



KEEP HAYWARD CLEAN & GREEN

January 23, 2025

Mayor and City Council
City of Hayward
Hayward City Hall
777 B Street
Hayward, CA 94541

RE: Input to City Council's Ad Hoc Committee on Commissions / Task Force

Dear Mayor and City Council Members,

On behalf of the Keep Hayward Clean and Green Task Force and its Policy Subcommittee, we are writing to transmit our formal input to City Council's Ad Hoc Committee on Commissions / Task Force on whether the Keep Hayward Clean and Green Task Force should remain a Task Force or transition to a new, Clean and Green Commission consistent with other appointed / advisory bodies in the City. After careful consideration and extensive discussion with Staff and among Task Force members, the Task Force recommends transitioning to a new, Clean and Green Commission for the following reasons:

1. The Clean and Green Commission would conduct its meetings and business similar to all other appointed / advisory bodies in the City, leading to potential cost savings and efficiencies and enhanced meeting decorum.
2. Term limits (2.5 terms / 10 years with grandfathering for existing Task Force members) would increase turnover on the Commission, which could infuse it with new members, energy, and ideas.
3. Term limits for the Chair (1 yr. with possible reappointment for one additional year if so reelected) would allow for increased leadership opportunities for all members:
 - a. Chair would focus on running the business meetings.
 - b. Chair would also focus on community outreach to grow event participation, especially cleanups.
 - c. There would be increased emphasis on, and importance of, subcommittees and subcommittee leads to accomplish Clean and Green Commission objectives, potentially alleviating overreliance on the Chair for the successful events / outcomes.
4. The Clean and Green Commission would have a similar ability (as the Task Force) to move programs and/or policies forward around litter collection (Q15), illegal dumping prevention (Q11), and community preservation (Q13) (no significant change from TF).
5. Like other City commissions, the Council could appoint alternates so that vacancies could be quickly filled with interested and qualified resident(s); the Clean and Green Commission (as the current Task Force) requires active member participation in more than business meetings, e.g., cleanups, community / educational events, etc.
6. Transitioning to a Clean and Green Commission can be a catalyst for change; specifically, empowering subcommittees and subcommittee leads so that there is less reliance on the Chair to sustain programs / initiatives and ensure successful outcomes.

Although these are good reasons to transition from a Task Force to a new, Clean and Green Commission, the Task Force does have some concerns in recommending this transition. We



request that the Council and Staff consider these when drafting the new Ordinance that all commissions in the City will operate in accordance with, including the new, Clean and Green Commission:

1. We note the increased importance of subcommittee and subcommittee leads if the Task Force becomes the Clean and Green Commission. There is some concern that subcommittee leads and/or members of subcommittees may not step-up as would be required, leaving a considerable amount of work to the Chair and/or Vice Chair. Our work requires more than attending monthly (or nearly monthly) business meetings, debating issues, and voting. We need a fully functioning team to prepare for and execute cleanups and education events, especially if our outreach efforts are successful. We respectfully request Staff and Council closely monitor participation and engagement of all members of the Clean and Green Commission and take steps to quickly remove members that are not actively participating and/or failing to meet basic commitments.
2. We are concerned about the possible lack of ability for the Clean and Green Commission to interview and/or provide input to Council on prospective new members:
 - a. Can Clean and Green Commission leadership (or other members as so appointed) pre-interview applicants and make recommendations to Council?
 - b. Can Council consider questions drafted by the Clean and Green Commission to ask of applicants?

Although there are concerns, the Task Force believes that the benefits of transitioning to a new, Clean and Green Commission outweigh these potential concerns, and Task Force recommends transitioning to a new, Clean and Green Commission. We believe our recommendation to become a new, Clean and Green Commission is in alignment with the Strategic Roadmap, reducing Task Force and City Staff workload, and increasing impact at Task Force clean-up events. Thank you for considering our recommendation and listening to our potential concerns.

Sincerely,

The Keep Hayward Clean & Green Task Force

Cc:

Ana Alvarez, Hayward City Manager
Todd Rullman, Maintenance Services Director