

February 5, 2015

**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, February 5, 2015 in the West Annex meeting room at Torrance City Hall

2. ROLL CALL:

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

Absent: None.

Also Present: Deputy Community Development Director Cessna, Environmental Quality Officer Colclasure, and Environmental Quality Officer Travers.

3. SALUTE TO THE FLAG

Commissioner Wright led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. POSTING OF THE AGENDA

MOTION: Commissioner Martin, seconded by Commissioner DeWitt, 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

5A. Commissioners and staff welcomed new Commissioners Endo-Roberts and Wright.

5B. Stephen Robbins, Osage Avenue, stated that he enjoyed being a Commissioner for 14 years on the Parks and Recreation Commission and then the Environmental Quality and Energy Conservation Commission. He expressed his appreciation to Commissioners and staff for the opportunity to work with them.

The Commission was in recess from 7:06 to 7:12 to enjoy cake in his honor.

6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Minutes were not available.

7. ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS

7A. OVERVIEW OF THE SBCCOG; OVERVIEW OF THE SANITATION DISTRICTS OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY AND THE FOOD WASTE DEMONSTRATION PROJECT; AND UPDATE ON SBCCOG PROGRAMS

Deputy Director Cessna introduced the item and welcomed Marilyn Lyon and Grace Farwell, Environmental Services Analysts, South Bay Environmental Services Center, South Bay Cities Council of Governments (SBCCOG).

Ms. Lyon stated that SBCCOG is a joint powers authority of the cities in the South Bay and Los Angeles County that share the goal of maximizing the quality of life and productivity of the area. She noted that SBCCOG has many partners that include Southern California Edison, Southern California Gas Company, West Basin Municipal Water District, Metro, and Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County.

She provided an update regarding municipal energy savings through the Energy Leader program with Southern California Edison. She noted that the City of Torrance is has almost reached the Gold level and is eligible for tiered levels of incentives. She was pleased to report that many City businesses have taken advantage of the free, direct install program. She distributed information about programs and invited Commissioners to attend the 16th Annual General Assembly on February 27, 2015 in Carson.

Ms. Farwell introduced Mark McDannel, Supervising Engineer with Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County.

Mr. McDannel provided a PowerPoint presentation on "General Overview and Food Waste Recycling." He began his report with the Districts' Mission Statement, a brief history and formation in 1923, and responsibilities that include wastewater, solid waste management, energy and resource recovery, and public health. He discussed maps of the Districts' wastewater facilities, solid waste facilities, and sewerage system. He noted that the Sanitation Districts operate three landfill energy recovery facilities and three materials recovery/transfer facilities.

He stated that the Districts have water reclamation plants (WRPs) that capture wastewater and convert it into high quality recycled water. He noted that the water meets drinking water standards but that it is illegal to drink. He stated that, with the drought, the Districts plan to produce more and more recycled water for uses that include industrial, commercial, groundwater recharge, and landscape irrigation.

Mr. McDannel stated that the Puente Hills Landfill closed in 2013 but Calabasas Landfill and Scholl Canyon Landfill are operational sites. He noted that the Districts have chosen to stay in the solid waste business in order to support their member cities. He discussed Materials Recovery Facilities (MRFs) and transfer stations as well as recycling legislation AB939 (1989) and AB341 (2011) that mandates commercial recycling and a 75% diversion goal by 2020. He provided information about organic material recycling which includes green waste and food waste. He stated that some of organic material goes for composting; however, the closest facility to the South Bay is in Victorville or Bakersfield. He noted that anaerobic digestion is used to convert organic material in their wastewater treatment plant's digesters in Carson. He stated that when it is digested it makes methane gas and generates electricity. He discussed suitable and

unsuitable organic waste as well as some of the advantages and challenges that include limited capacity.

He provided background and presented information about the Districts' demonstration project in Carson with their partner Waste Management. He noted that the objective is to help their member cities with their hauling efforts. He showed a graph showing gas production versus time in the digesters over a three-month period. He stated that they have a two-year agreement with Waste Management to collect food waste, screen and process it, and transport it to the treatment plant where it is put into a digester. He described the joint water pollution control plant that has 24 full scale, active digesters that have 3.7 million gallons each. He stated that the food waste is in the digesters for 18 or 19 days and turns it into methane. He noted that they make 20 megawatts that is used to operate their treatment plant, adding that the biosolids are sent off for composting or soil amendment for agriculture.

Mr. McDannel discussed potential uses of biogas that include electricity generation and vehicle fuel. He stated that biogas production has increased as expected and concluded his presentation with next steps: continue demonstration project in Carson, first phases will be recovery and transfer to third parties for composting or anaerobic digestion, and to start up as early as 2015. He invited Commissioner to tour the facility.

In response to Commissioner Deemer's inquiry, he described the composting facility in Victorville. He stated that the Districts plan to utilize two composting facilities in Rancho Cucamonga and Kings County. He explained how wastewater goes through outfall tunnels and discharges into the ocean, noting that they are building a third tunnel so the other two tunnels can be shut down for inspection and repair.

Commissioner Montgomery initiated a brief discussion regarding diversion of gray water for outdoor use.

In response to Chairperson Gobble's inquiry, Deputy Director Cessna stated that Torrance joined a consortium with neighboring cities and that haulers are required to report what they pick up and what is diverted.

Chairperson Gobble inquired about transporting green waste by rail and Mr. McDannel stated that there is currently not a need for a waste to rail system but that it will start up in the future as demand grows. He explained to Chairperson Gobble that one digester uses four tons of food waste a day and Waste Management reports approximately two to four thousand tons a day from Los Angeles County.

Ms. Farwell shared information about Metropolitan Water District's turf removal program that is currently giving \$2 per square foot for removing turf. She stated that complete information can be found at www.SoCalWaterSmart.com She announced a water conservation plant sale on May 5 at Home Depot in Torrance as well as the last toilet exchange in the spring. She discussed the Energy Upgrade California program that focuses on energy management strategies.

Chairperson Gobble suggested promoting plant sales through CitiCABLE and Commissioner Montgomery noted that Madrona Marsh also offers native plant sales.

8. ORAL COMMUNICATION

8A. Commissioner Deemer provided additional information about the turf removal program.

8B. Commissioner DeWitt stated that Leadership Torrance is looking for a project to do in Torrance and asked Commissioners to share any ideas.

8C. Commissioners took turns introducing themselves and sharing their backgrounds.

8D. Deputy Director Cessna informed Commissioners that the bees and chickens item would be considered by City Council on March 3.

9. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: At 8:38 p.m., Commissioner Montgomery moved to adjourn the meeting to March 5, 2015 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 March 5, 2015 s/ Rebecca Poirier, City Clerk
