



SOUTHWOOD

Homeowners Association Newsletter

April Calendar

Torrance City Council Meetings

7 p.m. via Teleconference
4.13, 4.20, 4.27
4.6 – no meeting

Torrance Planning Commission

7 p.m. via Teleconference
4.7 & 4.21

TUSD Board Meeting

7 p.m. via Teleconference
4.19

Torrance Environmental Quality and Energy Conservation Comm.

7 p.m. via Teleconference
4.1

Contact State Reps

Never underestimate the power of contacting your local representative! Legislators routinely believe one letter represents the position of many other constituents who did not take the time to write. Let them know how you feel about SB 9 and 10. Feel free to cut and paste from the SHA letters (see President's article on this page). Here's the contact info for our State Representatives:

Assemblymember Al Muratsuchi

310.375.0691
3424 W. Carson St., Suite 450
Torrance 90503
a66.asmdc.org

Senator Ben Allen

310.318.6994
2512 Artesia Blvd., Suite 320
Redondo Beach 90278
sd26.senate.ca.gov

Message from Your President

Southwood Homeowners Association Bylaws state, "The general purpose of the Association is to provide information pertinent to maintaining individual properties and overall property values... We want to preserve Southwood as a single-family residential community." In support of this general purpose, the board seeks to keep you informed about State Legislation that threatens our single-family residential community.

In early March, we sent an email to all our members asking if they approve of the board sending letters to our State Legislature opposing State Senate Bills 9 and 10 on behalf of the Association. Of the approximately 400 emails sent out, 156 responded with 153 approving. Therefore, the letters were sent on March 10 through the official state portal. This will put SHA on record as opposing these bills. If you would like to read the opposition letters, go to our website, click "Events and News", then "Current News". ([SB 9 letter](#), [SB 10 letter](#))

In brief, Senate Bill 9 dictates that multi-family, market-rate housing developments be allowed in single-family neighborhoods, **overriding any local control of zoning** and without any regulatory, environmental, or discretionary community reviews. Senate Bill 10 would allow 10-unit apartments in single-family neighborhoods upon city approval. However there is concern future bills may take away required city approval.

These are not the first state bills that seek to take away local control of zoning, nor will they be the last. To stay informed/take action, see these organizations:

1. Torrance Councilmember Griffiths' grass roots organization, *California Cities for Local Control* had some encouraging recent success by influencing the League of California Cities to oppose SB 9. Volunteers are needed to petition elected government bodies in California to support local control of housing and land use. (localcontrolca.com)
2. *United Neighbors* is a coalition of neighborhood residential groups throughout the Southern California region with the goal of protecting single-family neighborhoods while supporting affordable and equitable housing for all. The "SB 9 and 10" slideshow on their website illustrates the effects of the bills on single-family neighborhoods. (unitedneighbors.net)
3. The larger organization, *Liveable California*, works to educate voters and influence politicians about the importance of allowing local jurisdictions to formulate their own zoning laws. Presently, their efforts center on defeating SB 9 and SB 10. (livablecalifornia.org)

Laurie Craig



Southwood Homeowners Association

4733 Torrance Blvd. #155

424.226.6428

southwood.homeowners@gmail.com

[Facebook.com/southwoodHOA](https://www.facebook.com/southwoodHOA)

www.southwoodhomeowners.com

Scanning Southwood

Welcome to the Neighborhood!

Kevin and Lauren Lynch and their dog, Cheddar

If you have any news to share related to births, deaths, marriages, new jobs, moving in, moving away, etc., please let us know. Call or text us at 424.226.6428 or email us at southwood.homeowners@gmail.com.

~ Special Thanks ~

At the recent passing of my wife, Nancy, I am humbled by the care and love shared with me by this Southwood community. Thank you for the meals, cards, and visits.

Sincerely, Frank Kraus
53-year resident of Southwood

Torrance SERVES Meets Goal

The City would like to send a big THANK YOU to everyone who helped reach the goal of 150,000 pledged service hours during the Torrance SERVES campaign (Jan. 18 – Feb. 21). In just one month, 139 individuals and 37 teams took the pledge. The goal was exceeded with 164,850 pledged hours!

During the campaign month, the community participated in food drives at Del Amo Fashion Center and Saddleback Church. The North Torrance Neighborhood Association planted trees and residents helped deliver goods to homebound individuals.

Remember to share your acts of kindness and volunteer work on social media by using **#TorranceCA** and **#TorranceSERVES** so residents can follow all of the good work that is being done around the City.

Environmental Quality Commission Report

By John-Milo Ernst

The Environmental Quality and Energy Conservation Commission heard a presentation by Tracy Drake, the parks services manager for the City of Torrance. Ms. Drake discussed grants for several projects including:

- \$140,000 grant for the Torrance Urban Trees project
- \$147,000 grant for the Habitat Conservation Fund wildlife area
- \$30,000 grant for the Henrietta Basin wetlands restoration project
- \$470,000 grant for the Vernal Pools project
- \$500,000 grant for the Southern Tarplant Preserve
- \$80,000 grant for turtle ponds and an amphitheater at Madrona Marsh

Ms. Drake also discussed the Miyawaki mini forests at the city yard and Hickory Park, and planting living fruit trees around Lago Seco Park.

Torrance School District Reopening Update

By Kim Nokes

During the first week of March, 3rd – 5th grade students returned to campus, over 300 employees were vaccinated (with more in the coming weeks), and other in-person activities for students were expanded.

In a statement released on March 5, Dr. Stowe stated, “I am so proud of our students and staff and want to recognize the fact that TUSD is the largest district in Los Angeles County open for in-person instruction.” Dr. Stowe also announced that due to declining COVID-19 cases, the LA County Department of Public Health could allow the reopening of Blended in-person instruction for 6th – 12th grade students this month.

He stated that the School District “will continue to monitor county health data and await written Health Officer Orders that will outline exactly how we will be allowed to return our secondary students to campus.” Lower COVID-19 case rates also allow for high school sports competitions to resume, with modified seasons.

Dr. Stowe’s release also included a reminder to staff and families, “With spring break right around the corner (April 5 - 9), please keep in mind that the LA County travel advisory remains in effect. Any person arriving in, or returning to LA County from other states or countries must self-quarantine for 10 days after arrival.”

Torrance City Council Report

By Jane Roseman

- Torrance has designated the first Monday of March to be COVID-19 Memorial Day
- New basketball backboards and nets have been put in as a welcome back to residents. Visit City of Torrance social media and [website](#) for information on updates. Adult and youth league play will begin to open soon. City classes currently have no plans to restart.

Substantial BCHD Project Opposed

The Beach Cities Health District (BCHD) is in the final planning stages of a major redevelopment on its current site at 514 Prospect with the release of its Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) on March 10. The plan includes building a new six-story assisted living facility and a proposed eight-story parking structure during 5 years of active demolition and construction.

A group of Torrance and Redondo Beach residents have banded together to oppose this project for the following reasons:

1. The six-story building would rise 133 feet high along the 30-foot hill on the northeast border along Flagler, which will tower over local neighborhoods in Torrance and Redondo Beach.
2. There is a very real concern about the health hazards of living downwind during the 5 year demolition and construction phase. Thousands of Torrance homes and several schools (Towers Elementary, Bert Lynn Middle and West High Schools) could be exposed to significant health hazards identified during an initial study and current DEIR.
3. Traffic and congestion during construction will be a factor with thousands of noisy, heavy-haul truck trips (Del Amo Blvd. between Hawthorne and Prospect is the preferred route). After completion, the 325 tenants in the assisted living facility and visitors to the site will increase traffic.

While our neighborhood is not directly affected, we will notice the traffic increase and trucks when driving in the vicinity. More importantly, anyone with students at West High may have cause for concern.

Go to TRAOnews.org (Torrance Redondo Against Overdevelopment) to see project visualizations and sign up your email to receive the latest news. BCHD is accepting public comments up to June 10, and two public hearings are scheduled for April 13 and 17. See bchdcampus.org/eir.

Focal Point on Aging Program

Senior citizens and their families now have greater access to information through the Focal Point on Aging program. The Focal Point on Aging is an information and referral program where older adults, caregivers, and their families can obtain ready access to a full range of available services including: transportation, housing, Meals-On-Wheels, health care, companion care, Medicare, social and legal services, HMOs, and more.

The Focal Point program is housed in the Russ Nolte Annex, located at 1339 Post Avenue, next to the Bartlett Senior Citizens Center in downtown Torrance. Focal Point is open Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. No appointment is necessary and walk-ins are welcome (although due to COVID-19 restrictions, please call first to confirm this.)

For more information, please phone the Focal Point at 310.320.1300. This program is sponsored by the Torrance Commission on Aging through the Torrance Community Services Department.

Thank You for Joining SHA!

This list is based on dues received from 2.11 to 3.11.

Nancy Bunch
Scott & Monique Griffie
Marla & Glen Gunderson
Samuel Sung & Freda Huang
David & Shelly Oriba
Sheila & Steve Ton
Rick & Trish Valdez

Haven't joined/renewed yet?

Please go to our website to either print a membership form and mail it in, or join securely online:

southwoodhomeowners.com/join

How Torrance Got Its Name

At the March 20, 1912, meeting of the board of directors of the Dominguez Land Co., it was noted that the U.S Post Office would not allow the new development to be called "Dominguez" because the state already had a Dominguez.

Variations of "Dominguez" were suggested – "El Dominguez", "San Dominguez", but the Dominguez family preferred to retain the name for a railroad station. A general discussion followed in which about 30 names were suggested. "Southport", "Obrador", "Coronel", "Don Manuel" and "Industrial" were the favorites, but none was satisfactory.

An informal vote was taken on the name "Torrance" (Jared Sidney Torrance was the Dominguez Land Co. Board President). However, Mr. Torrance protested the use of his name. Subsequently, when Vice President Sinclair assumed the chair, a resolution was proposed and unanimously adopted to name the industrial city "Torrance".

Source: [Torrance Historical Society website under "Research" tab](http://Torrance Historical Society website under 'Research' tab).

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