



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

MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, JANUARY 27, 2025, AT 6:30 P.M.

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

PRESENT:	Chair	Emily Ng
	Commissioner	Liam R. de Villa Bourke
	Commissioner	Michael Noe
	Commissioner	Alex Rajewski
	Commissioner	Margaret Yi
ABSENT:	Commissioner	Casey Law (Excused)

PUBLIC COMMENT

1. GENERAL (NON-AGENDA ITEMS)

In Person Public Comments:

None.

Zoom Public Comments:

None.

ACTION

2. SELECTION OF OFFICERS

Staff provided an overview of the roles and selection protocol for the positions of Chair and Vice Chair for the 2026 term.

COMMISSION ACTION & MOTION

Commissioner Noe was nominated as Chair and approved by roll call vote. The motion carried 5-0-1, by the following vote:

AYES: Ng, De Villa Bourke, Noe, Rakewski, Yi

NOES: None.

ABSENT: Law.

ABSTAINED: None.

Commissioner Rajewski was nominated as Vice Chair and approved by roll call vote. The motion carried 5-0-1, by the following vote:

AYES: Ng, De Villa Bourke, Noe, Rakewski, Yi

NOES: None.

ABSENT: Law.

ABSTAINED: None.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF DECEMBER 16, 2025, NREC SPECIAL MEETING

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Commission review and approve the December 16, 2025 Special Meeting Minutes.

COMMISSION ACTION & MOTION

A motion was made by Commissioner Noe, seconded by Commissioner Rajewski and approved by roll call vote for the approval of the December 16, 2025 – NREC Special Meeting Minutes. The motion carried 5-0-1, by the following vote:

AYES: Ng, De Villa Bourke, Noe, Rakewski, Yi

NOES: None.

ABSENT: Law.

ABSTAINED: None.

PRESENTATION

4. TREE ORDINANCE UPDATE

Danielle Garcia, Public Works Analyst, and Michael Vartanians, City Engineer, presented an informal update on the recently adopted tree ordinance. Specifically highlighting the major changes to permitting process & tree classifications.

In Person Public Comments:

None.

Zoom Public Comments:

Angelo Gladding expressed concerns regarding transparency, the removal of shrub protections, and the notification process for city-owned tree removals.

5. SB 1383 TRANSITION UPDATE

Danielle Garcia presented a status report on the City's transition to the three-stream waste collection system required by SB 1383.

In Person Public Comments:

None.

Zoom Public Comments:

None.

COMMUNICATIONS

6. CITY COUNCIL LIAISON COMMUNICATIONS

None.

7. COMMISSIONER COMMUNICATIONS

Commissioner de Villa Bourke highlighted trends in data center development and encouraged filling commission vacancies with youth members.

Chair Ng motioned to agendize a discussion of Earth Month activities for the March meeting. Approved by roll call vote 5-0.

8. STAFF LIAISON COMMUNICATIONS

Staff announced several upcoming events, including a virtual landscape training on January 29, a garden design seminar on February 21, and a Sustainability Fair planned for April.

9. UPCOMING EVENTS

- January MWD Landscape Training – **Rain to Roots: Water for Your Garden | January 29** | Virtual Webinar | 6PM-7:15PM | <https://upperwater.org/water-smart-workshops-2/>
- February MWD Landscape Training – **Garden Design Seminar | February 21** | Library Community Room | 10AM -11:45AM | <https://upperwater.org/water-smart-workshops-2/>
- March MWD Landscape Training – **Outdoor Leaks Waste Water | March 19** | Virtual Webinar | 6PM-7PM | <https://greengardensgroup.com/g3-events/outdoor-leak-detection-usqv-260319/>
- April MWD Landscape Training – **Protect the Pollinators | April 16** | Virtual Webinar | 6PM-7:15PM | <https://greengardensgroup.com/g3-events/protect-the-pollinators-upper-water-260416/>
- 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, Chair Ng adjourned the meeting of the Natural Resources and Environmental Commission at 7:47PM to the next Regular Commission meeting scheduled for March 24, 2026.

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.

Respectfully Submitted:

Signed by:
Danielle Garcia
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Danielle Garcia
Staff Liaison, Water Conservation Management Analyst

Respectfully Submitted:

Signed by:
Michael D. Noe
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Michael Noe
Chair

Approved at Commission Meeting: **March 24, 2026 Natural Resources & Environmental Commission**