

April 7, 2016

**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, April 7, 2016 in the West Annex meeting room at Torrance City Hall.

2. ROLL CALL:

Present: Commissioners Deemer, Endo-Roberts,* Martin, Montgomery, Stecker, Wright, and Chairperson DeWitt.

Absent: None.

Also Present: Senior Environmental Quality Officer Jones and Environmental Quality Officer McCrea.

*Commissioner Endo-Roberts arrived at 7:08 p.m.

3. SALUTE TO THE FLAG

Commissioner Montgomery led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. POSTING OF THE AGENDA

MOTION: Commissioner Martin, with a second by Commissioner Wright, moved to accept and file the report of the secretary on the posting of the agenda for this meeting; the motion passed on a 6-0 roll call vote.

5. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC - None.

6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – MARCH 3, 2016

Commissioner Montgomery offered the following correction: Page 3, 8E, "Vice-Chairperson Montgomery stated that he has received 5 rain barrels over three years from the South Bay Environmental Services Center."

MOTION: Commissioner Wright moved to approve the Commission meeting minutes of March 3, 2016 as amended. Commissioner Montgomery seconded the motion; the motion passed on a 6-0 roll call vote.

7. ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS

7A. TEQECC WORK PLAN

Senior Environmental Quality Officer Jones reviewed areas of interest in the Commission's work plan that were discussed at the March 3 meeting. She stated that Climate Action Planning would continue to be the longest-term work area for the Commission and would include green technologies such as residential wind generation. Referring to Leaf Blower Regulation, she suggested waiting until the new City Council is installed to receive feedback on the feasibility of moving forward. She stated that Park Services Manager Carson and Streetscape Manager Emerson have offered to provide presentations to the Commission regarding Integrated Pest Management techniques. She stated that the American Lung Association would be presenting information to the Commission in May regarding Regulation of Outdoor Smoking and e-cigarettes.

She provided an update on issues that staff has been working on with City Council. She stated that on April 5 Council approved the keeping of chickens, noting changes made to the original staff proposal regarding notification and complaints. She stated that on March 15 Council approved staff's proposal for garage sale regulation but increased the number of sales permitted each year to four. She noted that there would be an on-line application and no fee permit and that staff is preparing a draft ordinance for Council's review. She stated that Planning staff is working on a draft ordinance to regulate Air B&B businesses in the City. She stated that there has been a problem with mobile auto detailers and that staff is proposing waterless detailing to Council. She stated that the City is looking into installing two electronic readerboards near freeways for advertising and that staff is working on codes to govern them.

In response to Commissioner Stecker's inquiry, Senior Environmental Quality Officer Jones explained that enforcement of garage sales would be driven by complaint.

Referring to Pest Management, Commissioner Montgomery stated that he would like to know what chemicals the City uses as well as how much and how often they are applied.

Commissioner Deemer inquired about potential Commission involvement in the Tree View Ordinance, and staff explained that it is currently in the public comment phase and that the City is looking into using an arbitrator to settle disputes.

Chairperson DeWitt voiced his support for environmental educational outreach on the City's website and Commissioner Stecker distributed a sample list "Ride the Green Wave" of environmental groups, addresses, and description.

A brief discussion centered on community gardens in Torrance and the City of Santa Monica.

7B. ENVIRONMENTAL FAIR

Environmental Quality Officer McCrea reported that approximately 200 exhibitors and vendors have been invited to participate at the June 4 Environmental Fair.

Commissioner Montgomery stated that he is reaching out to the electric vehicle community and hopes to have five to ten participate.

Jack Walser stated that he would be at the Fair and would offer recycling for small items such as toasters and cell phones. He expressed concern about unlicensed mobile vendors in the City.

Chairperson DeWitt suggested providing a board where the public can list their ideas for environmental matters.

8. ORAL COMMUNICATION

8A. Russell Akiyama, Sunflower Farms, thanked Commissioners for visiting his nursery and for providing the soil survey information.

8B. Commissioner Martin stated that city crews in Redondo Beach are considering using electric leaf blowers.

8C. Commissioner Wright asked staff to bring back information about recent organic waste legislation.

8D. Commissioners Endo-Roberts and Montgomery spoke.

8E. Commissioner Deemer requested that staff bring back a summary of the April 2 AQMD hearing.

8F. Chairperson DeWitt announced Earth Day on April 22, a recycling event at Toyota on April 23, and a recycling event at Honda on June 18.

9. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: At 7:55 p.m., Commissioner Endo-Roberts moved to adjourn the meeting to May 5, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. in the West Annex meeting room. Commissioner Deemer seconded the motion and, hearing no objection, Chairperson DeWitt so ordered.

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Approved as amended May 5, 2016 s/ Rebecca Poirier, City Clerk
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