

From: Rick Clark drdeadline@earthlink.net  
Subject: Environmental Advisory Board - Public Forum Request  
Date: October 15, 2015 at 3:42 PM  
To: Marty Simonoff martys@cityofbrea.net  
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[REDACTED], Jennifer Hefner [REDACTED], Christie Russell [REDACTED]



Mayor Simonoff and Members of Council:

We are writing to make a formal request for a public engagement opportunity to singularly address the topic of creating an Environmental Advisory Board. Whether this would be conducted as a general session public hearing agenda item or in the format of a special Council meeting is certainly up to you.

Given Council's purposeful distancing of itself from the organization and management of the Envision Brea project, we suggest it would undermine your original hands off intent to deflect this topic off onto others.

#### A little context.

- July 15, 2014 - Linn Energy presented an industry overview of unconventional oil recovery (fracking). Mayor Murdock dismissed Council member Simonoff's request to pull the item as equal time had been denied to residents.
- February 17, 2015 - Mayor Simonoff provided equal time to a grassroots group of concerned residents to share the product of almost a year's deep research on the subject of local fracking. Conclusion was a request for Council to consider establishing an Environmental Advisory Board.
- July 22, 2015 – Mayor Simonoff, Council and CM Gallardo emailed with reminder of resident group's request asking Council to look into creating an Environmental Advisory Board.
- July 23, 2015 – Mayor Simonoff and Mayor Pro Tem Marick instruct CM Gallardo to *"do some research and see what other cities have in terms of this kind of committee."*
- August 11, 2015 – Residents group met with CM Bill Gallardo and Staff Analyst Anthony Godoy to review initial data developed by both parties.
- September 14, 2015 – Final report received from CM Gallardo.
- W/E September 25, 2015 – Final Report shared by CM Gallardo with members of Council. CM Gallardo given no further instruction regarding next step.

#### Framing our request.

First, let us clear up a possible misconception. We are not asking Council to unilaterally create an Environmental Advisory Board. Doing so would bypass an important step in reaching such a conclusion, an opportunity for Brea residents to wade in on the topic. This is why our request is for Council to hold a public "hearing" to singularly address the topic.

In speaking with Council members several questions have been raised, specifically... what would be the staffing requirements, scope of responsibility and what authority would the board have?

As we explained, offering our opinions on these questions is irrelevant, these are great questions to pose to the public during the hearing. These are questions central to Council making any final decision should you determine that creating this group meets a broadly supported community need.

It is time to move this discussion beyond the persistent lobbying of our grassroots special interest group and open it up to a community wide conversation. We believe this is the only way to ensure that the majority's view is the one addressed by Council in reaching a final decision.

Thank you for sticking with us and for the opportunity to turn an important corner on the creation of an Environmental Advisory Board.

We look forward to hearing your response.

Respectfully,

Rick Clark  
Susan Fujioka  
Ann Marshall  
Jennifer Hefner  
Christie Russell