

**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, May 7, 2015 in the West Annex meeting room at Torrance City Hall.

2. ROLL CALL:

Present: Commissioners Deemer, DeWitt, Martin, Montgomery, and Chairperson Gobble.

Absent: Commissioners Endo-Roberts and Wright.

Also Present: Deputy Community Development Director Cessna.

MOTION: Commissioner Martin moved to grant Commissioners Endo-Roberts and Wright excused absences for the May 7, 2015 Commission meeting. Commissioner Montgomery seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected unanimous approval.

3. SALUTE TO THE FLAG

Commissioner DeWitt led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. POSTING OF THE AGENDA

MOTION: Commissioner Martin, seconded by Commissioner Deemer, 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 Gobble 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 : APRIL 2, 2015

MOTION: Commissioner Montgomery moved to approve the Commission meeting minutes of April 2, 2015 as presented. Commissioner DeWitt seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected unanimous approval (absent Commissioners Endo-Roberts and Wright).

7. ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS

7A. DRIVE ELECTRIC WEEK EVENT

Deputy Director Cessna led a discussion centering on plans for the City's Drive Electric Week event on September 12, 2015. She reported that ChargePoint, the vendor installing the City's electric vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure, is working with the City and Zan Dubin-Scott from Plug In America to organize the event. She stated that the Office of Economic Development has provided a list of all local automobile dealerships and original equipment manufacturers, and that NRG, Costco, and Del Amo Mall are all interested in participating. She noted that they are not only trying to bring in EVs but also anything related to the infrastructure surrounding the vehicles. She stated that the charging stations will be located in the parking lot behind Katy Geissert Civic Center Library and the Plunge. She noted that the ribbon cutting ceremony is tentatively scheduled for 9:30 a.m., with the event from 10 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. She stated that they are working with the Police Department to determine where best to have a static area that is away from where the test drives will take place.

She distributed maps showing where the EV chargers will be located as well as the proposed route for EV test drives. She stated that test drives would go northbound on Madrona Avenue, turn east onto Civic Center Drive or Del Amo Boulevard, south on Maple Avenue, west on Torrance Boulevard, and back to Madrona Avenue. She stated that maps would be available showing all the locations in Torrance that have EV chargers. She noted that CitiCABLE would be there and that they are trying to arrange to have food available. She stated that ChargePoint is trying to find corporate sponsors for the event. She encouraged Commissioners to accept the Proclamation for Drive Electric Week at the September 1, 2015 City Council meeting. In response to her inquiry, Commissioners expressed interest in having a Commission table.

Commissioner Montgomery stated that he has found people interested in helping with the event but no one willing to act as lead. He shared information about the Plug Share app that shows the location of charging stations. He stated that test drives are the most important thing to provide and suggested that owners of the different makes of vehicles be separated from each other. He also recommended that vendors come early to set up. He mentioned that another Drive Electric Week event is taking place at Exposition Park on September 13. He offered to contact ChargePoint to offer his assistance.

Chairperson Gobble recommended contacting Walgreens, Best Buy, and other businesses that have chargers to see if they would like to participate. He suggested having EV owners pre-register to make sure there is a good diversity of vehicle types and to block off parking spaces for Library patrons.

Commissioner DeWitt suggested having a question and answer sheet and Deputy Director Cessna offered to bring back a script at the August Commission meeting. He further recommended having some EVs located around the chargers and was informed that the existing free chargers would be moved behind the gate for employee use.

Philip Perez, 171st Street, was informed by staff that they have no knowledge of Honda planning to leave Torrance in the future, that Honda has been the driving force

for EV infrastructure, and that the Climate Action Plan, City's Strategic Plan, and public interest were instrumental in deciding to install EV infrastructure.

In response to Commissioner Martin's inquiry, Deputy Director Cessna stated that the Library's drive-through book return would be closed off.

Commissioner Deemer recommended promoting the event in the Daily Breeze and Torrance Tribune.

8. NEW BUSINESS

8A. Deputy Director Cessna stated that staff is working on revitalizing the Green Pride in Torrance recognition and will present ideas to the Commission in June.

8B. Commissioner Montgomery announced a 2015 EPN South Bay Solar and Green Homes Tour on May 9.

9C. Commissioner DeWitt raised the possibility of replacing the fountain in front of City Hall with drought tolerant plants.

9D. Commissioner Martin discussed EV test drives in Santa Barbara on Earth Day.

9E. Chairperson Gobble expressed concern about City trees dying during the drought, noting that there are several dead pine trees in the Riviera area. He distributed an April 25, 2015 Daily Breeze article "Trees of Life" and suggested putting information on the City's website.

9. ORAL COMMUNICATION

9A. Mr. Perez stated that he has a 75 gallon rain barrel connected to his rain gutters and that it collects ten gallons of water a day from dew.

9B. Chairperson Gobble shared information about his tour of Edmonston Pumping Plant and Jensen Treatment Plant on April 25 with Metropolitan Water District.

10. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: At 8:12 p.m., Commissioner Montgomery moved to adjourn the meeting to June 4, 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 June 4, 2015 s/ Rebecca Poirier, City Clerk
