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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
JUNE 06, 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, May 30, 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: May 02, 2024

7. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

7A. Conduct Environmental Quality and Energy Conservation Commission Elections

Recommendation of the Community Development Director that Environmental Quality and Energy Conservation Commission nominate and elect a Chair and Vice Chair for the 2024-2025 fiscal year.

7B. Presentation-Climate Smart Award Recipients

8. PUBLIC HEARINGS

9. COMMISSION ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

10. ADJOURNMENT

10A. Adjournment of Environmental Quality and Energy Conservation Commission Meeting to Thursday, August 01, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. in the West Annex Commission Meeting Room.



**MINUTES OF 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 6:01 p.m. on Thursday, May 2, 2024, in the West Annex Commission Meeting Room.

ROLL CALL

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

Absent: Commissioner Gunnar.

Also Present: Staff Liaison Nora Duncan and Community Development Director Michelle Ramirez.

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

2. FLAG SALUTE

Commissioner Hill 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, April 25, 2024.

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 ANNOUNCEMENT OF WITHDRAWN, DEFERRED, AND/OR SUPPLEMENTAL ITEMS

None.

5. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

None.

Commissioner Seferian joined the Commission at 6:04 p.m.

6. CONSENT CALENDAR

6A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: APRIL 4, 2024

MOTION: Commissioner Love moved to approve the April 4, 2024, minutes. Commissioner Montoya seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected a 5-0 approval (Commissioners Gunnar and Jendrucko absent).

7. **ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**

7A. **REVIEW AND DISCUSS THE CLIMATE SMART AWARDS NOMINATION**

Staff Liaison Duncan presented Item 7A.

Staff Liaison Duncan stated that the Climate Smart Awards seek to recognize residents, students, schools, businesses, and organizations for their commitment to excellence in environmental stewardship and outstanding environmental achievements. Awards and criteria are in the following categories: Climate Smart Energy, Climate Smart Water, Climate Smart Youth, Climate Smart Community, and Climate Smart Business.

Staff Liaison Duncan presented Climate Smart Award nominees:

1. Climate Smart Youth nominee Bruce McCallum, a junior at West High Torrance, completed (2) climate smart projects in two years which included designing (3) shade structures and (2) planting tables for Torrance Parks and assisting the endangered monarch butterfly population by planting milkweed plants in various locations. Mr. McCallum fundraised for both projects, raising \$1000.00 for each.

Commissioner Jendrucko joined the Commission at 6:08 p.m.

No members of the public spoke.

MOTION: Commissioner Seferian moved to close public comment. Commissioner Hill seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected a 6-0 approval (Commissioner Gunnar absent).

MOTION: Commissioner Love moved to award nominee Bruce McCallum to receive the Climate Smart Youth Award. Commissioner Seferian seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected a 6-0 approval (Commissioner Gunnar absent).

2. Climate Smart Community nominee Trisha Minahan, an Environmental Science teacher at South High School, educates students on the importance of community engagement and advocates for wildlife restoration and sustainability.

Members of the Commission spoke.

No members of the public spoke.

MOTION: Commissioner Hill moved to award nominee Trisha Minahan to receive the Climate Smart Community Award. Commissioner Jendrucko seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected a 6-0 approval (Commissioner Gunnar absent).

3. Climate Smart Community nominee Friends of Madrona Marsh Docent Tour Leaders are comprised of volunteers who give tours to provide residents an opportunity to spend time in natural, wild spaces and learn and support sustainable living with wildlife. In 2023, docents led (71) life study tours for (843) students and (183) teachers, led additional tours (Tykes for Hikes and Friday Fun), and hosted various events (Nature Story Time and Annual Nature Festival).

No members of the public spoke.

MOTION: Commissioner Love moved to award nominee Friends of Madrona Marsh Docent Tours Leaders to receive the Climate Smart Community Award. Commissioner Seferian seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected a 6-0 approval (Commissioner Gunnar absent).

4. Smart Youth Award nominee Thomas Machian, a member of the Ecology Club at North Torrance High School, helped to create drought resistant landscapes for (3) Torrance residents, completed his Eagle Service Project at Madrona Marsh by building a kiosk at the preserve entrance gate, and organized conservation projects around the preserve.

No members of the public spoke.

MOTION: Commissioner Jendrucko moved to award nominee Thomas Machian to receive the Climate Smart Youth Award. Commissioner Hill seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected a 6-0 approval (Commissioner Gunnar absent).

5. Climate Smart Business Award nominee American Honda Motor Company, has an array of environmental sustainability programs, decreased corporate CO2 emissions by 29.5% in 2022, became 98.6% landfill free in 2022, and plan on having vehicles 100% electric by 2040.

No members of the public spoke.

MOTION: Commissioner Seferian moved to award nominee American Honda Motor Company to receive the Climate Smart Business Award. Commissioner Hill seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected a 6-0 approval (Commissioner Gunnar absent).

6. Climate Smart Community Award nominee Mary Simun created a California native water-resistant garden in the front and back yard of her property (front yard receiving a Native Habitat plaque from the South Bay Parkland Conservancy) and displays acts of water preservation through water recycling. Ms. Simun is on the Board of Directors for the South Bay Parkland Conservancy, performs water quality testing for the South Bay Chapter of the Surfrider Foundation, rides her electric bike everywhere, and uses jackery power banks to recharge batteries.

Commissioner Jendrucko inquired if Ms. Simun could be awarded the Climate Smart Water Award in place of the Climate Smart Community Award due to her water conservation efforts. Community Development Director Ramirez confirmed that it was in the Commission's purview to adjust the award category.

No members of the public spoke.

MOTION: Commissioner Jendrucko moved to award nominee Mary Simun to receive the Climate Smart Water Award. Commissioner Seferian seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected a 6-0 approval (Commissioner Gunnar absent).

- Climate Smart Community Award nominee Doug Macmillan converted his home into a completely solar-reliant sanctuary and is an example on how to live fossil fuel free. Mr. Macmillan provides presentations on environmentally sustainable living and the benefits of using induction cooking and is a founding member of California's Virtual Power Plant.

Commissioner Jendrucko requested that nominee Doug Macmillan be awarded the Climate Smart Energy Award in place of the Climate Smart Community Award.

No members of the public spoke.

MOTION: Commissioner Hill moved to award nominee Doug Macmillan to receive the Climate Smart Energy Award. Commissioner Seferian seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected a 6-0 approval (Commissioners Gunnar absent).

8. **PUBLIC HEARINGS**

None.

9. **COMMISSION ORAL COMMUNICATIONS**

Chair Stecker inquired on the Honda North America presentation. Staff Liaison Duncan replied that Honda North American has not been contacted but staff was able to get ahold of Heal the Bay who will do a presentation August 2024.

Chair Stecker inquired about the Beautification Award. Community Development Director Ramirez replied that additional research is being done and will come back before the Commission in August as elections are in June, and July will be dark due to Independence Day.

Community Development Director Ramirez announced the Rock Around the Block event and stated that staff will provide the Commission with dates and times for volunteer consideration.

Staff Liaison Duncan stated that she will bring back the second half of the Commission Calendar in June or August.

Commissioner Montoya stated that he will be absent next scheduled meeting.

10. **ADJOURNMENT**

MOTION: At 6:39 p.m. Commissioner Love moved to adjourn the meeting to Thursday, June 6, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. Commissioner Montoya seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected a 6-0 approval (Commissioner Gunnar absent).

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AGENDA ITEM NO. 7A

To: Members of the Environmental Quality and Energy Conservation Commission

FROM: Neighborhood Services

SUBJECT: Environmental Quality and Energy Conservation Commission Elections

The policy of the Environmental Quality and Energy Conservation Commission is to hold the annual election for Chairperson and Vice Chairperson in June of each year, to be effective July 1st, and to correspond with any new appointments. Therefore, Staff recommends that the Commission conduct elections during the June 06, 2024 meeting.

Prepared by,

Nora Duncan

Respectfully Submitted,

GREGG LODAN
NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICES MANAGER

AGENDA ITEM NO. 7B

To: Members of the Environmental Quality and Energy Conservation Commission

FROM: Neighborhood Services

SUBJECT: Agenda Item 7B Present Torrance Climate Smart Awards

At the Environmental Commission meeting of May 2, 2024, seven nominees for the Torrance Climate Smart Awards were reviewed by the commission. The Environmental commission voted to award all seven nominees in five different categories.

The goal of the Climate Smart awards is to highlight citizens, groups, businesses, and organizations in Torrance who demonstrate the importance of environmental stewardship.

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 area of the award criteria or has received a recognized environmental certification, including but not limited to Clean Bay Restaurant or LEED.

For tonight's Environmental Commission meeting of June 6, 2024, award recipients, Doug Macmillan, Suzan Hubert and Trisha Minahan will be presenting information regarding their sustainability practices to the Commission.

Prepared by,

Nora Duncan

Respectfully Submitted,

GREGG LODAN
NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICES MANAGER

Attachment: 1) Climate Smart Awards



*Torrance Environmental Quality and
Energy Conservation Commission*
TORRANCE CLIMATE SMART AWARD

awarded to

BRUCE MCCALLUM

For Outstanding Stewardship of the Environment for Smart Youth

John Stecker

John Stecker
Commission Chairperson

5-29-24

Date



*Torrance Environmental Quality and
Energy Conservation Commission*
TORRANCE CLIMATE SMART AWARD

awarded to

TRISHA MINAHAN

For Outstanding Stewardship of the Environment for Smart Community

John Stecker
John Stecker, Commission Chairperson

5-29-24

Date



*Torrance Environmental Quality and
Energy Conservation Commission*
TORRANCE CLIMATE SMART AWARD

awarded to

**FRIENDS OF MADRONA MARSH
DOCENT TOUR LEADERS**

For Outstanding Stewardship of the Environment for Smart Community

John Steets

5-29-24



*Torrance Environmental Quality and
Energy Conservation Commission*
TORRANCE CLIMATE SMART AWARD

awarded to

THOMAS MACHIAN

For Outstanding Stewardship of the Environment for Smart Youth

John Stecker, Commission Chairperson

5-29-24

Date



*Torrance Environmental Quality and
Energy Conservation Commission*
TORRANCE CLIMATE SMART AWARD

awarded to

DOUG MACMILLAN

For Outstanding Stewardship of the Environment for Smart Energy

John Stecker, Commission Chairperson

5-29-24
Date



*Torrance Environmental Quality and
Energy Conservation Commission*
TORRANCE CLIMATE SMART AWARD

awarded to

MARY SIMUN

For Outstanding Stewardship of the Environment for Smart Water

John Stecker
John Stecker, Commission Chairperson

5-29-24

Date



*Torrance Environmental Quality and
Energy Conservation Commission*
TORRANCE CLIMATE SMART AWARD

awarded to

AMERICAN HONDA MOTORS CO.

For Outstanding Stewardship of the Environment for Smart Business

John Stecker, Commission Chairperson

5/29/24

Date