

**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 7:01 p.m. on Thursday, August 2, 2012 in the West Annex meeting room at Torrance City Hall.

2. ROLL CALL:

Present: Commissioners DeWitt, Reilly, Robbins,
Watson, and Chairperson Griffiths.

Absent: Commissioners Chim and Gobble.

Also Present: Deputy Community Development Director Cessna and
Senior Environmental Quality Officer Duncan.

MOTION: Commissioner Watson moved to grant Commissioners Chim and Gobble excused absences for the August 2, 2012 Commission meeting. Commissioner Reilly seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval.

3. SALUTE TO THE FLAG

Commissioner DeWitt led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. POSTING OF THE AGENDA

MOTION: Commissioner Robbins, 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 JUNE 7, 2012

MOTION: Commissioner Reilly moved to approve the June 7, 2012 meeting minutes as presented. Commissioner Watson seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval (absent Commissioners Chim and Gobble).

7. ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS

7A. SURFRIDER PRESENTATION – “RISE ABOVE PLASTICS.”

Craig Cadwallader, representing Surfrider Foundation, South Bay Chapter, provided background regarding Surfrider Foundation’s history, membership, and mission to protect and enjoy the oceans, lakes, and beaches. He stated that he enjoyed participating in the June 9 Environmental Fair and is currently the Chapter’s chair of the “Rise Above Plastics” Committee. He presented its objectives to encourage individual

cities to consider passing ordinances to eliminate the use of single-use plastic bags and to ban the use of expanded polystyrene foam (Styrofoam) takeout food packaging. He discussed the significant damage that plastic bags cause our environment and emphasized the need for change of habit to use reusable bags.

He provided information about the impact that expanded polystyrene has on the environment due to its carcinogenic elements and because it breaks into tiny pieces. He stated that Surfrider and Clean Water Action are co-sponsoring SB 568 to ban the use of expanded polystyrene foam in takeout food packaging and asked Commissioners to encourage their Assemblymembers to pass the bill. He discussed the problem of cleaning up Styrofoam and alternative packaging that is available. He requested the Commission's support in encouraging the City to pass an ordinance or resolution to support the effort to ban its use.

Commissioner Watson provided additional information about Surfrider's Teach and Test program in high schools that has included West High School and North High School.

Responding to Commissioner Robbins' inquiries, Mr. Cadwallader stated that Alan Lowenthal introduced SB 568 and that the California Restaurant Association does not support SB 568 but California Grocers Association does.

Commissioner DeWitt called attention to the need for education and for individual businesses to lead by example.

Mr. Cadwallader distributed information about SB 568 and the Commission thanked him for his informative presentation.

8. NEW BUSINESS

8A. ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON & VICE-CHAIRPERSON

Commissioner Watson nominated Chairperson Griffiths for Chairperson of the Environmental Quality and Energy Conservation Commission.

MOTION: Commissioner Robbins, seconded by Commissioner Watson, moved to close the nominations; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval.

Chairperson Griffiths was re-elected Chairperson of the Environmental Quality and Energy Conservation Commission on a unanimous roll call vote (absent Commissioners Chim and Gobble).

Commissioner Reilly nominated Commissioner Watson for Vice- Chairperson of the Environmental Quality and Energy Conservation Commission.

MOTION: Commissioner Robbins, seconded by Commissioner DeWitt, moved to close the nominations; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval.

Commissioner Watson was re-elected Vice-Chairperson of the Environmental Quality and Energy Conservation Commission on a unanimous roll call vote (absent Commissioners Chim and Gobble).

Commissioner DeWitt expressed interest in also attending the September 27 Chairperson training.

9. ORAL COMMUNICATION

9A. Deputy Director Cessna initiated a brief discussion about the June 9 Environmental Fair at the City Yard. She stated that estimated attendance was 2,500 to 3,000 and that feedback indicated that the Environmental area was too spread out. She noted that the Fair is still scheduled for every other year at the City Yard.

Chairperson Griffiths stated that he enjoyed participating in the education on recycling.

9B. Deputy Director Cessna stated that the South Bay Environmental Services Center is scheduled to give a presentation on the carbon footprint and Climate Action planning at the September 6, 2012 Commission meeting.

9C. Commissioner Watson inquired about a joint meeting with City Council and Deputy Director Cessna suggested waiting until they move forward with Climate Action planning.

9D. Commissioner Reilly stated that the South Bay Environmental Services Center's Energy 101 workshop was informative and she was impressed with how many rebates are available. She noted that she also learned that the Association of Realtors are now including energy ratings for homes for sale.

9E. Commissioners and staff welcomed new Commissioner DeWitt who expressed his appreciation to City Council for appointing him and for the warm welcome he has received.

9F. Commissioner DeWitt announced a native gardening event at Madrona Marsh on August 4 and International Surf Festival this weekend.

9G. Chairperson Griffiths stated that he enjoyed visiting the Big Creek hydroelectric facilities by Shaver Lake last month as well as touring Robert Fortunato's home in Hermosa Beach.

9. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: At 7:55 p.m., Commissioner Reilly moved to adjourn the meeting to September 6, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. in the West Annex meeting room. Commissioner Watson seconded the motion and, hearing no objection, Chairperson Griffiths so ordered.

Approved as Submitted September 6, 2012 s/ Sue Herbers, City Clerk
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