



**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.

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:

Monday, September 2, 2019 (holiday)
Friday, September 13, 2019
Friday, September 27, 2019

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY AND ENERGY CONSERVATION COMMISSION

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

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 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: August 1, 2019
7. ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS:
 - A. Recycling Update – Alison Sherman
8. ORAL COMMUNICATION
9. ADJOURNMENT: October 3, 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, August 1, 2019 in the West Annex meeting room, Torrance City Hall.

2. ROLL CALL:

Present: Commissioners Deemer, DeWitt, Martin,
Stecker, Wright, and Chairperson Montgomery.

Absent: Commissioner Endo-Roberts.

Also Present: Deputy Community Development Director
Cessna and Planning Associate Lang.

MOTION: Commissioner DeWitt moved to grant Commissioner Endo-Roberts an excused absence for the August 1, 2019 Commission meeting. Commissioner Martin seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected 6-0 approval (absent Commissioner Endo-Roberts).

3. SALUTE TO THE FLAG

Commissioner DeWitt led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. POSTING OF THE AGENDA

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

5. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

A member of the public spoke.

6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: JUNE 6, 2019

Chairperson Montgomery offered a correction to the minutes as follows: Page 3, paragraph 3, line 1: "...hazardous waste event at American Honda on June 15..."

MOTION: Commissioner Wright moved to approve the June 6, 2019 Commission meeting minutes as amended. Commissioner Martin seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected 6-0 approval (absent Commissioner Endo-Roberts).

7. ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS

7A. ADAPTATION PLANNING – PRESENTATION BY CAROLYN YVELLEZ, SBCCOG

Carolyn Yvellez, Climate Adaptation fellow working with the South Bay Cities Council of Governments (SBCCOG), provided a PowerPoint presentation "Climate Adaptation: Assessing Climate Risk in the City of Torrance." She shared her background, defined climate action, and

stated climate adaptation is adjusting our behaviors, policies, and infrastructure to reduce the impact that climate change has on our communities and to be able to thrive despite risks and impacts it causes. She stated goals of a Climate Adaptation Plan include: making communities safer and healthier, enhancing economic vitality in the South Bay, meeting local and State requirements, and prioritizing vulnerable populations. She noted the SBCCOG's project outcomes are to 1) develop a robust vulnerability assessment and a sub-regional adaptation plan to provide a strong starting point for adaptation planning and implementation throughout the region, and 2) provide cities with a preliminary, city-specific vulnerability assessment that can be adopted into existing planning documents. She noted Senate Bill 379 requires jurisdictions to develop a vulnerability assessment and resiliency strategies to address climate adaptation and integrate that into the Safety Element in the General Plan upon its next revision of a local hazard mitigation plan, on or after January 1, 2017.

She stated the first draft of the Sub-regional Adaptation Plan has been completed and is being reviewed by South Bay cities. She stated its major components are climate projections, social vulnerability analysis, and sector analysis that includes water, coastal resource, and energy management; biodiversity; transportation; and demographic change/migration. She stated the city vulnerability assessment includes climate projections (temperature, precipitation, wind, sea level rise, flood, drought, wildfire); risk assessment of structural and social vulnerability; parcel reports; and a social vulnerability map atlas. She noted average maximum temperatures are expected to rise 3-5 degrees by mid-century and 4-7 degrees by late century. She reviewed an overlay analysis of the Climate Risk Assessment framework that includes sensitivity, exposure, hazard, social vulnerability, and structural vulnerability. She noted the Structural Vulnerability section overlays hazard prone areas with critical facilities and buildings to assess potential risk to structures. She reviewed a map of inundation and cliff erosion projections as well as a bluespot model identifying low lying areas and predicting how much precipitation it would take to fill those areas with flood and extreme precipitation events.

Ms. Yvellez reviewed the Social Vulnerability section of the assessment that overlays hazard prone areas with sensitive populations to assess potential risk to people. She described a map showing the Cool Priority Layer identifying areas where urban heat island exposure is greatest, and the Climate Equity Priority Layer highlighting areas where there are a greater percentage of sensitive populations. She noted there are 26 publicly owned parcels that fall within these priority areas, representing the greatest heat risk to Torrance residents, and are potential areas the City could do heat mitigating activities. She explained an overlay map of Flood Prone Layer with Climate Equity Priority Layer, showing there are 49 public parcels that where both of those layers intersect. She stated the Trust for Public Land's Climate Smart Cities tool allows planners to query parcels to identify specific areas to focus adaptation efforts and actions. She stated the last component is the Social Vulnerability Map Atlas and identifies sensitivity groups such as outdoor workers, residents over 65 living alone, disabled population, and households with language barriers. She discussed next steps: Sub-regional Adaptation Strategy Development; Sub-regional Adaptation Plan adoption by the SBCCOG Board; and adaptation strategy development at the City level.

Commissioner Stecker offered his observation that there is foundation work going on near Torrance Beach to prevent cliff erosion and protect homes, and staff advised that it is not within the City of Torrance.

Commissioner DeWitt suggested that Ms. Yvellez walk the areas identified in the assessment to assess their actual vulnerability and help the City prioritize. In response to his inquiry

regarding energy capacity with increased heat, she stated that utility companies are concerned and have projected for increased demand, adding there is a section in the Sub-regional report regarding energy management.

Commissioner Deemer suggested using dew point in the analysis. In response to his inquiry regarding temperature increase, Ms. Yvellez stated the tables are organized by average annual temperature and number of extreme heat days and warm nights, adding 67.9 degrees is considered a warm night by the 98th percentile.

In response to Commissioner Deemer's inquiry regarding extreme precipitation, she stated it is considered five or more inches of rain over 48 hours. She noted the bluespot analysis takes into consideration the first two inches of rain going into the storm drain system.

Responding to an inquiry from Commissioner Wright, Ms. Yvellez stated critical facilities are anything the community is dependant on the City for normal operations, such as substations, adding it is up to the City to determine what its critical facilities are.

In response to Commissioner Deemer's inquiry regarding the social vulnerability index, she explained the State makes recommendations based on indicators provided by the CDC, FEMA, Department of Public Health, and other State and government agencies.

Chairperson Montgomery stated it is important for the public to know what they can do to adapt to climate change. In response to his inquiry, Kim Fuentes, SBCCOG, stated it is up to cities to communicate the city-specific assessments to their residents, but the Sub-regional document will be available online.

Mike Kosidlak stressed the importance of getting the word out to the public. He inquired about reasons for SBCCOG's involvement in adaptation planning, and Ms. Yvellez explained there is a lack of awareness about the legislation and the SBCCOG wanted to provide as much analysis and technical support as a framework for cities to follow. She noted there are grant opportunities and advantages to combining resources and maximizing time and effort.

Deputy Director Cessna explained the interdepartmental Sustainability Team will work on this initially, then taken to the Commission and public for feedback, then vetted by City Council, noting viable priorities will end up in the Capital Improvement Plan.

Chairperson Montgomery pointed out that there was no mention of food production in the assessment and, responding to his inquiry, Ms. Yvellez stated the Trust for Public Land has a tool that residents can use to inquire about their own properties.

Commissioner DeWitt suggested using available funding to help neighboring cities if they are more in need.

7B. ELECTIONS

Commissioner Wright nominated Chairperson Montgomery, and Chairperson Montgomery nominated Commissioner Wright, for Chairperson of the Commission for a term beginning September 5. Chairperson Montgomery was re-elected Chairperson on a 4-2 roll call vote (absent Commissioner Endo-Roberts).

Commissioner Stecker nominated Commissioner Wright, and Commissioner Deemer nominated himself, for Vice-Chairperson of the Commission for a term beginning September 5. Commissioner Wright was elected Vice-Chairperson on a 5-1 roll call vote (absent Commissioner Endo-Roberts).

8. ORAL COMMUNICATION

Chairperson Montgomery distributed the U.S. Global Research Program's "Fourth National Climate Assessment" and a July 24 article regarding climate change in Science & Environment.

Deputy Director Cessna informed the Commission that Allison Sherman, Recycling Coordinator, is willing to provide a presentation at a future Commission meeting.

Planning Associate Lang announced that the City received the SolSmart gold level designation and a special recognition award for permitting.

Commissioner Wright expressed interest in hearing an update regarding the waste treatment plant.

Commissioner Deemer suggested touring the Metropolitan Water District's regional recycling water facility in Carson.

9. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: At 8:25 p.m., Commissioner Martin moved to adjourn the meeting to September 5, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. in the West Annex meeting room, Torrance City Hall. Commissioner Deemer seconded the motion and, hearing no objection, Chairperson Montgomery so ordered.

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