



**CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS**  
455 N. Rexford Drive  
Beverly Hills, CA 90210  
Room 280A

**Beverly Hills City Council Liaison / Public Works Commission Meeting**

**SPECIAL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS**

Thursday, January 25, 2024  
11:30 AM

**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER**

Date / Time: January 25, 2024 / 11:30 AM

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Vice Mayor Julian Gold MD, Councilmember Sharona Nazarian PYSD, Public Works Commission Chairperson John Millan, Public Works Commissioner Mark Nehoray, Public Works Director Shana Epstein, Environmental Compliance and Programs Manager Josette Descalzo, Executive Assistant Ilene Knebel

Mayor Gold proposed modifying the Agenda to take TAB 3 prior to TAB 2. There were no objections.

**1. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Members of the public will be given the opportunity to directly address the Committee on any item listed on the agenda.

Speakers: None

*Taken out of order.*

**2. AMENDING THE ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS RELATING TO THE REMOVAL OF GROUNDWATER**

Environmental Compliance and Programs Manager Josette Descalzo gave a presentation on amending the dewatering ordinance. The proposed changes would remove the R-1 (single-family residential zone) exemption and would apply the requirements to use groundwater for beneficial use. Alternatively, new and substantially remodeled R-1 projects may pay a replenishment fee. Staff recommends removing the R-1 exemption and requiring the ordinance on new and substantially remodeled properties, as well as keeping the replenishment fee to drive beneficial-use analysis. The commission stressed the importance of communicating the benefits of these changes to the public as an incentive that pays for itself quickly and is the right thing to do; they also asked about finding better ways to collect the groundwater running downhill from this process that is not being collected or collecting in the streets or on sidewalks. The council liaison requested what services are available for homes not required under this ordinance to participate. The liaison also discussed finding better ways to educate residents in the canyons about the excess water that can cause issues in their neighborhood due to dewatering and asked about the quality of the shallow groundwater/how to prevent residents from drinking or using the untreated water. The commission and liaison ultimately voiced their support for amending the ordinance. The council also requested that staff investigate ways to collect the groundwater in reservoirs.

**3. PROPOSED ORDINANCE AMENDING THE BEVERLY HILLS MUNICIPAL CODE TO REGULATE POLYSTYRENE FOODWARE AND PLASTIC WASTE**

Environmental Compliance and Programs Manager Josette Descalzo gave a presentation on the proposed ordinance aiming to reduce polystyrene foodware/plastic waste. Key provisions include the following: food facilities cannot distribute single-use articles that are neither compostable nor recyclable; retail establishments cannot sell expanded polystyrene products; third-party online food ordering businesses must allow food facilities to indicate which single-use foodware accessories they offer for customer selection; and full-service restaurants must provide multi-service utensils instead of single-use articles to dine-in customers. Beverages would not be regulated under this ordinance. He also gave an overview of the ordinance's development, including extensive outreach efforts with the public and with businesses for their feedback and support. The ordinance would have a staggered implementation taking course over 1-2 years from the time of passing. Staff recommends moving forward with the ordinance for adoption by the end of the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter 2024. The commission voiced their support for the ordinance and recounted the efforts it took to create this current version of the ordinance. The council liaison asked about encouraging compliance with the businesses and ensuring that there was proper communication with the city's food-related businesses, including translations. The council liaison also asked about the \$500 assistance offered to businesses to purchase ordinance compliant products if their applications are approved.

Speaker: Public comment was heard from Todd Johnson.

**4. ADJOURNMENT**

Date / Time: January 25, 2024 / 12:25 PM