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Direct questions or concerns to the Commission Liaison at (310) 618-5912, or individual department head prior to submission to the Commission. Parties will be notified if the complaint will be included on a subsequent agenda.

Security procedures: Members of the public will be directed to enter City Hall on the East side of the building through the sliding door. All other entrances will remain locked for entry. Oversized bags or backpacks will not be allowed in the Council Chamber or Commission meeting room. All bags are subject to search.

Any correspondence received after 2:00 p.m. on April 27, 2023, on any item on the agenda will be provided to the Commission electronically and available for public inspection in the City Clerk's Office. A copy of the correspondence will be available for public inspection in a binder at the back of the Council Chamber or Commission Meeting room.

**TORRANCE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY AND ENERGY CONSERVATION
COMMISSION AGENDA
MAY 04, 2023
REGULAR MEETING
7:00 P.M. IN WEST ANNEX COMMISSION MEETING ROOM
AT 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: Commission members: Endo-Roberts, Hill, Jendrucko, Love, Seferian, Wright, and Chair Stecker

2. FLAG SALUTE

3. REPORT OF THE 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, April 27, 2023.

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 ANNOUNCEMENT OF WITHDRAWN, DEFERRED, AND/OR SUPPLEMENTAL ITEMS

5. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS (Limited to a 15-minute period)

*This portion of the meeting is reserved for comments on items on the Consent Calendar or not on the agenda. Under the Ralph M. Brown Act, the 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. **No longer than 1 minute per speaker.** If presenting handout material to Commission, please provide 10 copies to staff 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 Councilmember from the Consent Calendar and considered separately.

6A. Approve Commission Minutes: April 06, 2023

7. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

7A. Community Development- Review and Discuss the Climate Smart Awards- Discuss options for Climate Smart Awards voting criteria and vote on the Climate Smart Award nominees who meet the voting criteria.

7B. Community Development-City Yard Open House- Discuss the upcoming City Yard Open house and provide feedback regarding Environmental Commission involvement.

8. PUBLIC HEARINGS

9. COMMISSION ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

10. ADJOURNMENT

10A. Adjournment of Environmental Quality and Energy Conservation Commission Meeting to Thursday, June 01, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. in the Commission Meeting Room.

**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF THE
TORRANCE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY & ENERGY COMMISSION**

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

The Torrance Environmental Quality and Energy Conservation Commission convened in a regular session at 7:01 p.m. on Thursday, April 6, 2023, in the West Annex Commission Meeting Room City Hall.

ROLL CALL

Present: Commissioners Endo-Roberts, Hill, Jendrucko, Love, Seferian, Wright, and Chair Stecker.

Absent: None.

Also Present: Staff Liaison Nora Duncan, Transit Department Senior Business Manager David Mach, and Community Development Director Michelle Ramirez.

MOTION: Commissioner Love moved to excuse the March 2, 2023 absence of Commissioner Jendrucko. Commissioner Seferian seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected a unanimous approval.

2. FLAG SALUTE

Commissioner Hill led The Pledge of Allegiance.

3. REPORT OF STAFF ON THE POSTING OF THE AGENDA

Staff Liaison Duncan reported that the agenda was posted on the Public Notice Board at 3031 Torrance Boulevard on Thursday, March 30, 2023.

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

Community Development Director Ramirez reported a Supplemental Item for Item 7B; the Supplemental Item was sent to the Commissioners prior to the Commission for reference / review.

5. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

A member of the public spoke.

Tom Newman presented the Commission with paperwork regarding hazardous substances in the atmosphere per studies by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration.

6. CONSENT CALENDAR

6A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – MARCH 2, 2023

MOTION: Commissioner Wright moved to approve the March 2, 2023 minutes as presented. Commissioner Love seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected unanimous approval.

7. **ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**

7A. **TORRANCE TRANSIT – PRESENTATION BY TRANSIT DEPARTMENT ON THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY C-LINE EXTENSION:**

Transit Department Senior Business Manager Mach gave a presentation regarding the C-Line Extension.

- LA Metro is bringing a passenger light-rail to Torrance, a 4.5-mile extension starting from the Marine Station in Redondo Beach and ending at the Mary K. Giordano Regional Transit Center, funded by Measure R and Measure M.
- The extension will go through three cities: Lawndale, Redondo Beach, and Torrance.
- Metro has been studying three options through the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA): Proposed Project - Elevated/At-Grade, Right-of-Way/Trench, and Elevated at Hawthorne Boulevard, all of which have had assessments through CEQA that include environmental impacts, aesthetics, noise, and vibrations.
- Torrance City Council has unanimously voted to support the Proposed Project, Right-of-Way with Elevated/At-Grade option, the most cost-effective option.
- Metro's goal is to provide alternative means of transportation, alleviate traffic, reduce air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions, minimize environmental impacts, and improve equity and connections to the LA Metro bus and train connections.
- All three options will end at the Torrance Regional Transit Center, however, the Elevated Hawthorne Boulevard option, due to it being far from the new Redondo Beach Transit Center, will prompt LA Metro to build a new station on Hawthorne Boulevard south of Artesia to provide riders access to the train (elevated structure).
- All three options do not anticipate having eminent domain on residential properties, but for the Elevated at Hawthorne Boulevard option, there will be property acquisitions for commercial spaces along Hawthorne.
- LA Metro proposed the following mitigations to help reduce noise and vibrations caused by the project: quiet hours, quiet zones, track upgrades to reduce noise and vibrations, and bell shrouds.
- Traffic will be impacted on Hawthorne Boulevard per LA Metro's proposal to remove left-turn pockets and / or adding traffic lights.
- LA Metro studied the following under the draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR): transportation, land-use, aesthetics, air quality, greenhouse gas emissions, noise vibrations, biological resources, geology, hazardous materials, hydrology, utility services, cultural resources, tribal resources, and other California requirements.
- Metro Board will make its final decision on the proposed alternatives, June 22, 2023.

Members of the Commission spoke.

MOTION: Commissioner Endo-Roberts moved to accept and file the report on the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority C-Line Extension. Commissioner Seferian seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected unanimous approval.

7B. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT – REVIEW AND DISCUSS A REVISED ORDINANCE TO PROHIBIT SMOKING IN AND AROUND MULTI-UNIT RESIDENCES:

Community Development Director Ramirez presented Item 7B.

- Staff prepared a Supplemental Item, updating various Sections dealing with Grandfathering, Administrative Enforcement, and Enforcement and provided further options and clarifications.
- Staff recommends the Commission review the Ordinance and either direct staff to finalize the report, finalize proposed Ordinance with changes, request City Attorney's review, and bring back the Item to a future date, or accept and file with no changes to the Municipal Code and direct staff to report findings to City Council.
- If the Commission directs staff to finalize the Ordinance, the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health Tobacco Control and Prevention Program offered to have their legal counsel review the Ordinance for consistency with state law at no cost to the city.

Commissioner Jendrucko requested that the term "grandfathering" be substituted with "legacy" or "preauthorization" verbiage due to its negative historical associations. Community Development Director Ramirez stated that this would be the will of the Commission.

Members of the Commission spoke.

Members of the public spoke.

MOTION: Commissioner Jendrucko moved to finalize the Ordinance with the term "temporary exemption" in place of "grandfathering" and moved to remove the section on medical marijuana. Commissioner Wright seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected unanimous approval.

Community Development Director Ramirez stated that staff will finalize the Ordinance, send to the City Attorney's Office for review, and start public outreach. The Item will be brought back July 2023 for a public hearing.

8. PUBLIC HEARINGS

None.

9. COMMISSION ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Commissioner Wright announced the April 22, 2023, public shredding event at 23740 Hawthorne Boulevard, Torrance, CA 90505.

Commissioner Wright requested staff inform the Commission on upcoming events.

MOTION: Commissioner Jendrucko moved to have the Torrance Unified School District's Nutrition Services staff present their work regarding reducing carbon footprints. Commissioner Love seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected unanimous approval.

Commissioner Endo-Roberts presented paperwork regarding the South Bay Energy and Climate Recognition Program, Pure Water Southern California, and the Water Replenishment District.

Commissioner Love encouraged everyone to take the Torrance Water Pledge.

Chair Stecker inquired on the Climate Smart Award presentation to City Council. Community Development Director Ramirez stated that she will work with Commissioner Wright, who volunteered to present the Climate Smart Awards to City Council, to coordinate his time.

Chair Stecker had various inquiries on the Climate Smart Awards, Community Development Director stated that the Climate Smart Awards format can be placed on the May 2023 Agenda for further discussion.

Chair Stecker inquired on the Yard Fair. Staff Liaison Duncan replied that a discussion can be had during the May 2023 meeting.

10. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: At 8:33 p.m. Commissioner Seferian moved to adjourn the meeting to Thursday, April 6, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. Commissioner Hill seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected unanimous approval.

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

Members of the Commission:

SUBJECT: Community Development- Review and Discuss Torrance Climate Smart Awards

During the Environmental Commission meeting of April 6, 2023, the Commission directed staff to bring the Climate Smart Awards for discussion of the voting criteria on the nominations for Torrance Climate Smart Awards and to review the nominations received.

BACKGROUND:

In September of 2019, the Environmental Commission indicated an interest in re-establishing a recognition program for Environmental initiatives in the community on a regular basis. After discussion, the Commission directed staff to bring back suggestions to start a new program, with nominations made by staff, Commissioners and the community, a name for the program, categories to be awarded and the frequency of presenting the award.

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 commission, 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. After discussion regarding the categories and commission feedback, the Commission directed staff to bring the item back for further discussion.

The Climate Smart Award was brought back to multiple Commission meetings throughout the remainder of 2021 and 2022 to discuss outreach, criteria for choosing recipients and the presentation of the award. The Commission discussed and decided on the categories, with criteria built in, and the dates for nominations and presentation of the award.

DISCUSSION

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, in support of the Stewardship of the Environment Priority in the 2021 Strategic Plan. The Climate Smart awards and criteria are in the following categories:

- **CLIMATE SMART ENERGY**: Outstanding achievements in clean energy, energy efficiency, demand reduction and reduced greenhouse gas emissions.

- CLIMATE SMART WATER: Achievements in water conservation through implementation, planting and promotion of water conservation efforts.
- CLIMATE SMART YOUTH: Torrance school aged youth, individuals or groups, for outstanding leadership in climate change and building awareness and engagement of their peers, school and community.
- CLIMATE SMART COMMUNITY: Individual members of the Torrance Community or a community group that provided outstanding support to the implementation and goals of the strategic plan pertaining to environmental stewardship.
- CLIMATE SMART BUSINESS: Retail, commercial, industrial and other businesses that demonstrate achievements in any areas of the award criteria or has received a recognized environmental certification, including but not limited to Clean Bay Restaurant or LEED.

The goal of the award is to highlight citizens, groups, businesses and organizations in Torrance who demonstrate the importance of environmental stewardship.

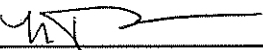
RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Environmental Quality Commission:

1. Discuss Climate Smart Awards voting criteria; and
2. Vote on Climate Smart Awards nominees that meet voting criteria.

Respectfully Submitted,

MICHELLE G. RAMIREZ
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

By 

Nora Duncan
Sr. Environmental Quality Officer

Attachments: 1) Climate Smart Award Nominations

The Climate Smart Award is a program being implemented by the Environmental Quality and Energy Conservation Commission in support of the Stewardship of the Environment Priority in the 2021 Strategic Plan. The Strategic Plan can be found at www.TorranceCA.Gov/Government/City-Manager/Strategic-Plan. The goal of the award is to highlight people, businesses and organizations within Torrance that through services and actions clearly demonstrate the importance of environmental stewardship. The award categories are defined below.

Please check one of the following award categories:

CLIMATE SMART BUSINESS: Recognizes retail, commercial, industrial and other businesses that demonstrate achievements in any areas of the award criteria or has received a recognized environmental certification, including but not limited to Clean Bay Restaurant, LEED and/or Green Business Network standards.

Please provide us with your contact information:

Full Name
John Stecker

Phone
(310) 378-3774

Email
jsteckerdds@gmail.com

Please provide us with Nominee contact and award nominee site information:

Nominee Name
Torrance Memorial Medical Center Contact: Jackie Parker

Nominee Address
3330 W. Lomita Blvd.
Torrance CA

Nominee Phone Number
(310) 517-4162

Nominee Email
jackie.parker@tmmc.com

Briefly describe the achievements of this nominee and how their efforts have significantly improved life in the Torrance community.

TMMC's management efforts have been aimed at reducing their carbon footprint and water conservation. These efforts have reduced water usage by 23 million gallons per year while lighting system upgrades have reduced electrical power usage by almost 120 million kilowatts per year-- the equivalent of usage by 121,000 Torrance homes. Sustainability efforts have also allowed the hospital to save 1.14 million tons of carbon and more than \$200,000 per year in expenses. TMMC participates in the Better Tomorrow Plan 2025 to reduce the ecological burden of food service operations.

Attachment
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The Climate Smart Award is a program being implemented by the Environmental Quality and Energy Conservation Commission in support of the Stewardship of the Environment Priority in the 2021 Strategic Plan. The Strategic Plan can be found at www.TorranceCA.Gov/Government/City-Manager/Strategic-Plan. The goal of the award is to highlight people, businesses and organizations within Torrance that through services and actions clearly demonstrate the importance of environmental stewardship. The award categories are defined below.

Please check one of the following award categories:

CLIMATE SMART WATER: Recognizes achievements in water conservation through implementation, planning and promotion of water conservation efforts.

Please provide us with your contact information:

Full Name

Garrett Wright

Phone

(310) 422-2297

Email

WrightEO@aol.com

Please provide us with Nominee contact and award nominee site information:

Nominee Name

Jim Montgomery

Nominee Address

Sorry that I don't have his address, but the city does.

Nominee Phone Number

SKIPPED

Nominee Email

jim.f.monty@gmail.com

Briefly describe the achievements of this nominee and how their efforts have significantly improved life in the Torrance community.

Jim has consistently promoted water saving measures personally and at his residence. He has replaced all his vegetation with native drought resistant plants. He has an impressive collection of rain barrels that he has organized into his supply for irrigation at his house. Jim also believes in a smaller personal use by promoting water saving fixtures and water saving procedures for personal hygiene. Jim served 8 years on the Torrance Environmental Commission, two as the chair. During that time, his passion for the environment was evident and appreciated. Jim is now an integral part of the native plant restoration project along Torrance and Redondo's hillside above the beach. As a "do as I do, and not as I say" individual, Jim leads by example.

Attachment

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

Members of the Commission:

SUBJECT: Community Development – Discuss City Yard Open House

During the Environmental Commission meeting of April 06, 2023, the Commission directed staff to bring back information on the City Yard Open House. As we are finalizing plans for this event, staff would like feedback from the Commission as to which Commissioners would like to participate in the Open House.

This will be the first Open House/Environmental fair since 2018 and is bringing with it some changes, including no outside vendors for the event. The footprint of the event will be a much smaller scale and the giveaways will be limited. For Community Development, Environmental staff, NPDES/Stormwater, the Environmental Commission and the Historic Preservation will be represented. With a scaled down event, we will have a limited area to work in and will need to have the Commission work in shifts. The event is Saturday June 10, 2023, and runs from 8:00 AM to 2:00 PM. Staff would like to accommodate as many of the Commissioners as possible and volunteering in shifts will help each Commissioner have more focused, quality, interactions with the public.

In terms of giveaways, we have ordered reusable grocery bags. Our goal in providing these items is to educate as well as provide items that can be used sustainably, within the limited budget available for the event.

Staff is looking to the Commission for ideas regarding the format of outreach the Commission would like to provide and how many Commissioners will be participating.

Respectfully submitted,

MICHELLE G. RAMIREZ
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

By 

Nora Duncan
Sr. Environmental Quality Officer