



July 19, 2023

President's Message:

It might be summer, but your RHA isn't on vacation. We've been working with other organizations on reducing airplane noise and eliminating the leaded fuel at Torrance Airport (page 2). We attended Torrance Councilmember Aurelio Mattucci's District 5 Community Meeting (page 3). As always, we're keeping an eye on real estate developers (page 4). The RHA even has [a new Instagram account](#) that highlights the beauty and the issues of the Riviera. At our last zoom meeting about the unhoused in May, attendees learned about Torrance programs (details on page 3). We're currently planning an in-person meeting on September 19th with local experts speaking on removing lead from aviation fuel and going of the electrical grid (page 2).

As many of you know, the RHA isn't a typical homeowner's association. We don't care about the length of your grass or the color of your front door. We are a nonprofit dedicated to civic work that improves the lives of all Riviera residents. As such, we rely on donations from our residents. Please consider volunteering or donating to help fund local scholarships as well as our general meetings (page 5).

Thank you and have a safe summer!

Judy Brunetti & Pam Popovich, RHA Co-Presidents

June Landscaping Awards

If you were up early during the past six months, you probably saw Riviera resident June Okamoto weeding and planting at the corner of Calle Miramar and Via los Miradores. June's drought tolerant design for the Delange residence was the winner of our [June landscaping award](#).



Torrance Airport Update

Flight activity at Torrance Airport has increased by more than 55% in the last few years. The City of Torrance stopped enforcing its own rules regarding noise, the number of flight schools allowed, and the number of flight over residential areas. A whopping 72% of the aircraft use leaded fuel as they fly over residences and schools—even though no amount of lead exposure is safe for children.

On July 25th, the Torrance City Council will be considering the Transportation Committee's recommendations regarding these issues. The newly formed [Coalition for Torrance Airport Reform](#), in association with the RHA, [sent a letter on July 1st](#) to the City Council requesting the following:

- Phase out toxic leaded fuel by 2024
- Moratorium on new flight schools
- City should monitor all current flight schools to ensure they follow noise abatement rules
- Assess landing fees (for nonmedical, nonmilitary flights)
- Implementation of Transportation Committee's recommendation to expand noise monitoring stations
- Eliminate “touch-and-go” flight training on north and south flight patterns

We hope you will add your voice to ours at the City Council meeting on July 25th. The meeting opens at 6:30 PM at City Hall. If you can't attend, send your comments to CityCouncil@TorranceCA.gov AND CityCouncilPublicComment@TorranceCa.gov.



If you'd like a lawn sign, email Judy Brunetti:
president@hollywoodriviera.org.

Free to RHA members
\$10.00 for any non-members.

Upcoming General Meeting

The RHA, in conjunction with the Seaside Neighborhood Association, will be hosting an in-person meeting at Riviera United Methodist Church ([375 Palos Verdes Blvd, Redondo Beach 90277](#)) on September 19th at 7 PM. Peter Broen of the Torrance Airport Association will discuss speeding up the removal of lead from aviation fuel while Doug Macmillan will speak on going off the electrical grid and induction versus gas cooking.

We look forward to seeing everyone in person again.

District 5 Community Meeting

On July 13th, Councilmember Aurelio Mattucci hosted a community meeting at El Retiro Library. Torrance officials from Public Works and the Planning Department spoke about upcoming projects.

One is the Palos Verdes Recycled Water Pipeline Project, scheduled to begin this summer. This 3.5-mile pipeline project will extend south from Calle Mayor along Anza Avenue and Vista Montana through the Riviera up to Paseo Del Campo in Palos Verdes Estates, delivering nearly 80 million gallons of recycled water for irrigation purposes each year. Details are online: <https://www.westbasin.org/water-supplies/recycled-water/current-projects/pv-torrance-pipeline/>.

District 5 will also have six other capital projects such as the Calle Miramar storm drain improvement project (summer 2023); the residential pavement improvements on Newton, Via Lado, and Via Valmonte (Sept. 2023-Sept. 2024); and the Paseo de la Playa underground utility project (summer 2024).

Other points of discussion:

- At the July 25th City Council meeting, residents will have an opportunity to provide input on the proposed Torrance Civic Center development project.
- El Retiro Library will soon implement 24-hour non-staffed access for library patrons.
- Torrance Police have allocated four patrols to ensure 10 PM park closures are enforced, manage vandalism abatement, and support public safety.
- Various parks around Torrance will be exploring the establishment of off-leash dog areas.
- The rocket in Rocketship Park will be removed for repair and a replacement installed for the duration.
- Torrance Fire/EMS have partnered with UCLA Health System to provide a Mobile Stroke Unit to the South Bay area, which will be staffed by a paramedic for 10 hours a day on Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays. Torrance Fire is also working towards installing AED defibrillator machines in various public places throughout the city.
- The Torrance Community Development Department continues to educate local street vendors on the permitting process, but Torrance's ability to manage street vendors is limited due to California's SB 946. Mattucci urged everyone to contact state officials and provide input on amending the bill to allow more local control over street vendors.

The meeting ended started at 6 PM and ended at 8 PM.

May Meeting Recap

Have you seen an unhoused person in Torrance who is in distress or might be a danger to others? Contact Outreach Coordinator Valerie Hernandez: 310-803-3390 or VHernandez@TorranceCA.gov. Ms. Hernandez works with the Torrance Police Department and social workers to find housing and services for the approximately 300 homeless folks in Torrance. You can also call the Torrance Police nonemergency Number at 310-328-3456.

Local Developments

The Butcher-Solana project developers have asked the City of Torrance to waive the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for hundreds of potential homes at Via Valmonte and Hawthorne Blvd. This site was a former diatomaceous earth mine. Many of the miners died of mesothelioma and lung cancer after inhaling the fine powder. After the mine was closed, this area became an unmonitored dump which was later found to have toxic substances in the soil. The Torrance General Plan, approved years ago, opted to keep this site as agricultural land.

The Butcher-Solana EIR for this project showed that both diatomaceous earth and the toxic soil presented large-scale environmental concerns if disturbed. In spite of this risk, the developers have not only asked the City of Torrance to disregard the EIR, they asked that Torrance change the zoning of this piece of land from Agricultural to something more compatible with a large residential project.

The City of Torrance should not waive the EIR. Nor should Torrance change the General Plan just because a developer requests it

You can send an email urging Mayor Chen and City Council not to waive the EIR and not to change the zoning to: CityCouncil@TorranceCA.gov

We Could Really Use Your Help!

The Riviera Homeowners Association Board has lost many recently due to illness and relocation. In order to keep fighting for our community, we need volunteers.

Let us know if you can give us a hand with:

- Outreach on Nextdoor and local newspapers
- Website maintenance
- Social media posts
- Writing articles for our blog or newsletter
- Zoom meetings and computer setups
- Attend and take notes at some Planning Commission meetings or City Council meetings
- Assist the Treasurer
- Fundraising for RHA scholarships

The RHA is one of the last grassroots organizations left in our area willing to fight for its residents. Join us! Email Judy or Pam at: president@hollywoodriviera.org

RHA Membership



Your yearly membership of only \$25.00 supports newsletters, neighborhood display signs, meeting space rentals, and gives scholarships to high school seniors.

We also accept donations of any amount.

Mail checks to: RHA Membership
PO BOX 1074
Torrance, CA 90505

To pay via PayPal/ credit card:
visit [our membership page](#)
or use your phone to scan the QR code



The RHA is always looking sponsors to advertise in our newsletter and support our programming.



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