

From: Kobayashi, Ruth <RKobayashi@newportbeachca.gov>  
Sent: July 02, 2025 8:32 AM  
To: Zdeba, Benjamin <bzdeba@newportbeachca.gov>  
Subject: Today's GPAC Mtg-Absence & Comments

Hi Ben,

We have family arriving from out of town late this afternoon, and I will be unable to attend the GPAC meeting today.

After reviewing the materials for today's meeting, I have some broad comments on policy information. It's not clear in each policy reference where a new or existing policy is referenced, but where new policies may be referenced, I do have some concerns about over reach.

I'd like to ensure that we don't add to existing State policies that are often expensive, restrictive, and impediments to responsible construction projects and even quality of life, by restricting people's choices.

For example, requiring battery operated landscaping equipment, while reducing pollution from the gas powered equipment, it also increases costs (purchasing of new equipment and multiple batteries) and makes work more challenging due to the limited performance of many battery powered landscaping tools. Furthermore, as I've personally experienced, some battery/electric powered landscaping equipment emits a piercing high pitched sound that is untenable

Any action that would have the City (via policy) join actions by the State or the County to force residents or businesses from using or installing natural gas appliances is an absolute over reach and would result in massive objection by many of us in the community.

Other examples I noted mentioned private property and endangered plant species and historical/archeological resources. These are important resources to be protected, but I would object to adding additional burdens on builders and even individual homeowners through policy in this area as well. Forcing all property owners (commercial or residential) to only install drought tolerant plants, is also an over reach. Outreach and education, ie a demonstration garden at the Civic Center or the Back Bay Science Ctr (like what Irvine has at one of their locations) is a great idea!

Public outreach, gentle incentives, encouragement is acceptable, but adding burdensome, restrictive, expensive policies is not, and would likely not receive support from the City Council.

I continue to commend the GPAC process and encourage us to help produce a product for the City that is meaningful, forward thinking, and doable, that will receive wide support from the community and it's elected leaders.

Thanks for considering this input and I'm sorry I'm unable to attend this evening's meeting.

Ruth  
iPhone Photographer