

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

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Torrance Water Commission convened in a regular session at 7:02 p.m. on Thursday, July 20, 2006.

2. ROLL CALL / MOTIONS FOR EXCUSED ABSENCE

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

Absent: None.

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

3. FLAG SALUTE

Commissioner White led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. AFFIDAVIT OF POSTING

MOTION: Commissioner White 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.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MWD Director Wright noted that Page 4, Item 10, paragraph 3 of the June 15, 2006 meeting minutes should be amended as follow: "Responding to Commissioner Deemer's inquiry, he stated that the Colorado River water shed precipitation was approximately 80% of normal and Northern California was approximately 140-160% of normal,..."

Commissioner Hoffman requested that the following be added to the June 15, 2006 meeting minutes:

Page 3, paragraph 1, line 2: "...to chemically reduce hexavalent to trivalent chromium (Chromium 3), which is more stable and does not cause any potential health risks, monitoring soil and groundwater concentrations,..."

Page 3, paragraph 3: "...the general public should be notified and educated about the remediation project. Exxon-Mobil stated that its position has been not to inform the general public about the Chromium 6 mitigation project at the refinery."

MOTION: Commissioner White moved for the approval of the June 15, 2006 Water Commission meeting minutes as amended. Commissioner Deemer seconded the

motion; a roll call vote reflected unanimous approval (with Commissioner Lew abstaining).

6. NEW BUSINESS

6A. PRESENTATION BY METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT REGARDING THEIR CONVERSION TO OZONE AND FLUORIDE TREATMENT

Edgar G. Dymally, Senior Environmental Specialist, Water Quality, Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD), gave a power point presentation on MWD's Fluoridation Communications Plan. He stated that MWD has undertaken an effort to retrofit its treatment plants for several reasons that include drinking water fluoridation. He provided background information about the 1995 legislation that mandated drinking water fluoridation in California if funding was available, and the policy adopted by the MWD Board to fluoridate in February 2003. He stated that MWD was given a grant from the California Endowment for \$5.5 million for planning, design, purchase, and installation and that fluoridation facilities would be on-line by July 1, 2007. He noted that all credible Federal, State, and local health officials have deemed fluoridation to be safe, and that there were benefits of topical application and ingestion of fluoride, not only for children but adults as well.

Responding to Chairperson Hoffman's inquiry, he explained that the practice of fluoridation originally began in 1945 primarily for dental care, and briefly described controversy surrounding the practice that began during the Cold War era.

Commissioner Deemer pointed out that one of the controversies was that it was viewed as forced medication.

Deputy Public Works Director van der Linden stated that there was naturally occurring fluoride in drinking water, noting that 15% of Torrance served by California Water would not be receiving fluoridated water.

Senior Environmental Specialist Dymally presented the Fluoridation Facilities Construction Schedule and discussed operational issues highlights that include blending, monitoring, additional funding opportunities for member agencies, operating and maintenance costs, and fluoride supplies that primarily come from Texas and Florida.

Senior Administrative Analyst Schaich stated that currently Torrance receives 80% of its drinking water from MWD, noting that staff was actively looking at an implementation plan to increase local supplies to the optimization level of fluoridated water of .7 to .8 milligrams of fluoride per liter.

In response to Commissioner Deemer's inquiry, he explained that few states have facilities to chemically separate fluoride.

Senior Environmental Specialist Dymally described how MWD planned to address external communication issues with a fluoridation "Tool Box" that includes a fluoridation fact sheet, frequently asked questions, "At a Glance," "Straight from the Tap," Consumer Confidence Report, and a water quality hotline. He stated that MWD works closely with the California Department Health Service, County Health Departments, and Regional Water Quality Control Board.

MWD Director Wright pointed out that many people who are most in need of fluoridation do not drink the water. He stressed the importance of educating people that not only is fluoridation beneficial but also that tap water is safe to drink.

Commissioner Deemer received clarification that it would be extremely difficult to separate water from treatment plants for water agencies that did not want fluoridated water.

Responding to Commissioner White's inquiry, Senior Environmental Specialist Dymally stated that fluoridated water has no adverse effects on marine life when it is discharged.

In response to Commissioner Rizzardi's inquiry, Deputy Public Works Director van der Linden stated that the City was considering putting fluoridation in groundwater well sites to match MWD's levels.

Senior Environmental Specialist Dymally noted that fluoride could be removed from drinking water with home filtration systems such as Culligan. He concluded his presentation by stating that fluoridation was a widely studied and analyzed treatment and was supported by health officials.

He distributed presentation materials on MWD's Oxidation Retrofit Program and welcomed questions from Commissioners. He noted that two State water facilities, Jensen and Mills, have been retrofitted for ozone and treat primarily State Project water. He stated that the other three treatment plants were not scheduled for ozone retrofit until 2008-2010.

MWD Director Wright discussed by-products in State Project water and the intent to improve water quality with ozone conversion.

Responding to Commissioner Deemer's inquiry, Senior Environmental Specialist Dymally stated that the ozone facilities would operate indefinitely until there is a major change in drinking water standards. He noted that ozone was effective in controlling taste and odor issues.

7. WEST BASIN WATER ASSOCIATION REPORT

Deputy Public Works Director van der Linden reported on the July 11, 2006 West Basin Water Association meeting, noting that Department of Water Resources named a new water master for the area. He stated that West Basin Municipal Water District became an independent agency effective July 1, 2006 and that they discussed their quarterly newsletter, redistricting issues, and a new connection off the State Project Water for environmental use in the Owens Valley/Mono Lake area.

He reported that Water Replenishment District discussed an increase of carryover water pumping rights, that they were willing to pay for facilitator Jim Waldo to continue conjunctive use sessions beginning in August 2006, and that the Desalter Work group would be meeting on July 24, 2006.

He invited Commissioners to the Annual Joint Barbeque with West Basin Water Association and Central Basin Water Association on Thursday, August 17, 2006 at Chevron Park in El Segundo.

8. MONTHLY DEPARTMENT REPORT

Deputy Public Works Director van der Linden provided a status report on downtown water main replacements and requested that the Commission accept and file the Monthly Department Report for June 2006.

In response to Commissioner Deemer's inquiry regarding Torrance Boulevard, he explained that water main replacement and resurfacing was pending but that the storm drains would not be replaced.

Deputy Public Works Director van der Linden stated that staff was searching for the best water quality sites in the City for well development.

MOTION: Commissioner White moved to accept and file the Monthly Department Report for June 2006. Commissioner Deemer seconded the motion and, hearing no objection, Chairperson Hoffman so ordered.

9. METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Metropolitan Water District Director Wright provided information about the next water inspection tour scheduled for September 15-17, 2006, noting that they would be flying out of Long Beach Airport to Sacramento. He stated that bond issues and the levee system would be discussed.

10. ORALS

10A. Deputy Public Works Director van der Linden informed Commissioners that they would be receiving jackets.

10B. Discussion centered on the scheduling conflict between the West Basin Water Association and Central Basin Water Association joint barbecue and the next regularly scheduled Commission meeting on August 17, 2006. It was decided to adjourn tonight's meeting to August 17, 2006 with the possibility of changing the Commission meeting to an alternate date or canceling it.

10C. Commissioner Deemer suggested that the Department discuss fluoridation with the City of Beverly Hills.

11. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: At 8:46 p.m., Commissioner Rizzardi, seconded by Commissioner Lew, moved to adjourn the meeting to August 17, 2006 at 7:00 p.m. in the West Annex Commission Meeting Room and, hearing no objection, Chairperson Hoffman so ordered.

Approved as Submitted September 21, 2006 s/ Sue Herbers, City Clerk
