

**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, June 7, 2012 in the West Annex meeting room at Torrance City Hall.

2. ROLL CALL:

Present: Commissioners Chim*, Gobble, Reilly,
Robbins, Watson, and Chairperson Griffiths.

Absent: None.

Also Present: Deputy Community Development Director Cessna and
Waste Management Coordinator Sherman.

*Commissioner Chim arrived at 7:10 p.m.

3. SALUTE TO THE FLAG

Commissioner Robbins led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. POSTING OF THE AGENDA

MOTION: Commissioner Gobble, seconded by Commissioner Watson, moved to accept and file the report of the secretary on the posting of the agenda for this meeting; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval.

5. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

None.

6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

6A. MINUTES OF MAY 3, 2012

MOTION: Commissioner Robbins moved to approve the May 3, 2012 meeting minutes as presented. Commissioner Gobble seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval.

7. ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS

7A. RECYCLING UPDATE

Waste Management Coordinator Sherman provided an update on recycling programs in the City. She reported that they continue to provide school education outreach programs, composting workshops, donating permanent recycling containers to high schools, used oil program, and recognition of the 24 certified used oil centers that operate in the City. She provided information about the green waste program that will be completely implemented by late summer. She stated that green, gray, and black containers are available in smaller sizes, but residents who switch to smaller black containers will reduce their monthly service fee. She anticipated that once the green waste program is fully implemented it will average more than 50% diversion in the residential sector. She noted that the City is currently at 50% recycling Citywide, mainly because of the commercial and business sectors.

She discussed AB341 and the mandate for commercial and multi-family units of five or more to recycle. She advised that the mandate began January 1, 2012 but the State is not starting to collect any information about the program until August 2013. She stated that Torrance has set up a website explaining the regulations and is in the process of surveying haulers and collecting information.

In response to Commissioner Gobble's inquiries, Waste Management Coordinator Sherman stated that the used oil centers are listed on the website and that staff is looking into the possibility of changing the ordinance to provide recycling service to multi-family residences on a case-by-case basis.

Responding to Commissioner Reilly's inquiry, she stated that the bin change-out will actually save the City money because green waste costs less than half of the trash tipping fee.

Commissioner Griffiths stated that he submitted his request for the change-out on-line but received no feedback.

Commissioner Watson stated that she has an alleyway container that often causes confusion and Waste Management Coordinator Sherman advised that residents should receive individual gray and green containers.

Commissioner Gobble stated that in Ventura County every trash can has a house number on it.

A brief discussion centered on disposal of alkaline batteries.

Waste Management Coordinator Sherman announced that there would be free paper shredding, e-waste recycling, shoe and clothing recycling, used oil recycling and filter exchange, and free mulch offered at City Hall on June 9, 2012.

7B. ENVIRONMENTAL FAIR UPDATE

Deputy Director Cessna distributed a map of the layout for the June 9 Environmental Fair at the City Yard. She reported that the Environmental Quality and Energy Conservation Commission, NPDS, Waste Management/recycling, Honda Fit EV and Tesla, Surfrider, and a coloring contest will be in the Environmental area. She

stated that give-aways will include ladybugs and grocery bags and that attendees can answer trivia questions or put up sticky notes saying what they think the City should be doing. She informed Commissioners that there would be electric vehicle, composting, and green building presentations in the lunchroom.

Waste Management Coordinator Sherman stated that Trash for Teaching would be providing a recycling relay and showing how reusable items can be used for crafts.

Commissioner Gobble suggested placing 10-12 items on a board and asking attendees what is recyclable.

8. ORAL COMMUNICATION

8A. Deputy Director Cessna stated that the electric vehicle Code changes went to the Planning Commission on June 6, 2012 and will move on to City Council in a month.

8B. Commissioner Gobble discussed his experience driving a Local Utility Vehicle that was donated by South Bay Cities COG.

8C. Commissioner Reilly stated that her home now has a fully functional 500 watt solar system and that she expects to receive her Tesla in nine months.

8D. Commissioner Robbins distributed a June 4 Los Angeles Business Journal article about automatic sprinkler controllers.

8E. Commissioner Watson stated that she was impressed with the number of electric vehicles in Europe and that she had the opportunity to visit Pelican on June 7.

8F. Commissioner Watson distributed fliers and shared information about the Torrance Centennial on-line photo contest.

8G. Commissioner Reilly commented that it appears the bird feeding ordinance has been effective.

9. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: At 8:13 p.m., Commissioner Watson moved to adjourn the meeting to August 2, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. in the West Annex meeting room. Commissioner Gobble seconded the motion and, hearing no objection, Chairperson Griffiths so ordered.

Approved as Submitted August 2, 2012 s/ Sue Herbers, City Clerk
