

**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 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, August 6, 2015 in the West Annex meeting room at Torrance City Hall. Due to the absence of Chairperson Gobble, Vice-Chairperson DeWitt led the meeting.

**2. ROLL CALL:**

Present: Commissioners Deemer, Endo-Roberts, Martin, Montgomery, Wright, and Vice-Chairperson DeWitt.

Absent: Chairperson Gobble.

Also Present: Deputy Community Development Director Cessna, Senior Environmental Quality Officer Jones, Environmental Quality Officer Travers, and Environmental Quality Officer Colclasure.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Martin moved to grant Chairperson Gobble an excused absence for the August 6, 2015 Commission meeting. Commissioner Endo-Roberts seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected unanimous approval.

**3. SALUTE TO THE FLAG**

Commissioner Deemer led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**4. POSTING OF THE AGENDA**

**MOTION:** Commissioner Endo-Roberts, seconded by Commissioner Wright, moved to accept and file the report of the secretary on the posting of the agenda for this meeting; a roll call vote reflected unanimous approval (absent Chairperson Gobble).

**5. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC – None.**

**6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: JUNE 4, 2015**

Commissioner Montgomery offered a correction as follows: Page 2, paragraph 8, "Senior Environmental Quality Officer Jones stated...."

**MOTION:** Commissioner Endo-Roberts moved to approve the Commission meeting minutes of June 4, 2015 as amended. Commissioner Deemer seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected unanimous approval (absent Chairperson Gobble).

## **7. ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS**

### **7A. GREEN BUILDING CHALLENGE**

Renee Daigneault, South Bay Cities Council of Governments (SBCCOG), distributed fliers and provided a presentation on the Green Building Challenge. She stated that the Challenge is a free, online competition for South Bay buildings and businesses that is partnering with California Edison Company and Southern California Gas Company. She explained that the program offers over 100 activities that are designed to encourage measurable sustainability improvements in the categories of energy, water, waste, and transportation. She stated that the competition officially launches September 1, 2015 and runs through August 31, 2016, and that participants would be recognized for their achievements at the end of the Challenge.

In response to Commissioner Wright's inquiries, she stated that prizes would be recognition and visibility for the businesses, that credit would be given for past actions, and that they have a list of 1,000 South Bay businesses to outreach to.

Commissioner Montgomery received clarification that points would be given to tenants and employees for their participation; however, the program is not available for individual homeowners at this time.

Responding to Commissioner Endo-Roberts' inquiry, Ms. Daigneault stated that the Challenge is focusing on commercial office buildings and that restaurants have the opportunity to participate in the Cash for Kitchens and Heal the Bay programs.

She explained to Commissioner Deemer that non-profit organizations are encouraged to participate, noting that the Challenge focuses on the SBCCOG geographic service area and is not open to municipal buildings or schools at this time.

In response to an inquiry from Commissioner DeWitt, Ms. Daigneault explained that they plan to publicize throughout the Challenge and that participants would be able to see their ranking in real time. She added that they plan to spot check to verify winners.

When Deputy Director Cessna asked what the City can do, she stated that asking City Council for its support, promoting the Challenge on the City's website, and getting the word out to businesses would be helpful.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Wright moved to recommend that City Council support the Green Building Challenge. Commissioner Endo-Roberts seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected unanimous approval (absent Chairperson Gobble).

### **7B. ELECTRIC VEHICLE (EV) EVENT UPDATE**

Deputy Director Cessna discussed plans for the City's Drive Electric Week event on September 12, 2015 behind Katy Geissert Civic Center Library. She reported that so far 19 electric vehicles (9 different models), 51 attendees, and four volunteers have registered on the website. She stated that booths would include Torrance Transit, Recycling, Torrance Municipal Water, Library, Planning with a map of the City's EV infrastructure, Madrona Marsh, Conti, ChargePoint, CEC/MSRC, South Bay

Environmental Services Center, and Zero Motorcycle. She noted that ChargePoint is reaching out to local automobile dealerships and original equipment manufacturers to provide vehicles for ride and drives.

Responding to Commissioner Endo-Roberts' inquiry, she stated that invitations would be going out to State and Federal legislators as well as the County Supervisor for this area.

Commissioner DeWitt suggested coming up with something interactive for people to do while standing in line for the ride and drives.

**8. NEW BUSINESS**

**8A. ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON AND VICE-CHAIRPERSON**

Commissioner Wright nominated Commissioner DeWitt for Chairperson of the Commission. There were no further nominations and Commissioner DeWitt was elected Chairperson on a unanimous roll call vote (absent Chairperson Gobble).

Commissioner Deemer nominated himself and Commissioner Endo-Roberts nominated Commissioner Montgomery for Vice-Chairperson of the Commission. There were no further nominations and Commissioner Montgomery was elected Vice-Chairperson on a 5-1 roll call vote (absent Chairperson Gobble).

**9. ORAL COMMUNICATION**

**9A.** Deputy Director Cessna stated that at the September Commission meeting they would continue discussions regarding the EV event and that there would be a presentation about the Energy Upgrade program.

**9B.** Commissioner Montgomery announced a gray water workshop on August 25 at South Bay Environmental Services Center.

**9C.** Commissioner Wright announced the birth of his granddaughter Eleanor on August 3.

**9D.** Commissioner Deemer initiated a brief discussion regarding recent consideration of the chickens and beekeeping items by City Council and direction to staff to prepare draft ordinances.

**10. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:** At 8:17 p.m., Commissioner Endo-Robert moved to adjourn the meeting to September 3, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. in the West Annex meeting room. Commissioner Deemer seconded the motion and, hearing no objection, Vice-Chairperson DeWitt so ordered.

Approved as amended  
September 3, 2015  
s/ Rebecca Poirier, City Clerk

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Deborah Schaffer  
Recording Secretary