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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 AGENDA
NOVEMBER 04, 2021
REGULAR MEETING
7:00 P.M. IN WEST ANNEX COMMISSION MEETING ROOM CITY HALL
3031 TORRANCE BOULEVARD
TORRANCE, CA 90503**

**ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY AND ENERGY CONSERVATION COMMISSION MAY
TAKE ACTION ON ANY ITEM LISTED ON THE AGENDA**

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, October 28, 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 ANNOUNCEMENT OF WITHDRAWN, DEFERRED, AND/OR SUPPLEMENTAL ITEMS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 comment on items not on the agenda. Under the Ralph M. Brown Act, Torrance Environmental Quality and Energy Conservation Commission 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 Orals are limited to either Oral Communications #1 or Oral Communication #2 and no longer than 3 minutes per speaker.** Speakers please turn off or leave your cellular phone when you come to the podium to speak. If presenting handout material to Torrance Environmental Quality and Energy Conservation Commission, please provide 10 copies to the City Clerk before speaking.*

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: OCTOBER 07, 2021

7. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

7A. TORRANCE CLIMATE SMART AWARDS

Recommendation of the Deputy Community Development Director that the Commission review the Torrance Climate Smart Awards program and discuss possible implementation of the program.

ROLL CALL: Dewitt _____ Endo-Roberts _____ Love _____ Montgomery _____ Seferian _____ Stecker _____ Chairperson Wright _____
TEQECC 11/04/21

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, December 02, 2021, at 7:00 p.m.

**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 7:02 p.m. on Thursday, October 7, 2021 in the West Annex meeting room. Due to the absence of the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson, Commissioner DeWitt led the meeting.

ROLL CALL:

Present: Commissioners DeWitt, Endo-Roberts,
Love, Montgomery, and Seferian

Absent: Commissioners Stecker and Chairperson Wright.

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

MOTION: Commissioner Endo-Roberts moved to grant the excused absences of Commissioners Stecker and Wright from the October 7, 2021 Commission meeting. Commissioner Seferian seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected 5-0 approval.

2. SALUTE TO THE FLAG

Commissioner Seferian led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. REPORT OF STAFF ON THE POSTING OF THE AGENDA

Deputy Community Development Director Cessna reported the agenda for this meeting was posted on the Public Notice Board and on the City's Website on September 30, 2021.

4. ANNOUNCEMENT OF WITHDRAWN, DEFERRED, AND/OR SUPPLEMENTAL ITEMS – None.

5. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS – None.

6. CONSENT CALENDAR

6A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: SEPTEMBER 2, 2021

MOTION: Commissioner Love moved to approve the Commission meeting minutes of September 2, 2021 as presented. Commissioner Seferian seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected 5-0 approval (absent Commissioners Stecker and Wright).

7. **ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**

7A. **STEWARDSHIP OF THE ENVIRONMENT STRATEGIC PLAN PRIORITY**

Recommendation of the Deputy Community Development Director that the Commission review the Stewardship of the Environment Strategic Priority and discuss possible implementation projects for the Commission to undertake.

Deputy Community Development Director Cessna stated the majority of implementation activities would be undertaken by staff; however, she discussed areas within the Priority that the Commission could be involved. She suggested the Commission focus on Goal 2: Actively inform, educate, and motivate the community regarding the value and benefit of environmental stewardship; Goal 4: Create and promote sustainable/green practices for use in daily life; and Goal 7: Create a positive environment for businesses and industries to adopt sustainable/green practices.

A general discussion and Commissioners' suggestions centered on the awards program, Environmental Fair, Commission workshop, collaboration with other City Commissions and South Bay Cities Council of Governments, involvement with schools and Torrance Youth Council, Sustainability Team, virtual outreach meetings and hybrid Zoom Commission meetings, greenhouse gas emissions reduction, and electric vehicle chargers. Commissioner Montgomery distributed a list of suggestions for sub-goals, in priority order, to consider for possible implementation projects for the Commission to undertake along with rationale.

Deputy Community Development Director Cessna stated Commissioners' ideas could be added into the implementation plan and offered to bring back their suggestions to the next Commission meeting for prioritization.

8. **PUBLIC HEARINGS** – None scheduled.

9. **COMMISSION ORAL COMMUNICATIONS**

A member of the public and members of the Commission spoke.

Deputy Community Development Director Cessna introduced the new Community Development Director Michelle Ramirez.

Deputy Community Development Director Cessna asked Commissioners to consider if they would like to change the start time of Commission meetings.

10. **ADJOURNMENT**

MOTION: At 8:04 p.m. Commissioner Love moved to adjourn tonight's meeting to November 4, 2021. Commissioner Seferian seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected approval.

COMMISSION MEETING OF
November 4, 2021

Honorable Chair and Members
of the Torrance Environmental Quality Commission
City Hall
Torrance, California

Members of the Commission:

SUBJECT: Torrance Climate Smart Awards

RECOMMENDATION:

The Deputy Community Development Director recommends that the Commission review the Torrance Climate Smart Awards program and discuss possible implementation of the program.

BACKGROUND AND ANALYSIS:

In June 2021, staff presented ideas for new categories and criteria to revise the existing Green Pride in Torrance awards program. Based on suggestions from the meeting, staff researched green and environmental sustainability recognition programs in the following cities: Davis, Lafayette, Long Beach, Manhattan Beach, San Jose, Santa Monica and West Hollywood. Details on programs for each of these cities is attached. Staff favored San Jose's program and have decided to create categories and criteria that resemble those used in the City of San Jose.

Torrance Climate Smart Awards Program

The ***Torrance Climate Smart Award*** seeks to recognize residents, students, schools, businesses and organizations for their commitment to excellence in environmental stewardship and outstanding environmental achievements.

Environmental Commissioners along with City staff would nominate and present to recipients twice per year. Nominations could be accepted at Commission meetings or by email. Multiple award recipients are allowed within each category.

Torrance Climate Smart Award categories include:

Climate Smart Energy

Climate Smart Water

Climate Smart Youth

Climate Smart Community

Climate Smart Business

Torrance Climate Smart Award categories are based on any of the following criteria:

Sustainability; Energy (Energy efficient, all electric and Zero Net Energy); Transportation (reduce greenhouse gas emissions, EV); Reduction of air pollution; Water usage reduction; Solar panels; Drought tolerant landscaping; Reduction of carbon dioxide emissions, Reduction of energy demand; Meeting Clean Bay and California Green Business Network.

Climate Smart Energy Award: Recognizes individuals and/or organizations that demonstrate outstanding achievements in clean energy or energy efficiency.

Climate Smart Water Award: Recognizes individuals and/or organizations that demonstrate outstanding achievements in water conservation through the implementation, planning or promotion of innovative water conservation efforts.

Climate Smart Youth Award: Recognizes Torrance youth age 18 or younger for going above and beyond to improve the environmental quality of life in and around Torrance and for leadership in environmental programs that build awareness and engagement of their peers, school and community.

Climate Smart Community Award: Recognizes an individual member of the community or community group that has provided outstanding support to the implementation and goals of the strategic Plan as it pertains to environmental stewardship.

Climate Smart Business Award: Recognizes new and existing commercial businesses that have done property improvements that reflect any area of the award criteria or has set an example of how to conduct business or has received a LEED or other recognized environmental certification.

At this meeting, the Commission should take the opportunity to discuss the categories and criteria, and make suggestions or recommendations for implementation of the Torrance Climate Smart Awards program.

Respectfully Submitted,

Hilda Colclasure

Environmental Quality Officer

ATTACHMENT:

1. Torrance Award – research on various cities' award programs

Torrance Awards - Research

The City of Torrance is looking to recognize community contributions to Torrance's environmental quality of life by awarding deserving individuals, business, and non-profits, for their commitment to environmental stewardship and outstanding environmental achievements in the city. Candidates must be City of Torrance residents or have their business located in the City of Torrance.

Multiple cities in California have developed Green Award programs for residents/businesses. These cities include Encinitas, Davis, West Hollywood, Lafayette, Santa Monica, Long Beach, and Manhattan Beach.

Encinitas

The City of Encinitas Environmental Commission founded their Environmental Award Program in 2014 to recognize businesses, non-profits, and individuals for their environmental achievements. In 2019, an Environmental Hero category was added to recognize an adult and a youth who are not necessarily affiliated with a business. Encinitas also granted Excellence in Environmental Stewardship awards to a for-profit business and to a non-profit business.

Davis

The City of Davis' Environmental Recognition Award falls into three categories: individual/group, a business, and a non-profit organization, agency or school. The City of Davis has the following criteria for being selected for an award: actions/achievements address a current environmental concern; nominee has an established record of achievements or actions benefiting the environment and quality of life in and around Davis; nominee has creatively implemented or developed an innovative project related to sustainability or the environment; nominee has set an example of how to conduct business, set up a home environment, and/or live daily in a manner that encourages sustainability and harmony with nature; and, nominee has impacted others in the Davis community through outreach, engagement or education efforts.

West Hollywood

The City of West Hollywood launched their Green City Awards Program to recognize projects and practices that demonstrate excellence in environmental sustainability, to recognize local actions big and small, to accelerate the completion of local green projects, and to build community resilience and combat climate change. The Green City Awards Program has the following categories: Individual Adult (age over 21), Individual Youth (age 21 and younger), Business, and Organization/School. West Hollywood also has the Green Seedling Award for individual adult, business, and organization/school to recognize outstanding environmental sustainability ideas and concepts that could one day change the world; and, to provide official recognition to the merit of these conceptual projects.

Lafayette

The City of Lafayette Awards of Environmental Excellence (the Lafayette Green Awards) recognize outstanding efforts that contribute to a more sustainable community and help the city achieve its environmental goals. The Lafayette Green Awards are chosen across five categories: residents, local businesses, schools, community organizations, and green building. The winners of the awards are

chosen based on the following criteria: how successfully the candidate's activities reduce their current and future footprint, how much the candidates activities helped achieve the city's environmental goals, and how much the candidates activities inspired others in the community.

Santa Monica

- SM Green Business Certification Program works in collaboration with the California Green Business Program Network (CAGBN) reviews application requirements and conducts onsite visits to eligible businesses within the City to verify specific checklist details measures for conserving resources, preventing pollution, reducing carbon emissions, and minimizing waste.
- Sustainability Quality Awards- Partnership with City of SM, SM Chamber of Commerce, Sustainable Works, Recognizing businesses in the Santa Monica area that are successfully putting sustainable practices into action.
 - Awarded Annually
 - Excellence in Stewardship of the Environment, Excellence in Social Responsibility, Excellence in Economic Development, and Grand Prize Winner

Long Beach

- Green Business Program- partnership with California Green Business Network (CAGBN), which provides a statewide standard of sustainability for Green Business Certification. Businesses that achieve certification are promoted on the City website and social media channels, listed on CAGBN database of green businesses and provided with branded material to showcase their certified status.
- No information on community awards program

Manhattan Beach

- Green Business Program- encourages businesses to voluntarily implement environmentally sustainable practices in areas like water conservation, waste reduction, and energy efficiency and pollution prevention.
 - Participating businesses get local and statewide recognition, marketing benefits, financial incentives/rebates, and a "green seal to place on their door or window.
- Partnership with The Bay Foundation's Clean Bay Certified (CBC) Restaurant Program
 - The CBC Program recognizes restaurants that integrate sustainability and ocean-mindedness into their daily operations through waste reduction and proper waste management, responsible cleaning practices, water conservation and employee training.
 - Annual inspections of each restaurant in the City are conducted using the Clean Bay Certified Checklist that includes both mandatory legal requirements along with additional items that go above and beyond legal requirements and intended to demonstrate the restaurant's commitment to environmental sustainability.

City of San Jose

Recognizes outstanding efforts by individuals and organizations annually that align with the coals of Climate Smart San Jose and contribute to a more sustainable San Jose.

Awards were granted in the following categories:

- **Climate Smart Mobility Champion:**
The category recognizes an individual and/or organization who has shown leadership and vision in reducing transportation-related greenhouse gas emissions in San José and serving as a champion of sustainable transportation.
- **Climate Smart Energy Champion:**
The category recognizes an individual and/or organization that demonstrated significant and tangible achievement in clean energy or energy efficiency through the implementation and/or promotion of high-impact programs and engagement of their peers and partners.
- **Climate Smart Water Champion:** The category recognizes an individual and/or organization who has demonstrated outstanding leadership for the implementation, planning or promotion of innovative water conservation efforts in San José and engagement of their peers and partners.
- **Climate Smart Community Champions:**
The category recognizes an individual member of the community or community group that has provided outstanding support to the implementation and goals of the Climate Smart plan and engaged their peers and networks.
- **Climate Smart Youth Champion:**
The category recognizes San José youth age 18 or younger for outstanding leadership in climate change, and building awareness and engagement of their peers, school, and/or community in San José.

The City of Torrance would like to take these cities approaches to Green Awards to develop a program within our own City that will recognize individuals and businesses within the City for their outstanding efforts in sustainability and quality of life. These individuals and businesses will be recognized by both the TEQECC and City Council for their achievements in making the City of Torrance a green city that focuses on maintaining the environmental quality of life and sustainability both now and for future generations.