

COASTAL CURRENTS

JUNE 2022

Coastal San Pedro
Neighborhood Council
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San Pedro, CA 90731

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Saving Walker's Café: An Interview with Emma Rault



Emma Rault is a writer and translator, living in San Pedro for about two years with her wife and member of the Central San Pedro Neighborhood Council. She cares deeply for our community and was instrumental in the declaration of Walkers Café as a landmark.

We sat down with Emma in an effort to understand how she went about the process and her motivation for doing so. The following interview has been edited for length and clarity.

Drew: How did you learn about Walker's Café?

Emma: When we moved to San Pedro, a friend told us we had to go to Walkers Café in Point Fermin and get this Bessie Burger. Our first visit, we ended up talking about L.A. and politics, and just having a conversation with a stranger, and you feel this homey vibe and community.

Drew: When did you first visit Walker's?

Emma: After we moved here in March 2020, we were in lock down for a bit. Last year, we were able to emerge, and Walkers was the first place we went. We'd go 2-3 times per week and have a coffee, have a beer, and sit and talk to people. It quickly became our go to spot.

Drew: What captivated you about Walker's Café?

Emma: The thing that we noticed is that this place that has all this history and these stories. People have an attachment to it. It's clear that it's a place with deep roots in the community, and it made us feel more at home too. It's a generational kind of place with maritime and longshoremen, and Walkers has been this anchor for a really long time.

Drew: When did you know Walker's might be in trouble?

Emma: When it closed around Halloween of last year, I was really worried. There were rumblings that previous owners were ready to move on. It's easy when places like that change hands for it to slip through the cracks and then they're lost forever. We've seen a lot of iconic places disappear in the last couple years and I didn't want to see this place go.

Drew: How did you take action? What was the process like?

Emma: So I knew a little about preservation before because I lived in DTLA where there are a lot of landmarks and historic buildings, and it's also been the site of community advocacy where people make sure older buildings stay around and are given a new lease on life. I was vaguely familiar with landmarking as a preservation tool to make sure historic businesses stay around. I started doing research on the process and talked to other people about places that they loved in their neighborhoods. I arrived at the conclusion that filing a historic landmark nomination for Walker's, which

is something that any member of the public can do for their community, was giving it the best possible chances of survival.

Drew: What does landmarking do?

Emma: Landmarking does several different things. It puts in place certain protections, and while it's not an absolute guarantee, it vastly increases the odds of a place continuing and its character defining features preserved. It comes with practical benefits in that there are grants and programs they can take advantage of. It's also an opportunity to spotlight a place. A few weeks in, I launched a petition to gauge interest in the community. It got to 1,000 signatures within a week. Then I started putting together this landmark application which I submitted just before Christmas.

Drew: What is the landmarking process like?

Emma: A quick summary of the landmarking process can be found in the diagram on this page: <https://www.savewalkerscafe.com/take-action/>. On January 20th, the City of LA's Cultural Heritage Commission unanimously voted to move the proposal forward in an initial hearing, and voted yes in the next hearing. In the next stage, the Planning and Land Use management committee, subcommittee made up of Los Angeles city council members, will meet in the next month or two to advance it to the next round and look at the practical standpoint, including what the future of the place going to be. After that, goes to a full city council vote. If it's passed, it officially gets declared a historic cultural monument.

Drew: So, what's next for Walker's Café?

Emma: Ownership changed hands recently, and Walkers was bought by the Prospect Group, with their intention being to lease it out to a new operator so it can continue to be a restaurant. They're looking into the necessary permitting and looking at operators who have expressed interest. They're trying to figure out how long the permitting process will take, and they want to reopen as soon as possible.

CSPNC Board Seeks to Fill Vacancies

If you are interested in giving some of your time and effort to making your neighborhood a better place and maybe influencing the decisions of city government in Los Angeles, consider applying for a position as a member of the Coastal San Pedro Neighborhood Council governing board.

To be eligible, you must live, work, or own property within the CSPNC boundaries (roughly south of 18th Street west of Pacific Avenue and south of 14th Street east of Pacific Avenue). You may also qualify if you belong to an organization based in the CSPNC area.

Neighborhood councils are official agencies of the city of Los Angeles. The councils' twin mission is to increase participation in government and make

CSPNC Advocates on Behalf of Our Community

In recent months, the CSPNC Board has passed several motions expressing our neighborhood's position on issues of local concern, and issued community impact statements presenting recommendations to the city. Several of these motions were proposed by individuals in our community! These motions have included the following:

- Recommending that Walker's Café be designated as a City Cultural-Historical Monument;
- Urging that the LAPD, the City Attorney's Office, the Department of Recreation and Parks, and the city council District 15 office collaborate with our local Neighborhood Watch groups to investigate security and safety measures in our local parks
- Demanding that the city increase patrols and set up mitigation measures in Angels Gate Park to reduce illegal off-roading activities in the park;
- Expressing the neighborhood's support for the city council's resolution calling for the Port of Los Angeles to transition to zero-emission shipping by 2030; and
- Recommending changes in the city's update to its Housing Element, to preserve the character of our neighborhoods and to prevent the conversion of residential buildings to commercial buildings.

The board has an agenda setting meeting one week before each board meeting, where we consider motions to be voted on at the monthly meeting. We welcome your proposed motions!

CSPNC Welcomes Chelsea Oruche to the Board



I am honored to serve as a board member for our neighborhood council. I live in the Point Fermin neighborhood with my husband and son and enjoy stroller walks to the beach and marina and supporting our local small businesses!

During my term, I hope to use my vote to advance equity in housing, employment, the environment, and education. I care deeply about our neighborhood schools, and I hope to help young people in our community make a strong transition to college and career.

that government more responsive to the people of Los Angeles.

The two vacant seats will be filled by appointment of the board. The terms run through June 30, 2023. Board members are required to complete a number of training sessions (via online video) and agree to abide by the city's code of conduct. (Additional information is available at empowerla.org.)

Board meetings are held on the third Monday of each month (except in January and February when meetings occur on the third Tuesday). Currently, meetings are conducted via Zoom.

For more information on CSPNC or to apply for appointment to the board, please visit cspnc.org.

The Coastal San Pedro Neighborhood Council

Our Purpose and Function

Neighborhood councils provide a way for people to get together and discuss their mutual concerns, and then have those concerns communicated directly to our city government.

Representatives of local officials frequently attend our meetings. We also welcome the LAPD senior lead officers, who report on crime trends and confer with us regarding issues such as parking, graffiti, and violent crime.

The governing board hears public comments at the beginning of every meeting and also receives public input on each agenda item. The public comment period often results in the creation of a resolution or action item to be taken up at a later board meeting.

The city funds each neighborhood council. This is used to publish this newsletter and publicize the council. Money is also allocated in a number of ways, including support of local cultural activities, youth programs, crime prevention, and education. The city has rules which limit the acceptable uses and which provide for audits and oversight by city departments. This newsletter reports on expenditures.

Monthly Meetings

The CSPNC governing board meets every month on the third Monday, except in January and February, when meeting dates are different because of federal holidays. Because of the COVID-19 crisis, all meetings are conducted online. Please check at cspnc.org for meeting dates and times. Participants may access meetings via the Internet or telephone.

Meeting Agendas

Coastal San Pedro Neighborhood Council meeting agendas are posted on our website, cspnc.org, and on the window at The Mailroom, 1840 South Gaffey Street, San Pedro, CA 90731.

For more information, please visit us online at cspnc.org.

Governing Board Members

Doug Epperhart, President

Dean Pentcheff, Vice President

Drew Leach, Secretary

Sheryl Akerblom, Treasurer

Isiah Cade

Greg Ellis

Robert Gelfand

Noel Gould

Richard Havenick

John Kopczynski

Chelsea Oruche

Rick Perkins

Roz Roberts

Shannon Ross

Robin Rudisill

CSPNC Committees

Administrative Operations
Dean Pentcheff, chair

Communications and Outreach
Drew Leach, chair

Cultural Arts

Emergency Preparedness and Public Safety
Robert Gelfand, chair

Homelessness

Parks and Coastline / Ad Hoc Sunken City
Noel Gould, chair

Planning and Transportation
Robin Rudisill, chair

Port
Shannon Ross, chair

Sustainability and Environment
Richard Havenick, chair

Ad Hoc Government Accountability
Robert Gelfand, chair

Coastline and Parks Update: Angels Gate, Wilder’s Annex, Sunken City

By Noel Gould, chair
Coastline and Parks Committee

The Coastal San Pedro Neighborhood Council’s Coastline and Parks and Sunken City Ad Hoc Committees have been busy at work supporting Angels Gate Park in an endeavor to mitigate off-roading activities that damage park property, yet still keep the park areas open to all who come to enjoy the spectacular views.

It really takes a community effort, and we ask all who come to enjoy our parks to be respectful of the fabulous resources we have in Coastal San Pedro to keep our parks beautiful and safe for everyone.

We recently passed a motion urging the park to use locally sourced California native plants to enhance areas of the park that have become degraded, and we have established a great working relationship with the department.

On another note, high-level Department of Recreation and Parks officials have said that the funding allocated to restore the Wilder’s Annex stairs is poised to “drop” very soon and that community input will be invited when requests for proposals are received.

The Wilder’s Annex cliffs and pathways have deteriorated along with the stairs, and there is a great community desire to have the area restored with local native plants as well and have this work included with proposals to rebuild the staircase.

Funding for construction documents to prepare for opening the Sunken City trail is also poised to be released after Wilder’s Annex funding, so we’re



Following winter rains, trucks churned up mud and in the parking area near Building H at Angels Gate Cultural Center, leaving a mess and causing damage. Vehicular vandals tore up areas on the hillside at the park as well. The neighborhood council is working with the city’s Recreation and Parks Department to prevent problems in the future by instituting measures to stop this activity.

moving in a positive direction.

The Coastline and Parks/Sunken City committees usually meet via zoom on the first Wednesday of every month unless holidays move meetings to the second Wednesday. We welcome and encourage community attendance as well as input regarding issues people would like to see placed on our agendas. Committee chair Noel Gould can be reached at aquarianstudios@hotmail.com or via phone at (310) 625-1157.

Coastal San Pedro Awards 2021-22 Neighborhood Purpose Grants

- CSPNC has voted to approve the following Neighborhood purpose grants:
- Exceptional Children’s Foundation in the amount of \$490 for glass, lighting and hardware for the storefront that serves the community;
 - San Pedro Meals on Wheels in the amount of \$3,625 for the purchase of food and disposable containers for Meals on Wheels recipients;
 - International Bird Rescue in the amount of \$2,500 for animal medicine, food, clinical and surgical supplies;
 - Willenberg CTC in the amount of \$800 for materials for a mosaic wall;
 - Community Disaster Preparedness Foundation in the amount of \$3,300 for Neighborhood Team staging area equipment;
 - Angels Gate Cultural Center in the amount of \$1,000 for gallery expenses associated with the 40th anniversary of The Angels Gate Cultural Center Celebration;
 - Rainbow Services in the amount of \$1,000 for prevention education curriculum materials and prevention awareness print materials;
 - San Pedro Bay Historical Society in the amount of \$2,400 for drought resistant plants and the materials for landscaping;
 - 15th Street Elementary School (LAUSD) in the amount of \$1915 for Put-in Cups Fence Art;
 - Friends of Los Angeles Maritime Museum (LAMM) in the amount of \$2,037 for the fabrication and installation of outdoor educational panels.

Neighborhood Councils in Los Angeles



By Doug Epperhart, president

Neighborhood councils have been around for a long time. In many cities in the United States, they go back 50 years or more. Established as a way for residents to provide input to city government in a more informed way, councils exist all across America. Some are appointed, some are elected.

In the late ‘90s, then-mayor Richard Riordan called for a commission to revise the city’s charter. Voters elected a group to do the work. The city council countered with its own appointed commission.

Both groups considered adding neighborhood councils, especially given the burgeoning secession movement in the Harbor, Hollywood, and San Fernando Valley. More than anything, this indicated the feeling of isolation from their local government felt by many Los Angeles residents.

Eventually, the two commissions came together and proposed a new charter that was ratified by the voters and took effect in 1999. Article 9 of that charter established neighborhood councils, a board of neighborhood commissioners, and the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE).

The board of neighborhood commissioners is responsible for certifying neighborhood councils and setting citywide policy for the system. Currently, there 99 councils, covering most of the city. San Pedro has three: Coastal, Central, and Northwest.

Coastal San Pedro was established in December, 2001, along with the Wilmington Neighborhood Council. In February, 2002, Coastal was the first to elect a board and commence operations. The other two councils in San Pedro were certified in early 2002.

The job of DONE is to assist councils with their work. The city attorney’s office provides legal advice to councils and the city clerk’s office handles financial matters for the councils. For more information about DONE and the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners, visit empowerla.org.

Each neighborhood council is provided funds for operational expenses, including meeting and administrative costs. Most councils also provide grants to schools and nonprofit organizations serving

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Stay Informed About Happenings in Coastal San Pedro

Subscribe to our weekly E-Blast updates by entering your email on our website at cspnc.org.

Like our Facebook page to receive timely event announcements:
<https://www.facebook.com/coastal.sanpedro/>



CSPNC Update: Making Our Community Safer

By Bob Gelfand, chair of Emergency Preparedness and Public Safety Committee

The Emergency Preparedness and Public Safety Committee concerns itself with all dangers to the public, including natural disasters such as large earthquakes and the more immediate problem of local crime.

Emergency Preparedness

We could have a major earthquake along the San Andreas Fault (the “big one”) any day. The good news is that most people will be alive after the shaking stops, although we can expect lots of bruises and a few major injuries.

One result of a large quake will be that the fire department and LAPD will be overwhelmed. They will spend their limited resources on the worst cases, leaving the rest of us to fend for ourselves for several days.

We can expect that electricity, running water, and telephone service (both landlines and cellular) will be out of service. In other words, you’re on your own. So how will our neighborhoods deal with serious injuries?

We are not on our own if we know how to band together and work as local groups. That is what the Neighborhood Team Program is about. Your Coastal San Pedro Neighborhood Council is part of that project. You can read about it online at www.ntp-LA.org and you can join through one of our local groups.

Briefly, the NTP trains us to respond to a disaster by forming groups who will meet at predetermined sites and send people out into the neighborhoods to look for the injured and arrange for their care and transportation.

At its April, 2022 meeting, the Coastal San Pedro Neighborhood Council voted to allocate funds to provide supplies for the first two NTP regions. In the event of a natural disaster, these volunteers will have access to crucial supplies including bandages, radios, and organizational tools such as white boards, along with extra water.

Recently, we conducted a drill centered around Alma Park to test our knowledge and abilities. We were joined by the commander of the region’s LAFD Battalion 6 and members of the CSPNC board.

You can gain additional information about the committee and our progress by visiting the neighborhood council website at WWW.CSPNC.ORG

Public Safety and Crime Fighting

The committee as well as the governing board of CSPNC have been following crime here in the Coastal area for many years. We have been as-



Volunteers gather at the recent emergency preparedness drill at Alma Park.

sisted by an LAPD program which supplies us with a Senior Lead Officer (SLO), whose job is to maintain communication between the LAPD and the public. At most of our board meetings (which you can find on our website), the SLO gives a report on crimes in the Coastal San Pedro area. This has traditionally been one of the most vigorous parts of our meetings, because it is a chance for you, the public, to ask questions of the SLO and to comment on problems that have newly risen.

In recent months, we have dealt with various nuisance issues, vehicular noise, damage to parks by off-road vehicles, and a continuing problem of spontaneous gatherings in which cars drive in circles dangerously in the process of making “donuts”

on the road surface. We have been assisted by the work of the SLO and the neighborhood prosecutor in dealing with these issues.

CSPNC is pleased to report that our acting SLO, officer Melody Shortle, has been promoted to be our permanent SLO.

Coastal San Pedro April 2022 crime statistics

0 homicides
2 robberies
6 aggravated assaults (2 between neighbors, 2 domestic)
2 rapes
4 burglaries (2 residential, 2 businesses)
6 grand theft auto (makes being targeted: Toyota and Kia)
8 theft (mostly package thefts)
There are multiple Amazon lockers throughout San Pedro. To find a locker closest to you, visit amazon.com/findalocker.
There was an increase in burglary and theft from motor vehicles to 18 instances (up from 7 at this time, last year) 14 of these 18 were from unlocked vehicles, with Saturdays being the highest days of incidence.



Emergency staging area kits, funded by the Coastal San Pedro Neighborhood Council, provide necessary supplies for use in the case of disaster.

Neighborhood Councils

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ing residents in their area.

Councils make known to government their positions by adopting resolutions which are forwarded to city elected officials and commissions via the city clerk’s online “community impact statement” portal.

The neighborhood councils’ advice becomes part of the official records and may be viewed at the city clerk’s council file management site: <https://cityclerk.lacity.org/lacityclerkconnect/>.

Neighborhood councils weigh in on a variety of city matters, including the annual budget. Councils appoint representatives to serve on the budget advocates team, which examines city finances and recommends budget priorities to the mayor and city council.

Neighborhood councils also deal directly with city commissions and departments, especially the planning department. Councils where there is a lot of development spend much of their effort ensuring that construction is compatible with the city’s zoning and building codes.

Councils are the guardians of their community’s quality of life and often communicate with law enforcement on public safety issues. Emergency preparedness is also a key concern.

For more information on the Coastal San Pedro Neighborhood Council, visit cspnc.org. There you will find notice of meetings, agendas, minutes, and a list of committees and members.



Picnic in Alma Park / Picnic en el Parque del Alma
Sunday, June 12, 2022 from 10am-2pm
Domingo 12 de junio de 10:00am a 2:00pm

Pack your picnic basket, grab a blanket and join your neighbors for a day of fun and entertainment in Alma Park!

We will have live music, raffles, special guests, and more! There will be activities for people of all ages.



To learn more, scan this QR code or visit:
www.AlmaParkNeighbors.org/events

Preparen su canasta de picnic, traigan su mantel y unanse con nuestros vecinos para un dia de celebracion en el Parque de Alma/ Alma Park!

Tendremos musica en vivo, rifas, invitados especiales y mucho mas... Hay actividades para todas las edades.

Update on Catalina Channel Investigation

By Richard Havenick, chair
Environment and Sustainability Committee

Since our last update, more is understood about the toxic materials dumped off our precious coast as Senators Feinstein and Padilla worked to ensure \$5.6 million be devoted from the Year 2022 Federal Omnibus Spending Bill to continue investigation into the problem.

The area of concern, tens of thousands of acres of seafloor approximately mid-way to Catalina Island is identified by the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration and Environmental Protection Agency as Site #2 among 14 “documented deep-water ocean disposal sites off the Southern California coast that received chemical, refinery, and other wastes from a variety of sources between the 1930’s and 1970’s.”

Last spring’s marine survey by Scripps Institute and NOAA of the ocean floor within Site #2 identified approximately 27,345 barrel-like objects and 100,000 total “debris objects” in depths up to 3,000 feet.

The EPA Pacific Southwest Region then convened senior leaders from the EPA, NOAA, and the Department of the Interior, from California agencies including the Natural Resources Agency, EPA, Water Resources Control Board, and Department of Toxic Substances Control, and from the Los Angeles Regional Water Control Board to participate in the investigation and discuss next steps.

Their comprehensive plan includes the following for Site#2: “Document the Operational and Regulatory History of Disposal; Determine the Extent of Drum Disposal and Nature of Contamination; Evaluate Southern California Bight Environmental Conditions and Trends; and, If Conditions Are Determined to Threaten Human Health or the Environment, Conduct Technology Screening for Disposal Site #2.”

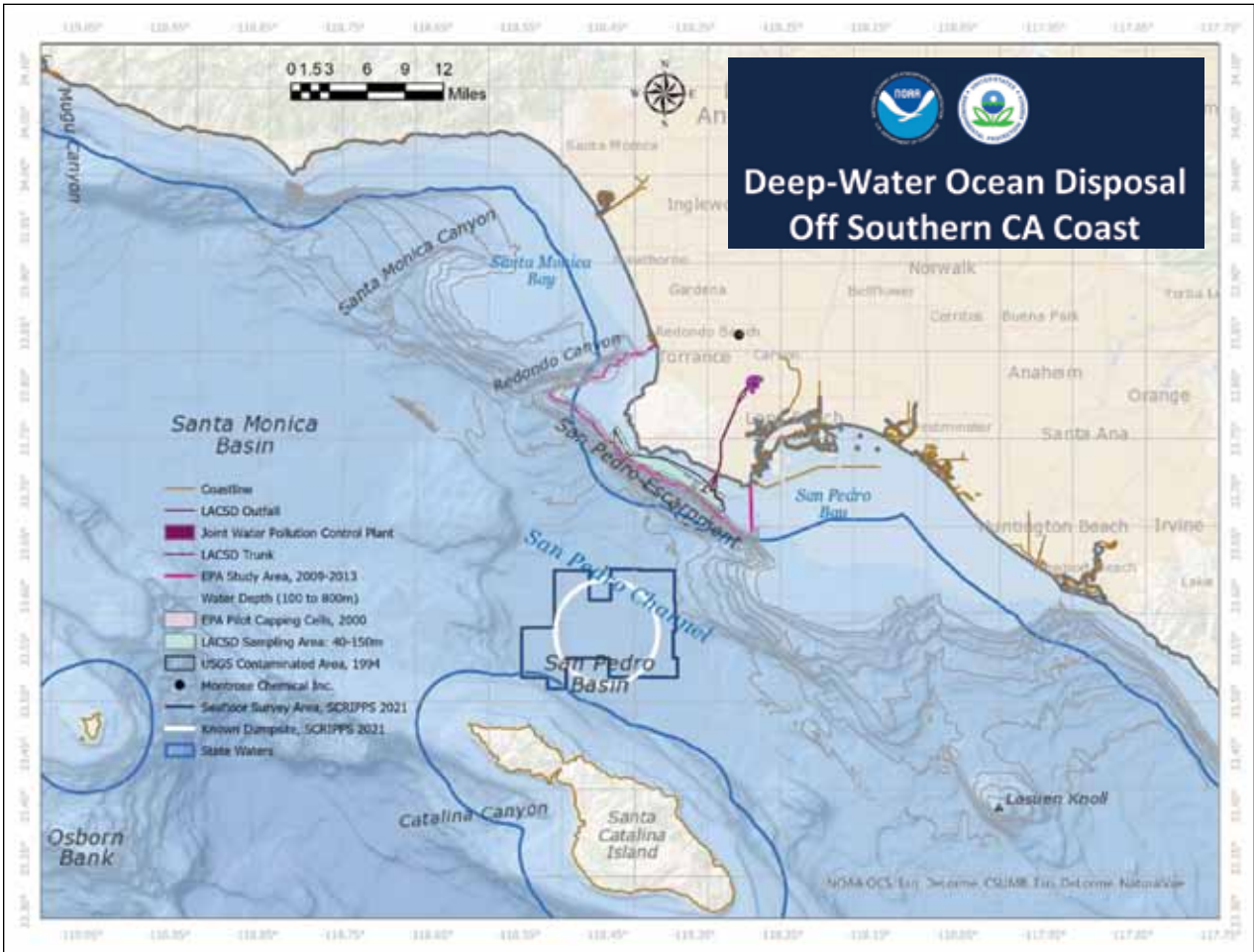


Photo: Deep-Water Ocean Disposal Off Southern California Coast, November 10, 2021, National Atmospheric Oceanic Administration and Environmental Protection Agency presentation.

The EPA reported that no remediation will begin until further surveying and data collection is complete. Importantly, the \$5.6 million requested by Senators Feinstein and Padilla is intended to fund the program to survey and sample the toxic materials dumped off our San Pedro coast and

establish if any human exposure to the toxins via fish resulted.

We’re grateful for the continuing reports on the investigation provided by Sean Kearns of Congresswoman Barragán’s office and will keep you informed as we learn more.

Cleaner Commerce: Is Zero Emission Shipping In Our Future?

By Richard Havenick, chair
Environment and Sustainability Committee

As news of extreme climate events from around the world assault us, other updates report on technology advancements and regulatory actions, yet potentially good news on one of the largest contributors to air pollution in our area went with little notice.

The San Pedro Bay Ports remain the largest single contributor to air pollution in Southern California and ships remain the single greatest source of air pollution from the Ports. Big help may be on the way.

At the October 2021 Glasgow Climate Summit, the U.S. and 23 other nations signed the Clydebank Declaration establishing that six shipping corridors will be zero emission by mid-decade.

In November, the City of Los Angeles voted to support actions to decarbonize the shipping industry, create zero-emission shipping corridors along the U.S. West Coast and across Pacific trade routes, and requesting top importers commit to making all calls to the San Pedro Port Complex on 100% zero-emissions ships by 2030. Then in January 2022, the C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group announced the goal to achieve zero emission shipping by 2030.

Significantly, The C40 Cities (<https://www.c40>) stated they will provide by 2022 year-end the implementation plan to achieve the zero emission goal. The collaboration of nearly 100 world-leading cities, including the Cities and Ports of Los Angeles and Shanghai, announced their partnership will “work with leading industry partners to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from cargo



Photo: Port of Los Angeles transport throughout the 2020s including to begin transitioning to zero-

carbon ships by 2030” with the first transpacific green shipping corridor between ports in the U.S. and China.

Thanks to Port of Los Angeles Environmental Director Chris Patton we receive updates on C40’s progress to date.

The partnership met on March 29 to define the action plans to achieve Zero Emission Shipping by 2030 and established the following working groups: Definitions, Interim goals and targets, Stakeholder Engagement, and National/International Green Corridor Policy Development and Advocacy.

The Partnership will meet mid-May to receive reports from the working groups.

Stakeholder Engagement activities will begin late spring based on recommendations from the Stakeholder Engagement committee.

The Partnership expects to begin

initial drafts of the Implementation Plan by late spring and the Final Implementation Plan is expected in November 2022, to be presented to the North Bund Forum, formerly World Shipping Summit, in China.

The Forum (<https://northbundforum>) is intended to be a “platform for exchanging ideas on major issues in global shipping, incubating governance rules and norms of the international shipping industry, release of latest policies and regulations in China and the world at large... in order to enhance the prosperity and development of the world economy and trade.”

We appreciate the City and Port of Los Angeles and the C40 Cities for their work to provide by year end the specific actions and plan necessary to transition to zero emission shipping by 2030, we offer our eager support, and we will stay tuned!

Drought 2022 Emergency Conservation Required – Save Water Now

The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California has declared a water shortage emergency, mandating drastic cuts in water use effective June 1, 2022 starting with restricting outdoor watering to one day per week in areas that depend on state project supplies – portions of Los Angeles, San Bernardino and Ventura counties. The affected agencies include: Calleguas Municipal Water District, Inland Empire Utilities Agency, Las Virgenes Municipal Water District, Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, Three Valleys Municipal Water District, and Upper San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District.

This drought is serious, and one of the most alarming challenges our region has ever faced. While some are being required to make even greater cuts, everyone else across Southern California is being called on to immediately reduce their water use by 20 to 30 percent. Visit bewaterwise.com for water-saving tips, rebates and resources.

Source: The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California

