

Draft List of Questions for Annual Report Committee and Environmental Council Review, relating to 2020 Annual Report

Questions for Dept.(s) / Agencies for responses:

Since the pandemic,

1. Has your Dept. / divisions environmental concerns reprioritized ?
2. Has there been some progress on your extensive Appendix A detailed general and specific environmental goals, challenges suggested solutions?
3. Should carrying capacity be considered a top priority, as we are facing some challenging economic and environmental concerns, to rethink/ reshape our State alignment with environmental needs?
4. What plan / action could the State initiate to decarbonize and address effects of climate change in the 2-5 years?
 1. Our agency has clear environmental goals that are relevant and helpful in improving the state's environment and we have sufficient staff and funding to meet all or most of our goals.

2. We could make much better progress in implementing actions and meeting our environmental goals if there was better communication and sense of trust between the public/environmental groups, government agencies, elected officials and the scientific community.
3. Overcoming permitting hurdles and public opposition has become significantly more challenging in recent years.
4. Agencies are often working within their own “silos” and therefore a comprehensive holistic statewide “environmental master plan” that evaluates and prioritizes actions to protect and enhance the environment and provides sufficient funding for implementation is needed.
5. The COVID-19 pandemic and economic downturn will likely severely impact our agency’s ability to satisfactorily meet our environmental protection responsibilities and goals.

I assume that the response will range from something like “strongly agree” to “strongly disagree.” It would be ideal if the agency could be allowed to make comments.

It would be also ideal if separate responses could come from the various divisions of the department. I don’t think we need to go down to the branch level since the division chiefs should be familiar with what goes on in the various branches. Scott’s State Energy Office would be an example of an important entity under a department that should be polled separately.

The State Department of Agriculture should be included in the survey since they play a role in invasive species control.

It would be interesting to reword the questions to allow it to be sent out to environmental groups, politicians and others.

Simultaneous with the survey, I feel we should obtain input from our EC folks on possible solutions and recommendations to improve things. Key recommendations should be clearly highlighted in the AR.

- The Covid-19 pandemic affected your environmental goals?
 Very Much Somewhat Only a little Not at all
- If yes, briefly describe the impact?

- These impacts will have what kind of duration?
 Several weeks Somewhat longer Several months A year or more Permanent
- What portion of your environmental-focused budget has been deleted (lost?)

None at all 5-10% 10-20% More than 20% All

- The Environmental Council (EC) is mandated to “...monitor the progress of state, county, and federal agencies in achieving the State's environmental goals and policies...” How can the EC be helpful to your agency’s environmental goals as it pursues that mandate?

Play a larger role in coordinating statewide agency’s environmental goals

Convene state agencies to increase collaboration and promote better coordination

More possible roles

- Which of your agencies/divisions environmental goals will be your priority for 2021?