

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if special assistance is needed to participate in this meeting, please contact the City Clerk's office at (310) 618-2780. Notification 48 hours prior to the meeting will enable the City to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility to this meeting. [28CFR35.102-35.104 ADA Title II]

The Environmental Quality and Energy Conservation Commission is an advisory body to the City Council that meets on the first Thursday of each month at 6:00 p.m. All meetings are open to the public. Agendas, staff reports, and minutes are available for review on the City webpage at www.TorranceCA.gov/Environmental-Quality-Commission-Agendas-Minutes

Direct questions or concerns to the Commission Liaison at (310) 618-5912, or individual department head prior to submission to the Commission. Parties will be notified if the complaint will be included on a subsequent agenda.

Members of the public may provide comments related to any items on the meeting agenda. Oral comments are limited to one minute per speaker for items on the agenda and limited to one minute per speaker for items not on the agenda. Everyone interested in speaking on an agenda item will be heard at the meeting. Speakers are asked to come forward to the podium, speak clearly, and provide their name and address for the record. Meetings are audio recorded. If presenting handout material to the Environmental Commission, please provide 10 color copies to staff before speaking.

Written comments may be submitted via email to EnvironmentalCommission@torranceca.gov. Written comments may also be delivered by mail or submitted in-person to the Permit Center (Environmental Counter) in the Community Development Department located at the above referenced address, open 8:00am to 5:00pm, Monday through Thursday, open alternate Fridays. Comments must include in the subject line "Public Comment" and the record number. Comments must be pertinent to the agenda item and must not include personal remarks. All personal signatures, personal addresses, personal telephone numbers and personal email addresses must be omitted or will be redacted. Repetitive comments and/or duplicate copies of petitions and flyers are neither necessary nor helpful.

Comments that are submitted no later than 5:00pm on Wednesday the day before the Environmental Commission meeting will be included as a supplemental agenda item and will be posted on the City webpage no later than 5:00pm on Thursday the day of the meeting. A copy of the supplemental agenda item will be available at the back of the Commission room. Comments that are submitted in writing after 5:00pm on Wednesday the day before the Environmental Commission meeting will be filed with the public record.

**TORRANCE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY AND ENERGY CONSERVATION
COMMISSION AGENDA
MAY 02, 2024
REGULAR MEETING
6:00 P.M. IN WEST ANNEX COMMISSION MEETING ROOM
AT 3031 TORRANCE BL.**

**ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY AND ENERGY CONSERVATION COMMISSION MAY
TAKE ACTION ON ANY ITEM LISTED ON THE AGENDA**

- 1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER**
ROLL CALL: Commission members: Gunnar, Hill, Jendrucko, Love, Montoya, Seferian, and Chair Stecker
- 2. FLAG SALUTE**
- 3. REPORT OF THE STAFF ON THE POSTING OF THE AGENDA**
The agenda was posted on the Public Notice Board at 3031 Torrance Blvd. and on the City's Website on Thursday, April 25, 2024.
- 4. ANNOUNCEMENT OF WITHDRAWN, DEFERRED, AND/OR SUPPLEMENTAL ITEMS**
- 5. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS (Limited up to a 15-minute period)**
This portion of the meeting is reserved for comments on items on the Consent Calendar or not on the agenda. Under the Ralph M. Brown Act, the Commission cannot act on items raised during public comment but may respond briefly to

statements made or questions posed; request clarification; or refer the item to staff. **No longer than 1 minute per speaker.** If presenting handout material to Commission, please provide 10 copies to staff before speaking.

6. CONSENT CALENDAR

Matters listed under the Consent Calendar are considered routine and will be enacted by one motion and one vote. There will be no separate discussion of these items. If discussion is desired, that item will be removed by a Commissioner from the Consent Calendar and considered separately.

6A. Approve Commission Minutes: April 04, 2024

7. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

7A. Review and Discuss the Climate Smart Awards Nominations

8. PUBLIC HEARINGS

9. COMMISSION ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

10. ADJOURNMENT

10A. Adjournment of Environmental Quality and Energy Conservation Commission Meeting to Thursday, June 6, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. in the West Annex Commission Meeting Room.



**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE
TORRANCE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
& ENERGY CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

The Torrance Environmental Quality and Energy Conservation Commission convened in a regular session at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, April 4, 2024, in the West Annex Commission Meeting Room.

ROLL CALL

Present: Commissioners Jendrucko, Love, Montoya, Seferian, and Chair Stecker.

Absent: Commissioners Gunnar and Hill.

Also Present: Staff Liaison Nora Duncan, Community Development Director Ramirez, Planning Manager Gregg Lodan, Senior Code Enforcement Officer Luis Zelaya, and Code Enforcement Officer Robert Crawford.

MOTION: Commissioner Montoya moved to excuse the absence of Commissioners Gunnar and Hill. Commissioner Love seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected a 4-0 approval (Commissioners Gunnar, Hill, and Seferian absent).

2. FLAG SALUTE

Commissioner Montoya led The Pledge of Allegiance.

3. REPORT OF STAFF ON THE POSTING OF THE AGENDA

Staff Liaison Duncan reported that the agenda was posted on the Public Notice Board at 3031 Torrance Boulevard on Thursday, March 29, 2024.

4. ANNOUNCEMENT OF WITHDRAWN, DEFERRED, AND/OR SUPPLEMENTAL ITEMS

None.

5. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

A member of the public spoke.

6. CONSENT CALENDAR

6A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: MARCH 7, 2024

MOTION: Commissioner Love moved to approve the March 7, 2024, minutes. Commissioner Jendrucko seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected a 4-0 approval (Commissioners Gunnar, Hill, and Seferian absent).

Commissioner Seferian joined the Commission at 6:06 p.m.

7. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

7A. PRESENTATION: COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT, CODE ENFORCEMENT UNIT

Community Development Director Ramirez stated in fiscal year 2022-2023, as part of the budget approval process, City Council approved the reorganization of the Community Development Department that included the addition of the Code Enforcement Unit as well as the adoption of the Administrative Citation Program. As part of the Code Enforcement Unit, code enforcement officers have the right to write citations under the Administrative Citation Program. Enforcement of the Torrance Municipal Code is vital to protect health, safety, and welfare.

The goal of the Administrative Citation Program is to:

- 1) Impose a non-judicial administrative fine for offenses of the Torrance Municipal Code, Ordinances, Permits, Entitlements, and City Agreements.
- 2) Encourage prompt abatement or correction of prohibited conditions, uses, or activities in the city.
- 3) Create deterrent against future violations of the Torrance Municipal Code.

The Administrative Citation Remedy is not intended to replace any other remedy allowed within the Torrance Municipal Code or state law; it is intended to provide an alternative and / or additional means by which the Torrance Municipal Code may be enforced.

A Compliance Order (Notice of Violation) is issued if the violation does not create an immediate danger to health and safety and require a reasonable amount of time to correct. There is no fine associated with the Compliance Order. If a violation has not been abated within the authorized correction period, the city may issue citations. The issued citation will notify the responsible party of availability to request an administrative hearing if they wish to appeal the citation. The hearing is conducted by a neutral third-party hearing officer at the expense of the city; costs related to the hearing process are offset through revenue received through the Administrative Citation Program. The Hearing Officer's decision is final unless appealed to the Superior Court within (20) days of the decision. Examples of violations include overgrown vegetation, graffiti removal, and failure to obtain a sign permit.

In response to Commissioner Montoya, Community Development Director Ramirez that information is not released to the public, but public records requests can be made with the name of the complainant redacted, or information can be requested through the judicial system. Anonymous complaints are not accepted due to a complainant needed if a case is brought to court.

In response to Commissioner Love, Community Development Director Ramirez replied that complaints can be made through email, phone calls, or submitted in the Code Enforcement App.

Senior Code Enforcement Officer Luis Zelaya and Code Enforcement Officer Robert Crawford shared their experiences and code enforcement processes.

A member of the public spoke.

MOTION: Commissioner Seferian moved to accept and file Item 7A. Commissioner Jendrucko seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected a 5-0 approval (Commissioners Gunnar and Hill absent).

7B. DISCUSSION: DRAFT CITY OF TORRANCE BEAUTIFICATION AWARDS PROGRAM

Staff Liaison Duncan presented the item which included the nomination process, qualifications, nomination deadlines, selection processes, and drafts were presented to the Commission.

- November 2023, City Council directed the Community Development Department to develop the Beautification Awards Program; the intent of the program is to focus on the beautification of neighborhoods and honor property owners and residents for outstanding maintenance of their homes.
- The city will accept nominations as submitted and staff will sort nominations and prepare materials for the Commission's review; Commissioners will vote on finalists.

Members of the Commission spoke.

Planning Manager Lodan clarified that staff does not envision rolling out the Beautification Awards Program until 2025.

A member of the public spoke.

MOTION: Commissioner Seferian moved to accept and file Item 7B. Commissioner Love seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected a 5-0 approval (Commissioners Gunnar and Hill absent).

8. PUBLIC HEARINGS - None.

9. COMMISSION ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Commissioner Jendrucko announced that the city arborist gave an update on changes that may be happening along the Artesia Corridor.

Chair Stecker requested an update regarding the Surfrider Foundation presentation. Staff Liaison Duncan replied that this is still being investigated.

Chair Stecker requested an update on the status of the Climate Smart Award for Torrance Memorial. Staff Liaison Duncan stated that the recipient is attempting to coordinate a time to have a representative come to accept the award. He requested the status of current Climate Smart Award nominees. Staff Liaison Duncan stated that there are (5) nominees at this time.

Chair Stecker stated that he's been in contact with Honda North America and requested staff follow up to request a presentation on Honda's sustainability projects.

Planning Manager Lodan announced that Councilmember Mattucci will host an Earth Day Event on Saturday, April 27, 2024, at Wilson Park. Planning Manager Lodan suggested having an Environmental Quality & Energy Conservation table to promote the Climate Smart Awards and the Commission. Members of the Commission expressed interest.

10. **ADJOURNMENT**

MOTION: At 7:22 p.m. Commissioner Jendrucko moved to adjourn the meeting to Thursday, May 2, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. Commissioner Seferian seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected a 5-0 approval (Commissioners Gunnar and Hill absent).

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Subject to Approval

AGENDA ITEM NO. 7A

To: Members of the Environmental Quality and Energy Conservation Commission

FROM: Neighborhood Services

SUBJECT: Review and Discuss Torrance Climate Smart Awards

For tonight's meeting, staff will be providing the nominations for the 2024 Climate Smart Awards to the Commission. The Torrance Climate Smart Award seeks to recognize residents, students, schools, businesses and organizations for their commitment to excellence in environmental stewardship and outstanding environmental achievements, in support of the Stewardship of the Environment Priority in the 2021 Strategic Plan. The Climate Smart awards and criteria are in the following categories:

- CLIMATE SMART ENERGY: Outstanding achievements in clean energy, energy efficiency, demand reduction and reduced greenhouse gas emissions.
- CLIMATE SMART WATER: Achievements in water conservation through implementation, planting and promotion of water conservation efforts.
- CLIMATE SMART YOUTH: Torrance school aged youth, individuals, or groups, for outstanding leadership in climate change and building awareness and engagement of their peers, school and community.
- CLIMATE SMART COMMUNITY: Individual members of the Torrance Community or a community group that provided outstanding support to the implementation and goals of the strategic plan pertaining to environmental stewardship.
- CLIMATE SMART BUSINESS: Retail, commercial, industrial, and other businesses that demonstrate achievements in any areas of the award criteria or has received a recognized environmental certification, including but not limited to Clean Bay Restaurant or LEED.

The goal of the award is to highlight citizens, groups, businesses, and organizations in Torrance who demonstrate the importance of environmental stewardship. Attached are the nominations received to this date. All nominations received after the posting of the agenda will be provided to the Commission via Supplemental.

Staff recommends that the Environmental Quality Commission discuss the Climate Smart Award nominees and vote on Climate Smart Awards nominees that meet voting criteria.

Prepared by,

Respectfully Submitted,

Nora Duncan
Senior Environmental Quality Officer

Gregg Lodan
Neighborhood Services Manager

ATTACHMENTS: 1. CLIMATE SMART AWARD NOMINATIONS

5/02/24
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
AGENDA ITEM 7A

The Climate Smart Award is a program being implemented by the Environmental Quality and Energy Conservation Commission in support of the Stewardship of the Environment Priority in the 2021 Strategic Plan. The Strategic Plan can be found at www.TorranceCA.Gov/Government/City-Manager/Strategic-Plan. The goal of the award is to highlight people, businesses and organizations within Torrance that through services and actions clearly demonstrate the importance of environmental stewardship. The award categories are defined below.

Please check one of the following award categories:

CLIMATE SMART YOUTH: Recognizes Torrance school aged youth, individuals or groups, for outstanding leadership in climate change and building awareness and engagement of their peers, school and/or community.

Please provide us with your contact information:

Full Name

Cara McCallum

Phone

(714) 742-7637

Email

giraffelaugh@hotmail.com

Please provide us with Nominee contact and award nominee site information:

Nominee Name

Bruce McCallum

Nominee Address

19502 Hinsdale Ave.
Torrance California 90503

Nominee Phone Number

(310) 912-1750

Nominee Email

1036564@etusd.org

Briefly describe the achievements of this nominee and how their efforts have significantly improved life in the Torrance community.

Bruce is a junior at West Torrance High School. He has completed 2 climate smart projects in the last 2 years: from 5/9/2021 - 3/22/2022, Bruce worked with Tracy Drake at Torrance Parks. He designed 3 shade structures and 2 planting tables. He raised about \$1000 and got help from his scout troop as well as students at Jefferson Middle School to help him build the structures at the City Yard. These are currently being used by City employees to grow native plants which are planted in Torrance parks. Bruce also raised over 500 native plants which were planted at The City Yard property as well as donated to The City Yard for planting in Torrance parks. From 3/8/2023 to 7/1/2023, Bruce focused on the endangered monarch butterfly population. He raised over 600 native (narrowleaf) milkweed plants from seed, after learning that monarch butterflies are being affected by the pesticides in milkweed plants grown in almost all nurseries. Bruce planted about 170 of these milkweed plants, with companion native plants, on UCLA property, with the support of Greg Luna, Superintendent of Grounds, and with the help of his Scout troop. He gave away over 100 of the narrowleaf seedlings to the public through the Master Gardeners and also had the public plant over 100 plants in Orange County at a Monarch trail through the Master Gardeners. This was to support the struggling monarch population. To complete this project, Bruce raised another \$1000 by selling coupon cards. Besides growing the native milkweed plants, Bruce used a portion of the money to purchase organic native plants from Palos Verdes Peninsula, to assist the monarch caterpillars and butterflies in the planting areas. Bruce continues to monitor the plants that he raised and put in the ground, to be sure of their success. In the photo attached, Bruce is the one in the middle. He is with his Scout leaders, his dad, and brother

Attachment

[Bruce shade structure photo \(after\).pdf](#)

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Please check one of the following award categories:

CLIMATE SMART COMMUNITY: Recognizes an individual member of the Torrance community or a community group that has provided outstanding support to the implementation and goals of the strategic plan as it pertains to environmental stewardship.

Please provide us with your contact information:

Full Name

John-Milo Ernst

Phone

(310) 974-2378

Email

olimweetbix@gmail.com

Please provide us with Nominee contact and award nominee site information:

Nominee Name

Trisha Minahan

Nominee Address

4801 Pacific Coast Hwy.

Torrance CA 90505

United States

Nominee Phone Number

(310) 533-4352 ext. 7452

Nominee Email

minahan.trisha@tUSD.org

Briefly describe the achievements of this nominee and how their efforts have significantly improved life in the Torrance community.

Trisha Minahan is an environmental science teacher at South High School. She educates students on the importance of community engagement and advocates for wildlife restoration in the City of Torrance. She rides her bike to school and recycles all materials from her classroom, including water and organic waste. Trisha Minahan coordinates with other teachers to reduce excess electricity and paper usage, and looks for ways to reduce waste around campus. In addition, she sponsors the sustainability club. Her sustainability club operates multiple projects around the school, such as collecting recycling from all classrooms, and distributing reusable towels to teachers in place of paper towels. In the past year, she has given me advice on environmental protection which helped me earn my State Seal of Civic Engagement. Even students who are not in her class are welcomed and supported in any environmental interest they may have.

Attachment

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Please provide us with your contact information:

Full Name

Suzan Hubert

Phone

(310) 415-4517

Email

suzanhubert@sbcglobal.net

Please provide us with Nominee contact and award nominee site information:

Nominee Name

Friends of Madrona Marsh Docent Tour Leaders

Nominee Address

2005 W. 177th St
Torrance CA 90504
USA

Nominee Phone Number

(310) 415-4517

Nominee Email

suzanhubert@sbcglobal.net

Briefly describe the achievements of this nominee and how their efforts have significantly improved life in the Torrance community.

Life in a community is significantly better when residents have an opportunity to spend time in natural, wild spaces. Parks are nice but wild spaces provide opportunities to learn about nature and support sustainable living with wildlife. The Friends of Madrona Marsh docents are part of the Friends wildlife/nature community education programs. In September of each year the Madrona Marsh docents complete training and prepare for leading student study tours. Tours continue from the first Tuesday in October through the last Thursday in May. Tours are offered to any grade level pre-K through college but the 10 docents specialize in pre-K-5th grade. Several docents met in 2019 to design grade level tours which align with the California Life Science Education Standards. Thus, Madrona Marsh is an educational field experience for elementary school students. In 2023 docents led 71 Life study tours for 843 students and 183 teachers/adults. In addition to student study tours docent also lead tours/classes for children and their parents aged 3 months-4 years (Tyke Hikes and Friday Fun) and host events such as Nature Story Time and the annual Nature Festival. All of the individuals leading these tours and events are volunteers. Staff lend support and partner with volunteers to provide a rich learning experiences focused on understanding and appreciating wildlife, native plants and the nature that surrounds everyone. Education of our children is our best pathway forward to developing an understanding that humans are part of nature, we can't live without a balance between humans and the natural world if we hope for a healthy future.

Attachment

[Tour on New Bridge.JPG](#)

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Please check one of the following award categories:

CLIMATE SMART YOUTH: Recognizes Torrance school aged youth, individuals or groups, for outstanding leadership in climate change and building awareness and engagement of their peers, school and/or community.

Please provide us with your contact information:

Full Name

Elizabeth Machian

Phone

(310) 291-9393

Email

betsymachian@hotmail.com

Please provide us with Nominee contact and award nominee site information:

Nominee Name

Thomas Machian

Nominee Address

2302 W 178th St
Torrance California 90504
United States

Nominee Phone Number

(310) 291-9928

Nominee Email

thomasmachian@gmail.com

Briefly describe the achievements of this nominee and how their efforts have significantly improved life in the Torrance community.

Thomas is a member of the Ecology club at North Torrance High School. As part of his club service projects, he has helped to create drought-resistant landscapes for three Torrance residents. He is a member of BSA Troop 719 and completed his Eagle Service Project at Madrona Marsh. As part of his project, he built a kiosk at the preserve entrance gates where volunteers can check guests in and out. He also organized members of the Troop to complete conservation projects in and around the preserve. Thomas is an active member of the Cross Country and Track teams at North and ran the LA marathon in 2023 and 2024 as part of SRLA (Students Run Los Angeles).

Attachment

[IMG_4836 Original.jpeg](#)

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Please check one of the following award categories:

CLIMATE SMART BUSINESS: Recognizes retail, commercial, industrial and other businesses that demonstrate achievements in any areas of the award criteria or has received a recognized environmental certification, including but not limited to Clean Bay Restaurant, LEED and/or Green Business Network standards.

Please provide us with your contact information:

Full Name
John Stecker

Phone
(424) 305-0235

Email
jsteckerdds@gmail.com

Please provide us with Nominee contact and award nominee site information:

Nominee Name
American Honda Motor Co., Inc Contact= Eric Walli

Nominee Address
1919 Torrance Blvd.
Torrance CA 90501
USA

Nominee Phone Number
(937) 935-6207

Nominee Email
eric_walli@na.honda.com

Briefly describe the achievements of this nominee and how their efforts have significantly improved life in the Torrance community.

Not only for Torrance, but for all of North America, Honda has an impressive array of environmental sustainability programs. They decreased corporate CO2 emissions by 29.5% in 2022. They were 98.6% landfill free in 2022. They plan having their vehicles 100% electric or hydrogen by 2040. They have a Green Dealer Program for their sales outlets.

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Please provide us with your contact information:

Full Name
Amazon Beard

Phone
(818) 255-8469

Email
warriorfemaletime@yahoo.com

Please provide us with Nominee contact and award nominee site information:

Nominee Name
Mary Simun

Nominee Address
4520 Darien St.
Torrance CA 90503
United States of America

Nominee Phone Number
(310) 709-0657

Nominee Email
entamoebatrex@hotmail.com

Briefly describe the achievements of this nominee and how their efforts have significantly improved life in the Torrance community.

Mary Simun has created a California Native water resistant garden both in the front yard and back yard. The front yard received the a Native Habitat plaque from the Southbay Conservancy. She hangs clothes instead of using the dryer, washes dishes in a bucket, then throws the grey water on plants as well as catching as much shower water to do the same. She rides her electric bike everywher. She is on the Board of Directors for the Southbay Land Conservancy, teaching and giving guided plant walks at Wilderness Park, weeding at Torrance Community Garden, does water quality testing for the Southbay Surfrider Chapter, uses Jackery Power banks to recharge batteries, uses salt lamps for low flow electricity. Mary Simun is Earths shero and the epitamy of eco environmentalist.

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Please provide us with your contact information:

Full Name

Tricia Blanco

Phone

(310) 938-8338

Email

sheablanco@gmail.com

Please provide us with Nominee contact and award nominee site information:

Nominee Name

Doug Macmillan

Nominee Address

23007 Evelyn Drive
Torrance Ca 90505
USA

Nominee Phone Number

(310) 936-1865

Nominee Email

dougmacmillan1@me.com

Briefly describe the achievements of this nominee and how their efforts have significantly improved life in the Torrance community.

Seaside resident Doug Macmillan is a popular local speaker who inspires attendees with his presentations about how he turned his typical Torrance post-WW2 home into a completely solar-reliant sanctuary, warm in the winter and cool in the summer. And he doesn't pay a penny to So. Cal Edison or So. Cal Gas! Doug and Miriam's home is an example of how to live fossil fuel free. Thanks to sunlight falling on his small 1300 square foot roof, neither methane gas nor Edison are needed to run his two electric cars 20,000 miles yearly, plus keep his appliances whirling. According to Doug, "We've disconnected from the gas company and are fully electric. We installed a Tesla solar roof with 2 batteries and generate more power than we use, and we have not had a power outage since we first installed solar and batteries in 2015. For the 6 summer months the roof makes enough electricity to power three similar neighborhood houses." Doug talked about his environmentally sustainable home at a General Meeting of the Seaside Homeowners Association, of which I am President, in May of 2022. He also discussed tankless water heaters and quick heating solar powered water pipes, and introduced a simple ozone measurement device which he loans out so that everyone can check the air quality in their house. At the September 2023 joint meeting of SNA and the Riviera Homeowners Association, Mr. Macmillan demonstrated the advantages of using induction cooking instead of gas. He melted chocolate to show how an induction cooktop cooks faster than gas, is safer and leaves no messy stove clean up. Then as part of his community project, many participants took home a cookstove to try it themselves. They will return it to Doug, who will loan it out again. A founding member of California's Virtual power plant, Doug says "A distributed power grid is more sustainable than a monolithic power company." To get a sense of Doug's passion, view his video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3XodF339Q5k> .

Attachment

[SNA Supporting document Doug Macmillan.pdf](#)