

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

**2. ROLL CALL:**

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

Absent: Commissioner DeWitt.

Also Present: Senior Environmental Quality Officer Duncan, Senior Environmental Quality Officer Jones, Environmental Quality Officer Colclasure, Environmental Quality Officer Travers, Environmental Quality Officer Oorts, and Waste Management Coordinator Sherman.

**MOTION:** Chairperson Gobble moved to grant Commissioner DeWitt an excused absence for the March 5, 2015 Commission meeting. Commissioner Montgomery seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected unanimous approval.

**3. SALUTE TO THE FLAG**

Chairperson Gobble led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**4. POSTING OF THE AGENDA**

**MOTION:** Commissioner Endo-Roberts, seconded by Commissioner Martin, 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 (absent Commissioner DeWitt).

**5. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC**

None.

**6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

**6A. MINUTES OF DECEMBER 4, 2014**

**MOTION:** Commissioner Martin moved to approve the December 4, 2014 Commission meeting minutes as presented. Commissioner Deemer seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected unanimous approval (absent Commissioner DeWitt, Commissioners Endo-Roberts and Wright abstaining).

**6B. MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 5, 2015**

**MOTION:** Commissioner Montgomery moved to approve the February 5, 2015 Commission meeting minutes as presented. Commissioner Martin seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected unanimous approval (absent Commissioner DeWitt, Commissioner Endo-Roberts abstaining).

**7. ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS**

**7A. RECYCLING PROGRAMS**

Waste Management Coordinator Sherman distributed bags and provided an update on recycling programs in the City. She reported that she is the City liaison to the State agency that oversees legislation requiring all cities to reduce waste by 50%. She informed the Commission that Torrance is in compliance, noting that it is now at a 53% diversion rate. She stated that the City joined with 19 other cities to form a regional agency called Los Angeles Regional Agency (LARA) that reports as a group to the State. She noted that the group is at 68% diversion rate but that the State looks at each city individually to make sure it is doing its part.

She discussed AB32 that mandates a 75% Statewide diversion goal by 2020, AB 341 that requires mandatory commercial recycling, and AB1826 that will require mandatory commercial organic recycling starting next year. She reported that cities are required to do outreach, education, and monitoring while the State is responsible for enforcement. She stated that all haulers in Torrance were asked to establish baseline data last year and that this year's survey will show if there has been improvement.

Coordinator Sherman provided information about participation in ongoing programs that include an annual Earth Day event, outreach and education in schools, beverage container grant, used oil grant, commercials on CitiCABLE, tire recycling, battery recycling, digital newsletter, hazardous waste, California Product Stewardship Council, and paint recycling. She stated that she is monitoring legal challenges to legislation requiring pharmaceutical recycling.

In response to Commissioner Wright's inquiry, she stated that all cities in LARA are in Los Angeles County and include the beach cities, Glendale, and Duarte.

Chairperson Gobble stated that Sherman Williams takes paint for disposal but that it is necessary to call ahead for availability. Responding to his inquiry regarding organic recycling, Coordinator Sherman stated that eight cubic yard generators will be required to have a 50% reduction from base year 2014 by 2020. She stated that some haulers in the City offer organic collection but there is no program yet.

Commissioner Montgomery suggested promoting the City's diversion rates on its website. In response to his inquiries, she stated that Public Works sells composting bins at discounted rates and that Community Development Department handles storm water diversion.

Commissioner Deemer inquired about diverting cooking oils to biodiesel fuel and Coordinator Sherman responded that she will need to ask the State about how liquids will be handled as well as to find out if organic materials will be compostable or for rendering.

Commissioner Endo-Roberts inquired about Styrofoam and she advised that it is included in the City's curbside recycling program. She noted that the plastics industry is

planning to set new guidelines about what can be recycled and what cannot. In response to her inquiry, Coordinator Sherman stated that many drop off points are available for rechargeable batteries. She added that the City pays into the Los Angeles County program that handles alkaline batteries and other hazardous waste.

Chairperson Gobble suggested that all the haulers get together in one forum to discuss new regulations and Coordinator Sherman stated that it would be difficult to meet at one time because they are very competitive. She added that the website provides information about what each hauler offers.

**8. NEW BUSINESS**

**8A. ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRPERSON**

Chairperson Gobble noted that there is a vacancy for Vice-Chairperson that was held by former Commissioner Robbins.

Commissioner Montgomery nominated Commissioner DeWitt for Vice-Chairperson of the Commission and Commissioner Endo-Roberts seconded the nomination. A roll call vote reflected unanimous approval and Commissioner DeWitt was elected Vice-Chairperson.

**9. ORAL COMMUNICATION**

**9A.** Commissioner Montgomery stated that he received free rain barrels from South Bay Environmental Services Center.

**9B.** Commissioner Endo-Roberts stated that the South Bay Cities Council of Governments (SBCCOG) meeting was interesting and helpful. She stated that she also attended the City Council meeting when the item about chickens and bees was discussed as well as the State Senate hearing this evening.

**9C.** Commissioner Deemer stated that the Senate hearing will be broadcast on CitiCABLE.

**9D.** Chairperson Gobble stated that he also attended the SBCCOG meeting and City Council meeting regarding chickens and bees. He distributed information about free-range chickens.

**9E.** Staff announced the next Commissioner Certification training on March 31.

**10. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:** At 8:16 p.m., Commissioner Endo-Roberts moved to adjourn the meeting to April 2, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. in the West Annex meeting room. Commissioner Montgomery seconded the motion and, hearing no objection, Chairperson Gobble so ordered.

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Approved as amended April 2, 2015 s/ Rebecca Poirier, City Clerk
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Deborah Schaffer  
Recording Secretary