



## **Environmental Quality and Energy Conservation Commission**

The Environmental Quality and Energy Conservation Commission is an advisory body to the City Council on matters pertaining to oil, animal, energy conservation, and other environmental matters. Regular meetings are scheduled on the first Thursday of the month at 7:00 p.m. in the West Annex Commission Meeting Room.

Staff reports are available for review at the Community Development Department, Civic Center Main Library, and the City Clerk's Office. Direct questions or concerns to Deputy Director Linda Cessna at 310.618.5930. Agendas and Minutes are posted on the City of Torrance Home Page – [www.TorranceCA.Gov](http://www.TorranceCA.Gov).

Decisions by the Environmental Quality and Energy Conservation Commission may be appealed to the City Council. Such appeals shall be in writing, accompanied by the filing fee, and shall be filed with the City Clerk within fifteen (15) calendar days following the decision of the Environmental Quality and Energy Conservation Commission.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if special assistance is needed to participate in this meeting, please contact the City Manager's Office at 310.618.5880. Notification 48 hours prior to the meeting will enable the City to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility to this meeting. [28CFR 35.102-104 ADA Title II].

### **HOURS OF OPERATION**

**Monday through Friday from  
7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.**

**Offices are closed alternate Fridays.**

**City Hall will be closed:  
Friday, May 10, 2019  
Friday, May 24, 2019**

# **ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY AND ENERGY CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

**WEST ANNEX COMMISSION MEETING ROOM  
CITY HALL, 3031 TORRANCE BOULEVARD  
TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA 90503**

**THURSDAY, MAY 2, 2019  
7:00 P.M.**

## **AGENDA**

- 1. CALL TO ORDER**
- 2. ROLL CALL/MOTIONS FOR EXCUSED ABSENCE**
- 3. FLAG SALUTE**
- 4. REPORT ON POSTING OF AGENDA**
- 5. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC**
- 6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: April 4, 2019**
- 7. ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS:  
A. Sustainability Team Update**
- 8. ORAL COMMUNICATION**
- 9. ADJOURNMENT: June 6, 2019**

**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 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, April 4, 2019 in the West Annex meeting room at Torrance City Hall.

**2. ROLL CALL:**

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

Absent: Commissioner Wright.

Also Present: Deputy Community Development Director Cessna, Senior Environmental Quality Officer Duncan, Senior Environmental Quality Officer Jones, and Planning Associate Fernandez.

**MOTION:** Commissioner DeWitt moved to grant Commissioner Wright an excused absence for the April 4, 2019 Environmental Quality and Energy Conservation Commission meeting. Commissioner Martin seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected 6-0 approval.

**3. SALUTE TO THE FLAG**

Commissioner Endo-Roberts led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**4. POSTING OF THE AGENDA**

Deputy Community Development Director Cessna reported that the agenda for this meeting was properly posted on the Public Notice Board.

**5. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC – None.**

**6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: MARCH 7, 2019**

Chairperson Montgomery offered a correction to the March 7, 2019 minutes as follows: Page 3, Item 8, paragraph 2: "...and AQMD's Electric Lawnmower rebate program."

**MOTION:** Commissioner Stecker moved for the approval of the March 7, 2019 Commission meeting minutes as amended. Commissioner Endo-Roberts seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected 6-0 approval (absent Commissioner Wright).

**7. ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS**

**7A. MANDATORY SPAY/NEUTER**

Planning Associate Fernandez provided a PowerPoint presentation on mandatory spay and neuter policies and cat licensing regulations. She stated City Council requested staff and the Commission review the possibility of a mandatory spay/neuter ordinance for dogs and cats

in the City. She noted currently there is an incentive for spaying or neutering built into the dog license fee; however, there is no such incentive for cats, as no licensing is required. She stated the purpose of mandatory spay/neuter is to combat the overpopulation problem of dogs and cats, and to reduce the subsequent issues that stem from overpopulation. She stated mandatory spay/neuter policies would require all dogs and cats to be altered by a certain age, typically four months old. She added there are usually exemptions for service animals, senior animals, and animals that are shown professionally.

She presented benefits of mandatory spay/neuter that include pet population reduction, elimination of some health risks, and reduction of behavioral issues related to mating behavior. She stated challenges include up-front costs for staff and program implementation, may increase relinquishment, difficult to enforce, and primarily impacts pet owners. She presented alternative solutions: vasectomy/hysterectomy and non-surgical sterilization, canvassing, requirement to microchip, offer low/no cost spay/neuter clinics or vouchers, banning the sale of intact pets, and trap/neuter/release policies.

Planning Associate Fernandez reported that staff researched municipal codes of 29 cities in the South Bay and greater Los Angeles area, noting only three cities have ordinances requiring that cats and dogs be altered. She provided information about existing mandatory spay/neuter policies in these cities: City of Long Beach (Attachment 4), City of Los Angeles (Attachment 5), and City of Pasadena (Attachment 6). She described their budgets, impounds and euthanasia by year, staff support, community engagement, partnering agencies, volunteers, and associated programs. She provided a comparison of licensing fees in Torrance with Long Beach, Los Angeles, and Pasadena, and noted Long Beach is the only city that requires mandatory cat licensing.

She stated, after meeting with the Animal Control Division and researching other cities, staff recommends taking a comprehensive approach to control overpopulation of animals rather than establishing a mandatory spay/neuter ordinance alone. She stated this approach could include educational campaigns, volunteer program, increased incentives to alter pets, providing additional funding to Animal Control, mandatory licensing, trap/neuter/release program, adequately funded and sustainable affordable spay/neuter program, and partnerships with local humane societies and animal rescue groups.

Responding to inquiries from Commissioner Stecker, Planning Associate Fernandez described vaccination requirements and trap/neuter/release programs that target feral cats.

In response to inquiries from Commissioner Deemer, she estimated that 40% of pets in the City have been licensed, described places where animals can be vaccinated, and explained why the City contracts with Pet Data for licensing.

In response to Commissioners' inquiries, Deputy Director Cessna stated the City contracts with Los Angeles County for sheltering services, Torrance has three Animal Control officers, and Torrance's budget is a little over \$600,000.

Debra Corwin, Purrfect Partners, distributed packets of information and discussed services her non-profit organization provides that include spay/neuter clinics, home visits and adoptions, vaccinations, and microchipping. She voiced her support for mandatory spay/neutering due to overpopulation and inadequate conditions at the Carson Shelter. She recommended utilizing the approximately \$180,000 per year tax revenue from animal businesses to provide free or low cost spay/neutering. She provided information about low cost

spay/neutering available and expressed disappointment that Torrance is not providing this education to the public.

Bonnie van Alphen, Pet Assistance Foundation, recommended Torrance take the first step by offering spay/neuter vouchers for its citizens.

Sybille Rogers, Purrfect Partners, maintained there is not enough space at the Carson Shelter and questioned why there is no animal shelter in Torrance.

Fabiola Paredes, Purrfect Partners, recommended promoting information about low cost spay/neutering to the public and copying what is being done in Pasadena and Los Angeles.

Laura Rubio, Purrfect Partners, informed Commissioners that Purrfect Partners also assists with dog rescues and adoptions. She urged Torrance to take the first step in the South Bay and be a leader to solve the overpopulation problem.

Kenneth (no speaker card) challenged Torrance to conduct a cost analysis to determine the feasibility of setting up its own shelter.

Michelle Scott, Purrfect Partners, discussed her experience with trap/neuter/releasing feral cats and recommended education through videos and utilizing volunteers to staff a shelter.

Debbie Harder, Purrfect Partners, expressed her support for mandatory spay/neuter, education, and for Torrance to have its own shelter.

Nina Dabbieri, Feline Charity, discussed the importance of trap/neuter/release and suggested using NextDoor to generate enthusiasm, energy, and interest.

Commissioner Stecker stated that there appears to be a lack of education and asked staff how Torrance could start its own shelter.

Deputy Director Cessna stated it is a large undertaking that would involve finding an appropriate location and going through the budget process. She indicated the first step would be to determine if City Council is interested in the proposal.

Commissioner DeWitt stated it is a matter of changing people's behavior and one way would be to reduce licensing fees for altered pets.

Commissioner Deemer suggested utilizing veterinarian students as volunteers. In response to his inquiry, Planning Associate Fernandez stated the program in Pasadena was established in the early 1900s.

Chairperson Montgomery stated education is the key, and recommended joining together with public and private partnerships such as Annenberg Foundation to find solutions.

Commissioner Endo-Roberts suggested partnering with the ASPCA and bringing the South Bay together on this issue. She encouraged audience members to speak at City Council meetings.

Peter Dabbieri, Feline Charity, stated the City needs to designate a staff member to coordinate all the elements—non-profits, pet stores, education, adoption, spay/neuter—to build a network leading to development of a shelter.

Laura Rubio suggested increasing fines for dumping animals and stated Annenberg Foundation has expressed willingness to help with a shelter if the City identifies a location.

Commissioner DeWitt suggested involving the City's Strategic Planning committee and discussed the importance of finding a champion in the City to carry this forward.

Commissioner Martin stated the City should not start with a mandatory spay/neuter ordinance and recommended education.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Stecker moved to direct staff to conduct further research regarding education, mobile clinic, shelter analysis, and spay/neutering for presentation at a future Commission meeting. Commissioner Deemer seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected 6-0 approval (absent Commissioner Wright).

The Commission was in recess from 8:52 to 9:00 p.m.

**8. INFORMATION**

**8A. ARTICLE REGARDING LEAF BLOWER BAN**

Deputy Director Cessna presented an April 2019 article from theatlantic.com magazine regarding the banning of leaf blowers.

**9. ORAL COMMUNICATION**

Chairperson Montgomery distributed a February 2019 NRDC article "Climate Change and Health in California" and information about a Drawdown EcoChallenge.

Commissioner Deemer congratulated Chairperson Montgomery for his appointment to the Strategic Planning committee.

Senior Environmental Quality Officer Jones provided an update on the St. Francis #1 Oil Well abandonment.

**10. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:** At 9:08 p.m., Commissioner Endo-Roberts moved to adjourn the meeting to May 2, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. in the West Annex meeting room, Torrance City Hall. Commissioner Martin seconded the motion and, hearing no objection, Chairperson Montgomery so ordered.

###

## **TORRANCE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COMMISSION**

May 2, 2019

To: Chairman Montgomery and Members  
of the Torrance Environmental Quality Commission

Subject: Sustainability Team Update

The inclusion of the strategic priority of "Stewardship of the Environment" in the City's 2008 Strategic Plan Update, reflects the Torrance community's growing interest in protecting its natural environment. Over time, a number of sustainable policies, projects and initiatives have been undertaken by individual city departments or staff members working in areas in which sustainable practices could be implemented to better protect the environment, more efficiently serve the city and community, or both. In May 2017, City Council authorized the formation of an interdepartmental sustainability team to be led by the Community Development Department (CDD) in order to bring together these existing City practices into a more cohesive and collaborative effort. In December 2017, City Council further authorized the creation of a Sustainability Plan, which would build off and help track the City's ongoing sustainability efforts. The Sustainability Team was formed in February, 2018 with a kick-off meeting attended by several department heads and/or department representatives. Monthly meetings have been held since that time, covering a wide range of topics that are outlined below.

### **Creation of Sustainability Team**

In order to guide the Team's efforts, the first goal of the group was to establish a Mission and Vision statement that could guide the team's efforts going forward (Attachment 1). In addition, the Team worked together to create a comprehensive list of the City's sustainable practices and projects in order to understand the role of each department in sustainability, the programs that are already underway, and areas that could be expanded upon or receive further focus going forward. This list, available as Attachment 2, will also be used during the drafting of the future Sustainability Plan and outreach efforts to inform the discussion of community members.

### **Sustainability Plan: Initial Outreach Efforts**

The Sustainability Plan's next steps include obtaining community feedback to gauge interest in certain sustainability topics. While the Team sought initial feedback from the public at the City Yard Open House/Environmental Fair, the public outreach will primarily occur once the outreach and analysis for the current Strategic Plan update have concluded.

At the 2018 City Yard Open House/Environmental Fair, the Team provided community members with the opportunity to select areas of Sustainability they felt would be most important to focus future City efforts. Over the course of the day, the categories received a total of 639 votes, with participants able to select up to three choices. In addition, if participants did not see a topic they found to be most important, a board was provided which allowed for handwritten suggestions for alternative topics or projects. The following chart shows the breakdown of interest by percentage in the different topics:

<b>Sustainability Topic</b>	<b>Percentage of Total Responses*</b>
Water Quality	22%
Water Conservation	18%
Climate Change/Greenhouse Gas Emissions	16%
Energy Efficiency	13%
Solid Waste/Recycling	12%
Natural Resource Protection	12%
Alternative Fuels	1%

\*Percentages do not equal 100% due to rounding

The Team will further explore the community's Sustainability goals through additional survey opportunities and public meetings held during future TEQECC meetings or other times/locations to be determined. Following the public outreach efforts, the Team will analyze the feedback received, along with any additional strategic priorities or goals established during the current Strategic Plan update efforts, in order to create goals, strategies and actions that would formulate the basis for the City's draft Sustainability Plan. The plan will also incorporate the City's existing Climate Action Plan and build on the existing efforts currently underway. However, it would also include new goals and strategies not specifically related to Climate Change and Greenhouse Gas reduction strategies.

### **Sustainability Discussion Topics**

Along with these initial efforts, the monthly meetings have included several other topics or areas of discussion. Each meeting allows for updates from the team on sustainability projects or grant opportunities their department is working on or exploring. Team members are also able to suggest topics for further discussion at subsequent meetings. In addition, the team also collaborates to address any questions posed by community members regarding the City's current or planned Sustainable practices. In late February 2019, the Team was forwarded a list of questions from a group of citizens indicating their concern for future impacts from Climate Change. The questions covered a variety of topics regarding our city's current sustainable practices across many departments to mitigate the potential for these impacts in the future. The team has prepared answers to these questions and included them as an attachment to this report (Attachment 3). These questions and the team's responses will lend to the important dialogue with the community regarding the City's broader sustainability goals and the future Sustainability Plan moving forward.

While there are numerous programs and projects currently underway or being discussed at the City of Torrance, the following areas highlight a few key topics the Sustainability Team has explored over the past year.

### **Alternative Fuels – Fleet**

The City of Torrance has taken numerous steps since the adoption of the 2008 Strategic Plan to encourage and facilitate the development of alternative fueling infrastructure in order to improve local and regional air quality. With the successful expansion of EV charging infrastructure in the community for public use through the City's "One Mile, One Charger" Project, the focus has shifted towards the expansion of alternative fuel vehicles in the City's fleet, along with its supportive infrastructure. In May 2018, members of the Sustainability Team were awarded grant funding from the Mobile Source Pollution Reduction Review Committee's (MSRC) Local Government Partnership Program that would replace four diesel dump trucks with Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) models and allow for the installation of up to eight EV charging stations for fleet use, at each of the Civic Center and the City Yard locations. The Team has recently received the executed grant contract and the respective departments will hold a kick-off meeting for the project in the second quarter of 2019. Staff continues to explore opportunities for additional grant funding in order to leverage the existing grant funds or expand these efforts in the future.

In addition, the City recently adopted an Interim Alternative Fuel Policy, effective March 28th, 2019. The objective of this strategy is to reduce consumption of petroleum based fuels and the emission of associated greenhouse gases. Under this policy, the City will purchase alternative fuel vehicles, as vehicles reach the end of their service life, based on a number of criteria, including: availability of technology and infrastructure, operational needs of user Departments, vehicle serviceability by Transit or Fleet services, and funding. This policy, along with the expansion of the alternative fueling infrastructure for fleet use, will aid in the long term transition of the City's fleet vehicles to alternative fuel models.

### **Solar Program – SolSmart Gold City**

The City of Torrance was recently designated as a SolSmart Gold City. SolSmart is a national designation program designed to recognize communities that have taken steps to foster the growth of solar energy by reducing barriers and the soft costs of installation. Torrance sought to participate in this program through a grant won by the South Bay Cities Council of Governments which has allowed the engagement of a consultant firm, EcoMotion Sustainability Solutions, to provide guidance in meeting the requirements of the program. As a result of the City's solar program, administered by the Community Development Department Building and Safety Division, the City obtained 285 points and a Special Recognition award in the Permitting category. With a minimum of 200 points to achieve a Gold level designation and the achievement of



over 60% of the available points in the permitting category, the City's solar program has proven to go above and beyond to promote the adoption of solar in the Torrance community. Community Development Staff will continue to promote its solar program and SolSmart Gold level designation through information found on the City's website.

### **California Green Business Network**

In August, 2018, City Council approved the appropriation of \$30,000 in grant funds from the California Green Business Network (CGBN), a nonprofit organization facilitating the Green Business Certification Program, to partner with the South Bay Cities Council of Governments South Bay Environmental Services Center and assist businesses in utilizing environmentally friendly practices in their operations. Businesses that join CGBN can receive assistance to implement practices that would reduce pollution, minimize waste, and conserve water and energy. Achievement of a "Certified Green Business" designation means that a business exceeds all environmental regulations and is promoted on the CGBN website.

Since the approval of this program, the City's Economic Development and Public Works departments have collaborated with the South Bay Environmental Services Center to achieve the goals outlined under the grant. The goal of the Program was to certify fifteen Torrance businesses before the end of the grant term in March 2019, with ten businesses achieving full certification and five actively participating and working towards certification. As of April 1, 2019, the City had achieved its goal and exceeded its sub goals, with thirteen businesses having reached full certification and two businesses actively participating and working towards certification. Staff plans to continue this successful program and is currently seeking approval for the next round of funding, which would provide up to an additional \$20,000 towards these ongoing efforts. In the interim, staff is continuing to support interested businesses and plans to recognize prior participants for their achievements.

### **Shared On-Demand Personal Mobility Devices**

On August 28, 2018, City Council adopted Urgency Ordinance 3834 declaring a temporary moratorium on businesses offering dockless bike and scooter sharing programs, collectively referred to as "shared on-demand personal mobility devices." The moratorium was extended on October 2, 2018 for an additional 10 months and 15 days to allow staff the opportunity to explore appropriate requirements and regulations these businesses would need to follow in order to operate safely within the City of Torrance and broader region. Since the moratorium took effect in the summer of last year, staff has met a number of times with other south bay cities in a working group format to discuss the benefits and concerns that a future program might bring to each city. These meetings included updates on what other cities in the broader region were doing and how those programs might be tailored to fit a model that could work across city boundaries in the south bay. However, staff from each city also understood that while there may be common areas that could be agreed upon, there would be others

that would need to be modified to specifically fit the characteristics of an individual city.

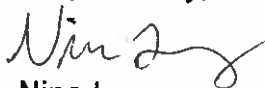
Over the course of the last few months, the south bay working group began preparing guidelines for a potential regional dockless bike/scooter share pilot program. The primary cities involved in the pilot program effort include El Segundo, Hermosa Beach and Manhattan Beach. At this time, Torrance staff remains concerned regarding the safety of these modes of travel and the common tendency of users to ride them illegally on the sidewalk. In addition, the dockless model continues to raise concerns regarding sidewalk circulation, pedestrian safety and maintaining ADA required paths of travel. There are also pending lawsuits regarding some of the above concerns. Given these concerns and the unknown outcome of the lawsuits, staff anticipates recommending the continuation of the current moratorium and reviewing the lessons learned from other cities' pilot programs, including that of the south bay. Staff will bring forward an item regarding the Moratorium to Council this summer which will include the options of extending the moratorium or joining the pilot program.

### **Additional Sustainability Topics**

The Team has also discussed and explored other sustainability topics, including: a single-use plastics ban, a polystyrene ban, and leaf blower regulations. The team explores these topics through research or presentations from other cities that have implemented similar programs and through public outreach and workshop meetings with the Environmental Commission. The team then follows up on this information through discussion on how these models would fit within the City of Torrance.

While these discussions are underway, the team is working with the City Manager's CitiCable division to create a Sustainability webpage for the City's website to provide the public with information regarding the city's efforts in sustainability, links to information about key projects and permitting processes, and a forum for providing feedback for future sustainability surveys. As these efforts are underway, the Team will continue to discuss the continued discussion topics and areas of concern as they arise. Certain items may be brought forward in advance of the creation of the Plan if the topic is time sensitive or if there is public interest in its discussion.

Prepared By,



Nina Lang  
Planning Associate

Respectfully Submitted,



Linda Cessna  
Deputy Community Development Director

### **Attachments**

1. Sustainability Team Mission and Vision Statement
2. Comprehensive Sustainability List
3. Responses to Community Questions

## **Sustainability Team Mission and Vision Statements**

### **Mission**

The Torrance Sustainability Team is committed to the stewardship of the local environment to ensure the prosperity of future generations. The Team will work together to expand ongoing sustainable initiatives into a more effective movement towards a more Sustainable City.

### **Vision**

The Sustainability Team envisions the growth of the City of Torrance as a prosperous community which recognizes and protects the value of its residents, environment, and economy. The Torrance Sustainability Plan shall be the framework for city staff, elected officials, and the public to guide and measure the city's progress towards sustainable goals.

# Sustainability Programs, Policies and Projects

## Greenhouse Gas Emissions/Climate Change

- **Torrance “1 Mile, 1 Charger” Project (May also fall under Alternative Fuel) –** publicly accessible electric vehicle charging infrastructure project (2015/2016)
  - o Community Development/Community Services/General Services
  - o As of 3/23/2018 - 20,319 charging sessions:
    - 59,869 kg of GHG gases saved
    - Equivalent of planting 2,111 trees that will grow for 10 years.
- **South Bay Business Environment Coalition (Green Business Category)**
- **South Bay Council of Government’s South Bay Environmental Services Center**
  - o Business Initiatives
  - o Cash for Kitchens
  - o Waterbrooms
- **Green Business Network (Green Business Category/Energy Efficiency)**
  - o Current Grant to provide resources for small business owners to ensure environmental compliance
- **Designated as a Tree City in 2018 as part of Tree City USA program (Air Quality/Resource Protection)**
  - o Commitment to high level of tree maintenance and urban forestry.
  - o 37,940 trees maintained by City

## Water Quality

- **Madrona Marsh: Water Biofiltration (Natural Resource Protection)**
- **Clean Bay Restaurant Program**

## Water Conservation

- **Conservation Classes – held at libraries**
  - **Water** (Educating the public on ways to conserve water)
- **Transit Facility Remodeling Project – Phase 1**
  - o Jan 2016: Conversion to Low-Flow Toilets
    - Savings to Date: \$2,500 Annually on Water
- **Water Education Programs**
  - o Turf Removal Classes

- California-Friendly Landscape Trainings
- Greywater Reuse Workshops
- Living Wise School Program
  
- **Water Sustainability/Reduction of Imported Water (Goal to become 100% water independent)**
  
- **Water Conservation/Reduction Incentives**
  - Water Efficient Appliances and Fixture
  - Water Retention and Capture Fixtures (Rain Barrels/Gardens)
- **North Torrance Well Field Project**
- **Airport Storm Water Infiltration (Water Quality)**
- **Walnut (and other basins) Storm Water Recharge and Enhancement**
- Low Impact Development (LID) Ordinance – water diversion/conservation (Falls under Quality)
- **Recycled Water Projects**
  - Completed February 2018 – Expansion of Goldsworthy Desalter
  - Continued survey of new projects and sources

### **Solid Waste/Recycling**

- **Big Belly Trash Receptacles**
- **Recycling Market Development Zone**
- **Waste Reduction - Methane/Landfill Reduction**
- Possible Future Solid Waste/Recycling Projects:
  - Refuse and Recycling in Public Spaces (Solid Waste/Recycling)
    - Hire Third Party Vendor to place, service, and maintain refuse/recycling containers in public spaces.
    - Funded through advertising on Refuse/Recycling Containers
  - Establish Regional Hazardous Waste Collection Site (Solid Waste/Recycling)
    - Potential partnership with County and/or Refinery.

### **Alternative Fuels/Modes of Transportation**

- **Regional Transit Center (Climate Change/ Air Quality)**
  - LEED Platinum Facility
- **Transit Fleet Modernization**
  - Jul. 2016: Conversion to 100% Alternative Fuel Fleet. Savings from using CNG vs. Diesel powered buses. Transit is now using Renewable CNG Fuel.

- Savings to Date: \$400,000 Annually on Fuel
- **Green Street Projects (May also fall under Climate Change)**

### **Energy Efficiency**

- **Encourage Green Building/Assistance (May also fall under Climate Change)**
  - 10 staff members certified as Build It Green/ GreenPoint Rated Advisors - provide assistance to public
  - Permit Technicians, Plan Checkers and Building Inspectors trained in California Green Building Code
  - LEED Certifications for qualifying Developments
- **Communication and Information Technology (CIT)**
- **IT Facility – Server Virtualization (2010)**
  - CIT/General Services
  - Annual KW Savings: 26,546
  - Annual Savings: \$1,447
- **Conservation Classes – held at libraries**
  - **Energy (Educating the public on ways to be energy efficient)**
- **Madrona Marsh: Solar Roof Project (May also fall under Greenhouse Gas emissions/Climate Change)**
- **Green Business Program (May also fall under Climate Change)**
- **Solar Lighting for Bus Shelters (May also fall under Climate Change)**
- **Grant Application for Solar in low-income areas (May also fall under Climate Change)**
  - Providing safety at the regional level
  - \$180,000 grant for 500 solar lights on bus stops.
- **Transit Facility Remodeling Project – Phase 1 (May also fall under climate change)**
  - Jan. 2016: Conversion to Energy Efficient Lighting and Light Sensors
    - Savings to Date: \$34,000 Annually on Electricity
- **Citywide Light Emitting Diode (LED) Street Lights (10,000 street lights)**
  - Installation by SCE is scheduled for early 2018
  - Savings to Date: None - \$140,000 per year once installed
- **LED Overhead Street Name Signs lamp retrofit (2013)**
  - Savings: Approx. 85% with LED over previous fluorescent tubes
- **Civic Center Frontage LED Perimeter Lighting upgrades (2012)**
  - Savings: Approx. 85% using LED

- Interior/Exterior Lighting Upgrades (T12 to T18 lamps) City Yard/Airport/Teen Center/City Hall/De Portola Park/Entradero Park/Gunser Park/Hickory Park (2015) (Energy Efficiency)
  - General Services/Community Services
  - Annual KW Savings: 479,923
  - Annual Savings: \$74,907
- Interior LED lighting - Toyota Meeting Hall (2018) (Energy Efficiency)
  - General Services
  - Annual KW Savings: 16,741
  - Annual Savings: \$2,679
- Interior LED lighting - Wilson Park Gym (2017) (Energy Efficiency)
  - General Services/Community Services
  - Annual KW Savings: 26,718
  - Annual Savings: \$4,716
- Interior/Exterior LED lighting - Transit Center (2018) (Energy Efficiency)
  - General Services/Transit
  - Annual KW Savings: 125,300
  - Annual Savings: \$15,708
- Plunge Pool – VFD and Pump Motor Upgrade (In Progress/Seeking Funding) (Energy Efficiency)
  - General Services/Community Services
  - Future Annual KW Savings: 172,003
  - Future Annual Savings: \$18,920
- LED lighting Upgrades - City Hall/Library/Police Department (In Progress/Seeking Funding) (Energy Efficiency)
  - General Services/Community Services/Police Department/City Manager
  - Future Annual KW Savings: 837,954
  - Future Annual Savings: \$98,711
- **Streetlights – LED Electric Retrofit Project (May also fall under Energy Efficiency)**
  - LED Underground Lighting

## TORRANCE AGENDA FOR ADDRESSING CLIMATE CHANGE

We concerned Torrance residents, aware that we are presently undergoing a climate crisis, and understanding that we may have only 12 years to avert actual climate catastrophe, want to see the policies, plans, codes, regulations, investments, projects, and practices of our city reflect this situation. Our goals are: net-zero greenhouse gas emissions in energy production; green building and land use planning practices; and planning for climate change-related disasters; from rain, flooding, earthquakes, drought, heat, fire, and wind.

Specific areas we want to see addressed:

1) A. Torrance Strategic Plan Update and Torrance Climate Action Plan:

A. Percentage Goal:

What percentage of power demand utilizes clean, renewable, zero carbon emission energy? How can we plan for improvement? By what year can we plan to be at 100% use of such energy by the City of Torrance facilities and functions?

ANSWER: The City of Torrance currently gets its power from Southern California Edison (SCE) and would depend on the level of renewable energy provided through this utility. The state requires SCE to hit 60% renewable energy targets by 2030. SCE also has Green Rates for residential and commercial customers, with a 50% or 100% renewable option already available. If customers opt in to the green rate program, they will pay more per kilowatt in order to use a larger proportion of clean and renewable energy.

The City also participates in the Energy Leadership Partnership program with SCE and the South Bay Cities Council of Governments (COG). Currently the City has reduced overall energy usage by 13% from the 2006 baseline year implementing energy savings measures and is at the Gold level. The 2018 Public Works project to transition to LED street lighting would bring the City up to a Platinum level. Staff is waiting for SCE to incorporate these savings into the program and officially revise Torrance's status from Gold to Platinum.

In November 2017, Torrance City Council delayed their decision regarding participation in Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) until the programs were operational. On June 11<sup>th</sup>, City Council will receive an update on CCA, with Lancaster and LA county presenting.



## B. City Facilities and Functions:

To what extent do city buildings implement green practices in construction and day-to-day management? How can they be improved? City functions need to implement green policies.

ANSWER: The Transit Center that is under construction is planned to be LEED Gold certified. The current Transit Department building is designed as a Gold level building. Other city buildings are existing or remodeled, so energy efficiency measures are undertaken where feasible. The City has also converted the majority of lighting to LED fixtures and installed low flow toilets/faucets. The City also implements recycling, with dual trash bins at desks, and promotes the reduction in plastic bag and utensils by providing reusable bags, utensils, and straws at City events. City staff also participates in a rideshare program, which provides incentives to carpool, vanpool, drive a plug-in electric vehicle (EV), bike, or walk to work. In addition, the City schedule of a 9/80 work week allows for 9 working days over a two week pay period, which reduces energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions by shortening the work week and reducing the number of vehicle trips to work by one day.

The City is also designated as a SolSmart Gold level city, which promotes solar energy installation in the community through a reduction in the “soft costs” of solar installation and a streamlined process. The City also promotes the transition to EVs in the community through the implementation of the “One Mile, One Charger” program which achieved a goal of a resident or visitor never being more than one mile from a charging station within over 94% of the City. City staff also promotes reaching out to SCE for “Savings by Design” and other energy savings programs. Where possible we partner with corporate citizens for pilot projects i.e. the Honda Fit and Accord (plug in hybrid) and Toyota Mirai (hydrogen). The Green Business Network and Clean Bay Restaurant Program are other ways the city strives to be green. The city participates in the recycling market development zone (RMDZ) administered by the county and led by the state.

## C. City Functions:

What is the carbon impact of current infrastructure repair technologies used, and how can it be reduced? How can the city implement green policies and priorities in maintaining streets and other city infrastructure?

ANSWER: The City’s fleet for infrastructure repair currently uses Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) models for its light duty trucks and heavy duty vehicles. Both Public Works and the Finance department utilize fully electric vehicles for inspections and other departments utilize plug-in electric hybrids for inspections. Additionally, the city recently adopted an Interim Alternative Fuel Policy that became effective March 28<sup>th</sup>, 2019. The objective of this strategy is to reduce consumption of

petroleum based fuels and the emission of associated greenhouse gases. The City will purchase alternative fuel vehicles as vehicles reach the end of their service life based on a number of criteria, including: availability of technology and infrastructure, operational needs of user Departments, vehicle serviceability by Transit or Fleet services, and funding.

In addition, when repairing City streets, staff utilizes an Asphalt Zipper to grind up existing pavement and reuse it as a base layer for new asphalt roadways. This reused material is also used when repairing/replacing curbs and gutters. While rubberized asphalt from recycled tires is utilized for some Capital Projects, recycled tire material is not used citywide in the repair of streets.

The City has also removed a number of underground storage tanks in order to prevent potential soil contamination. For example, at the City Yard, 14 underground storage tanks were recently removed and replaced with above ground storage tanks, which reduce the potential for soil or groundwater contamination. The City will continue to monitor these on public and private properties and follow all State and Federal rules and regulations.

2) Manufacturing and Industry:

How does the City of Torrance promote prevention of pollution and reduction of greenhouse gas emissions from manufacturing and industry as much as is technologically feasible through its building and use regulations? Is there any activity or plan to give priority in attracting employers that are part of the solution in transitioning away from greenhouse gas-intensive industries?

ANSWER: Torrance is a part of the Green Business Network and follows the California Green Building Codes. Torrance has also become an alternative fuel technology development hub and the City works to attract and grow this industry. The City has supported the South Bay Environmental Services Center & COG, which includes sustainable programming. Torrance also supports sustainable programs such as cash for kitchens, waterbrooms, and smart irrigation controllers.

3) Housing and Building Codes:

How can we promote building of new buildings to achieve maximum energy and water efficiency, including through promotion of use of renewable energy and greening of buildings? How are upgrades to existing buildings promoted?

ANSWER: The City is required by the State to follow the California Green Building Code (CAL Green Code) and Title 24 throughout the building plan check process. In addition, ten members of the Planning and Environmental/Code Enforcement Division are trained in the Build It Green program as Green Point Rated Advisors for new homes. The City of Torrance also implements its Low Impact Development (LID) ordinance regarding stormwater. LID affects energy usage by reducing the

consumption of potable (drinking) water and lowers energy use and CO2 emissions needed to import water. The City also encourages and recognizes LEED green building programs through the Green Pride in Torrance program.

CAL Green Code Link: <https://codes.iccsafe.org/content/document/1049/>

Title 24 Link: <https://codes.iccsafe.org/content/CALGreen2016>

4) Public Transportation:

Consideration of technologies and systems that are cleaner than the CNG currently used that may cost less and be used by more residents of Torrance. One of the greatest impacts the city could have on greenhouse gases is to develop a local public transportation system that would get its residents conveniently and affordably to its commercial centers and strips. Because Torrance is laid out along just a half dozen or so wide, straight boulevards, this should be eminently possible.

ANSWER: Torrance uses CNG busses that are fueled by renewable natural gas from landfills. As early as 2021, the City will be introducing electric buses/cars purchase. Additionally, the City's Transit fleet is mandated to be fully electric by 2040. However, there are concerns regarding fully electric busses and the reliability of these vehicles. The proposed Electric Trolley will be a good test case for electric public transportation in the future. The City plans to purchase two fixed-route electric busses, used across all services, in the near future. The Transit department is also currently conducting a comprehensive review of their transit service. Feedback can be given via a survey found on Torrance Transit's website.

Torrance Transit Survey: <https://www.torrancetransittomorrow.com/survey>

In addition, the future Torrance Transit Center is currently under construction. Once completed, it will serve as a multi-modal transportation hub for the South Bay region of Los Angeles County and aid in regional efforts to alleviate congestion, reduce emission levels and fuel consumption, and coordinate public transportation services. The Transit Center will also serve as the future terminus for the green line extension, which will further connect the south bay to the broader Los Angeles County region.

5) Water Saving, Recovery, and Reuse:

What regulations, materials and processes can be implemented to capture water runoff, promote restoration of the aquifer, and make efficient use of our limited water?

ANSWER: Low Impact Development (LID) is an approach designed to capture and reduce stormwater runoff by managing it as close to the source as possible. LID allows for better infiltration to restore the local aquifers. There are also Enhanced Water Management Plans in place for Machado Lake and the Santa Monica Bay/Dominguez Channel, which give recommendations for stormwater management

projects. The Madrona Marsh and basins located throughout the city allow for rainwater infiltration and the City works with the Water Replenishment District (WRD), which helps monitor and manage the groundwater basins. We also work with them to make sure groundwater is being pumped sustainably and ensure its integrity from saltwater intrusion and recharged with recycled water. The City also promotes comprehensive educational programs in conjunction with Metropolitan Water District (MWD) to both residents and businesses.

6) Trees and Greenspace:

Trees offer an important way of fighting greenhouse gases. What are the policies now when new projects are built? How can the city promote more trees and greenspace in general?

ANSWER: The City just completed the Street Tree Master Plan which inventoried each tree in the City. The Plan made recommendations regarding installing new and replacement trees. It also noted historic areas where trees are to be protected. The City was awarded Tree City USA in 2018. The City actively seeks grants for greening projects such as the Green Streets Projects.

Development Standards for new and renovated developments often require landscaped setbacks, which are determined by the zone. An example of this is in regards to parking lots, which include a percentage requirement for landscaping determined by the total number of parking spaces. Landscape is promoted, and in some cases required, to be drought tolerant landscaping. In addition, development projects along streets without existing street trees are required by code to install a street tree every 50 feet along the project frontage.

7) Consumer and Industrial Waste:

A. Recycling:

What are the challenges to increasing recycling? How can Torrance improve? How are other cities doing better?

ANSWER: The City is in compliance with all state requirements. Recycling is a broader issue than city by city. However, California is having challenges selling to their overseas markets, as it is no longer as profitable/desirable. Additionally, the state is trying to establish their own markets and infrastructure to handle the recycling supply and demand. As a City, we are finding and exploring additional ways to accept recyclables. The City also recycles City trees and landscaping that have been removed or replaced to provide mulch for the community. The mulch is provided free of cost to community members and is available at Lago Seco Park.

B. Single Use Plastic Waste:

It is time for a regulation to stop the use of single-use plastic.

ANSWER: The state is currently working on making this a statewide law. City Council recently heard a presentation by 5 gyres and Heal the Bay and the Sustainability Team also heard presentations from other local south bay cities regarding their existing programs. Staff is looking to implement internally for city functions. At city events, such as the City Yard Open House and Environmental Fair, staff hands out reusable straws, bottles, and utensils. Torrance is also part of the California Stewardship Council, which is a lobbying organization to promote legislation on Extended Producer Responsibility so that all products made should be easily recyclable and non-hazardous. Under this program, if you make a product you are responsible for its "end of life."

C. Hazardous waste sites:

Are there any hazardous waste sites in Torrance? How does the City of Torrance promote public safety with regard to hazardous waste that has been left behind?

ANSWER: Staff understood this question to be referencing hazardous waste drop off sites. There are no permanent hazardous waste drop off sites in Torrance. The County runs periodic one-day events with host cities – the annual Torrance event is in June at American Honda. Other events occur in neighboring cities at least once a quarter. There are permanent facilities (open on weekends) in San Pedro, El Segundo and Signal Hill. Electronic waste is included in all these events. There is some retail collection in Torrance of specific items such as paint at select paint stores (the PaintCare statewide program) and two Walgreens accept medications.

Torrance hosts two events for electronics collection each year, along with free paper shredding, for Torrance residents and businesses. There is limited electronics recycling ongoing at retailers such as Walser's and Best Buy in the City.

Proper disposal of hazardous and electronics waste is part of the City's regular public outreach in brochures, website page, event promotion through flyers, social media, school programs and more. The City was recently awarded a grant for a new education campaign on hazardous waste collection options for the public that will begin this year.

Also, through our participation with the California Product Stewardship Council (CalPSC), Torrance has worked to support Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) legislation that places responsibility for product end of life on the product

manufacturer, creating less hazardous products, products more easily recycled or product sponsored collection, such as the new statewide pharmaceutical take back program that will begin in the next two years.