ENERGY, WATER & ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY COUNCIL
February 17, 2017
10-11:30 a.m.

1. WELCOME & SELF-INTRODUCTIONS

2. PRESENTATIONS
   From Sustainability to Resilience: Imagining the 21st Century City
   • Matt Petersen
     Chief Sustainability Officer, Los Angeles Office of Sustainability
     As the Chief Sustainability Officer in Mayor Eric Garcetti’s Office of Sustainability, Petersen is responsible for establishing and implementing the City's first Sustainable City pLAN. He will discuss the proposed pLAN, as well as the role of the Office of Sustainability as it pertains to business in Los Angeles.
     Twitter: @MayorOfLA & @mattspete

   • Eric Strauss
     Executive Director, Loyola Marymount University's Center for Urban Resilience
     Given the new federal administration, Strauss will discuss the complexities surrounding California's energy, environmental and sustainability efforts. He will also touch on the importance of municipalities in these deliberations, including the role of healthy economies and green infrastructure in urban communities.
     Twitter: @LoyolaMarymount & LMU__CURes

3. ACTION ITEMS
   • Finalize: 2017 Advocacy Agenda
   • Discuss: Senate Bill 231 (Hertzberg)

4. ANNOUNCEMENTS
   • ACCESS: Sacramento- March 28-29
   • IGNITE22: Tech showcase and collaborative experience- April 6
   • ACCESS: Washington, DC- May 22-24

Next Meeting
TBD* March 17, 2017 OR April 21, 2017
10-11:30AM
Matt Petersen
Chief Sustainability Officer
City of Los Angeles

Matt Petersen is the City of Los Angeles’ First Chief Sustainability Officer. In this role, he developed and is currently implementing the City’s first Sustainable City Plan which is a data-driven Plan that lays out the long and short term sustainability outcomes for the City of Los Angeles. Under the Mayor’s leadership, Matt led the City’s response to the Aliso gas leak and was able to bring together Mayors from other cities to combat climate change by playing a major role with organizations such as C40 and the Mayors National Climate Action Agenda. He also co-chairs the Mayor’s Water Cabinet, which is charged with meeting the City’s aggressive water conservation goals, and has resulted in Los Angeles residents reducing their water usage from 131 gallons to 106 gallons per capita daily.

Before joining the Mayor’s office, Matt served as President and CEO of Global Green USA for 19 years. Passionate about improving the lives of those in need, combatting climate change and greening communities, Petersen focused the organization on greening affordable housing, schools and cities (including LA). Petersen led the organization in the green rebuilding of New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina, and later to communities devastated by Hurricane Sandy. Matt is a board member of Global Green USA and Habitat for Humanity of Greater Los Angeles, as well as is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations and an advisor to the Clinton Global Initiative.
Dr. Eric Strauss, winner of several National Science Foundation Grants for urban ecology, is the President’s Professor of Biology at Loyola Marymount University and Executive Director of the new LMU Center for Urban Resilience. With research specialties in animal behavior, endangered species management, urban ecosystems and science education, Strauss has extended the model for faculty scholarship by engaging interdisciplinary collaborative teams to attract multiple national funding streams and provide education, research, and restoration programs to underserved neighborhoods and their residents. The center is one of the first of its kind in the country to focus on urban resilience. It brings together students, faculty and members of the community to work on the problems that confront the 21st century city. Its work includes intensive and far-reaching initiatives such as the investigation of the role of green space and urban forests in supporting healthy neighborhoods, science education using their national curriculum Urban EcoLab, and restorative justice programs for schools and municipalities. It also marshals international action like the Mediterranean Cities Climate Change Consortium (for which LMU is the lead organization).

In addition to his work with the Center for Urban Resilience, Strauss has co-written multi-media textbooks in biology and urban ecology and has hosted multiple video series on the life sciences and ecology. He received his BS in Mass Communication from Emerson College and Ph.D. in Biology from Tufts University. Strauss is also director of the Ballona Discovery Center and Editor in Chief for the influential Cities and the Environmental Journal.
Energy, Water & Environmental Sustainability Council 2017 Advocacy Agenda

The Energy, Water & Environmental Sustainability Council focuses on advancing cost-effective policies and programs that ensure reliable and affordable water and energy delivery, improve air quality, and promote economic growth in Los Angeles through the local development of technologies, businesses and jobs.

Review cost impacts of and responsibly implement air quality regulations
The Chamber will work with local, state and federal environmental agencies and the Chamber’s Transportation & Goods Movement Council to understand the availability, cost-effectiveness and feasibility of alternative fuels for commercial and personal vehicle use in order to help meet anticipated air quality standards in the region, in addition to following implementation of the AQMID’s 2016 AQMP in order to meet compliance. The Chamber will also closely monitor federal environmental standards at the EPA and the State, specifically AB32 and SB32, while quantifying the impact of these new standard on the economy of California.

Secure safe, reliable and affordable water supplies for Southern California
The Chamber acknowledges that securing a safe, reliable and affordable water supply is critical to the continued success of Los Angeles’ economy. The Chamber supports the State’s Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta co-equal goals of providing a more reliable water supply and storage for California and restoring the Delta ecosystem by advocating for the implementation of the California WaterFix. The Chamber will also identify feasible and cost-effective augmentations to imported water, such as remediation of the San Fernando Groundwater Basin, in order to secure the long-term water quality and supply of the region, taking into account existing infrastructure investments, and the LADWP and MWD shared objectives of maintaining its existing infrastructure and enhancing the diversity of the region’s water supply resources, including recycled, stormwater water, conservation, mitigation and remediation efforts.

Promote an affordable, reliable and diverse energy supply
The Chamber recognizes that businesses must have an affordable, diverse and reliable energy supply and storage for the regional economy to remain productive and competitive. The Chamber will work with its members and policymakers to understand the options, feasibility and costs for investments in alternative energy supply, including the related infrastructure and operational costs of integrating alternatives into the existing power systems of LADWP and SCE. The Chamber will support domestic energy production and maintenance of the region’s existing energy systems and supplies, including the integrity and safety of our regional pipeline infrastructure.

Strengthen Los Angeles’ position as a global leader of clean technology innovation
California is a global leader of clean technology innovation and sustainable business practices. The Chamber will advocate for economic strategies that will continue to help Los Angeles’ clean technology sector grow. This includes pursuing state and federal funding opportunities, streamlining government processes, and working in conjunction with organizations such as CleanTech LA, the LA CleanTech Incubator, PortTechLA and the Chamber’s Bixel Exchange to increase collaboration among the private, public and academic sectors.

Modernize California’s Environmental Quality Act
The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) must be modernized to preserve the law’s original intent while preventing abuse for purposes unrelated to environmental protection. The Chamber supports substantive improvements and will continue to engage in a statewide coalition effort advocating for a “standards approach,” which will integrate California’s strongest-in-the-nation environmental laws and
planning documents into the CEQA process, streamline the project approval and challenge processes, and reduce the risk of lawsuits that abuse the intent of CEQA and delay development, jobs and economic recovery.
Senate Bill 231
Sustainable Funding for Stormwater Projects
As Introduced on February 2, 2017

SUMMARY
SB 231 gives cities, counties, and local water agencies broader authority to finance local projects to clean up and reuse stormwater.

ISSUE
Under current law, water agencies are limited in the type of infrastructure they can fund to manage storm and flood waters. Local governments are often underfunded and are constrained from easily charging and financing stormwater projects that we need to manage water supplies and address water pollution in our communities.

Stormwater is a key source of local water supply and careful management is necessary now more than ever due to California’s continuing cycles of drought.

SB 231 (HERTZBERG)
This bill amends state law to clarify the statutory authority of cities, counties, and local water agencies to finance stormwater projects.

SB 231 defines “sewer” to include storm drainage, conforming to an existing 25-year-old definition in the California Public Utilities Code and encourages the courts to adopt this definition. This clarification makes it clear that local governments may build projects necessary to manage and reuse stormwater.

SUPPORT
Water Foundation (Sponsor)
Share your business perspective with California’s top decision makers as you join Los Angeles business and civic leaders on the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce’s annual advocacy trip to our state capital. Meet with key legislators and high-ranking officials to advocate for issues important to you and L.A.’s business community.

Early-bird registration is $225. After March 3, registration will increase to $250. Fee includes briefing materials, meeting arrangements and organized meal functions. ACCESS Sacramento is open to members of the L.A. Area Chamber and special guests. Space is limited. No refunds after March 20.

Event Accommodations
Hotel accommodations at the Citizen Hotel are not included in the registration price. A group rate of $285 per night is available. Call the hotel at 916.492.4460 to make your reservations and mention the group name “Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce.” Room availability is limited.

For more information, contact Maribel Flores, 213.580.7571.

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For more information, contact Lee Ligons, ligons@lachamber.com or 213.580.7523.