

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF  
THE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY AND  
ENERGY CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The Torrance Environmental Quality and Energy Conservation Commission convened in a regular session at 7:07 p.m. on Thursday, September 6, 2012 in the West Annex meeting room at Torrance City Hall.

**2. ROLL CALL:**

Present: Commissioners Chim, DeWitt, Gobble, Reilly, Watson, and Chairperson Griffiths.

Absent: Commissioner Robbins.

Also Present: Deputy Community Development Director Cessna, Senior Environmental Quality Officer Duncan, and Senior Planning Associate Santana.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Watson moved to grant Chairperson Griffiths an excused absence for the October 4, 2012 Commission meeting. Commissioner Reilly seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval (absent Commissioner Robbins).

**3. SALUTE TO THE FLAG**

Commissioner Chim led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**4. POSTING OF THE AGENDA**

**MOTION:** Commissioner Reilly, seconded by Commissioner Watson, moved to accept and file the report of the secretary on the posting of the agenda for this meeting; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval (absent Commissioner Robbins).

**5. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC**

Ed Garcia, Redondo Beach, accompanied by two Torrance residents, requested that the City consider amending the current Torrance zoning code to allow private urban beekeepers to maintain small beehives in their backyards. He stated that several cities have started allowing urban beekeeping and cited a Mar Vista feasibility study that explores the benefits of having bees in a city.

Responding to Commissioner Gobble's inquiry, Deputy Director Cessna advised that the current code states that bees cannot be kept within 300 feet of a residentially-zoned property.

Staff was directed to research and bring back an item regarding beekeeping at a future Commission meeting.

Holly Maynes, Peck Avenue, San Pedro, representing National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependency in Torrance, stated that they are beginning to conduct surveys in the City regarding expansion of outdoor smoke-free public areas. She discussed the dangers of second-hand smoke and stated that it is in the City's best interest for the health of the community to expand the policies that are now in place. She asked to be placed on a future Commission agenda in order to provide research that has been conducted.

Commissioners Reilly and Watson expressed interest in placing an item on a future Commission agenda.

**6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**6A. MINUTES OF AUGUST 2, 2012**

**MOTION:** Commissioner DeWitt moved to approve the August 2, 2012 meeting minutes as presented. Commissioner Reilly seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval (absent Commissioner Robbins).

**7. ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS**

**7A. SBESC – TORRANCE CLIMATE ACTION PLANS: SETTING A REDUCTION TARGET**

Deputy Director Cessna introduced the item and welcomed Sabrina Bornstein, Environmental Programs Specialist, and Kim Fuentes, Deputy Executive Director, South Bay Environmental Services Center (SBESC).

Ms. Bornstein stated that her role at SBESC is to support the South Bay Cities Council of Governments and its member cities in their efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and to build sustainable cities. She reviewed AB 32, the Global Warming Solution Act, and presented ICLEI's 5 Milestone Process: Conduct a baseline emissions inventory and forecast; Adopt an emissions reduction target for the forecast year; Develop a Local Action Plan; Implement policies and measures; and Monitor and verify results.

She reviewed the first Milestone--a community emissions inventory that was completed for Torrance in January 2011. She noted that the inventory quantifies emissions from both municipal operations and community activities in the City's jurisdictional boundary and creates an emissions baseline (2005) for setting community emission reduction targets for a Climate Action Plan (CAP). She added that they were able to include a 2007 update in the inventory to track progress.

Ms. Bornstein presented the findings of the Community Inventory and showed a pie chart detailing emissions by source. She stated that Torrance generated approximately 2,252,557 metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub>e in baseline year 2005, noting that major sources of emissions were natural gas (38%), transportation (33%) and electricity (27%). She reported that the industrial and transportation sectors, combined, contributed to nearly 80% of total emissions. She noted that between 2005 and 2007 Torrance was successful in reducing emissions by 4.5%, mostly as a result from reduced natural gas and electricity emissions. Referring to the Municipal Inventory, she reported that City operations (1% of total community emissions) generated approximately 19,556 metric

tons of CO<sub>2</sub>e in 2005. She stated that 57% was from transportation and 33% from electricity. She announced that there was an overall 3.9% decrease in emissions between 2005 and 2007.

She provided a business-as-usual forecast: Torrance's community emissions are anticipated to increase by 4% from 2007 to 2020 based on growth in population, jobs, and vehicle miles traveled projections. She stated that the State's AB 32 Scoping Plan suggests that local governments set a reduction goal of 15% below baseline (2005) by 2020. She presented benefits to setting a community emissions reduction target: reduce energy costs; protect residents and businesses from high oil prices; increase business competitiveness; increase energy and water independence; and adapt to potential climate change.

Ms. Bornstein presented a list of other cities' emissions reduction targets, noting that most South Bay cities are setting their targets at 15% below 2005 by 2020. She discussed ways to meet a community target that include looking at external measures, existing measures, and potential new measures. She provided next steps: to complete a Climate Action Plan (CAP) by setting a target; determining reduction strategies to meet that target; devising the plans; assembling final plans to be submitted for approval by city government; and implementing, monitoring, and verifying CAP results.

Deputy Director Cessna requested that the Commission concur with the State recommended target of 15% below 2005 baseline by 2020. She stated that, once adopted, staff would work with SBESC to develop an implementation strategy and would return to the Commission in beginning 2013.

In response to Commissioner Gobble's inquiry, Ms. Bornstein stated that the 15% target would replace the existing 7% target set when the Mayor signed on to the Climate Action Plan a few years ago.

When Commissioner Reilly questioned why a 15% target was chosen, she explained that the State selected that target with a goal to reach 1990 levels by 2020.

Senior Planning Associate Santana added that the State has a goal to reach 80% by 2050 but that the 15% by 2020 would encourage higher participation of a large number of cities.

Commissioner DeWitt recommended focusing on natural gas reductions and expressed interest in learning why emissions have increased in the City since 1990 as well as action taken by City Council at its last meeting regarding AB 32.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Gobble moved approval to set the emissions reduction target at 15% from baseline 2005 by 2020. Commissioner Chim seconded the motion; the motion passed on a 5-1 roll call vote (absent Commissioner Robbins).

Commissioner DeWitt explained that he voted nay because he needed more information to determine if 15% was appropriate for the diversity of the City.

Commissioner Gobble requested that staff bring back incentives for both business and residential sectors and updates on the City fleet.

**8. NEW BUSINESS**

**8A.** Commissioner Gobble stated that the City of Redondo Beach is addressing the issue of leaf blowers and that he is anxious for staff to bring back an item for the City.

Deputy Director Cessna advised that staff has started working on the issue and expects to bring a recommendation to the Commission this winter.

**8B.** Senior Planning Associate Santana announced that the City is participating in a Plug and Drive event in Signal Hill on September 23, 2012.

**9. ORAL COMMUNICATION**

**9A.** Commissioner DeWitt stated that last weekend was the final phase of the City's green waste program.

**9B.** Commissioner DeWitt stated that he enjoyed attending a SBESC's "Greening Your Home with Energy Upgrade California" and encouraged Commissioners to attend another one on September 19, 2012.

**9C.** Commissioner Gobble stated that the Fortunato home in Redondo Beach is complete and is a fantastic display of what can be done, adding that tours are available.

**9D.** Commissioner Watson stated that she is pleased with the Del Amo extension. When Commissioner Gobble noted that it has LED lighting, she expressed interest in a site visit to Torrance-based manufacturer LEDtronics.

**9E.** Chairperson Griffiths expressed interest in hearing what staff is working on regarding leaf blowers.

**9. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:** At 8:02 p.m., Commissioner Gobble moved to adjourn the meeting to October 4, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. in the West Annex meeting room. Commissioner Reilly seconded the motion and, hearing no objection, Chairperson Griffiths so ordered.

Approved as Submitted October 4, 2012 s/ Sue Herbers, City Clerk
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