

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if special assistance is needed 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]

The Environmental Quality and Energy Conservation Commission is an advisory body to the City Council that meets on the first Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m. All meetings are open to the public. Agendas, staff reports, and minutes are available for review on the City webpage at www.TorranceCA.gov/Environmental-Quality-Commission-Agendas-Minutes

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.

Members of the public may provide comments related to any items on the meeting agenda. Oral comments are limited to three minutes per speaker for items on the agenda and limited to one minute per speaker for items not on the agenda. Everyone interested in speaking on an agenda item will be heard at the meeting. Speakers are asked to come forward to the podium, speak clearly, and provide their name and address for the record. Meetings are audio recorded. Language translation services are not available. If presenting handout material to the Environmental Commission, please provide 10 color copies to staff before speaking.

Written comments may be submitted via email to EnvironmentalCommission@torranceca.gov. Written comments may also be delivered by mail or submitted in-person to the Permit Center (Environmental Counter) in the Community Development Department located at the above referenced address, open 8:00am to 5:00pm, Monday through Thursday, open alternate Fridays. Comments must include in the subject line "Public Comment" and the record number. Comments must be pertinent to the agenda item and must not include personal remarks. All personal signatures, personal addresses, personal telephone numbers and personal email addresses must be omitted or will be redacted. Repetitive comments and/or duplicate copies of petitions and flyers are neither necessary nor helpful.

Comments that are submitted no later than 5:00pm on Wednesday the day before the Environmental Commission meeting will be included as a supplemental agenda item and will be posted on the City webpage no later than 5:00pm on Thursday the day of the meeting. A copy of the supplemental agenda item will be available at the back of the Commission room. Comments that are submitted in writing after 5:00pm on Wednesday the day before the Environmental Commission meeting will be filed with the public record.

**TORRANCE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY AND ENERGY CONSERVATION
COMMISSION AGENDA
MARCH 07, 2024
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, February 29, 2024.

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: February 01, 2024

7. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

7A. Accept and File Update on Torrance Climate Smart Awards

8. PUBLIC HEARINGS

9. COMMISSION ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

10. ADJOURNMENT

10A. Adjournment of Environmental Quality and Energy Conservation Commission Meeting to Thursday, April 4, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. in the West Annex Commission Meeting Room.



**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF THE
TORRANCE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
& ENERGY CONSERVATION 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, February 1, 2024, 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, Planning Manager Gregg Lodan, and Management Associate Carlos Huizar.

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, January 25, 2024.

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

Staff Liaison Duncan stated that Item 7C will be taken out order.

5. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

A member of the Youth Council spoke.

6. CONSENT CALENDAR

6A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: DECEMBER 7, 2023

MOTION: Commissioner Love moved to approve the December 7, 2023, minutes. Commissioner Hill seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected a 6-0 approval (Commissioner Seferian absent).

Commissioner Seferian joined the meeting at 7:07 p.m.

7. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

7A. ACCEPT AND FILE BEAUTIFICATION AWARDS PROGRAM

Staff Liaison Duncan presented Item 8A:

- In November 2023, City Council directed the Community Development Department to develop a Beautification Awards Program; the program will be implemented to preserve and enhance the beautiful appearance of Torrance's residential neighborhoods.
- Intent of the program is to focus on beautification of neighborhoods and honor property owners / residents for outstanding maintenance of their homes. Once the program is finalized and approved by the Commission, it will be presented to City Council.

Members of the Commission spoke.

No members of the public spoke.

MOTION: Commissioner Montoya moved to close public hearing. Commissioner Seferian seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected a 7-0 approval.

MOTION: Commissioner Jendrucko moved to accept and file Item 7A. Commissioner Seferian seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected a 7-0 approval.

7B. INTRODUCTION OF THE 2024 AGENDA CALENDAR FOR THE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY AND ENERGY CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Staff Liaison Duncan presented Item 8B:

- Agenda Calendar has been prepared for the first half of the year for 2024; staff may update the calendar throughout the year as necessary.

No members of the public spoke.

MOTION: Commissioner Love moved to close public comment. Commissioner Montoya seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected 7-0 approval.

7C. UPDATE ON THE CITY'S PROGRESS ON THE TORRANCE CIVIC CENTER MASTER PLAN AND ECONOMIC FEASIBILITY STUDY

Management Associate Huizar presented Item 7C:

- The Civic Center campus is a span of 40-acres (approximately 9-acres owned by the state of California), with the city owning (15) city building.
- Staff are exploring considerations of development through the age and conditions of city buildings, operational and functional issues, aesthetics, and costs.
- Staff started the request for proposals in February 2023, receiving (8) proposals from various firms; a rigorous interview and evaluation process commenced and in July 2023, staff presented an Item to City Council who awarded the contract to Gruen and Associates. Gruen and Associates will assist with the development of the Master Plan, community engagement strategy, economic factors, design alternatives, and create a plan for how the Civic Center can be developed in the coming years.

- The contract with Gruen and Associates started August 2023, in that time, an Existing Conditions Analysis, interviews with city departments regarding space planning needs, and engagement with community members was conducted.
- Staff is looking for feedback from the Commission to use data to formulate designs.

Management Associate Huizar stated that information on the Torrance Civic Master Plan and Economic Feasibility Study can be found on the city website and that the Torrance Library Branches and Permit Center will have additional information available.

Members of the Commission spoke.

No members of the public spoke.

MOTION: Commissioner Seferian moved to close the public hearing. Commissioner Love seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected a 7-0 approval.

8. PUBLIC HEARINGS

None.

9. COMMISSION ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Commissioner Love requested the Climate Smart Awards be included in the electronic newsletter to publicize the awards more. Staff Liaison Duncan acknowledged the request.

Commissioner Montoya requested a follow up on the change in Commission start time. Staff Liaison Duncan replied that City Council will review before the March 6th, 2024, meeting; staff will update the Commission with the decision.

Commissioner Jendrucko announced that the Friends of Madrona Marsh will celebrate its 50th year anniversary.

Chair Stecker requested that the awards be more visible on the Torrance website. Staff Liaison Duncan acknowledged the request.

Commissioner Seferian acknowledged Chair Stecker, stating that City Cable should also be reached out to to promote the awards. Planning Manager Gregg Lodan stated that staff can reach out to City Cable.

Chair Stecker requested that energy conservation discussions be added as an Agenda Item in the future. Staff Liaison Duncan acknowledged the request.

Chair Stecker requested that the Surf Riders Foundation be reached out to for a presentation regarding beach ratings and recommendations for protecting the beaches. Staff Liaison Duncan acknowledged the request.

10. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: At 7:46 p.m. Commissioner Gunnar moved to adjourn the meeting to Thursday, March 7, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. Commissioner Seferian seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected 7-0 approval.

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Brittney Jenkins

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Recording Secretary

Environmental Quality &
Energy Conservation Commission
February 1, 2024

AGENDA ITEM NO. 7A

To: Members of the Environmental Quality and Energy Conservation Commission

FROM: Neighborhood Services


SUBJECT: Accept and File Update on Climate Smart Awards

During the February 1, 2024, meeting of the Torrance Environmental Quality and Energy Conservation Commission, the commission requested information on the status of the Climate Smart Awards nominations and outreach.

At tonight's meeting, staff will provide an update on Torrance Climate Smart Awards, including how many nominations have been received and what is being done to advertise the awards program.

Respectfully Submitted,

MICHELLE G. RAMIREZ
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

By 

Nora Duncan
Sr. Environmental Quality Officer