

In compliance with Governor Newsom's Executive Order N-29-20, which suspended portions of the Brown Act, Governor Newsom's Executive Order N-33-20 (Stay At Home Order issued March 19, 2020), and the County of Los Angeles Public Health Officer's Reopening Safer at Work and in the Community for Control of COVID-19 Blueprint for a Safer Economy – Yellow Tier Risk Reduction Measures (issued May 14, 2021), members of the Torrance Environmental Quality and Energy Conservation Commission and staff will participate in this meeting via teleconference or other electronic means.

PARTICIPATE BEFORE THE MEETING by emailing

EnvironmentalCommission@TorranceCA.Gov and write "Public Comment" in the subject line. In the body of the email include the item number and/or title of the item with your comments.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC MAY VIEW AND PARTICIPATE IN THE MEETING via Zoom by using the following link or by calling in with the phone number listed below: <https://zoom.us>

Phone number: 1-669-900-9128

Meeting ID: 991 4547 8767

Passcode: 324924

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact the City Clerk's office at (310) 618-2780. Notification 48 hours prior to the meeting will enable the City to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility to this meeting. [28CFR35.102-35.104 ADA Title II]

Direct questions or concerns to the Commission Liaison at (310) 618-5930 or individual department head prior to submission to the Commission. Parties will be notified if the complaint will be included on a subsequent agenda.

**TORRANCE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY AND ENERGY CONSERVATION
COMMISSION
JUNE 03, 2021
REGULAR MEETING
7:00 P.M. VIA TELECONFERENCE OR OTHER ELECTRONIC MEANS**

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

2. FLAG SALUTE:

3. REPORT OF STAFF ON THE POSTING OF THE AGENDA

The agenda was posted on the Public Notice Board at 3031 Torrance Bl. and on the City's Website on Thursday, May 27, 2021

4. ANNOUNCEMENT OF WITHDRAWN, DEFERRED, AND/OR SUPPLEMENTAL ITEMS

5. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS (Limited to a 30 minute period)

This portion of the meeting is reserved for public comment on items not on the agenda under the subject matter of the Environmental Quality and Energy Conservation Commission. Under the Ralph M. Brown Act, Commissioners cannot act on items raised during public comment but may respond briefly to statements made or questions posed; request clarification; or refer the item to staff. Speakers under this Public Comment period will have no longer than 3 minutes per speaker. Please do not use Bluetooth or speaker devices, mute the volume on your television or other electronic devices and speak clearly. Your phone call to the Commission meeting will be recorded as part of the meeting. By staying on the line and making public comment during the meeting, you are agreeing to have your phone call recorded.

6. CONSENT CALENDAR

Matters listed under the Consent Calendar are considered routine and will be enacted by one motion and one vote. There will be no separate discussion of these items. If discussion is desired, that item will be removed by a Commissioner from the Consent Calendar and considered separately.

6A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: MAY 6, 2021

7. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

7A. ENVIRONMENTAL RECOGNITION PROGRAM - CONSIDER IMPLEMENTATION OF A PROGRAM TO RECOGNIZE GREEN OR ENVIRONMENTAL INITIATIVES IN THE COMMUNITY ON A MORE REGULAR BASIS.

Recommendation of the Community Development Director to implement Green Pride Awards (GPAs) to recognize residents, businesses, schools and other organizations for their commitment to excellence in outstanding environmental achievements based on the following five categories:

- 1) Green Isn't Greener – residential landscape improvements with water wise, drought tolerant plants;
- 2) Sustainability – commercial and residential property improvements (i.e. green roofs, solar panels);
- 3) Residential Compliance- residential property that was in violation of property maintenance issues and has substantially improved;
- 4) Commercial Landscape Improvement/Property Beautification – property updates with water wise landscaping or improvements that enhance its appearance;
- 5) Environmental Hero – youth and adults not affiliated with a business who have gone above and beyond to improve the environmental quality of life in Torrance.

8. PUBLIC HEARINGS – NONE SCHEDULED

9. COMMISSION ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

10. ADJOURNMENT

10A. Adjournment of Torrance Environmental Quality and Energy Conservation Commission Meeting, tentatively, to Thursday, July 1, 2021, at 7:00 p.m. In compliance with Governor Newsom's Executive Order N-29-20, which suspended portions of the Brown Act, Governor Newsom's Executive Order N-33-20 (Stay At Home Order issued March 19, 2020), Acting State Public Health Officer Erica Pan's Regional Stay at Home Order (issued December 3, 2020), and the County of Los Angeles Public Health Officer's Revised Temporary Targeted Safer at Home Health Officer Order for Control of COVID-19: Tier 1 Substantial Surge Updated Response (issued December 30, 2020), members of the Commission and staff will participate in this meeting via teleconference or other electronic means in our continuing effort to practice social distancing to reduce the spread of COVID-19.

**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 7:01 p.m. on Thursday, May 6, 2021 via teleconference or other electronic means.

2. ROLL CALL:

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

Absent: None.

Also Present: Deputy Community Development Director Cessna.

3. SALUTE TO THE FLAG

Commissioner Martin led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. POSTING OF THE AGENDA

Deputy Community Development Director Cessna reported the agenda for this meeting was properly posted on the Public Notice Board.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

5A. MINUTES OF MARCH 4, 2021 COMMISSION MEETING

MOTION: Commissioner Martin moved to approve the Commission meeting minutes of March 4, 2021 as presented. Commissioner Stecker seconded the motion; the motion passed on a 7-0 roll call vote.

5B. MINUTES OF APRIL 1, 2021 COMMISSION MEETING

Commissioners offered corrections as follows: 7A, pg. 2, paragraph 1, last sentence: "...authorized to use leaf blowers on Sundays." 7A, pg. 2, paragraph 3: "Commissioner Endo-Roberts moved to continue the item to June 3, 2021."

MOTION: Commissioner Martin moved to approve the Commission meeting minutes of April 1, 2021 as amended. Commissioner End-Roberts seconded the motion; roll call vote reflected unanimous approval.

6. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC #1 – None.

7. ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS

7A. LEAF BLOWER REGULATION – CONSIDER CONCEPTUAL AMENDMENTS TO TORRANCE MUNICIPAL CODE RELATED TO USE OF LEAF BLOWERS

Deputy Community Development Director Cessna reported at the April 1, 2021 Commission meeting Commissioners recommended holding the item of leaf blower regulation until June; however, in response to a City Council request, this matter is being heard in May rather than June. She presented staff's recommendation as follows:

- 1) Limit hours of leaf blower operation to mirror construction hours;
- 2) Ban gas leaf blowers and transition to electric leaf blowers within a five year period;
- 3) Examine the possibility of procuring South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD) funding to aid in the transition; and
- 4) Perform public education outreach.

Deputy Community Development Director Cessna requested the Commission refine the recommendation and include any additional considerations or adjustments before forwarding it to Council on May 18, 2021.

Discussion centered on a time frame for banning and transitioning use, enforcement, AQMD funding availability, exploring funding through other agencies, banning all gas powered landscaping equipment, reasons for the ban, identifying gardeners in the City, Torrance Unified School District, and input from the public.

A member of the public spoke.

Commissioners concurred to revise staff's recommendation as follows:

- 1) Limit hours of leaf blower operation to mirror construction hours;
- 2) Ban gas leaf blowers and transition to electric leaf blowers within a two year period;
- 3) Ban gas powered landscaping equipment and transition to electric within a five year period;
- 4) Contact dealers identified by the South Coast AQMD Commercial Electric Lawn and Garden Equipment Exchange Program to get on their funding waitlist and exchange equipment as funding becomes available to aid in the transition, and explore other funding options in parallel; and
- 5) Perform public education outreach.

MOTION: Commissioner Montgomery moved to approve the five items as revised and to forward the recommendation to City Council for consideration. Commissioner Endo-Roberts seconded the motion; roll call vote reflected unanimous approval.

8. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC #2

Deputy Community Development Director Cessna reviewed items tentatively scheduled for the June 3, 2021 Commission meeting.

Members of the Commission spoke.

9. **ADJOURNMENT**

MOTION: At 8:18 p.m. Commissioner DeWitt moved to adjourn tonight's meeting to June 3, 2021. Commissioner Deemer seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected unanimous approval.

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Subject to Approval

AGENDA ITEM NO. 7A

TORRANCE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY AND ENERGY CONSERVATION COMMISSION

June 3, 2021

To: Chairman Wright and Members
of the Torrance Environmental Quality Commission

Subject: Environmental Recognition Program

In September 2019, the Commission indicated an interest in establishing an award or recognition program that could be implemented to recognize Green or Environmental initiatives in the community on a more regular basis.

The meeting concluded with suggestions to keep brainstorming and bring back possible names; to have the first award in conjunction with the Environmental Fair; to give out awards a maximum of two times a year and to start the program with nominations made by staff and Commissioners.

The Green Pride Awards program below, is an updated version of our Green Pride In Torrance recognition program.

City of Torrance

Green Pride Awards (GPAs)

The ***Green Pride Awards (GPAs) Program*** seeks to recognize residents, students, schools, businesses and organizations for their commitment to excellence in environmental stewardship and outstanding environmental achievements.

GPAs will be based on the following categories:

- 1) ***Grass Isn't Greener Award*** - Residential landscape improvements pertaining to water wise/ drought tolerant plants and other unique, water efficient landscape concepts.
- 2) ***Sustainability Award*** – Commercial and Residential improvements pertaining to the green movement (Solar Panels, green roofs, etc.).

- 3) **Residential Compliance Award** – Residential property that was in violation of property maintenance issues such as exterior junk and debris and hoarding, inoperative vehicles, and lack of landscape in the front yard. This would be an egregious case of property maintenance issues that has made a turn toward substantial improvement.
- 4) **Commercial Landscape Improvement/Property Beautification Award** – Property landscape updated using water wise/drought tolerant plants and general upgrading and infilling of landscape materials and other adornments to improve appearance along the street frontage.
- 5) **Environmental Hero Award** – Recognize youth and adults not affiliated with a business who have gone above and beyond to improve the environmental quality of life in and around Torrance. (Examples may include programs in recycling, energy conservation, air pollution and anti-litter).

Environmental Commissioners along with City staff would nominate, vote, and present to recipients annually in conjunction with the fiscal year. Nominations could be accepted at Commission meetings or by email. There will be one award winner in each of the five categories. In the event of a tie or multiple achievements in the same category, a lottery may be conducted to select a winner.

Staff recommends approval of Green Pride Awards as the new environmental recognition program. At tonight's meeting, staff requests input and discussion regarding implementation of the updated program.

Here is an example of the **Residential Compliance Award**:

Environmental Division received a complaint in October 2020 regarding an elderly resident who had severe property maintenance issues contributing to vermin harborage and negativity affecting the surrounding neighbors. A letter was sent to the property to address the issues. The elderly widowed woman's son took lead on resolving all violations. With the property owner's son on board along with support and direction from the City, today the property is compliant.



BEFORE



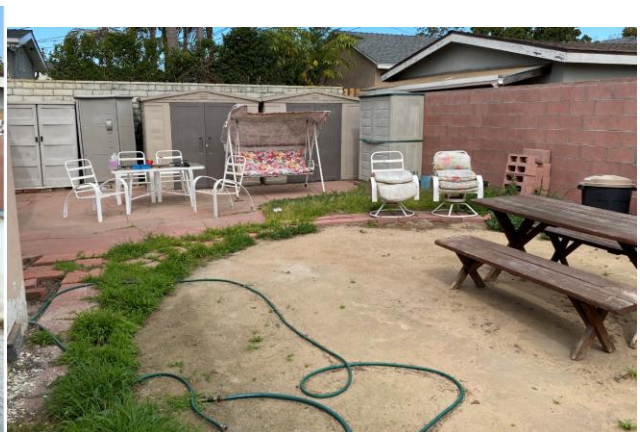
AFTER



BEFORE



AFTER



Respectfully Submitted,

Hilda Colclasure
Environmental Quality Officer

Commissioners – Zoom Etiquette

(1) When Commissioners join the meeting, they should not engage in conversation (especially items such as politics or anything coming before). They should be on mute when they join the meeting other than to do a sound check.

- When they are identified as Commissioners, they represent the City of Torrance and should be considerate of that at all times.
- Gentle reminder that just like during in-person meetings, members of the public may be listening in and/or recording the meeting.

(2) Since the **Civil Service** Commission is on video during hearings, they should have their entire face visible.

- Try to find a spot with good lighting so that you are seen clearly on video during virtual meetings, and make sure that when you are on camera you are identifiable.

(3) Commissions may want to consider using a City provided background during their meetings for consistency and/or security purposes.

(4) Utilize the “raise your hand” feature when you would like to be called on to speak.

- Microphones should be muted when not in use. This will avoid background noise, distraction, spouse/child/pet interruption, etc.

(5) For purposes of the record, do not speak over another commissioner, attorney, or speaker.

(6) Refrain from any perceived bias by treating all parties equally and with respect.

- Consider tone, language, and topic of conversation(s) when communicating with members of the public in your capacity as a Commissioner
- Consider that non-verbal communication during virtual meetings may be perceived differently than during in-person meetings

(7) If you are provided a script by staff, you should read the script since there may be legal implications if they do not. Of course, there are times during a hearing when the script may need to change and in that case, staff will advise of you to revise the script

(8) Log in 15 minutes before the meeting so staff can do a sound check/video check and everyone can be ready to go at the start of the meeting

Other Considerations

- Consider public perception of content shared publicly on social media
- Please maintain professional conduct, including appropriate dress. Professional attire should be worn, just like during an in-person meeting.
- If you are uncomfortable being on camera, consider using an appropriate still profile photo
- Even if the meeting is in public session, please avoid having friends/family/pets sit next to you on screen.

- Closed Session meetings should be treated as they would in-person and no one else should be listening in or participating other than Commissioners, designated staff, etc.

Quasi-judicial bodies such as the Planning Commission and Civil Service Commission are like judges or jury, which would never eat, sleep, or do any activity that shows they are not paying close attention to the evidence. A Commissioner that falls asleep, is distracted (eating, etc.), or otherwise not paying attention during a hearing could be grounds to have the Commission's decision overturned by a court.