

July 16, 2009

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF
THE TORRANCE WATER COMMISSION**

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Torrance Water Commission convened in a regular session at 7:01 p.m. on Thursday, July 16, 2009 in the West Annex meeting room at Torrance City Hall.

2. ROLL CALL:

Present: Commissioners Deemer, Freeman*, Haddon, McGee, Lew, and Chairperson See.

Absent: None.

Also Present: Deputy Public Works Director van der Linden, Senior Administrative Analyst Schaich, and Metropolitan Water District Director Wright.

*Commissioner Freeman arrived at 7:40 p.m.

3. FLAG SALUTE

Commissioner Lew led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. AFFIDAVIT OF POSTING

MOTION: Commissioner McGee moved to accept and file the report of the City Clerk on the posting of the agenda for this meeting. Commissioner Deemer seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

5A. MINUTES FROM JUNE 18, 2009

MOTION: Commissioner McGee moved for the approval of the June 18, 2009 meeting minutes as submitted. Commissioner Lew seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval.

6. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM PUBLIC

The Commission welcomed guests John Schumann and Lou Gambel.

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

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7A. REVIEW OF ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2008

Deputy Public Works Director van der Linden distributed the Annual Water Quality Report for calendar year 2008, also known as the Consumer Confidence Report, which provides information regarding Torrance Municipal Water's (TMW) potable water quality. He provided an overview of the topics in the brochure that include Meeting the Challenge, Important Health Information, About Our Violation, Where Does My Water Come From,? Source Water Assessment, What Makes Water Hard?, Substances That Could Be in Water, and Water Conservation, noting that the reported violation refers to Water Replenishment District's desalination facility failure to conduct water quality testing on nitrates and nitrites. He discussed the Regulated Substances, Secondary Substances, and Other Substances tables in the Sampling Results, explaining that 93 different constituents were tested but only those where there was a detection are required to be listed in the Report. He stated that maximum contaminant levels were never exceeded and that drinking water supplied by TMW meets all Federal and State primary and secondary drinking water quality standards.

In response to Commissioner Haddon's inquiry, he explained when and where samples are taken.

Responding to Commissioner Deemer's inquiry, Deputy Public Works Director van der Linden described how reagents are added to samples to determine color.

At Commissioner McGee's request, he explained how copper or galvanized plumbing can affect water quality and why dead end mains need to be flushed.

When MWD Director Wright mentioned that municipal water supplies are tested 18 times more than bottled water, a brief discussion followed regarding tap water vs. bottled water and the problem of plastic bottles.

8B. REVIEW AND CONSIDERATION OF WATER ALLOCATION PLAN AND ACTIVATION OF LEVEL 1 OF WATER CONSERVATION ORDINANCE

Chairperson See stated that the Conservation subcommittee met with staff on July 2 and July 13, 2009 and recommends that the Level 1 Water Shortage condition in the Conservation Ordinance adopted on March 24, 2009 be activated and that a voluntary conservation program calling for a 10% reduction in customer usage be implemented.

Senior Administrative Analyst Schaich provided background regarding MWD's requirement for member agencies to reduce their deliveries by MWD by a minimum of 10% as compared to a 2004-2006 three-year average. He noted that there has been a gradual decrease of 12% in potable production over the last 18 months; nonetheless, there is still a need to ask for more conservation and increase local supplies due to drought conditions and less reliable water supplies. He stated that the Governor is also proposing a 20% reduction from a 2008 baseline by 2020.

He reviewed Permanent Water Conservation Requirements and Level 1 Water Supply Shortage: Limits on Watering Hours and Duration, Limits on Watering Days, and

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Obligation to Fix Leaks, Breaks or Malfunctions. He stated that specific watering days have not been designated but there is an option to reconsider in the future if necessary. He noted that the City of Long Beach has been very successful in reducing water consumption and that it is attributed to tremendous community outreach and advertising. He stated that TMW's outreach will include brochures to all customers, Torrance Seasons, bill inserts, public service announcements on CitiCABLE, customer usage targets on bills, targeting specific sectors, newspapers, community events, and a speaker's bureau.

MWD Wright added that some customers will conserve water due to rate increases.

MOTION: Commissioner Deemer moved to recommend to City Council to activate Level 1 Water Shortage condition in accordance with Section 76.4.070 of the City's Water Conservation Ordinance with a conservation target of 10% reduction for all customers. Commissioner Freeman seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected unanimous approval.

8C. VIEWING OF VIDEO ENTITLED "RUNNING DRY IN THE SOUTHWEST" TO BE AIRED ON CITICABLE

Due to technical difficulties, the video was not shown.

9. METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT DIRECTOR'S REPORT

MWD Director Wright distributed the July 14, 2009 MWD Board meeting report and Proposed Conservation Program Refinements. He provided background on the Conservation Credits Program and reported that the board authorized an increase of \$14.2 million to pay additional fiscal year 2008-2009 needs for incentive devices. They also approved \$19.1 million to fund fiscal year 2009-2010 Conservation Credits Program. He reviewed the proposed refinements for next year that will reduce incentive amounts to cover up to 50% instead of 100% of average retail device costs, adding that they are proposing to eliminate the synthetic turf program and public sector program. He stated that applicants will need to have a reservation and approval in order to qualify for rebates.

10. WEST BASIN WATER ASSOCIATION REPORT

Deputy Public Works Director van der Linden reported that at the July 7, 2009 West Basin Water Association (WBWA) meeting the Water Master reported that their office is being impacted by budget cuts and that West Coast Basin has increased its water production by 12% compared to the same period last year. The West Basin Municipal Water District announced that Assistant General Manager Schoenberger is resigning, they implemented the water allocation shortage plan throughout the District, and are tracking legislative bills and the Bay Delta conservation plan. He reported that Water Replenishment District (WRD) is holding a scoping session on the Basin Operational Study and that they received a \$485,000 grant in stimulus funds for the expansion of the Vander Lans water reclamation plant. He announced that judgments have been filed for conjunctive use and the first hearing is July 27, 2009 and that there is a joint Association barbeque on August 20, 2009.

11. MONTHLY DEPARTMENT REPORT

Deputy Public Works Director van der Linden reported that in June 2009 TMW hired 250 goats to do weed abatement near Walteria Reservoir and that there were three water main break incidents. Referring to the Capital Improvement Program Update, he advised that they are waiting for test results for Well #10 and that they are in final design for the pump house for Well #9.

MOTION: Commissioner Lew moved to accept and file the Monthly Department Report as presented. Commissioner Deemer seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval.

12. ORALS

12A. Commissioner Deemer distributed water saving tips from West Basin.

12B. Deputy Public Works Director van der Linden announced a mandatory Chairperson training session on July 23, 2009.

12C. Following a brief discussion, Commissioners decided not to attend the Association joint barbecue on August 20, 2009 as it is the date of the next scheduled Commission meeting.

12D. Chairperson See suggested giving recognition awards to individuals or businesses that are successful in conserving water.

13. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: At 8:56 p.m., Commissioner Haddon moved to adjourn the meeting to August 20, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. in the West Annex Commission meeting room. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Lew and, hearing no objection, Chairperson See so ordered.

Approved as Submitted August 20, 2009 s/ Sue Herbers, City Clerk
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