

**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, June 21, 2012 in the West Annex Meeting Room at Torrance City Hall.

2. ROLL CALL:

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

Absent: None.

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

3. FLAG SALUTE

Commissioner Lefevre 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 See seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

5A. MINUTES OF MAY 17, 2012

MWD Director Wright offered the following clarification to the minutes: Page 3, Item 9, line 7, "...and all MWD reservoirs are full."

MOTION: Commissioner Deemer moved to approve the May 17, 2012 Water Commission meeting minutes as amended. Commissioner Haddon seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval.

6. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM PUBLIC - None.

7. OLD BUSINESS - None.

8. NEW BUSINESS

8A. PRESENTATION BY WATER REPLENISHMENT DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA (WRD) REGARDING WEST COAST BASIN GROUNDWATER MASTER PLAN

Senior Administrative Analyst Schaich introduced the item and welcomed Director Robert Katherman and Senior Engineer Jason Weeks from the Water Replenishment District (WRD) of Southern California.

Director Katherman provided a power point presentation on the Groundwater Basins Master Plan that grew out of a study prepared seven years ago regarding ways to operate the barrier system most efficiently. He stated that development of the Master Plan is necessary to optimize the use of groundwater and effectively deal with rising costs, local reliability, and a potential water crisis. He described goals of their Water Independence Now (WIN) program to become independent from imported water and to utilize the groundwater basins through judgment amendments to allow for storage.

He stated that imported MWD water costs \$850 per acre foot, with future increases estimated at 7-8% per year, while groundwater costs \$350-400 per acre foot, with future increases estimated to be 3-4% per year. He noted that adjudication allows 64,468 acre feet to be pumped from the West Coast Basin annually; however, only 40,000 acre feet per year are being pumped. He stated that part of the Master Plan is to come up with a method to pump the other unused 24,000 acre feet each year.

Director Katherman summarized WRD goals: to maximize local water supplies, reduce reliance on imported water, increase water supply sustainability and reliability, reduce future cost increases of water, and partner with local water reclamation agencies to create new sources of water. He stated that the Master Plan would bring all the various plans together into a single planning document for development of groundwater resources in the West Coast and Central Basins.

He discussed the Master Plan process to date and noted that WRD recently hired Environmental Science Associates to prepare a programmatic Environmental Impact Report that will take approximately one year to complete. He showed aerial photographs and described operations of replenishment supply sources: Hyperion Treatment Plant, Edward C. Little Water Reclamation Facility, Carson Regional Water Recycling Facility, Terminal Island Treatment Plant, and Joint Water Pollution Control Plant.

In response to Commissioner Nishinaga's inquiry, Director Katherman stated that advanced treated water is basically distilled water and that electrolytes have to be put back in it to prevent pipe corrosion.

Responding to Commissioner Deemer's inquiry, he stated that Hyperion Treatment Plant is designed for sewage treatment, not for water supply, and the treatment capacity is purely a function of population.

Commissioner Deemer inquired how much the water table has risen from what it was and WRD staff explained that their operating scheme is to put enough water into the barriers to maintain the protective elevations and to match the 40,000 acre feet of extraction.

Director Katherman described the groundwater injection facilities West Coast Basin Barrier and Dominguez Gap Barrier as well as plans to create a new facility, the Inland Injection Barrier along the Harbor Freeway if the judgment amendments move

forward, to provide additional replenishment. He discussed extraction of water from the Silverado and potentially the Lower San Pedro aquifers.

MWD Director Wright pointed out that MWD is considering a new replenishment program to sell water to replenishment districts at a discounted rate when it has surplus water.

Senior Engineer Weeks explained a chart of three Groundwater Extraction Scenarios, WCB-A1a, WCB-A1b, and WCB-A1c, that would take unused pumping rights and distribute them amongst all of the pumpers in the Basin based on their ability and desire to pump. He noted that some of the pumping rights would be taken from oil companies and they would be converted to recycled water.

Director Katherman discussed plans to expand the Goldsworthy Desalter to double its capacity. He noted that, once desalted, it is an excellent source of water and can be used directly as potable water. He mentioned West Basin Municipal Water District's demonstration ocean desalination project in Redondo Beach but maintained that desalting groundwater is a much more viable option.

Chairperson McGee inquired about capturing run-off water and he explained that run-off is not practical because we are in a pressure zone but that they are looking at ways to capture more storm water.

Responding to Commissioner Lefevre's inquiries, Director Katherman stated that he does not anticipate any environmental concerns and that ESA are well qualified and experienced consultants. He added that the EIR is a necessary step to receive grants.

Public Works Director Beste expressed appreciation to Director Katherman for spearheading the effort. He pointed out that without WRD they are just independent pumpers with no coordinated effort. He stated that the Master Plan is a big step forward in guiding individual pumpers to work together to develop pumping strategies and meet all their needs.

The Commission was in recess from 7:59 to 8:04 p.m.

8B. ELECTION OF NEW CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR FOR FISCAL 2012-13

Chairperson McGee nominated Commissioner Lefevre for Chairperson. Commissioner See nominated Commissioner McCabe who declined the nomination.

MOTION: Commissioner See, seconded by Commissioner Deemer, moved to close the nominations; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval.

Commissioner Lefevre was elected Chairperson of the Water Commission for July 1, 2012 through June 30, 2013 on a unanimous roll call vote.

Commissioner See nominated Commissioner McCabe for Vice-Chairperson.

MOTION: Commissioner Haddon, seconded by Commissioner Deemer, moved to close the nominations; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval.

Commissioner McCabe was elected Vice-Chairperson of the Water Commission for July 1, 2012 through June 30, 2013 on a unanimous roll call vote.

9. METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT DIRECTOR'S REPORT

This item was taken out of order.

MWD Director Wright distributed MWD's Water Supply Conditions as of June 10 and provided a slide presentation on Colorado River Water Supply Conditions. He reported that precipitation in the Colorado Basin this year is the third driest in recorded history, with very little precipitation last month. He stated that snowpack in the Rocky Mountains are approximately 1% of normal as of June 7. He noted that even though Lake Mead is only half full it is an extremely large reservoir and received a lot of water last year, but if the dry spell continues they might be limited on the Colorado.

In response to Commissioner McCabe's inquiry, he explained the differences in State Water Project and Colorado River water. He stated that Torrance primarily receives State Water Project water and will probably not notice when MWD completely converts to ozone.

8C. REVIEW OF NEW WATER PRICING AGREEMENT WITH WATER REPLENISHMENT DISTRICT

Senior Administrative Analyst Schaich provided background on previous Goldsworthy Desalter water pricing agreements with WRD. He presented a new agreement that provides for a "baseline rate" to be reconciled against actual operations and maintenance costs at the end of each fiscal year. He stated that the new agreement is for fiscal years 2012-13 and 2013-14, with an option to extend the agreement for two additional years.

Responding to Commissioner Lefevre's inquiry, he explained that MWD is subsidizing \$250 per acre foot of the capital cost through its LRP program, adding that in an emergency MWD can call on these wells.

In response to Commissioner Deemer's inquiry, Senior Administrative Analyst Schaich stated that the Desalter's highest level of production was 2,400 acre feet the first year it was put online. He explained that subsequently the salt level dropped dramatically and that WRD attempted retrofits that resulted in deterioration of the well.

Public Works Director Beste stated that expansion of the Goldsworthy Desalter would entail drilling a new well, noting that the plant exists to clean up the Basin. He added that a new well would be eligible for MWD's LRP subsidy program but they would need to apply for it.

Senior Administrative Analyst Schaich stated that the new agreement will be considered by City Council on June 26. He noted that benefits of the agreement include providing reliable local supply not impacted by droughts or water shortages, providing water cost saving of over \$200 per acre foot to TMW, it fully recovers WRD operating costs, and avoids any direct transfer of water rights to WRD.

10. WEST BASIN WATER ASSOCIATION REPORT

Deputy Public Works Director van der Linden provided a report on the West Basin Water Association meeting of June 5. He stated that the Association is in the process of reviewing the financial analysis report regarding the Non-Consumptive Use Permit granted to Shell Oil Company. He relayed the Watermaster's report that water pumped from the West Coast Basin in April 2012 was 3,500 acre feet, a decrease of

5.4% as compared to April 2011. He reported that there was also a presentation on the wellhead meter testing procedure by Ruben Martinez.

He reported that the West Basin Municipal Board adopted their budget adjusting water rates and charges. He stated that they also voted to support SB1386 that would clarify groundwater management in the Water Code. He added that MWD continues to face increased litigation with San Diego Water Authority over water rates.

Deputy Public Works Director van der Linden reported that the WRD Board adopted their budget with no adjustments to the replenishment assessment rate, will have the final draft on the feasibility study of the Goldsworthy Desalter by the end of summer, and has the design plan of the Van der Lans facility expansion completed.

He stated that the Association held its quarterly and annual general membership meeting on May 30 and announced that he has been elected the new president for the next two years.

11. MONTHLY DEPARTMENT REPORT

Deputy Public Works Director van der Linden noted that the Monthly Department Report for May 2012 was included in agenda packets. He reported that total water production in May was approximately 1% higher compared to last year and that there was one water main break last month. He reported that Goldsworthy Desalter is producing approximately 150-160 acre feet per month and that Well Number 9 is exceeding projections and is expected to produce 2,400 acre feet at year end.

MOTION: Commissioner Nishinaga moved to accept and file the Monthly Department Report for May 2012. Commissioner Deemer seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval.

12. ORALS

12A. In response to Commissioner Deemer's inquiry, Senior Administrative Analyst Schaich stated that the City Yard Open House was very busy and a resounding success.

13. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: At 9:00 p.m., Commissioner Haddon moved to adjourn the meeting to July 19, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. in the West Annex Commission meeting room. Commissioner Deemer seconded the motion and, hearing no objection, Chairperson McGee so ordered.

Approved as Submitted August 16, 2012 s/ Sue Herbers, City Clerk
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