

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

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The Torrance Water Commission convened in a regular session at 7:06 p.m. on Thursday, July 19, 2007 in the West Annex meeting room at Torrance City Hall.

**2. ROLL CALL:**

Present: Commissioners Deemer, Lew\*, Rizzardi, See, Warner, White, and Chairperson Hoffman.

Absent: None.

Also Present: Senior Administrative Analyst Schaich,  
Senior Water Quality Inspector Molina, and  
Metropolitan Water District Director Wright.

\*Commissioner Lew arrived at 7:10 p.m.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Rizzardi, seconded by Commissioner Deemer, moved to excuse Commissioner Lew for being late for the July 19, 2007 Water Commission meeting; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval.

**3. FLAG SALUTE**

Commissioner Warner led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**4. AFFIDAVIT OF POSTING**

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

**5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**5A. MINUTES FROM JUNE 21, 2007**

Senior Administrative Analyst Schaich offered the following corrections to the June 21, 2007 meeting minutes:

Page 2, paragraph 9, line 2: "...in MWD service territories to implement solar power..."

Page 3, paragraph 1, line 4: "...and requested that Public Works Director Beste speak with the City Manager...."

**MOTION:** Commissioner Rizzardi moved for the approval of the June 21, 2007 Water Commission meeting minutes as corrected. Commissioner Warner seconded the

motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval (absent Commissioner Lew and with Commissioner White abstaining).

Chairperson Hoffman requested that an item to consider an additional Oral Communications at the beginning of Water Commission meetings be brought back in August 2007 and that Item 11 be taken out of order for this meeting.

## **11. ORALS**

Amy Esposito, West 225<sup>th</sup> Street, expressed concern about increased levels of fluoride in drinking water scheduled for fall 2007 and distributed two articles: Center for Disease Control's (CDC) "Recommendations for Using Fluoride to Prevent and Control Dental Caries in the United States" dated August 17, 2001 and American Dental Association's (ADA) "Interim Guidance on Reconstituted Infant Formula" dated November 9, 2006. She inquired about sources of information reports or testing studies that show that the use of fluoride is safe and effective.

Chairperson Hoffman recalled the August 16, 2007 Commission meeting where Edgar Dymally, Senior Environmental Specialist with Metropolitan Water District (MWD), Dr. Tim Collins, Dental Director for the Los Angeles Council Department of Health Services, and Dr. David Nelson, a fluoridation consultant with the California Department of Health Services, presented a report on the proven benefits of supplemental fluoridation. He requested that staff provide Ms. Esposito with a copy of their reports and meeting minutes.

Senior Administrative Analyst Schaich discussed State legislation that was passed four years ago mandating public water agencies to provide fluoridation if outside funding is available to pay for capital conversion. He explained that funding is now available from several foundations and the American Dental Association and therefore the MWD board voted to implement fluoridation beginning in fall 2007. He stated that 90% of the City's potable water is imported from Metropolitan Water District (MWD) and that Torrance Municipal Water (TMW) would need to match the optimum level of .7 ppb of fluoride in local sources to maintain a uniform supply of water.

In response to Ms. Esposito's inquiry regarding the source of fluoride, Senior Water Quality Inspector Molina explained that .2 or .3 ppb of fluoride occurs naturally in water and that a fluoride powdered compound would be purchased from a vendor and injected into the water.

Senior Administrative Analyst Schaich stated that MWD was sponsoring an all day workshop regarding fluoridation on July 31, 2007.

Referring to the ADA article advising parents and caregivers to restrict the use of fluoridated water during a baby's first year of life, Senior Administrative Analyst Schaich confirmed that the ADA does not recommend fluoride for infants. He noted that there would be a major public information campaign regarding fluoride that would provide information about a reverse osmosis device that customers could use to remove fluoride from drinking water.

Referring to the CDC article stating that "fluoride's predominant effect is posteruptive and topical," Senior Administrative Analyst Schaich stated that fluoridation

has been one of the most studied topics in the medical field and that overwhelming evidence supports both its safety and effectiveness.

MWD Director Wright noted that 43 of the 50 largest cities in the United States are fluoridating their potable water supply. He stated that MWD had to be convinced that fluoridation was safe and in the best interests of the general population before it voted to begin fluoridation. He discussed an MWD concern that lower socioeconomic areas often do not drink tap water or go to a dentist twice a year.

Chairperson Hoffman recommended that staff provide Ms. Esposito with all the information that it has as well as putting links on the City's website for the general public.

## **6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Chairperson Hoffman provided an update regarding the proposal to expand the purview of the Water Commission to a Public Services Commission. He stated that Public Works Director Beste has met with Mayor Scotto and City Manager Jackson to discuss how the proposal would impact other Commissions, and that he would provide another status report after September 2007.

In response to MWD Director Wright's inquiry, Chairperson Hoffman stated that there was no community oversight for sewer services or waste removal.

## **7. NEW BUSINESS**

### **7A. ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON AND VICE-CHAIR FOR TERM THROUGH FISCAL 2007-08**

Commissioner Warner nominated Commissioner Lew for Chairperson of the Water Commission.

Commissioner White nominated Commissioner Deemer for Chairperson of the Water Commission.

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

A 5-2 roll call vote reflected that Commissioner Lew was elected Chairperson of the Water Commission. Commissioners Lew, Rizzardi, See, Warner along with Chairman Hoffman voted for Commissioner Lew. Commissioners White and Deemer voted for Commissioner Deemer.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Warner moved for a unanimous ballot to elect Commissioner Lew for Chairperson of the Water Commission effective July 1, 2007 through fiscal year 2007-08. Commissioner Rizzardi seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval.

Commissioner White nominated Commissioner Deemer for Vice-Chairperson of the Water Commission.

Chairperson Hoffman nominated Commissioner Rizzardi for Vice-Chairperson of the Water Commission. Commissioner Rizzardi declined the nomination.

Commissioner Lew nominated Commissioner See for Vice-Chairperson of the Water Commission. Commissioner See declined the nomination.

**MOTION:** Commissioner White, seconded by Commissioner See, moved to close the nominations for Vice-Chairperson.

**MOTION:** Commissioner White moved for a unanimous ballot to elect Commissioner Deemer for Vice-Chairperson of the Water Commission effective July 1, 2007 through fiscal year 2007-08. Commissioner Warner seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval.

**7B. PRESENTATION BY STAFF REGARDING THE ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT**

Senior Administrative Analyst Schaich introduced the item and welcomed H. Fred Molina, Senior Water Quality Inspector.

Senior Water Quality Inspector Molina gave a power point presentation on Torrance Municipal Water's Annual Water Quality Report also known as Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) for calendar year 2006. He reported that the report was mandated by the State Department of Health Services (DHS) in 1989 and became a Federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) requirement beginning in 1995.

He reported that the main purpose and objective of the report is educational, to inform customers regarding water quality of their water supply. He stated that the report highlights areas that include: local sources of supply, source water assessment, health notice for vulnerable customers, pending water treatment changes, and water quality sampling results.

Senior Water Quality Inspector Molina reported that several thousand samples are analyzed annually, and that testing is performed on a daily, weekly, quarterly, annual, and tri-annual basis depending on the constituent. He stated that sampling is performed on raw water, finished water, water in distribution system/storage facilities, and at the customer tap, noting that constituents that exceed the PHG and those that show a reading during analysis are included in the Annual Report.

In response to Commissioner Warner's inquiry, he described how lead and copper are sampled from the customer tap to determine how aggressive the water is to plumbing systems.

He discussed pending water quality changes that include fluoridation treatment by MWD, more stringent changes in Trihalomethane (THM) and Disinfection Byproduct (DBP) standards, stricter cross connection monitoring and reporting procedures, and possible testing for some unregulated constituents.

In response to Commissioner Rizzardi's inquiry, he stated that all water agencies are required to submit an Annual Report in order to maintain their water operator's permit.

Water treatment options and blending were briefly discussed and Senior Administrative Analyst Schaich advised that TMW would be engaging a water quality expert to perform bench testing and pilot studies to mitigate THM formation in the wells.

Responding to Commissioner Warner's inquiry, Senior Water Quality Inspector Molina explained that groundwater is naturally treated and then aerated to remove hydrogen sulfate, and that well water is treated as it comes out of the well.

In response to Commissioner Deemer's inquiry, he stated that he expected little if any change in State testing rules in the immediate future.

Commissioner See inquired about the role of the State Water Quality Control Board and Senior Administrative Analyst Schaich explained that they regulate contaminants in groundwater and storm water discharge.

Senior Water Quality Inspector Molina concluded his presentation by stressing the importance of becoming more self-reliant and developing new resources.

#### **7C. REVIEW OF WATER CONSERVATION PROGRAM**

Senior Administrative Analyst Schaich reported that staff would bring forward a recommendation for a temporary voluntary conservation program to reduce water usage at the August 16, 2007 Commission meeting. He discussed the 1991-92 drought when customers were asked to cut back water use by 20%, which actually achieved a 32% reduction.

A brief discussion centered on the possibility of implementing a tiered rate structure or offering incentives to encourage reduction in water consumption.

Chairperson Hoffman requested that staff show how the recommendations made by the Conservation subcommittee have been implemented.

Senior Administrative Analyst Schaich distributed a report that delineates the City's water conservation program in relation to the Urban Water Management Plan, the status of current conservation activities and programs, new conservation initiatives being implemented in partnership with West Basin Municipal Water District and the South Bay Cities Council of Governments, and pending new conservation programs being developed in conjunction with MWD.

It was decided to defer discussion of the report to the August 16, 2007 meeting to allow Commissioners time to review the material.

#### **8. WEST BASIN WATER ASSOCIATION REPORT**

Senior Administrative Analyst Schaich reported that he was unable to attend the last West Basin Water Association Report. He mentioned that Deputy Public Works Director van der Linden, who would provide an update at the next Commission meeting, has been recently hospitalized.

In response to Commissioner Deemer's inquiry regarding an article in the Gardena Valley News, Senior Administrative Analyst Schaich stated that the separation of West Basin and Central Basin management and offices would not affect TMW.

**9. MONTHLY DEPARTMENT REPORT**

Senior Administrative Analyst Schaich reported that water main breaks continue to decrease, with a total of 14 pipeline ruptures over the past five months.

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

MWD Director Wright distributed his July 16, 2007 letter to City Council regarding MWD activities.

He reported that the Colorado River Aqueduct would be shut down for ten days starting July 20, 2007 due to the prevalence of the quagga mussel, and that 63 miles of the aqueduct would be dried out in an attempt to kill the mussel larva. He stated that the Bay Delta also had to shut down pumps for ten days due to smelt fish. He noted that the Governor was promoting a \$4 billion bond issue in February 2008 to build reservoirs, do some work on the Bay Delta, and to consider an isolated facility to bring water around the Bay Delta.

In response to Commissioner Rizzardi's inquiry, MWD Director Wright stated that compensation for MWD's General Manager was \$270,000.

A brief discussion centered on generating power from wind turbines and solar panels.

**11. ORALS**

**11A.** Commissioner White announced a California Water Plan meeting on July 25, 2007 at MWD headquarters in downtown Los Angeles.

**11B.** Commissioner White stated that the City of San Francisco has banned its departments from buying plastic water bottles and that she would like to see the Torrance do the same.

Senior Administrative Analyst Schaich offered to contact the Environmental Quality and Energy Conservation Commission about the suggestion.

**11C.** Chairperson Hoffman mentioned that a consultant from Exxon Mobil contacted and questioned him regarding the public's perception of the refinery. He stated that he suggested that Exxon Mobil could do a better job of outreach into the entire community and to target their contributions and investments to community facilities.

**11D.** Senior Administrative Analyst Schaich stated that Senior Water Service Supervisor Berndt had surgery and would be out for several weeks.

**11E.** Commissioner Deemer questioned if TMW could use the Palos Verdes reservoir as a reserve and Senior Administrative Analyst Schaich responded that the elevation is too high to make it a viable resource.

**11F.** Senior Administrative Analyst Schaich advised he would present a draft Business Plan to the Commission in two to three months, but that a complete rate study would take longer.

**11G.** Commissioners wished Deputy Public Works Director van der Linden and Senior Water Service Supervisor Berndt speedy recoveries.

**12. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:** At 9:12 p.m., Commissioner Rizzardi moved to adjourn the meeting to August 16, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. in the West Annex Commission meeting room. Commissioner Warner seconded the motion and, hearing no objection, Chairperson Hoffman so ordered.

Approved as Amended August 16, 2007 s/ Sue Herbers, City Clerk
--