

**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 Wednesday, May 28, 2014 in the West Annex Meeting Room at Torrance City Hall.

**2. ROLL CALL:**

Present: Commissioners Craft, Kawai, Marshall, McGee,  
See, and Chairperson Nishinaga.

Absent: Commissioner Leone.

Also Present: Public Works Director Beste, Senior Administrative Analyst  
Schaich, Senior Water Services Supervisor Berndt, and  
Metropolitan Water District Director Lefevre.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Marshall moved to grant Commissioner Leone an excused absence for the May 28, 2014 Commission meeting. Commissioner Kawai seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected unanimous approval.

**3. FLAG SALUTE**

Commissioner See led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**4. AFFIDAVIT OF POSTING**

Commissioner McGee moved to accept and file the report of the City Clerk on the posting of the agenda for this meeting. Commissioner Craft seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected unanimous approval.

**5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**5A. MINUTES OF APRIL 23, 2014**

Minutes were not available.

**6. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM PUBLIC**

The Commission welcomed guest Charles Deemer.

**7. OLD BUSINESS**

None.

**8. NEW BUSINESS**

**8A. PRESENTATION BY CITY'S METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT DIRECTOR ON ENERGY WATER NEXUS**

MWD Director Lefevre provided a presentation on Water and Energy in Southern California. He reported that the common belief that urban water uses 19% of the total energy used in California is not true; rather, 15% of water-related use is by end users for heating and cooling, industrial process, dishwasher, and clothes washer/dryer. With the aid of slides, he explained that MWD's total energy requirement is 4.7 million megawatt hours at a cost of \$258 million. He stated that MWD generates a large amount of electricity at hydroelectric power plants throughout its service area, noting that this year little electricity is being generated due to State Water Project cutbacks. He discussed the Skinner Solar Power Facility that generates 16% of the Skinner Treatment Plant use and noted that in June MWD is considering a proposal to install three additional solar arrays.

He presented an overview regarding the State Water Project that has 662 aqueduct miles and 20 pumping plants. He stated that in order to get over the mountains it requires 4,100 gross kilowatt hours per acre foot on the West Branch and 4,550 kilowatt hours per acre foot on the East Branch. He showed a map of State Water Project hydropower plants and noted that net energy use is 2,000 to 2,700 kilowatt hours per acre foot. He reviewed an energy use comparison for groundwater, recycling, groundwater recovery, and seawater desalination and distributed a chart showing energy intensity of selected water supply sources in Southern California. He pointed out that groundwater with reverse osmosis requires more energy generation than water reuse with reverse osmosis because of its higher salt content.

Responding to Commissioner Marshall's inquiry regarding the Goldsworthy Desalter, Senior Administrative Analyst Schaich stated that it uses a little less energy than groundwater reverse osmosis.

MWD Director Lefevre pointed out that MWD pays approximately two-thirds of State Water Project power costs, adding that power costs are determined by how much energy is needed to deliver water. He noted that to move 1.2 million acre feet of water on the Colorado River Aqueduct requires 2.4 million megawatt hours of energy. He stated that in 1990 MWD used 33% State Water Project water and that they hope to decrease usage to 22% by 2035 with emphasis on conservation, recycling, and local supplies. He noted that MWD and other water agencies are taking significant steps to increase energy efficiency as population growth continues to increase.

He concluded his presentation with information about current MWD and West Basin Municipal Water District rebate opportunities and conservation programs that include the Public Agency Landscape Program, Water Smart, Leak Detection, Landscape Audits, Ocean Friendly Demonstration Gardens, Rain Barrel pilot program, and High Efficiency Toilet rebate. He stated that MWD invested \$5 billion into water storage and infrastructure to get Southern California through years of drought and will be able to deliver water through 2015 before mandatory rationing is imposed.

In response to Commissioner Craft's inquiry, Senior Administrative Analyst Schaich stated that rebates and programs are promoted on the City's website, direct mailing, radio campaigns, brochures, CitiCABLE, fairs, and presentations to homeowners associations.

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

MWD Director Lefevre distributed newspaper articles and a May 22, 2014 MWD News Release. Referring to Water Supply Conditions as of May 20, he reported that the Northern Sierra snowpack is 5% of normal. He stated that State Water Project deliveries are only 5% of a full allocation. He noted that Southern California has already started to draw on its stored reserves and that Diamond Valley Lake is now at 70%.

He reported that eight pumps are working at their maximum on the Colorado River, with the Upper Colorado River Basin at 112% as of April 1. He noted that MWD needs 2 million acre feet and expects to get 1.2 million acre feet from the Colorado River, with the balance coming from storage. He announced that by the end of the year MWD will be able to pump Colorado River water through the whole system.

Public Works Director Beste stated that 100% of water in Torrance is coming from the Colorado River. He stated that there is no longer any surplus water and, if there is a surplus condition, MWD is the first entity to receive it. He noted that, after all contractors receive their allocations, water would be put into Lake Powell.

Mr. Deemer pointed out that population growth is expected to increase more in San Diego County than in Los Angeles County or Orange County, and Public Works Director Beste stated that is why they are building the Carlsbad Desalter.

MWD Director Lefevre announced that Randy Record was elected the new Chairperson of the Board of Directors. He discussed the Solar Cup at Lake Skinner where 40 high schools participated by racing boats powered by solar arrays. He informed them that the Governor stated that the water bond on the November ballot has to be under \$10 billion, adding that Republicans are demanding \$3 billion for surface storage. He announced that he expects to be appointed to the Agriculture and Business Outreach Committee, that Ed Little has resigned and is moving to Virginia, and that after this weekend's trip the next water trip will be November 7-9, 2014 to the Colorado River.

**10. WEST BASIN WATER ASSOCIATION REPORT**

Public Works Director Beste reported that at the May 6 West Basin Water Association meeting the Water Master stated that the Department of Water Resources is actively promoting conservation and that this is the lowest snowpack and water content on record. He stated that MWD's Conservation Budget has doubled to \$40 million and reported on the status of the recycled water project to provide the West Coast Barrier with 100% recycled water. He noted that Water Replenishment District is not changing the replenishment assessment rate this year and that Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board is permitting them to use 45% recycled blend in the spreading grounds.

MWD Director Lefevre commented that the ratio of recycled water to potable water has gone from 65% in March to 73% in May.

**11. MONTHLY DEPARTMENT REPORT**

Senior Water Services Supervisor Berndt noted that the Monthly Department Report for April 2014 was included in agenda packets. He reported that production of

potable water for the month was 1,616.9 acre feet, a decrease of 2% compared to April 2013. He reported one water main break in April compared to two for the same period last year. Referring to the Goldsworthy Desalter, he reported that it is back on line and that completion of the design for expansion is expected within the next few months.

In response to Commissioner Marshall's inquiry, staff provided updates regarding the San Diego and Tesoro lawsuits.

## **12. ORALS**

**12A.** Senior Administrative Analyst Schaich encouraged Commissioners to attend the June 7 City Yard Open House.

**12B.** Senior Administrative Analyst Schaich announced a free high efficiency toilet give-away at West High School on June 8.

## **13. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:** At 8:37 p.m., Commissioner Craft moved to adjourn the meeting to Wednesday, June 25, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. in the West Annex Commission meeting room. Commissioner Marshall seconded the motion and, hearing no objection, Chairperson Nishinaga so ordered.

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Approved as submitted October 22, 2014 s/ Rebecca Poirier, City Clerk
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