

**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, January 20, 2005.

**2. ROLL CALL:**

Present: Commissioners Deemer, Gonzalez, Haddon, Lew, and Acting Chairperson Warner.

Absent: Chairperson White and Vice-Chairperson Hoffman.

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

**MOTION:** Commissioner Gonzalez moved to grant excused absences to Chairperson White and Commissioner Hoffman for this meeting. Commissioner Haddon seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval.

**3. FLAG SALUTE**

Acting Chairperson Warner led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**4. AFFIDAVIT OF POSTING**

**MOTION:** Commissioner Haddon 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. MEETING OF DECEMBER 16, 2004**

**MOTION:** Commissioner Gonzalez moved for the approval of the December 16, 2004 Water Commission meeting minutes as submitted. Commissioner Deemer seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval (absent Chairperson White and Commissioner Hoffman, with Commissioner Warner abstaining).

**6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**6A. CONTINUATION OF WORKSHOP ON WATER COMMISSION WORK PLAN**

Senior Administrative Analyst Schaich relayed Chairperson White's request that this item be postponed to the February 17, 2005 Water Commission meeting. He stated

that Chairperson White would be presenting a proposal for developing the work plan at that meeting.

**7. NEW BUSINESS**

**7A. UPDATE REGARDING PASS THROUGH OF MWD RATE INCREASES**

Senior Administrative Analyst Schaich presented the material of record regarding Metropolitan Water District's increased wholesale rates and subsequent increase of Torrance Municipal water cost. He stated that the first rate adjustment of 1.6% became effective in September 2004 and that the second adjustment of 3% would go into effect in March 2005. He advised that MWD increased their water rates to cover increased costs of water treatment as well as for supply and energy costs.

MWD Director Wright distributed his letter to the Mayor and Council members dated January 20, 2005 describing the Tier 2 supply rate increase for agencies that are growing. He stated that the MWD Board did not believe it was fair that Torrance should pay for water to help build new infrastructure in the Inland Empire and Riverside County. He stated that MWD was going to have 3-5% increases for the next six to eight years to encourage the development of local supplies.

In response to Commissioner Warner's inquiry, Senior Administrative Analyst Schaich stated that he received only two telephone calls from residents following the increase in water bills in September 2004.

Responding to Commissioner Lew's inquiry, he stated that Dominguez belonged to West Basin Municipal Water District and has a different rate structure based on rate of return.

Commissioner Deemer initiated a brief discussion regarding the future need for a sixth treatment plant. MWD Director Wright stated that MWD was in the process of acquiring land and that they try to look out for 20 to 25 years.

**7B. SELECTION OF TOPICS FOR FUTURE PRESENTATION**

Deputy Public Works Director van der Linden requested that Commissioners review the list of water related topics in the material of record and provide input regarding any additions or changes to these items.

It was decided that conjunctive use, an update on the water main replacement program, rebate programs for water savings appliances, and Metropolitan Water District's capital projects in Southern California would be added to the list.

Discussion centered on partnership arrangements between agencies to develop a conjunctive use program. Senior Administrative Analyst Schaich stated that if Wells 7 and 8 were not turned into fresh drinking water wells they could be used to inject water into the basin, but that there were no extraction facilities. He stated that they were exploring several options to enter into a partnership agreement or to do it alone. He commented that agencies were working out their differences for their common goal to build the basins up to a protective level.

**8. WEST BASIN WATER ASSOCIATION REPORT**

Senior Administrative Analyst Schaich reported that the Water Replenishment District (WRD) discussed the Operations Plan to maximize and enhance the basins. He stated that West Basin discussed the Phase 4 facility under construction for barrier injection water. He discussed organizational changes that include two co-acting general managers and the proposal to split the district into two with separate staff and boards. He stated that there was discussion about how the West Basin Municipal Water Association could increase their policy role.

Commissioner Haddon stated that he hoped that West Basin would become more proactive and "get ahead of the curve."

Responding to Commissioner Deemer's inquiry, Senior Administrative Analyst Schaich stated that there were 18-20 water agencies in West Basin as well as some additional pumpers.

**9. MONTHLY DEPARTMENT REPORT**

**9A. PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

**MOTION:** Commissioner Deemer moved, with a second by Commissioner Haddon, to accept and file the Public Works Director Report; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval (absent Chairperson White and Commissioner Hoffman).

Deputy Public Works Director van der Linden advised that a candidate for the position of Public Works Director has been selected.

**9B. METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

MWD Director Wright distributed copies of MWD's City Makeover Program, a grant program to provide funding for new Southern California public native landscapes. He suggested that Commissioners visit some of the winning locations.

Senior Administrative Analyst Schaich stated that Torrance submitted a grant application last year but did not receive it. He explained that the application was for a project outside the fence line of Madrona Marsh near Maple Avenue and Sepulveda Boulevard.

Project Manager Dettle advised that the application was being repackaged and would be submitted next month.

MWD Director Wright informed the Commission that the Sierra snow pack is currently 130%.

**10. ORALS**

**10A.** Commissioner Haddon stated that he attended a presentation on the Madrona Marsh on January 20, 2005. He suggested that Manager/Naturalist Tracy Drake be invited to speak at a future Water Commission meeting.

**10B.** Project Manager Dettle explained why recycled water could not be used at the Madrona Marsh without using a reverse osmosis system.

**10C.** Commissioner Warner suggested that the Commission tour the Madrona Marsh.

**10D.** Commissioner Deemer distributed a news release from the Idaho Department of Water Resources regarding the selling of water rights.

**10E.** Commissioner Haddon distributed an article regarding WRD's decision not to limit board members' travel spending.

**10F.** Deputy Public Works Director van der Linden informed Commissioners that West Basin Municipal Water District's expansion of the recycled water pipe would begin on January 31, 2005, beginning at Crenshaw Boulevard and 190<sup>th</sup> Street.

**10G.** MWD Director Wright presented the itinerary for the April 2005 water trip to the Colorado River.

**11. ADJOURNMENT**

At 8:27 p.m., Commissioner Haddon, with a second by Commissioner Gonzalez, moved to adjourn the meeting to Thursday, February 17, 2005 at 7:00 p.m. in the West Annex Commission Meeting Room.

Approved as Written February 17, 2005 s/ Sue Herbers, City Clerk
--