



Agenda Item #: \_\_\_\_\_

# Staff Report

## City of Manhattan Beach

**TO:** Honorable Mayor Ward and Members of the City Council

**THROUGH:** Richard Thompson, Interim City Manager

**FROM:** Sona Kalapura, Environmental Programs Manager

**DATE:** August 3, 2010

**SUBJECT:** Consideration of the City's Support for the October 10, 2010 (10-10-10) Sustainability Summit, a day of international environmental action.

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### **RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommends that the City Council approve the City's participation in the 10-10-10 Sustainability Summit, to include our community in a worldwide effort to increase environmental awareness on October 10, 2010.

### **FISCAL IMPLICATION:**

There are minimal costs associated with the City's participation in the 2010 Sustainability Summit, mainly dealing with advertising and promotion of the event. Limited logistics support from the Parks and Recreation, Police, and Public Works Departments, may also be required. However, any costs incurred will be reimbursed to the City of Manhattan Beach by the other cities and organizations that participate in the Sustainability Summit.

### **BACKGROUND:**

The City Council has been very supportive of community based events that seek to educate its community on the need to sustain the environment and the economy. With the success of its Environmental Task Force, and positive participation in events like the International Day of Climate Action and Earth Hour, the City has taken a lead role in promoting environmental protection to its community.

The City's Environmental Task Force recommended that the City make use of its status as a "green" city to continue to educate the community and increase its environmental awareness. By organizing and hosting a forum, the City can further its commitment to the environment by educating the community on the importance of simple lifestyle changes that will save money, energy, and resources by improving efficiency in every day activities.

Should City Council decide to endorse the Sustainability Summit, the City will host the event so the community can benefit from this unique opportunity to learn more about protecting our environment. The event will also encourage the community to participate in a global day of environmental action centered around the October 10, 2010 (10-10-10) date.

**DISCUSSION:**

The City has organized and participated in several events to help promote the message of sustainability. The City's participation in the 2010 Sustainability Summit would take our environmental commitment to the next level, and ensure that Manhattan Beach continues to serve as a model for sustainable living in the region.

The goal of hosting a South Bay region-focused summit is to educate our residents, businesses, and local governments on the actions that will lead us toward sustainability. The summit is being developed around the theme of: "Climate. Oceans. Community. *Working Together to Protect Our Planet.*" The summit will consist of informational sessions that focus on Energy Efficiency and Water Conservation through Efficient Landscape Design, as well as an Eco-Fair, and an Eco-Tour of the Manhattan Beach Botanical Garden and sustainably landscaped homes in the area.

The Sustainability Summit will be designed as an easily accessible example of what individuals can do to "go green," and will include discussions with recognized experts in the areas of energy efficiency, water conservation, and sustainable landscaping. The Eco-Fair will bring environmental organizations and vendors to the community to help us learn about solar panels and renewable energy, water efficient tools, and sustainability. The Eco-Tour will be hosted by Mike Garcia of Enviroscope, and will provide attendees the opportunity to visit and take classes at the Manhattan Beach Botanical Garden as well as tour and understand the benefits of a rainwater harvesting system. As the summit is being developed, other sustainable homes may be added to the Eco-Tour.

The City of Manhattan Beach was selected as a site for this event because of its notable environmental efforts, and the commitment of its community to protect our natural resources. Should City Council decide to endorse the City's participation in this event, staff will work to secure the support of the offices of: State Senator Jenny Oropeza, Congresswoman Jane Harman, and County Supervisor Knabe, as well as other local elected officials. The City will also be able to partner with other organizations in the region to make this event a success, such as the South Bay Cities Council of Governments, South Bay Environmental Services Center, Growing Great, VOICE, Grades of Green, Surfrider, Southern California Edison, Southern California Gas, and West Basin Municipal Water District. These regional partners will be asked to help promote the summit, as well as assist in defraying costs associated with the advertising and logistics of setting up the event.

**CONCLUSION:**

The City's commitment to "Going Green" has led to several opportunities for the community to participate in environmental events. The 2010 Sustainability Summit provides a unique and informative way for the City to continue teaching its community about the value of environmental protection. Staff recommends that City Council support the 2010 Sustainability Summit and allow for the community's participation in this event.

cc:

Jim Arndt, Public Works Director  
Richard Gill, Parks and Recreation Director  
Rod Uyeda, Chief of Police