

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

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Torrance Water Commission convened in a regular session at 7:05 p.m. on Thursday, February 17, 2005 in the West Annex Commission Meeting Room.

2. ROLL CALL:

Present: Commissioners Deemer, Haddon, Lew, Warner, and Chairperson White.

Absent: Commissioners Gonzalez and 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 Haddon moved to grant excused absences to Commissioners Gonzalez and Hoffman for this meeting. Commissioner Warner seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval.

3. FLAG SALUTE

Chairperson White 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 (absent Commissioners Gonzalez and Hoffman).

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

5A. MINUTES FROM JANUARY 20, 2005

MOTION: Commissioner Haddon moved for the approval of the January 20, 2005 Water Commission meeting minutes as submitted. Commissioner Lew seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval (absent Commissioners Gonzalez and Hoffman).

6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

6A. RECOMMENDATION FOR PROCEEDING WITH DEVELOPMENT OF WATER COMMISSION WORK PLAN

Chairperson White proposed that she appoint a committee consisting of Commissioners Haddon, Warner, and herself to draft a Water Commission Work Plan. The Work Plan would include the three major focus areas that were discussed at the November 2004 training workshop: water conservation and supply, financial stability including water rates and capital improvement projects, and addressing water use in the General Plan. She advised that, following two or three committee meetings needed to draft it, the Work Plan would be brought back to the Commission for final editing and approval. She stated that the Work Plan would address what the Commission would be doing for at least one year.

Senior Administrative Analyst Schaich verified that once the Commission approved the Work Plan it would be presented to City Council for their concurrence and Deputy Public Works Director van der Linden advised that staff would assist in facilitating the meetings.

Commissioners Haddon and Warner accepted the appointments on the committee to draft the Work Plan.

MOTION: Commissioner Lew moved to approve that Chairperson White, Commissioner Haddon, and Commissioner Warner serve on the committee to draft a Water Commission Work Plan. Commissioner Deemer seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval (absent Commissioners Gonzalez and Hoffman).

7. NEW BUSINESS

7A. PRESENTATION REGARDING CONJUNCTIVE USE PROGRAM

Senior Administrative Analyst Schaich gave a power point presentation on conjunctive use as included in the material of record. He defined conjunctive use as a water management program involving coordinated use of surface and groundwater supplies to increase overall supply reliability. He described the nature of the West Basin and the pressure levels that rise and fall with pumping changes. He stated that regionally beneficial conjunctive use programs can be developed with existing Basin operations to enhance and restore the Basin.

Deputy Public Works Director van der Linden noted that the West and Central Basins are governed by the Water Replenishment District and Senior Administrative Analyst Schaich explained that the West Basin barrier, Dominguez barrier, and spreading grounds are managed by the Los Angeles County Public Works Department.

Responding to Commissioner Warner's inquiry, Senior Administrative Analyst Schaich stated that a barrier is a series of approximately 250 wells at different depths. He described the fresh water barrier that prevents seawater intrusion.

At Commissioner Deemer's request, he explained that the saltwater plume was in all four major aquifers at different concentrations.

He presented charts showing the West Basin hydrogeology and average inflow and outflow conditions. He stated that the average inflows was 55,800 acre feet per year and the average outflows was 53,090 acre feet per year, noting less than 2,000 acre feet was natural recharge. Other charts showed generalized cross sections of aquifers prior to over-pumping, after over-pumping, if pumping was suspended for three years, and the quick response if pumping was resumed. He stated that available storage in Central and West Basins was calculated at 450,000 acre feet, and that conjunctive use could help restore both Basins in the long term.

He advised that a working committee formed three years ago was attempting to resolve institutional, legal, and technical issues. He explained that there was a judgment regarding the pumping of groundwater rights, but that there was no legal certainty what could be stored in the ground. He stated that there has been mistrust between agencies, but that the working group, with the aid of a professional facilitator, was making progress in reaching an agreement on an acceptable conjunctive use framework. He reported that a Technical Committee and an Institutional Committee were formed to address specific issues. He stated that there were 200 possible stakeholders, that the larger ones have been active participants in the process, and that they have Board of Directors or Commissions.

Metropolitan Water District (MWD) Director Wright advised that Long Beach and Compton have already made agreements with MWD for a conjunctive use program. Options that the City has for participation in a conjunctive use program were explored.

Deputy Public Works Director van der Linden noted that Long Beach and Compton were putting water in the ground that was within their adjudicated pumping rights.

Commissioner Deemer initiated a brief discussion on the advantages of water banking.

Senior Administrative Analyst Schaich outlined what would constitute a viable conjunctive use program and the benefits that would be gained. He stated that over 90% of original issues have been resolved and that the Technical and Institutional Committees are continuing to work to resolve outstanding issues. He stated that outstanding issues include the splitting of storage space between regional and local projects, WRD's role in the approval of projects, the proportionality rule, and the composition of the Program Review Committee.

He discussed possible conjunctive use opportunities for Torrance that include injecting surplus MWD water, exploring partnerships with other agencies, and using Wells 7 and 8 for groundwater storage.

Commissioner Haddon initiated a brief discussion on the proportionality rule, proposed formulas for allocation of space, and the position that certain pumpers in the Central Basin have that pumping rights equate to storage rights.

Deputy Public Works Director van der Linden advised that updates on conjunctive use would be provided at future Commission meetings.

8. WEST BASIN WATER ASSOCIATION REPORT

Senior Administrative Analyst Schaich reported that topics of discussion were conjunctive use, Metropolitan Water District's Rate Integrity Study, Metropolitan Water District's rate increase of \$20 per acre foot for 2006, and the Urban Water Management Plan.

Referring to the Rate Integrity Study, MWD Director Wright explained that if MWD was going to spend considerable funds on capital projects then they needed a reliable rate structure. He stated that the proposal would try to guarantee Torrance and other rate payers that there would be a reliable amount of funds. He advised that the increase of Tier I water rates was due to higher treatment costs.

In response to Commissioner Haddon's inquiry, he stated that it costs more to treat State water than Colorado River water.

9. MONTHLY DEPARTMENT REPORT

9A. DEPUTY PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Deputy Public Works Director van der Linden requested that the Commission accept and file the report.

He explained the 20% carry over on the Ground Water Production and Water Rights chart to Commissioner Haddon.

9B. MWD DIRECTOR'S REPORT

MWD Director Wright reported on two new sources of water supply for Torrance and Southern California. He stated that one was desalination of ocean water but that there were environmental issues and prohibitive costs. The other was agricultural ("Ag") water when a farmer fallows land, noting that agriculture consumes approximately 80% of California's supply. He explained MWD's approval of water options with two irrigation districts whereby farmers are given money to reserve water if MWD needs it.

He distributed copies of a Los Angeles Times article entitled "Water Pacts Give State's Growers New Profit Stream."

10. ORALS

10A. Project Manager Dettle distributed a February 8, 2005 MWD press release entitled "Compton, Metropolitan Launch Water Storage Program Benefiting City, Region."

10B. Commissioner Haddon requested that staff bring forward an information item regarding the recycled pipeline down Crenshaw Boulevard.

10C. Deputy Public Works Director van der Linden announced that the new Public Works Director was Rob Beste, formerly with the City of Beverly Hills, effective February 28, 2005.

10D. Chairperson White announced a community workshop to discuss the comprehensive update of the City's General Plan on February 23, 2005 in Council Chambers at 7:00 p.m.

10E. MWD Director Wright encouraged Commissioners to sign up for the inspection tour to the Colorado River.

11. ADJOURNMENT

At 8:46 p.m., Commissioner Haddon, with a second by Commissioner Deemer, moved to adjourn the meeting to Thursday, March 17, 2005 at 7:00 p.m. in the West Annex Commission Meeting Room.

Approved as Amended March 17, 2005 s/ Sue Herbers, City Clerk
