

**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, October 1, 2015 in the West Annex meeting room at Torrance City Hall.

2. ROLL CALL:

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

Absent: Commissioner Gobble.

Also Present: Deputy Community Development Director Cessna, Environmental Quality Officer Oorts, and Planning Associate Lang.

MOTION: Commissioner Martin moved to grant Commissioner Gobble an excused absence for the October 1, 2015 Commission meeting. Commissioner Wright seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected unanimous approval.

3. SALUTE TO THE FLAG

Commissioner Endo-Roberts led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. POSTING OF THE AGENDA

MOTION: Commissioner Deemer, with a second by Commissioner Endo-Roberts, 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

Chairperson DeWitt explained the policies and procedures of the Environmental Quality and Energy Conservation Commission, including the right to appeal decisions to City Council.

6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - SEPTEMBER 3, 2015

MOTION: Commissioner Wright moved to approve the Commission meeting minutes of September 3, 2015 as presented. Commissioner Endo-Roberts seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected unanimous approval (absent Commissioner Gobble).

7. ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS

7A. DRAFT ENERGY EFFICIENCY CHAPTERS OF CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

Deputy Community Development Director Cessna welcomed Laura Zahn, Climate Change Consultant with South Bay Cities Council of Governments (SBCCOG), and Zhe Chen, Environmental Scientist with Atkins North America, who provided a PowerPoint presentation on the draft “Energy Efficiency Chapters of Climate Action Plans (EECAP) for South Bay Cities.”

Ms. Zahn provided background on the project that kicked off in early 2014 and has been prepared for both the community and the municipality. She stated that the project is funded through Southern California Edison and Southern California Gas companies to help meet goals from California’s Long-Term Energy Efficiency Strategic Plan. She stated that overall greenhouse gas (GHG) inventories were completed for 2005, 2007, 2010, and 2012 by sector. From these inventories, they worked with City staff to identify where there were opportunities for emissions reductions. She stated that the project is the first chapter of a larger Climate Action Plan and deals specifically with energy efficiency, noting that SBCCOG will be coming back over the next year to complete the process for transportation, land use and planning, waste, and energy generation and storage.

She described the two forecasts being used: Business as Usual (BAU), what emissions will look like based on projected growth, and Adjusted Business as Usual (ABAU), emissions based on projected growth that also incorporates State measures designed to reduce GHG emissions. She stated that the City would receive credit for some of the actions that the State will take. She noted that reductions for forecasts are based on 2012 to take into account all known reductions and that targets are based on State guidelines: 15% below 2005 levels by 2020 and 49% by 2035.

Ms. Chen explained a chart of Community ABAU Forecast and Reduction Targets noting that, even with State measures and legislation that has been adopted, the 2020 or 2035 goals would not be met without additional local reduction measures. She also described the Municipal ABAU and Reduction Targets, noting that the City would meet the 2020 goal with State measures but would need further reductions to meet the 2035 goal. She presented energy efficiency strategies that the City needs to adopt to meet the 2020 and 2035 GHG reduction targets for both the community and municipality. She stated that the City was provided with a list of measures they could choose from, with reductions calculated for each measure. She showed pie charts of emissions, noting that energy is 60% of the Community’s total emissions and 40% of the Municipality’s emissions. She explained spreadsheets used to calculate Community Energy Reduction Measures and Municipal Energy Reduction Measures, listing the responsible party for implementation, priority level, and quantified and potential reduction for each measure.

Commissioner Montgomery inquired about the accuracy of the models used to develop forecasts, and Ms. Chen stated that Atkins used well accepted methodology with data provided by SKAG regarding population, jobs, and households projections to forecast BAU and ABAU future emissions. It was noted that it is best practice to reinventory every three years and that the City’s municipal emissions is less than 1% of the overall community inventory.

Deputy Community Development Director Cessna explained that considerable time was spent determining the initial footprint in 2005 and that data also comes from Southern California Edison and Southern California Gas companies. She noted that staff from all Departments looked at a list of possible measures and selected those that they felt were feasible and could be accomplished.

Responding to Commissioner Wright's inquiries, Ms. Zahn further explained how inventories were taken and where transportation data came from. She stated that for Community they used a model to calculate vehicle miles traveled and for Municipal the City provided them with information regarding vehicle fleets and daily employee commutes. She added that the model only calculates miles that happen within the City and noted that transportation reduction measures would be presented next year.

Deputy Community Development Director Cessna noted that the City has already taken reduction measures such as LED light and water fixture change outs, cool roofs, and changing to hybrid and electric vehicles in the fleet. She stated that, looking forward, they can consider what level of green building to implement and how to educate the community about reduction measures.

A brief discussion centered on cool pavements that reflect light and absorb less heat.

In response to Commissioner Deemer's inquiry, Ms. Zahn stated that they look at seven specific GHG emissions that go into the atmosphere that include carbon dioxide, nitrous oxide, S6, and methane.

Commissioner Deemer pointed out that the City has a large number of retirees on fixed incomes and discussion centered on ways to encourage community reductions such as promoting the PACE HERO program, creating an Energy Award Program, and partnering with SBCCOG and utility companies in outreach programs.

Ms. Zahn reviewed the charts of Energy Reduction Measures and the policies that City staff decided to pursue, pointing out that measures that the City was not interested in are not included on the charts. She explained the list of sub-regional energy efficiency actions, noting that the SBCCOG has adopted several of these measures. She noted that a proposed list of Subregional Energy Efficiency Measures was included in Attachment A.

Commissioner DeWitt discussed the importance of education, home energy audits, and providing incentives for affordable home energy renovations.

Commissioner Deemer initiated a brief discussion regarding the City's tree replacement program. He noted that Torrance Municipal Water has already met its 2020 water reduction goal and that the recycled water line extension is on hold until grant funding becomes available.

Commissioner Martin received clarification that the City should be able to meet the 2020 and 2035 targets with adoption of these local energy reduction measures.

Ms. Zahn discussed next steps that include adoption of Community and Municipal Energy Reduction Measures by City Council, preparation of a comprehensive draft EECAP, and presentation of a final EECAP in late November/early December 2015. She noted that they lose their funding and consultant at the end of December.

MOTION: Commissioner Montgomery moved to recommend that City Council approve Energy Efficiency Measures for inclusion in the City's Climate Action Plan. Commissioner Deemer seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected unanimous approval (absent Commissioner Gobble).

7B. REVIEW / RECAP OF NATIONAL DRIVE ELECTRIC WEEK EVENT

Deputy Community Development Director Cessna distributed a September 24 letter from Commissioner Gobble offering his comments regarding the September 29 Torrance EEvent. She provided suggestions from participating car dealerships that included more food trucks, face painting, balloons, and opportunity drawings. She discussed a proposal to have an offseason EEvent at next year's Environmental Fair.

Commissioners offered positive comments about the event and expressed their appreciation to staff members for all their hard work in organizing it. Commissioner Endo-Roberts stated that she was impressed with the electric motorcycle and Commissioner Montgomery stated that he enjoyed driving the Model S Tesla.

Commissioner Montgomery suggested having better signage at the charging stations and Planning Associate Lang advised him that they would be installed in the near future.

Pat Welsh, audience member, stated that he was interested in being on a Commission and recommended building up e-mail contacts and upgrading the webpage.

8. NEW BUSINESS AND ORAL COMMUNICATION

8A. It was decided to wait until the November 5 Commission meeting to decide if the Commission would go dark on December 3, 2015.

8B. Commissioner Montgomery announced an Open House at Jet Propulsion Laboratory on October 10-11 and a Food Forum at Pacific Unitarian Church in Rancho Palos Verdes on October 24.

8C. Chairperson DeWitt shared information about an Air Resources Board workshop on October 16 in Sacramento.

8D. Commissioner Deemer announced an annual fair at Edward C. Little Recycling Plant on October 24 in El Segundo.

10. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: At 8:58 p.m., Commissioner Montgomery moved to adjourn the meeting to November 5, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. in the West Annex meeting room. Commissioner Endo-Roberts seconded the motion and, hearing no objection, Chairperson DeWitt so ordered.

###

Approved as amended November 5, 2015 s/ Rebecca Poirier, City Clerk

Deborah Schaffer
Recording Secretary

Environmental Quality and
Energy Conservation Committee
October 1, 2015