

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, Nora Duncan 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.

The Environmental Quality and Energy Conservation Commission is an advisory body to the City Council that meets the first Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m. All meetings are open to the public.

Any correspondence received after 2:00 p.m. on November 2, 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
NOVEMBER 2, 2023
REGULAR MEETING
7:00 P.M. IN WEST ANNEX COMMISSION MEETING ROOM
AT 3031 TORRANCE BL.**

**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: Gunnar, Hill, Jendrucko, Love, Montoya, Seferian, 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, October 26, 2023.

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 ANNOUNCEMENT OF WITHDRAWN, DEFERRED, AND/OR SUPPLEMENTAL ITEMS

5. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS (Limited up 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: September 7, 2023

7. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

7A. Accept and File Historic Preservation Commission Meeting Update.

7B. Presentation: Community Development Department, Code Enforcement Unit.

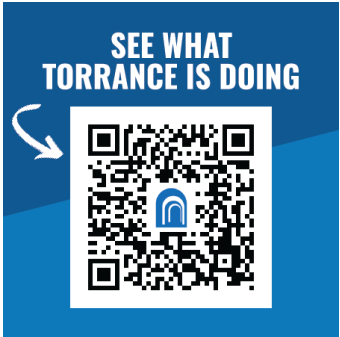
7C. Discussion of Change of Start Time for the Environmental Quality and Energy Conservation Meetings.

8. PUBLIC HEARINGS

9. COMMISSION ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

10. ADJOURNMENT

10A. Adjournment of Environmental Quality and Energy Conservation Commission Meeting to Thursday, December 7, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. in the West Annex 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 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, September 7, 2023, in the West Annex Commission Meeting Room.

ROLL CALL

Present: Commissioners Gunnar, Hill, Jendrucko, Love, Montoya, Seferian, and Chair Stecker.

Absent: None.

Also Present: Staff Liaison Nora Duncan, Community Services Manager John La Rock, Neighborhood Services Manager Gregg Lodan, and Community Development Director Michelle Ramirez.

MOTION: Commissioner Love moved to excuse the absence of Commissioner Seferian. Commissioner Hill seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected a 6-0 approval (Commissioner Seferian absent).

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, August 31, 2023.

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 ANNOUNCEMENT OF WITHDRAWN, DEFERRED, AND/OR SUPPLEMENTAL ITEMS

None.

5. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

None.

6. CONSENT CALENDAR

6A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - None.

7. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

7A. PRESENTATION: COMMUNITY SERVICES, JOHN LA ROCK, CITY FIREWORKS SHOW

Community Services Manager La Rock presented Item 7A.

- Commissioner Seferian joined the meeting at 7:04 p.m.
- Drones, an alternate to fireworks, have been explored. Research found that at least (2,500) drones would need to be used to have an impact / view corridor; drones have a flight time of 9-12 minutes and would need to switch out periodically. Drone shows are priced double that of firework shows, are typically choreographed with a one direction viewing, and has no audio component (audio would be a separate cost).
- Staff creates an RFP for firework shows every year and includes a drone analysis that's provided to City Council for their input.
- All personal fireworks are illegal in the City of Torrance.

Members of the Commission spoke.

Chair Stecker expressed his concerns on the effects fireworks have on pets, wildlife, individuals with PTSD, and smoke and air pollution. Community Services Manager John La Rock replied that drone technology will continue to evolve and could be an aspect of the Fourth of July show; ultimately, it's the City Council's discretion.

No members of the public spoke.

7B. PRESENTATION: CLIMATE SMART AWARD RECIPIENT JIM MONTGOMERY, WATER

Mr. Jim Montgomery, Water Climate Smart Award recipient, provided a presentation, sharing his water conservation methods.

- Artificial lawns are not smart, use of drought tolerant, water efficient, wildlife friendly California native plant landscape was suggested. There are (6,500) plants native to California and the diversity of wildflowers can support the biodiversity of life.
- Mr. Montgomery suggested to revisit electrical lawn equipment instead of gas-powered equipment.
- Industrial-scale and animal-based agriculture have negative impacts on the environment (water, air, soil, farm workers, wildlife, and farm animals), the use of sustainable and plant-based agriculture that have no chemicals and herbicides was suggested. Mr. Montgomery noted that when your soil is healthy, it holds more water.
- Track water usage with a Flume system; strap the Flume system around the water main to measure various uses of water.

Members of the Commission spoke.

Commissioner Montoya inquired if newsletters about sustainability were available, and if not, suggested Mr. Montgomery coordinate with Community Development Director Ramirez to discuss monthly postings.

Commissioner Gunnar inquired on the Blue Zone Project and if the Commission would be interested in participating / getting additional information. Mr. Montgomery suggested that the City of Torrance tap into learning more on the Blue Zone Project.

Chair Stecker presented the award to Mr. Montgomery.

7C. ACCEPT AND FILE – CITY YARD OPEN HOUSE UPDATE

Staff Liaison Duncan presented Item 7C.

- June 10, 2023, staff prepared a booth promoting the Environmental Quality and Energy Conservation Commission at the City Yard Open House and created an interactive survey on the most important item on the Strategic Plan; participants took part in the survey with the majority selecting Goal 5: Improvement of Water Reliability. Members of the Commission spoke.

Community Development Director Ramirez stated that the city puts on multiple events through the year and when the Environmental Quality and Energy Conservation Commission can participate, staff will inform the Commission.

A member of the public spoke.

Community Development Director Ramirez stated that the STRAP Plan is being researched by the City Manager's Office and will be designated to different departments / groups to start tackling issues; staff will keep the Commission informed with any issues for review.

MOTION: Commissioner Jendrucko moved to accept and file Item 7C. Commissioner Seferian seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected unanimous approval.

8. PUBLIC HEARINGS

None.

9. COMMISSION ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Members of the Commission spoke.

Commissioner Jendrucko requested an excused absence for Thursday, October 5, 2023.

Chair Stecker inquired on the Beach Cities Green Streets Program. Community Development Director Ramirez stated that staff can research and bring back to the Commission in a future meeting.

Commission Seferian and Commissioner Love volunteered to present the Climate Smart Awards at the Historic Preservation Commission Thursday, September 21, 2023.

Community Development Director Ramirez introduced Neighborhood Services Manager Gregg Lodan.

10. **ADJOURNMENT**

MOTION: At 8:21 p.m. Commissioner Montoya moved to adjourn the meeting to Thursday, October 5, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. in the West Annex Commission Meeting Room. Commissioner Seferian seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected unanimous approval.

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Subject to Approval

Commission Meeting of
November 02, 2023

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


Members of the Commission:

SUBJECT: Agenda Item 7A Community Development- Accept and File Update on Presentation to the Historic Preservation Commission

During the September 21, 2023, meeting of the Torrance Historic Preservation Commission, two members of the Environmental Quality and Energy Conservation Commission presented information about the Climate Smart Awards Program. Commissioner's Seferian and Love will share their experience with the Historic Preservation Commission and update the TEQECC on the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

MICHELLE G. RAMIREZ
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

By 

Nora Duncan
Sr. Environmental Quality Officer

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

Members of the Commission:


SUBJECT: Agenda Item 7B Community Development- Update on Neighborhood Services Division, Code Enforcement Unit

With the reorganization of the Community Development Department that was approved in 2023, the Environmental Division was merged into a newly created Neighborhood Services Division. This division consists of the City's Housing Office, Special Programs/Homelessness and Environmental/Code Enforcement. Prior to this reorganization, the City did not have a traditional Code Enforcement Unit.

At tonight's meeting, staff will provide an update to the Commission on the newly constituted Code Enforcement Unit including background on our Administrative Citation powers. We will also introduce some of the members of the Code Enforcement unit and provide a brief synopsis of some of the unit's recent successes with unlicensed street vendors, non-permitted Cannabis Dispensaries, and examples of the use of the Administrative Cite power.

Respectfully Submitted,

MICHELLE G. RAMIREZ
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

By 

Nora Duncan
Sr. Environmental Quality Officer

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

Members of the Commission:

SUBJECT: Agenda Item 7C Community Development- Discussion of Change of Start Time for the Environmental Quality and Energy Conservation Commission Meetings

In 2021, City Council provided the opportunity for Commissions to begin at an earlier start time. Several Commissions have taken advantage of this option. This change would need to reflect a time that is convenient for Commissioners and the public and would be consistent with the recent change in the City Council meeting start time.

An earlier start time was presented to the Environmental Quality and Energy Conservation Commission previously but was not adopted by the Commission. Staff are bringing the earlier start time back to the Environmental Quality and Energy Conservation Commission for discussion.


As shown below, changes to start times have occurred in several other Commissions.

- Civil Service Commission: start time of 6:00 p.m.
- Historic Preservation Commission: start time of 6:30 p.m.
- Library Commission: start time of 6:00 p.m.
- Social Services Commission: start time of 6:00 p.m.
- Water Commission: start time of 6:30 p.m.

Staff recommends the Environmental Quality and Energy Conservation Commission discuss the possibility of changing their Commission meeting start time. If the consensus is to change the start time of the meetings, then staff will prepare an item for a future City Council meeting based on the direction provided by the Environmental Quality and Energy Conservation Commission.

Respectfully Submitted,

MICHELLE G. RAMIREZ
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

By 

Nora Duncan
Sr. Environmental Quality Officer