

**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, July 21, 2011 in the West Annex Meeting Room at Torrance City Hall.

**2. ROLL CALL:**

Present: Commissioners Deemer, Haddon, Lefevre, McCabe, and See.

Absent: Commissioner Lew and Chairperson McGee.

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

Due to the absence of Chairperson McGee, Vice-Chairperson Lefevre led the meeting.

**MOTION:** Commissioner McCabe moved to grant Commissioner Lew and Chairperson McGee excused absences for the July 21, 2011 Water Commission meeting. Commissioner Deemer seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval.

**3. FLAG SALUTE**

Commissioner Haddon 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 JUNE 16, 2011**

**MOTION:** Commissioner Haddon moved for the approval of the June 16, 2011 Water Commission meeting minutes as submitted. Commissioner See seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval (absent Commissioner Lew and Chairperson McGee).

**6. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM PUBLIC**

None.

**7. NEW BUSINESS**

**7A. PRESENTATION AND CONSIDERATION REGARDING ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT (CCR) AND RELATED WATER QUALITY MATTERS**

Deputy Public Works Director van der Linden introduced the item and welcomed Senior Water Service Supervisor Berndt.

Senior Water Service Supervisor Berndt provided a power point presentation on the Annual Water Quality Report or Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) for calendar year 2010. He stated that he is responsible for submitting the CCR every year. He reported that the CCR is required by 1996 Safe Drinking Water Act amendments and gives consumers information about what is in their drinking water, what is involved in the delivery of safe drinking water, the sources of their drinking water, and the importance of source water protection.

He reviewed the contents of the CCR: "Continuing Our Commitment" covers compliance dates, commitment to delivering the best high quality drinking water, and regulatory agencies that set compliances; "Where Does My Water Come From?" describes the two sources of total potable water supply—85% from Metropolitan Water District and 15% from ground water; and "The Future of Water Supply in Torrance" explains future projects and new water sources.

WMD Director Wright commented that State Project water is mostly high quality rainwater while Colorado River water is high in salinity because it flows through limestone, noting that it would be better to put State Project water into the groundwater Basin.

Senior Water Service Supervisor Berndt reported that the section "Hydrant Flushing" informs customers that hydrant flushing is not a waste of water but is an essential part of preventative maintenance to ensure safe and high quality water.

In response to Commissioner McCabe's inquiry, he stated that it is not economically feasible to capture the flushed water and that the process represents less than one half of one percent of total water.

He reviewed the mandatory language in the section "Important Health Information" that states that some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. He explained that "Water Conservation" gives customers tips on how to conserve water and informs them of the City's Water Conservation Ordinance. He stated that the "Source Water Assessment" section explains the 2008 study to determine the water system's vulnerability to possible sources of contamination, noting that groundwater is most vulnerable from underground fuel storage tanks.

Senior Water Service Supervisor Berndt discussed the section entitled "Substances That Could Be in Water" and then explained how to read the actual table of "Sampling Results" listing substances and amounts detected in groundwater, MWD surface water, and monitored in the distribution system. He noted that 89 regulated constituents are tested for and only detected substances are required to be reported. He stated that typical sources are included to show where the contaminant may have come from, noting that Chloramines are disinfectants added to prevent contamination from bacteria. He reviewed Regulated Substances that are contaminants that the U.S. EPA and California EPA require to be tested for. He explained that the second section, Secondary Substances, includes tests for taste, odor, and color, and that Unregulated and Other Substances such as pH, Sodium, and Total Hardness are in the CCR because these are items that consumers are most interested in.

In response to Commissioner See's inquiry, he explained how odor and color tests are conducted.

Responding to Commissioner Lefevre's inquiry, Deputy Public Works Director van der Linden explained that the difference in low-high ranges in groundwater and MWD surface water detections is because the water often comes from different sources.

MWD Director Wright provided background on geology to explain why Colorado River water has high salinity and why State Project water has so much organic material.

Senior Water Service Supervisor Berndt next discussed State mandated first draw tap water samples collected for Lead and Copper analyses from 100 volunteer single-family residences throughout the City. He noted that compliance is in the consumers' homes because these substances leach out in faucets and pipes.

He provided CCR due dates and showed photographs of a dedicated sample station, disinfection of a sample tap, flushing the line, testing water for Chlorine content, collecting, protecting and testing the sample, collecting well head samples, water treatment, water quality instruments, laboratory analysis, Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA), and backflow preventors. He stated that over 7,000 samples are collected annually for compliance purposes and over 2,000 for internal evaluation. He concluded his presentation by stating that all water samples collected in 2010 meet or exceed all water quality standards.

Commissioner McCabe initiated discussion about the public's lack of confidence in municipal water supply, the importance of outreach and education to convey its safety to consumers, and the use of bottled water.

In response to Commissioner Levevre's inquiry, staff advised that TMW only has three water quality employees.

## **8. METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

MWD Director Wright distributed his July 18, 2011 letter to Mayor and Councilmembers regarding July's MWD activities and pointed out the attachment showing Lake Oroville storage October 1, 2005 – July 10, 2011.

With the aid of slides, he provided a presentation on Water Supply Conditions in the Colorado River Basin and the two main reservoirs Lake Mead and Lake Powell. He stated that the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation projected that there would be a shortage situation this year in Lake Mead and the level came to within two feet of it. He showed slides of the Upper Colorado Basin Snowpack in Northern Colorado showing the average, 1986, 2010, and 2011 that is the highest snowpack and precipitation in recorded history. He noted that Lake Powell is rising one foot a day and that all water being released is going through the generators. He stated that there will probably be an equalization release down to Lake Mead later this year.

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

Deputy Public Works Director van der Linden reported that at the July 5, 2011 Association meeting the Water Master reported that West Coast Basin pumped 3,700 acre-feet of water in May 2011, with a cumulative total of over 40,000 acre-feet. He stated that West Basin Municipal Water District reported that it awarded a \$62 million contract to expand the Edward C. Little Phase V reclamation facility, with completion expected in July 2012. West Basin Municipal Water District also reported that they are moving forward on a Desalination Master Plan and are working with Los Angeles Department of Water and Power in providing recycled water to the Harbor-South Bay service area.

He reported that Water Replenishment District has gone into litigation with other cities regarding a Proposition 18 violation involving their increase in replenishment assessments. He stated that there was a special presentation on behalf of Montrose Chemical Corporation that is trying to buy a water right so they can pump contaminated water from their site. He explained how the extracted water would be treated and 80% of it put back into the ground. He announced an annual joint luncheon for both Associations at Rio Hondo Event Center in Downey on August 4, 2011.

**10. MONTHLY DEPARTMENT REPORT**

Deputy Public Works Director van der Linden noted that the Monthly Department Report for June 2011 was included in agenda packets. He reported an increase in overall and potable water production in June 2011. He was pleased to announce that there were no water main breaks in June and noted that, to date, main breaks total 15 compared to 28 last year, or a 46% reduction. He stated that the Goldsworthy Desalter is producing 150 to 175 acre-feet of water per month and that Well #9 is producing nearly 200 acre-feet per month.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Haddon moved to accept and file the Monthly Department Report for June 2011. Commissioner Deemer seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval (absent Commissioner Lew and Chairperson McGee).

**11. ORALS**

**11A.** Commissioner See requested an excused absence for the August 18, 2011 Commission meeting.

**11B.** Commissioner Lefevre distributed copies of "How Much Water Does It Take to Make Electricity?"

**12. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:** At 8:44 p.m., Commissioner Haddon moved to adjourn the meeting to August 18, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. in the West Annex Commission meeting room. Commissioner Deemer seconded the motion and, hearing no objection, Vice-Chairperson Lefevre so ordered.

Approved as Submitted August 18, 2011 s/ Sue Herbers, City Clerk
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