

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

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Torrance Water Commission convened in a regular session at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, February 21, 2013 in the West Annex Meeting Room at Torrance City Hall.

2. ROLL CALL:

Present: Commissioners Haddon, Marshall, McGee, Nishinaga, See, and Chairperson Lefevre.

Absent: Commissioner McCabe.

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

MOTION: Commissioner See moved to grant Commissioner McCabe an excused absence for the February 21, 2013 Commission meeting. Commissioner McGee seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval.

3. FLAG SALUTE

Commissioner Marshall led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. AFFIDAVIT OF POSTING

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

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

5A. MINUTES OF JANUARY 17, 2013

MOTION: Commissioner McGee moved to approve the January 17, 2013 Water Commission meeting minutes as presented. Commissioner See seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval (absent Commissioner McCabe).

6. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM PUBLIC

Commissioners and staff welcomed newly appointed Commissioner Marshall.

Jim McGee, West 177th Street, expressed his interest in the Ocean Desalination Demonstration Project in Redondo Beach. Staff discussed West Basin Municipal Water District's goal to determine what it would take to meet permit requirements and to test energy recovery methods, intake methodologies, and brine discharge.

Chairperson Lefevre shared information about a February 18 article in the Los Angeles Times regarding the Poseidon ocean desalination project in Carlsbad, noting that the water would cost twice as much as water from MWD.

A brief discussion centered the feasibility of ocean desalination, the Goldsworthy Desalter, and the Edward C. Little water recycling facility in El Segundo.

7. **OLD BUSINESS** - None.

8. **NEW BUSINESS**

8A. **CONSIDERATION OF CHANGING REGULARLY SCHEDULED MONTH TORRANCE WATER COMMISSION MEETINGS**

Commissioner Nishinaga explained his request to change regularly scheduled meetings on the third Thursday of every month due to a conflict with his meetings on the California High Speed Rail Authority Business Advisory Council in Sacramento.

Deputy Public Works Director van der Linden presented the following options based on the availability of the West Annex meeting room: 1) meetings remains the same and unchanged; 2) meetings change to the fourth Wednesday of each month; and 3) meetings change to the fourth Thursday of each month. He relayed Commissioner McCabe's indication that either day was acceptable to him.

MOTION: Commissioner McGee moved to change future regularly scheduled monthly Water Commission meetings at 7:00 p.m. to the fourth Wednesday of each month, commencing March 27, 2013. Commissioner Nishinaga seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval (absent Commissioner McCabe).

Chairperson **LeFevre** requested an excused absence for the March 27, 2013 Commission meeting.

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

MWD Director Wright distributed copies of his February 19 letter to Mayor and Council Members regarding MWD activities as well as MWD Water Supply Conditions as of February 10. He reported that, even though the Upper Colorado Basin Snowpack is 83% of normal, it is very dry in key areas of the Colorado River Basin and that there is less water stored in Lake Mead and Lake Powell than last year.

Referring to the State Water Project, he reported that the killing of 232 endangered Delta Smelt in the Sacramento-San Joaquin River this month has caused their allotment to be cut back from 40% to 30%, noting that the pumps are only allowed to "take" 305 in one year. He stated that, as a result, MWD has received 200,000 acre-feet less water from Northern California. He discussed the State Water Bond issue coming forward in 2014 to fix the Bay Delta environmental habitat. He stated that water users would pay for the \$14 billion proposed twin-tunnel project under the Bay Delta.

Responding to Chairperson Lefevre's inquiry, he stated that right of way issues should not be a problem.

In response to Commissioner Marshall's inquiry about mitigation measures, staff explained that Department of Water Resources operates the pumps and that they have tried screens, ultrasound, and other methods to keep fish away from the intake pumps.

10. WEST BASIN WATER ASSOCIATION REPORT

Deputy Public Works Director van der Linden reported that the main presentation at the February 5 West Basin Water Association meeting was by Scott Gobble, Regional Manager for Southern California Edison, on emergency response plans. He stated that the Watermaster reported that pumping from the West Coast Basin in December 2012 decreased 21% compared to December 2011. He noted that the cumulative total for this water year is 21,800 acre-feet, a 7% decrease in total groundwater production as compared to the same time period last year.

He reported that Directors Dear and Kwan were re-instated onto the West Basin Municipal Water District Board for new terms and that the January 23 State of the District luncheon was well attended. He reported that General Manager Nagel reported on findings of the California State Auditor on Southeastern Los Angeles County – Various Reasons Affect the Rates Water Suppliers Charge and the Rate Increases They Have Imposed.

Deputy Public Works Director van der Linden stated that MWD reported that a small coalition of conservancy groups and farmers, along with San Diego County Water Authority, are proposing an alternative to the proposed underground, two-pipe Bay Delta fix. He further reported that Water Replenishment District announced that their goal of using 55,000 acre feet of recycled water in replenishment was met for the year and extended invitations to their 6th Annual Groundwater Festival in Lakewood on March 16.

11. MONTHLY DEPARTMENT REPORT

Deputy Public Works Director van der Linden noted that the Monthly Department Report for January 2013 was included in agenda packets. He reported that total water production for January was approximately 2% lower compared to last year and attributed the decrease in water use to colder weather and seasonal rain. He reported seven water main breaks which is the same number as this period last year. He stated that the Goldsworthy facility experienced some operational difficulties due to below freezing temperatures freezing the caustic soda solution used in the treatment process.

MOTION: Commissioner Nishinaga moved to accept and file the Monthly Department Report for January 2013. Commissioner McGee seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval (absent Commissioner McCabe).

12. ORALS

12A. Senior Administrative Analyst Schaich announced “Greening Your Home with Energy/Water Efficiency and Water Reliability 2020” on February 27, 2013.

12B. Deputy Public Works Director van der Linden stated that invitations have gone out for the April 26-27, 2013 inspection tour to the Colorado River and Hoover Dam.

12C. Senior Administrative Analyst Schaich distributed copies of the State Water Contractors' "Delta Water Tunnels: Build it Once, Build it Right."

13. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: At 8:08 p.m., Commissioner Haddon moved to adjourn the meeting to Wednesday, March 27, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. in the West Annex Commission meeting room. Commissioner Nishinaga seconded the motion and, hearing no objection, Chairperson Lefevre so ordered.

Approved as Submitted March 27, 2013 s/ Sue Herbers, City Clerk
