIBILITY

The South Pasadena Natural Resources and Environmental Commission Meeting will be conducted in-person from the Council Chambers, Amedee O. "Dick" Richards, Jr., located at 1424 Mission Street, South Pasadena.

The meeting will be available:

- In Person – City Manager Conference Room, 1424 Mission Street
- Via Zoom – **Webinar ID: 880 7206 2700**

To maximize public safety while still maintaining transparency and public access, members of the public can observe the meeting via Zoom in one of the three methods below.

1. Go to the Zoom website, <https://zoom.us/join> and enter the Zoom Meeting information; or
2. Click on the following unique Zoom meeting link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88072062700>; or
3. You may listen to the meeting by calling +1-669-900-6833 and entering the Zoom Meeting ID.

CALL TO ORDER:

ROLL CALL:

Chair	Emily Ng
Vice Chair	Michael Siegel
Commissioner	Liam R. de Villa Bourke
Commissioner	Casey Law
Commissioner	Michael Noe
Commissioner	Alex Rajewski
Commissioner	Margaret Yi

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Chair	Emily Ng
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PUBLIC COMMENT

1. GENERAL (NON-AGENDA ITEMS)

PRESENTATION

2. 4TH OF JULY SKY SHOW OPTIONS

ACTION

3. ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION SETTING THE DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF REGULAR COMMISSION MEETINGS

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Commission review and consider for adoption the Resolution setting the date, time and place of regular commission meetings.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 23, 2025 NREC REGULAR MEETING

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Commission review and approve the September 23, 2025 Regular Natural Resources & Environmental Commission Meeting Minutes.

COMMUNICATIONS

5. CITY COUNCIL LIAISON COMMUNICATIONS

6. COMMISSIONER COMMUNICATIONS

7. STAFF LIAISON COMMUNICATIONS

8. UPCOMING EVENTS

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

ADJOURNMENT

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

FUTURE NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETINGS

January 27, 2026	Regular Meeting	6:30 p.m.
March 24, 2026	Regular Meeting	6:30 p.m.
May 26, 2026	Regular Meeting	6:30 p.m.

PUBLIC ACCESS TO AGENDA DOCUMENTS AND BROADCASTING OF MEETINGS

Commission meeting agenda packets, any agenda related documents, and additional documents are available online for public inspection on the City’s website:

<https://www.southpasadenaca.gov/government/boards-commissions>

Meeting recordings will be available for public viewing after the meeting. Recordings will be uploaded to the City’s YouTube Channel no later than the next business day after the meeting. The City’s YouTube Channel may be accessed at:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCnR169ohzi1AlewD_6sfwDA/featured

AGENDA NOTIFICATION SUBSCRIPTION

If you wish to receive an agenda email notification please contact the Sustainability Division via email at NRECPublicComment@SouthPasadenaCA.gov or call (626) 403-7240.

ACCOMMODATIONS



The City of South Pasadena wishes to make all of its public meetings accessible to the public. If special assistance is needed to participate in this meeting, please contact the City Clerk’s Division at (626) 403-7230 or CityClerk@southpasadenaca.gov. Upon request, this agenda will be made available in appropriate alternative formats to persons with disabilities. Notification at least 48 hours prior to the meeting will assist staff in assuring that reasonable arrangements can be made to provide accessibility to the meeting (28 CFR 35.102-35.104 ADA Title II).

CERTIFICATION OF POSTING

*I declare under penalty of perjury that I posted this notice of agenda for the meeting to be held on **December 16, 2025**, on the bulletin board in the courtyard of City Hall at 1414 Mission Street, South Pasadena, CA 91030, and on the City’s, website as required by law, on the date listed below.*

12/11/2025

Danielle Garcia

Date

Danielle Garcia, Water Conservation Analyst

Item 2

4TH OF JULY SKY SHOW OPTIONS



Natural Resources and Environmental Commission Agenda Report

ITEM NO. 8

DATE: December 16, 2025

FROM: Lucy Hakobian, Community Services Director

PREPARED BY: Melissa Snyder, Community Services Deputy Director

SUBJECT: **RECOMMENDATION OF PREFERRED SHOW FORMAT FOR THE 2026 4TH OF JULY CELEBRATION**

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Commission review and provide a recommendation to the City Council regarding the preferred show format:

1. Traditional Fireworks;
2. Drone Light Show; or
3. Hybrid Fireworks and Drone Light Show.

Background

The City of South Pasadena annually hosts a 4th of July Celebration to commemorate Independence Day and provide a safe, family-oriented community event.

In March 2025, the City Council directed staff to research options for future Independence Day celebrations, including traditional fireworks, drone light shows, or a hybrid approach that combines both. This direction was based on Council's interest in evaluating event quality, environmental impact, noise concerns, and overall community experience.

In response, staff issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) seeking qualified vendors to provide one of the three display formats. However, only one proposal was received during the initial solicitation period. To ensure a competitive process and obtain a broader range of options, staff reissued the RFP with an extended deadline and additional outreach to potential vendors.

The reissued RFP resulted in multiple submissions representing a variety of show formats, which are now presented to the Commission for review and recommendation to the City Council.

Analysis

Staff received four proposals by the RFP deadline of November 5, 2025. A summary of the proposals is provided below:

Show Format for 2026 4th of July Celebration

December 16, 2025

Page 2 of 2

Option	Vendor	Estimated Cost	Show Elements
Fireworks	Pryo Spectaculars, Inc.	\$40,000	20-minute show
Drones*	Open Sky Productions LLC	150 Drones = \$58,500 350 Drones = \$122,500 400 Drones = \$136,000	150 Drones = 20-24 animations 350 Drones = 20-21 animations 400 Drones = 19-20 animations Standard show runs for 13 minutes. *Custom quotes are available for additional time or added pyrotechnics.
Drones	Grizzly Entertainment LLC	150 Drones = \$20,000 350 Drones = \$40,000 500 Drones = \$55,000	Standard show runs for 10-12 minutes featuring 8-10 animations.
Drones	Skyworx Drone Show LLC	150 Drones = \$45,000 350 Drones = \$105,000 500 Drones = \$150,000	Standard show runs 12-13 minutes. Bid does not include hotel rooms for crew.

Next Steps

Based on the Commission’s recommendation, staff will prepare an agenda item for City Council consideration at the January 21, 2026 meeting, with the goal of awarding a contract by February 2026 to ensure adequate planning time.

Fiscal Impact

Funding for the 4th of July Celebration is included in the Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Community Services Budget for a total of \$175,000 allocated. The proposed options range from approximately \$20,000 to \$150,000, depending on the selected format.

Public Notification

The public was made aware that this item was to be considered this evening by virtue of its inclusion on the legally publicly noticed agenda, posting of the same agenda and reports on the City’s website and/or notice in the *South Pasadena Review* and/or the *Pasadena Star-News*.

Attachments:

1. PowerPoint Presentation of Show Formats for the 2026 4th of July Celebration

ATTACHMENT 1

Item No. – PowerPoint Presentation of Show Formats
for the 2026 4th of July Celebration

Presentation of Show Formats for the 2026 4th of July Celebration

Date: December 16, 2025

Prepared By: Melissa Snyder, Community Services Deputy Director

Recommendation

Review and recommend preferred show format:

- 1. Traditional Fireworks**
- 2. Drone Light Show**
- 3. Hybrid Fireworks and Drone Show**

Background

- **In March 2025, City Council directed staff to research fireworks vs. drones vs. hybrid.**
- **Staff issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) seeking qualified vendors to provide one of the three show formats.**
- **RFP resulted in options for fireworks, drone shows, and hybrid possibilities.**

Proposal 1: Fireworks

- **Vendor: Pyro Spectaculars, Inc.**
- **Estimated Cost: \$40,000**
- **Show Elements: 20-minute traditional fireworks show**

Proposal 2: Drone Show

- **Vendor: Open Sky Productions**
- **150 drones: \$58,500 — 20–24 animations**
- **350 drones: \$122,500 — 20–21 animations**
- **400 drones: \$136,000 — 19–20 animations**
- **Standard show: 13 minutes**
- **Custom quotes available for longer show or added pyrotechnics for a hybrid show option.**

Proposal 3: Drone Show

- **Vendor: Grizzly Entertainment**
- **150 drones: \$20,000**
- **350 drones: \$40,000**
- **500 drones: \$55,000**
- **10–12 minute show with 8–10 animations**

Proposal 4: Drone Show

- **Vendor: Skyworx**
- **150 drones: \$45,000**
- **350 drones: \$105,000**
- **500 drones: \$150,000**
- **12–13 minute show**
- **Note: Hotel rooms for crew not included**

Examples of Drone Show Sizes

Drone Show Sizes



Fiscal Impact

- **Fiscal Year 2025–26 Budget allocates \$175,000 for event.**
- **Proposal costs range: \$20,000 to \$150,000 (format dependent).**

Next Steps

- **Commission recommendation forwarded to City Council.**
- **City Council consideration is tentatively scheduled for January 21, 2026.**
- **Goal: Award contract by February 2026 for adequate planning time.**

Item 3

ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION SETTING THE DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF REGULAR COMMISION MEETINGS

**CITY OF SOUTH PASADENA
RESOLUTION NO.**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE
NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL
COMMISSION CITY OF SOUTH PASADENA,
CALIFORNIA, SETTING THE DATE AND TIME AND
PLACE OF ITS REGULAR MEETINGS**

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of South Pasadena has created the Natural Resources and Environmental Commission pursuant to Section 2.47-1 of Chapter 2 of the South Pasadena Municipal Code;

WHEREAS, Government Code Section 54954 provides that each legislative body of a local agency shall provide by ordinance or resolution the time and place for holding regular meetings; and

WHEREAS, the Natural Resources and Environmental Commission of the City of South Pasadena desires to set the time and place of its regular meetings;

NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SOUTH PASADENA, CALIFORNIA, DOES RESOLVE, DECLARE, DETERMINE AND ORDER AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. Recitals. The Natural Resources and Environmental Commission hereby finds that the above recitals are true and correct and are incorporated herein as if set forth in full.

SECTION 2. Regular Meetings. The regular meetings of the Natural Resources and Environmental Commission of the City of South Pasadena ("Commission") shall commence in January 2026 and shall be held on the fourth Tuesday of every other month at 6:30 p.m. The regular meeting location shall be in the Amedee O. "Dick" Richards Jr. Council Chambers, located at 1424 Mission Street, South Pasadena, California.

SECTION 3. Circumstances Under Which Regular Meeting Is Cancelled. In the event an agenda for a regular meeting of the Commission is not posted timely in accordance with the provisions of Section 54954.2 of the Government Code, such regular meeting is cancelled without any further action of the Commission, except as may be required by the Ralph M. Brown Act.

SECTION 4. Special and Adjourned Meetings. The Commission may hold special meetings or adjourn its regular meeting to other dates and times and locations as may be necessary subject to compliance with the noticing

requirements of the Ralph M. Brown Act, Government Code Section 54950 et. seq.

SECTION 5. Effective Date. This Resolution shall be in full force and effect immediately upon its passage and adoption thereof. To the extent there is any inconsistency between this Resolution and any other resolution previously adopted on the same matter, this Resolution shall prevail, and the portions of the previously adopted resolution shall be automatically repealed and have no further force or effect.

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED on this 16th day of December 2025.

Emily Ng, Chair

ATTEST:

Danielle Garcia, Water Conservation Management Analyst

I HEREBY CERTIFY the foregoing resolution was duly adopted by the City Council of the City of South Pasadena, California, at a regular meeting held on the 16th of December 2025 by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAINED:

Danielle Garcia, Water Conservation Management Analyst

Attachment 1
2026 Regular Natural Resources & Environmental
Commission Meeting Schedule



**CITY OF SOUTH PASADENA
2026 REGULAR NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL
COMMISSION MEETING SCHEDULE**

Natural Resources and Environmental Commission Meeting Date	Notes
January 27, 2026	
March 24, 2026	
May 26, 2026	
July 28, 2026	
September 22, 2026	
November 17, 2026	Adjusted in consideration of the Thanksgiving holiday observance.

Item 4

Approval of Minutes of September 23, 2025 NREC
Regular Meeting



**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/smartgardening)
- 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:

Danielle Garcia
Staff Liaison, Water Conservation Management Analyst

Respectfully Submitted:

Emily Ng
Chair

Approved at Commission Meeting: