



CITY OF NEWPORT BEACH WATER QUALITY/COASTAL TIDELANDS COMMITTEE AGENDA

Crystal Cove Room (Bay 2D)

Thursday, April 2, 2026 - 3:00 PM

Water Quality/Coastal Tidelands Committee Members:

Councilmember Michelle Barto, Chair
Councilmember Joe Stapleton, Vice Chair
Eros Bilyeu, Member
Curtis Black, Member
Tim Burnham, Member
Charles Fancher, Member
Craig Hudson, Member
Sharon Ray, Member
John Wadsworth, Member

Staff Members:

Jim Houlihan, Deputy Public Works Director/City Engineer
Chris Miller, Administrative Manager
Karen Gallagher, Administrative Assistant

The Water Quality/Coastal Tidelands Committee meeting is subject to the Ralph M. Brown Act. Among other things, the Brown Act requires that the Water Quality/Coastal Tidelands Committee agenda be posted at least seventy-two (72) hours in advance of each regular meeting and that the public be allowed to comment on agenda items before the Committee and items not on the agenda but are within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Water Quality/Coastal Tidelands Committee. The Chair may limit public comments to a reasonable amount of time, generally three (3) minutes per person.

The City of Newport Beach's goal is to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) in all respects. If, as an attendee or a participant at this meeting, you will need special assistance beyond what is normally provided, we will attempt to accommodate you in every reasonable manner. Please contact John Kappeler, Water Quality Enforcement Manager, at least forty-eight (48) hours prior to the meeting to inform us of your particular needs and to determine if accommodation is feasible at (949) 644-3218 or jkappeler@newportbeachca.gov.

NOTICE REGARDING PRESENTATIONS REQUIRING USE OF CITY EQUIPMENT

Any presentation requiring the use of the City of Newport Beach's equipment must be submitted to the Public Works Department 24 hours prior to the scheduled meeting.

- 1) **CALL MEETING TO ORDER**
- 2) **ROLL CALL AND INTRODUCTIONS**
- 3) **PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS**

Public comments are invited on agenda items. Speakers must limit comments to five minutes. Before speaking, we invite, but do not require, you to state your name for the record. The Committee has the discretion to extend or shorten the speakers' time limit on agenda items, provided the time limit adjustment is applied equally to all speakers. As a courtesy, please turn cell phones off or set them in silent mode.

- 4) **REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

[WQCT Draft Minutes 03052026](#)

- 5) **CURRENT BUSINESS**

(a) Orange County Watershed Water Quality Report (Michelle Barto)

Recommendation: Committee Discussion

(b) General Plan Update: Final GPUSC/GPAC Draft Harbor, Bay and Beaches Element, Natural Resources Element, and Safety Element (Curtis Black, Ben Zdeba)

Description: The initial drafts of the Harbor, Bay, and Beaches, and Natural Resources, and Safety Elements were introduced to the Water Quality/Coastal Tidelands Committee at its meeting on September 4, 2025. The Committee opted to use a subcommittee to review the drafts and to provide feedback for the General Plan Advisory Committee (GPAC) and General Plan Update Steering Committee (GPUSC) consideration. The Subcommittee presented the feedback at the Committee's meeting on October 2, 2025, which was forwarded to the GPAC and GPUSC. The Elements have been revised based on input received, and are now considered Final GPUSC/GPAC Draft Elements.

Recommendation: Staff recommends that the Water Quality/Coastal Tidelands Committee review the Final GPUSC/GPAC Draft Harbor, Bay, and Beaches Element, Natural Resources element, and Safety Element, which have been revised to incorporate the Committee's input from October 2025. The Committee may provide additional input and should conduct a vote to consider recommending the City Council adopt them as part of the comprehensive General Plan Update anticipated in May or June 2026.

(c) Trash Interceptor - 2025-26 Operational Recap (Ellis Petersen)

Recommendation: Committee Discussion

6) COMMITTEE ANNOUNCEMENTS OR MATTERS WHICH MEMBERS WOULD LIKE PLACED ON A FUTURE AGENDA FOR DISCUSSION, ACTION OR REPORT (NON-DISCUSSION ITEM)

(a) Vector problem areas in Newport Beach (Spring 2026 - Orange County Mosquito and Vector Control District)

(b) Status of trash source identification in Santa Ana River (Spring 2026 - John Wadsworth)

(c) Big Canyon Phase 3 Restoration Site Tour (Spring/Summer 2026 - Andy Tran)

(d) Ocean Beach Sand Renourishment plans, efforts, status - (Spring/Summer 2026, Chris Miller)

(e) Southern California Sand Collaborative

(f) Santa Isabella Restoration Grant Application (Summer 2026 - Heather Cieslak)

(g) Pumpout maintenance update (Summer 2026 - Chris Miller)

(h) Santa Ana River trash mitigation (Winter 2026 - TBD)

(i) Draft copper Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) (Winter 2026 - TBD)

7) **PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

Public comments are invited on non-agenda items generally considered to be within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Committee. Speakers must limit comments to three minutes. Before speaking, we invite, but do not require, you to state your name for the record. The Committee has the discretion to extend or shorten the speakers' time limit on non-agenda items, provided the time limit adjustment is applied equally to all speakers. As a courtesy, please turn cell phones off or set them in silent mode.

8) **SET NEXT MEETING DATE (5 min)**

Recommendation: May 7, 2026

9) **ADJOURNMENT**

Date: March 5, 2026
Time: 3:00 p.m.
Location: Crystal Cove Conference Room, Newport Beach Civic Center
Meeting Minutes prepared by:

1. Call meeting to order

The meeting was called to order at 3:01 p.m.

2. Roll Call and Introductions

Committee Members Present:

Councilmember/Chair Michelle Barto
Committee Member Eros Bilyeu
Committee Member Tim Burnham
Committee Member Charles Fancher
Committee Member Craig Hudson
Committee Member Sharon Ray
Committee Member John Wadsworth

Committee Members Absent:

Mayor/Vice Chair Joe Stapleton
Committee Member Curtis Black

Staff Present: Karen Gallagher, Administrative Assistant
Chris Miller, Administrative Manager
Kayla Nyberg, Management Analyst
Charles Springer, Senior Management Analyst
Dave Webb, Public Works Director

Guests Present: Jim Mosher, Resident
Nancy Gardner, Orange Coast River Park
Monica Mazur, Retired County of Orange
Nancy Skinner, SPON
Dennis Baker, SPON
Julie Barrera, CR&R
Adam Leverenz, Resident
Lisa Haney, Orange County Water District
Erik Weigand, Newport Beach City Councilmember
Susan Brodeur, Anchor QEA
Adam Gale, Anchor QEA
Andy Peplow, Kiewit

3. Public Comment on Agenda Items

None.

4. Review and approval of minutes

Recommendation: Approve minutes as presented

Motion: A motion was made by Committee Member Hudson to approve the February 5, 2026, minutes as presented, seconded by Committee Member Fancher. The motion passed unanimously.

5. Current Business

- a. Prado Dam and Sand Accumulation (Lisa Haney, Orange County Water District) Discussion on the Accumulated Sand Behind Prado Dam.

Recommendation: Committee Discussion

Orange County Water District (OCWD) Executive Director of Planning and Natural Resources Lisa Haney noted that coastal communities in the area need sand replenishment, and a lot of quality sand is available at Prado Dam, but it poses a transportation cost challenge as it is about 33 miles away in the City of Corona.

Ms. Haney reported that the OCWD has a federal requirement to remove 250,000 cubic yards of sand from the dam's basin over a five-year period, along with another obligation to remove 1,250 cubic yards annually from below the River Road bridge near the dam. She reported that OCWD has dug a hole in the basin to collect sediment during rain events, with a plan to truck this sand from the basin to an empty lot owned by the County for stockpiling while waiting for others to remove it. She noted that there is a Boy Scout operation using part of the parcel that cannot be interfered with, adding that the County plans to transport sediment to the parcel exclusively from August through November. She noted that the narrow window is because of the sensitive wetland habitat for migrant birds that nests from March to August, along with the November to March rainy season.

In response to Committee Member Hudson's inquiry, Ms. Haney confirmed that the sand can be hauled in 4-5 weeks, making the August to November window more than sufficient. She added that the hauling can happen without interfering with Boy Scout activities.

Ms. Haney reported that the sand will be given away for free, and the County is looking for partners to take it away. She added that the County's biggest holdup is what has been two years' worth of efforts to date working through the permitting process with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), lamenting that the process will not be completed in time to haul the sand prior to August 2027. She added that the delays allow for more time to find a willing sand-retrieval partner, adding that OCWD joined an online application called SediMatch to promote the sand's availability in search of a partner. She stated that OCWD would love to offer the sand to its coastal communities first but will look for other opportunities if deemed too expensive to transport by local communities.

In response to Chair Barto's inquiry, Ms. Haney clarified that the red dots on the OCWD SediMatch map represent the County's coastal communities in need of sediment. She added that the blue dots are places where sediment is available, lamenting the physical distance between the coastal red dots and inland blue dots.

In response to Committee Member Fancher's inquiry, Ms. Haney confirmed that Newport Beach has not joined SediMatch yet and thus is not represented by a red dot.

Administrative Manager Chris Miller reported that he signed the City up for SediMatch.

Ms. Haney acknowledged that the presented map is an old screenshot used in her presentation, so it may not be properly updated to denote Newport Beach being active on SediMatch.

Administrative Manager Miller confirmed that he signed up at a past OCWD event.

Committee Member Hudson reported that the Sunset Beach community within the City of Huntington Beach has added 50 feet of new sand to its beachfront, noting that it is much closer to Prado Dam than Newport Beach, leading to a smaller tucking expense.

In response to Committee Member Wadsworth's inquiry, Ms. Haney confirmed that the Prado Dam sand has been tested and is beach compatible. She noted that all of Orange County, San Diego County, and the Inland Empire region have all been added to SediMatch, adding that it is a

Statewide tool proven successful in the San Francisco Bay area. She noted that representatives from Anchor QEA, Inc. are in attendance, adding that they have been a great partner in connecting communities to sediment sources. She encouraged public-private partnership opportunities as a possible solution.

In response to Orange Coast River Park's Nancy Gardner's inquiry, Ms. Haney stated that proximity to rail from Prado Dam will come up later in her presentation.

Ms. Haney reported that understanding how quickly sand fills up the dam's basin impacts how much room remains for water storage, adding that there was a large sediment influx from 1988 to 2005, but there has been very little inflow since 2008. She added that this change is likely due to the Santa Ana River's transition from eroding open land to the development of industrial parks and housing.

In response to Public Works Director Dave Webb's inquiry, Ms. Haney reported that upstream sediment still makes it to the Prado Dam's basin. She added that consultants from the University of California at Irvine (UCI) have been contracted to investigate the situation.

In response to Committee Member Fancher's inquiry, Ms. Haney stated that part of the UCI study is to assess how long it would take for the basin to refill itself with less sediment flowing down the river than in the past. She noted that gigantic storms help it fill up, while less sediment comes in dry years.

In response to Still Protecting Our Newport's (SPON) Nancy Skinner's inquiry, Ms. Haney estimated that it would take 10,000 trucks to remove the sand at a cost of \$300 per truck. She added that another constraint beyond cost is that the roads would have structural difficulty handling this volume of truck traffic. She added that there would also be significant carbon emissions from the truck fleet.

Ms. Haney reported on the depth of the basin and how it has impacted water storage capabilities. She added that trees have grown in the sediment, increasing the difficulty of sand removal. She noted that the County has more storage capacity than it anticipated decades ago due to the reduced rate of sediment flow over that span; however, it is continuing to think about a long-term situation.

Ms. Haney reported on OCWD's Sediment Master Plan's conceptual alternatives. She noted that the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) is interested in re-entraining the sand on the other side of Prado Dam to help rehabilitate the stream bed for a natural habitat. She added that the County is also working with UCI to study the engineering possibilities of such a project, along with its cost. She stated that OCWD is considering using the sand for coastal replenishment, reuse through public-private partnerships, and the conveyance to off-site parcels.

In response to Committee Member Bilyeu's inquiry, Ms. Haney stated that the SediMatch app is hosted by the San Francisco Estuary Institute. She added that sponsorship funding is being sought.

Ms. Haney confirmed that there is a rail line along the length of the Santa Ana River and reported that OCWD was partnered with County Supervisor Katrina Foley and UCI on a Rail Feasibility Assessment. She noted that OCWD would still have to extricate the sand, stockpile the sand, and transport it to a rail line for loading. She cautioned that rail lines want to load 100 cars' worth of sand at a time to make the endeavor financially feasible, leading OCWD to also consider extraction opportunities farther upstream. She noted that Prado Dam is blocking the naturally occurring trail of sediment from the San Bernardino Mountains to the coast.

In response to Committee Member Hudson's inquiry, Ms. Haney clarified that OCWD is looking at ways to re-entrain the sand by bringing it around the dam in the future. She added that the Prado Dam is necessary because it protects Orange County from flooding and provides 85% of the County's drinking water.

In response to Ms. Skinner's inquiry, Ms. Haney stated that the rail line from Prado Dam reaches the coast and then heads in both directions along the coast throughout the State. She added that one issue UCI is looking into is that several of the State's rail lines are commuter-driven and not

commodity-driven, so they must find windows of operation for their freight. She added that there are no stops near many local beaches, creating an additional complication in finding unloading points, theorizing that spur lines may need to be built for offloading. She added that UCI is attempting to identify all these logistical complexities.

In response to SPON's Dennis Baker's inquiries, Ms. Haney confirmed that the UCI students in attendance at the meeting are working on these studies, being done in conjunction with Supervisor Foley, who is funding their work and coordinating group meetings to discover all the stumbling blocks. She reported that the end results of UCI's work will be to identify what is and is not feasible, potential project locations, costs, and recommendations. She reported that Synagro Inc. has talked to UCI to offer its experience and expertise with rail line waste operations and logistics.

In response to Committee Member Wadsworth's inquiry, Ms. Haney reported that OCWD has not set a date to announce the results of the UCI study, but that she expects it to be in early May.

Ms. Haney reported that, closer to OCWD's recharge basins and the coastline, the Anaheim Lake infiltration basin could be an even larger source of sediment than Prado Dam. She added that large islands of high-quality sand are taking up space in Anaheim Lake with a new project on the books to remove the sand. She noted that the site is listed in SediMatch and added that, while the plan is to remove 250,000 cubic yards of sand from behind Prado Dam, 800,000 cubic yards would be available from Anaheim Lake with a convenient rail line. She added that UCI is also investigating Anaheim Lake's situation as part of its study.

In response to Committee Member Fancher's inquiries, Ms. Haney reported that Anaheim Lake sand is not currently available, as the project is ongoing and seeking a contractor. She added that OCWD is soliciting partnerships for the project so that the sand can be reused, as opposed to a contractor being responsible for removing it all. She confirmed the information is on SediMatch.

In response to Committee Member Bilyeu's inquiry, Ms. Haney clarified that the sand scraped from Anaheim Lake is stockpiled outside of its area.

OCWD Second Vice President and Newport Beach City Council Member Erik Weigand reported that he came to the meeting after seeing SPON's social media post that Ms. Haney would be presenting. He commended Ms. Haney's work on attempting to get the sand out from behind Prado Dam, noting that 85% of the County's water comes from there. He reported that it costs \$800 per acre foot for OCWD groundwater whereas water sources that the City would otherwise import cost \$1,500 per acre foot. He stated that the City is lucky to have this groundwater basin, reporting logistically on how Newport Beach's water gets recycled. He commended Supervisor Foley's work in identifying how this process can work better in conjunction with the OCWD. He agreed that it can be difficult to negotiate directly with USACE, owners of the Prado Dam.

In response to Mr. Baker's inquiries, Ms. Haney reported that the Orange County Flood Control District manages much of the Santa Ana River and would have issues if OCWD attempts to flood the river with sediment for it to naturally flow to the ocean. She confirmed that OCWD is considering a slurry line to get the sand around Prado Dam, but not one from Anaheim Lake, as that is a one-time-only project and not worth this high level of infrastructure investment. She added that a slurry line would require partnerships because OCWD's mission is to provide water and not to move sand. She added that a slurry line around Prado Dam is a great idea for Supervisor Foley to consider.

In response to Adam Leverenz's inquiry, Ms. Haney clarified that the Prado Dam and Anaheim Lake sands are different situations because Anaheim Lake is purely meant for water storage and not infiltration. She added that the Prado Dam's sediment removal is a regulatory requirement with a time clock, unlike Anaheim Lake's situation. She stated that both sites are equally important.

Chair Barto stated that the City would be inquiring with the County about some of these good ideas.

- b. Single Use Plastics – Public Information Outreach Status (Michelle Barto) Update on future education outreach program.

Recommendation: Committee Discussion

Chair Barto reported that the City's new Public Information Manager, Georgia Rios, could not attend the meeting. She reported discussing the Committee's thoughts with Public Information Manager Rios and will forward an email to the Committee to show where they stand in those discussions.

- c. Recycling in Newport Beach: A Presentation by CR&R (Julie Barreda, CR&R).

Recommendation: Committee Discussion

CR&R Environmental Services Inc. Regional Vice President Julie Barreda stated that CR&R was founded in 1963 and is the largest private hauler of solid waste in Southern California, serving over one million Orange County residents and 15,000 of its businesses. He added that they operate two Material Recovery Facilities (MRF) in the City of Stanton, Newport Beach's transfer station, and other facilities in the area. She reported that CR&R's contract with the City was renegotiated in 2022 to ensure compliance with Senate Bill 1383's mandate of the three-container system in addition to route reviews. She reported on CR&R's methods to help educate the public about proper trash sorting to prevent contamination, ahead of when State laws will soon require cities to have an enforcement mechanism.

In response to Committee Member Fancher's inquiry, Ms. Barreda confirmed that used cat litter should not be put in the barrel for organics but rather in the black landfill-bound container.

Ms. Barreda reported from preliminary studies that one challenge to ticket enforcement is residents blaming their neighbors for putting items in their buckets and using the wrong one. She stated that CR&R had to add five new vehicles as part of its current agreement with Newport Beach, including narrower trucks specifically for use on Balboa Peninsula's narrow alleys, whose use has since spread to other cities due to their success in Newport Beach. She added that a dedicated phone line was also added for Newport Beach residents as part of the latest agreement with the City.

In response to Ms. Skinner's inquiry, Senior Management Analyst Charles Springer stated that the dedicated phone number for Newport Beach residents is (949) 667-4158.

Ms. Barreda reported that, starting in 2024, all new CR&R trucks feature a fire suppression system where a fire can be extinguished while inside the truck, leading to less public and vehicular damage, along with reducing the risk of injuries. She noted that a truck fire happened yesterday at the intersection of Holmwood Dr. and Catalina Dr. due to a resident who put a small gas grill in their trash with the propane tank still attached.

In response to Committee Member Fancher's inquiry, Ms. Barreda reported that truck fires happen 2-3 times a week, noting that they had two yesterday alone, between the one in Newport Beach and one in the City of Tustin. She stated that lithium batteries placed in the recycling bin are the most common cause of truck fires.

In response to Mr. Baker's inquiry, Ms. Barreda agreed that there must be an educational component to preventing fires from placing lithium batteries in recycling bins. She added that she will talk a little later about educational programs around SB 54.

Ms. Barreda reported that CR&R is a proud supporter of the Newport Beach Trash Interceptor, adding that they designed special aluminum trash bins with drainage holes specifically to fit the sled at no charge to the City. She stated that CR&R has built the State's first Anaerobic Digester facility in the City of Perris, converting methane gas into clean Renewable Natural Gas (RNG) that is used to fuel their trucks, replacing 750,000 gallons of diesel fuel annually. She added that the facility also converts organic waste into a high-grade organic soil amendment that is sold to farmers, Temecula Valley wineries, and landscaping companies.

In response to Committee Member Fancher's inquiry, Ms. Barreda clarified that compost is coming from the Orange County Landfill System. She added that they have a compost transportation agreement with the County, like what the Committee just discussed about Prado Dam sand.

Ms. Barreda reported that CR&R also produces engineered low-carbon fuel at their Perris facility to replace coal and help achieve zero-waste initiatives. She clarified that residual waste from recyclables, instead of a landfill, goes to their engineered fuel plant, where it is converted into bioenergy for industrial use that is sold to cement kilns to replace coal, adding that it is 84% cleaner than coal. She reported on an ongoing discussion with the California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle) over whether this work is eligible for diversion credits. She noted that many other countries follow similar engineered low carbon fuel methods.

Ms. Barreda reported that CR&R has purchased 10 Tesla tractors to transfer truckloads of trash from transfer stations to larger facilities. She stated that the electric tractors will be ready in two years.

Ms. Barreda reported that SB 54 which is designed to reduce single-use plastic, is being implemented with a goal that by 2032, all single-use plastic must be recyclable or compostable, with a 25% reduction in plastic packaging. She added that CR&R is taking advantage of available grant funds and is commercializing a process to convert plastics into a building product additive.

In response to Monica Mazur's inquiry, Ms. Barreda clarified that recyclables should be put in a paper bag or cardboard box. She added that CR&R's machinery will clean out things like peanut butter jars, so residents do not need to do this themselves. She agreed that better education needs to happen about the process.

Public Works Director Webb stated that if CR&R finds too many contaminants in a trash bin, the whole load goes to the landfill. He added that the City must educate residents about how to avoid the contamination problem, noting that CR&R also contributes to these community educational efforts.

In response to Ms. Skinner's inquiry, Public Works Director Webb clarified that green waste and food are all organics, but a plastic bag in that bin would be considered a contaminant. Ms. Berrera clarified that they would not throw an entire load out for a single plastic bag but could throw it out if there were many plastic bags. Public Works Director Webb noted that yesterday's fire was from a trash bin that had a lot of metal in it.

In response to Committee Member Hudson's inquiry, Ms. Barreda clarified that CR&R's profits from the sale of recycled material are not as significant as some might think due to the high costs of labor and processing. She added that CR&R is looking at robotics, Artificial Intelligence (AI), and magnetic technology to help humans sort recyclables. She added that the sale of recycled material is used to help offset costs for their recycling pickups and reduce the needs for customer rate increases.

In response to Committee Member Hudson's inquiry, Ms. Barreda agreed that Americans need to catch up to Europeans in how well they sort their own trash. She added that Europe has been recycling longer than the United States and residents are very conscientious, noting the public pushback from when CR&R switched to the three can system, leading CR&R and the City to send many objectors formal letters explaining the need to comply with SB 1383.

In response to Mr. Mosher's inquiry, Ms. Barreda reported that CR&R's new website will go live on March 13th and will have a page letting residents know which bin a certain piece of trash should go into. She added that it is AI-driven and attempts to make it easy for conscientious residents to use. She added that some peers in other states have this information in an app, but CR&R is not there yet. She noted that CR&R will have to do more advertising of this trash-sorting page on the new website as part of its education and outreach plans.

Chair Barto stated that how the City can be a role model is of particular interest to the Committee.

In response to Chair Barto's inquiries, Ms. Barreda stated that one of Newport Beach's challenges is its nature as a tourist destination leading to a higher rental community. She noted that other states do not have California's recycling requirements, and long-term visitors may not be used to the three-cart system. She stated CR&R is trying to develop more tourist outreach and is pondering if it can be mandated through property managers of longer-term rentals. She added that this tourism-related issue applies to all beach community cities in California and not just Newport Beach. She noted that this SB 1383 is an unfunded mandate from the State so the City must identify a funding source for everything, down to having second bins on the beach. She encouraged educational outreach but acknowledged that only so much can be done and that it is an industry-wide concern.

In response to Committee Member Wadsworth's inquiries, Ms. Barreda could not confirm what percentage of recyclables collected by CR&R gets recycled, adding that they stockpile a lot of material. She reported that there used to be a stronger market for plastics with Resin Identification Codes 1-7, but it is cyclical. She expressed hope that, by 2027, CR&R will have a plant ready to turn all of it into building additives. She theorized that the current and future recyclables markets may point them to turning all their collected recyclables into building additives. She could not confirm if the percentage of recyclables collected being processed is above or below 10% and pledged to get this information. She confirmed that many cities are attempting to reduce their plastic footprints through policies like mandating non-plastic drinking straws.

In response to Committee Member Bilyeu's inquiries, Ms. Barreda reported that newer recycling carts have an attached label specifying what should go in there. She added that, in some cities, CR&R has these label stickers available at City Hall for residents with older bins made before the stickers were a standard component. She added that CR&R could also mail you a sticker upon request or have them available when they sponsor a table at community events. She agreed that the sticker is helpful for those who have lost CR&R's regularly mailed pamphlet with this information.

In response to Ms. Skinner's inquiries, Ms. Barreda stated that apartment and condominium complexes should have all three containers available in a larger size for communal use if smaller individual units do not have their own. She confirmed that CR&R services the City of Laguna Beach, where her rental unit is located.

Mr. Mosher stated that the challenge of relying on bin stickers is changing recycling dynamics, adding that the website does a better job in adapting to changes.

In response to Mr. Mosher's inquiries, Ms. Barreda confirmed that Newport Beach's green waste goes to their compost facility in the City of Yuma, Arizona. She added that green waste from cities closer to Yuma than Newport Beach will be transported there in CR&R's future Tesla trucks.

In response to Mr. Mosher's inquiry, Senior Management Analyst Springer stated that statistics can be provided later, but Newport Beach is not doing as well as it needs to be at sorting its recyclables and seeing poor separation across the board. He added that a lot of divertible material, such as glass and plastic bottles, are being found in the trash bins and not recycling bins. He reported that contamination levels are decreasing, but room for improvement exists. Ms. Barreda added that CR&R needs to continue to help get the word out through a variety of community organizational meetings, such as Kiwanis International and Rotary International clubs. She added that a less-technology driven version of her presentation is available, including games for groups like senior centers and schools, to help get the word out about recycling. She noted how staff has been better about using reusable containers at City facilities, offering suggestions from CR&R's main office.

Chair Barto lamented the lack of attendance at meetings of the City Council's Ad Hoc Refuse Committee and encouraged all to attend.

Ms. Barreda stated that she would gladly speak at one of the Ad Hoc Refuse Committee meetings.

In response to Committee Member Fancher's inquiry, Chair Barto confirmed that information about the Ad Hoc Refuse Committee is listed on the City's website.

In response to Ms. Mazur's inquiry, Ms. Barreda stated that CR&R is looking for a Biodegradable Products Institute (BPI) stamp on trash bags to be considered compostable. She noted that grocery stores now have green plastic bags available for all fruits and vegetables, and not only for organic ones. She also recommended using large freezer bags to hold compostables until it is time to empty them into the cart to help prevent foul odors.

Mr. Leverenz reported that, while bicycling, he will often throw a banana peel in someone's compost bin and sees trash in it when opening the lid. He recommended increasing the collection bill for regular offenders as opposed to fines or threats of fines. He agreed that community education is critical for the program to work properly.

6. COMMITTEE ANNOUNCEMENTS OR MATTERS WHICH MEMBERS WOULD LIKE PLACED ON A FUTURE AGENDA FOR DISCUSSION, ACTION, OR REPORT (NON-DISCUSSION ITEM)

- a. Vector problem areas in Newport Beach (Spring 2026 – Orange County Mosquito and Vector Control District)
- b. Status of trash source identification in Santa Ana River (Spring 2026 – John Wadsworth)
- c. Coastal Sediment Transport (Spring/Summer 2026, Brett Sanders)
- d. Big Canyon Phase 3 Restoration Site Tour (June 2026 – Andy Tran)
- e. Ocean Beach Sand Renourishment plans, efforts, status (Spring/Summer 2026 – Southern California Sand Collaborative, Chris Miller)
- f. Santa Isabella Restoration Grant Application (Summer 2026 – Heather Cieslak)
- g. Pumpout maintenance update (Summer 2026 – Chris Miller)
- h. Santa Ana River trash mitigation (Winter 2026 - TBD)
- i. Draft copper Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) (Winter 2026 - TBD)
- j. Harbor and Beaches Master Plan (Fall 2026)

Committee Member Fancher stated that the Committee will need to review the final drafts of the updated General Plan before the process concludes in the next couple of months, recommending the April meeting. He stated that it is important to see how the Committee's past thoughts on earlier drafts have been incorporated into the final drafts.

Administrative Manager Miller stated that this will be on the April Agenda.

Mr. Mosher reported that the Parks, Beaches & Recreation (PB&R) Commission had its General Plan final draft review on Tuesday, stating that Acting Community Development Director Ben Zdeba is expecting to make a similar presentation to the Committee in April. He added that the presentation to the PB&R Commission showed their previous comments and how they were incorporated into the final draft in a manner that Committee Member Fancher requested.

7. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Committee Member Hudson reported speaking to a biologist about a project he is working on for the Committee, lamenting that biologists offer technical expertise but do not have a sense of artistic beauty. He recommended approaching the University of Southern California's Department of Architecture to develop an aesthetic class project to provide beauty to the work without overdoing it. He stated that UCI has an art department but not an architecture school.

Chair Barto agreed, adding that the City often lacks staff resources to handle such matters.

Committee Member Fancher reported attending yesterday's Utilization of Lower Castaways and Aquatic Center Site Ad Hoc Committee meeting, where the complexity of the shoreline was discussed, noting that it could be of interest to Committee Member Hudson for his work.

Chair Barto reported that if the Lower Castaways Ad Hoc Committee's discussions progress to where they impact their work, she would bring the information to them.

Committee Member Fancher stated that it will be at least three years before any work begins.

Committee Member Hudson reported that he often bicycles around the back bay area, reporting that it has been decimated.

Chair Barto noted that much of the back bay is County land.

In response to Committee Member Wadsworth's inquiry, Committee Member Hudson reported that everything living has been ripped out, leaving just dirt and plastic channels for overflowing water. He stated it is ugly and looks like a bomb hit the area.

Chair Barto stated that she is uncertain how it overlaps with the County's parks plans and pledged to get additional information.

Public Works Director Webb reported that the County is armoring the channel.

Committee Member Hudson lamented that there are no more living trees or brush, with the area completely reduced to dirt, pondering if the County's work could have been done more appropriately.

8. SET NEXT MEETING DATE

Recommendation: April 2, 2026

9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 4:31 p.m.

Chair / Michelle Barto