

**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 7:19 p.m. on Thursday, November 6, 2014 in the West Annex meeting room at Torrance City Hall

**2. ROLL CALL:**

Present: Commissioners Chim, Deemer, DeWitt, Martin, Montgomery, and Chairperson Gobble.

Absent: Commissioner Robbins.

Also Present: Deputy Community Development Director Cessna, Senior Environmental Quality Officer Jones, Environmental Quality Officer Bradshaw, Environmental Quality Officer Oorts, and Permit Tech Sabosky.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Chim moved to grant Commissioner Robbins an excused absence for the November 6, 2014 Commission meeting. Commissioner Montgomery seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected unanimous approval.

**3. SALUTE TO THE FLAG**

Commissioner Martin led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**4. POSTING OF THE AGENDA**

**MOTION:** Commissioner Chim, seconded by Commissioner Martin, moved to accept and file the report of the secretary on the posting of the agenda for this meeting; a roll call vote reflected unanimous approval.

**5. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC**

None.

**6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

**6A. MINUTES OF OCTOBER 2, 2014**

**MOTION:** Commissioner Montgomery moved to approve the Environmental Quality and Energy Conservation Commission meeting minutes of October 2, 2014 as presented. Commissioner Deemer seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected unanimous approval (Chairperson Gobble abstaining).

## **7. ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS**

### **7A. TEQECC WORK PLAN**

Deputy Director Cessna provided background on the Commission's Work Plan priorities and, based on feedback from former Councilmembers at the June 11 joint meeting, she suggested that the Commission continue to look at Climate Action Planning and Regulation of Outdoor Smoking. She informed the Commission that an item regarding the keeping of chickens and bees was considered by the Planning Commission on November 5 and that they chose to accept and file; however, she advised them that the item would be forwarded to City Council for their consideration in January 2015. She noted that City Council has taken the lead on the Community Choice Aggregation program that was presented at the October 2 Commission meeting. She stated that an interim update on Climate Action Planning and energy efficiencies is expected in February 2015. She pointed out that there are several new Councilmembers and asked Commissioners if they want to revisit Leaf Blower Regulation, Yard Sale Regulation, or Code Enforcement for Temporary Signs, or if they have other areas of interest they would like to explore.

Commissioner DeWitt expressed interest in looking at the ban of single use plastic bags and was informed that the ban is effective in July 2015 by State law.

Commissioner Chim raised the possibility of looking at the ban of Styrofoam and stated that the new City Council may want to consider Leaf Blower Regulation. In response to her inquiry, Deputy Director Cessna related environmental aspects that the Planning Commission expressed concern about regarding the keeping of bees and chickens.

Commissioner Montgomery discussed the importance of sustainability and the possibility of expanding the Department to have an Office of Sustainability to look at how Torrance can think holistically about sustainability issues.

Deputy Director Cessna stated that this might be a good topic to discuss at a future joint meeting with City Council. She noted that at present the Environmental Services Center serves as Torrance's Office of Sustainability.

In response to Chairperson Gobble's inquiry, Deputy Director Cessna described the Cal Green building code adopted by the State. She stated that the Environmental Services Center is looking at different levels of projections and that the City has already adopted a 30% reduction by 2030.

Responding to Commissioner Martin's inquiries, she noted that the Climate Action Plan would lead into the Beacon Award and suggested scheduling a joint meeting with City Council in late spring or early summer. She added that a City Council subcommittee is planning to reorganize the City's website to make it more accessible and user friendly.

Referring to the keeping of chicken and bees, Deputy Director Cessna stated that staff is considering placing an insert in water and/or trash bills asking for public input. She offered to speak informally with Councilmembers to gauge their interest.

Chairperson Gobble raised the possibility of amending Torrance Municipal Code to require election fliers to be recycled paper.

Deputy Director Cessna stated that his suggestion should be brought up to City Council and Commissioner Chim discussed First Amendment rights.

**8. ORAL COMMUNICATION**

**8A.** It was noted that Commissioner Chim would be termed out in January 2015 and Commissioners expressed their appreciation for her leadership and guidance over the last 10 years of service to the City. They also congratulated her on her husband Ted Lieu's election to Congress.

**8B.** Commissioner Chim stated that she may need an excused absence for the December 4, 2014 Commission meeting.

**8C.** Commissioner DeWitt stated that the ExxonMobil Community Advisory Panel explained recent flare-ups and that there were no safety concerns.

**8D.** Chairperson Gobble stated that he is going on a Metropolitan Water District inspection tour to the Colorado River on November 7, 2014.

**8E.** Chairperson Gobble announced a light exchange on November 13-14 at the Environmental Services Center.

**8F.** Deputy Director Cessna informed the Commission that their Annual Report was approved by City Council on November 18 and that the appeal to City Council regarding the dog Nala was scheduled for November 25.

**9. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:** At 8:33 p.m., Commissioner Martin moved to adjourn the meeting to December 4, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. in the West Annex meeting room. Commissioner DeWitt seconded the motion and, hearing no objection, Chairperson Gobble so ordered.

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Approved as submitted December 4, 2014 s/ Rebecca Poirier, City Clerk
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