

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

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The Torrance Water Commission convened in a regular session at 7:01 p.m. on Thursday, August 16, 2007 in the West Annex meeting room at Torrance City Hall.

**2. ROLL CALL:**

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

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.

\*Commissioner Hoffman arrived at 7:07 p.m.

**3. FLAG SALUTE**

Commissioner White led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**4. AFFIDAVIT OF POSTING**

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

**5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**5A. MINUTES FROM JULY 19, 2007**

Commissioner Deemer offered the following correction to the July 19, 2007 meeting minutes:

Page 6, Item 10, line 5: "...Governor was promoting a \$4 billion bond issue..."

**MOTION:** Commissioner White moved for the approval of the July 19, 2007 Water Commission meeting minutes as corrected. Commissioner Rizzardi seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous.

**6. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM PUBLIC**

None.

**8. NEW BUSINESS**

**8A. CURRENT WATER CONSERVATION PROGRAM AND PROPOSED VOLUNTARY CONSERVATION EFFORTS TO RESPOND TO CURRENT DROUGHT CONDITIONS**

This item was taken out of order.

Senior Administrative Analyst Schaich reported that the Current Water Conservation Program would be brought back at a future meeting as a water resource strategy element in the Business Plan.

He provided background on the proposed Voluntary Conservation Effort outlined in the supplemental material of record. He reported that the State is in the throes of one of the most severe droughts in the last 30 years, with the Los Angeles Basin representing only 25% of normal precipitation levels and the Colorado River Basin experiencing its eighth consecutive dry year.

Senior Administrative Analyst Schaich reported that Metropolitan Water District (MWD), in looking ahead to what might happen if there is another dry year, is currently requesting a voluntary cut back in water usage. They are in the process of developing an Allocation Plan to apportion imported water supplies should the drought continue into next year, which could result in a 20-30% reduction. He noted that San Diego Water Authority and City of Los Angeles have recently adopted conservation programs, requesting that customers cut back 10%, or approximately 20 gallons per day per customer, of their normal usage. He advised that the campaign is currently directed towards messaging, communication, and assistance to member agencies in community outreach.

He discussed the possibility of a mass distribution of conservation mailers or door hangers to all businesses and dwelling units in the City as well as public service announcements on CitiCable.

Commissioner Warner suggested giving power point demonstrations to homeowners associations, Chamber of Commerce, and PTA meetings.

Responding to Commissioner Hoffman's inquiry, Senior Administrative Analyst Schaich stated that there were no financial or economic incentives being offered yet, but that a tiered rate structure is being considered for the Business Plan.

MWD Director Wright discussed the importance of changing the behavior of children and apartment residents.

In response to Commissioner Deemer's inquiry regarding California Water Service, Senior Administrative Analyst Schaich advised that Torrance Municipal Water (TMW) would take a City-wide approach for conservation efforts, regardless of the service area.

Commissioner Hoffman stressed the importance of having a consistent message or theme, suggested using visual aids that residents could relate to, and noted that a message from the Governor would be effective.

Public Works Director Beste stated that the campaign would include fliers, CitiCable, local newspaper advertisements, and visiting local schools and homeowners associations. He asked that Commissioners consider providing information at homeowners association and City Council meetings.

Commissioner White noted that she saw an MWD advertisement recently in the Daily Breeze.

Senior Administrative Analyst Schaich stated that MWD has elected to do radio spot announcements with the "It's Time to Get Serious" message.

Commissioner Deemer suggested having water conservation displays at malls and putting a notice in the Torrance Seasons guide. He mentioned that there would be good attendance at the homeowners association meetings at the candidate nights for the Torrance Unified School District board election.

Commissioner See suggested that using a famous person as a spokesperson would be effective.

Public Works Director Beste stated that staff would put together a list of upcoming meetings and Senior Administrative Analyst Schaich offered to bring back a list of suggested ideas for the Commission to prioritize.

## **7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

### **7A. STATUS OF WATER FLUORIDATION TREATMENT IN METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT AND MUNICIPAL SERVICE AREA**

Deputy Public Works Director van der Linden reported that the July 31, 2007 MWD workshop on fluoridation was well attended and that MWD would begin phasing in fluoridation treatment on October 1, 2007. He stated that, in the meantime, the California Department of Public Health is requiring individual agencies to come up with testing protocols and public notification plans by September 14, 2007. He advised that TMW would be responsible for notifying customers in its service area, that local groundwater sources would be treated, and that the first fluoridated water would arrive in mid-October 2007. He stated that an information item would be going to City Council on September 11, 2007.

In response to Commissioner Warner's inquiry, Deputy Public Works Director van der Linden stated that fluoride is added to the water supply at MWD's treatment facilities.

Commissioner Lew commented that the Frequently Asked Questions sheet was very informative.

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

Deputy Public Works Director van der Linden reported that the Water Master did not attend the last West Basin Water Association meeting but that it was reported that the West Coast Basin has extracted 36,628 acre feet this year, slightly less than last

year. He stated that the West Basin Municipal Water District discussed their Integrated Regional Water Management Plan, that there was some concern that certain cities and agencies were trying to splinter off to get their own funding, that they received an additional \$230,000 in grant funds for the Green Garden program, and provided an update on MWD activities.

He reported that Water Replenishment District (WRD) was having an August 21, 2007 workshop for water users in the District to meet with local refineries to discuss conservation methods. He stated that they were working with the County of Los Angeles Public Works on a barrier study and the use of recycled water.

He reported that West Basin Water Association provided an update on legislative bill AB 640 and that there would be a desalination workshop on August 17, 2007.

#### **10. MONTHLY DEPARTMENT REPORT**

Deputy Public Works Director van der Linden briefly discussed usage of groundwater sources, noting that Well #6 was pumping 120 to 140 acre feet per month.

Commissioner Deemer asked staff to include in the Director's Report a five-year average of water usage in the City.

Responding to Commissioner Deemer's inquiry, Public Works Director Beste provided an update on the Walnut Avenue transmission main, noting that a smaller relief main would be installed.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Hoffman moved to accept and file the Monthly Department Report. Commissioner Rizzardi seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval.

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

MWD Director Wright discussed reasons for the need to implement conservation methods due to the increasing cost of water. He noted that Colorado River water costs MWD \$30 an acre foot while the State Water Project costs \$120 per acre foot, and that new sources of water cost \$250-350 per acre foot. He stated that until 2003 two-thirds of their water came from the Colorado River; however, their entitlement was cut and now only one-third comes from there.

He explained that there were environmental concerns because the flow of water is actually reversed in the Old and Middle Rivers when pumps are turned on. He stated that a judge shut down the pumps for 30 days two months ago because MWD did not have proper take permits for the Delta smelt. He stated that MWD was going back to court in two weeks and was concerned that it could be cut back 30% on the water taken from the Bay Delta. He provided information about the Governor's promotion of a bond issue that would construct two reservoirs and an isolated facility. He stated that MWD was considering support for bringing part of the water through the Bay Delta and part of it through an isolated facility around the Delta.

Responding to Commissioner Deemer's inquiry, staff stated that the desalter in the City of Santa Barbara was decommissioned.

**12. ORALS**

**12A.** Commissioner Warner thanked staff for setting up a tour for his day camp children.

**12B.** Commissioner Rizzardi encouraged Commissioners to send their suggestions to staff.

**12C.** Commissioner White stated that she contacted an Environmental Quality and Energy Conservation Commissioner and requested her to bring up the topic of banning bottled water purchased by the City. She noted that the water community has an obligation to inform the public that bottled water is less safe than tap water.

**12D.** Commissioner Lew stated that California Water Service was increasing its rates for centralized services.

Public Works Director Beste noted that the gap in rates between TMW and California Water was widening.

In response to Commissioner Deemer's inquiry, Senior Administrative Analyst Schaich stated that TMW sells approximately 1,000 to 2,000 acre feet of water to California Water Service each year.

**12E.** Deputy Public Works Director van der Linden reminded Commissioners that MWD's education tour was September 7-8, 2007.

**12F.** Commissioner Hoffman encouraged staff to conduct a serious study for a structured rate system.

**12G.** Commissioner See initiated a brief discussion about an article in the Daily Breeze regarding weather-based controllers.

**13. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:** At 8:43 p.m., Commissioner White moved to adjourn the meeting to September 20, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. in the West Annex Commission meeting room. Commissioner See seconded the motion and, hearing no objection, Chairperson Lew so ordered.

Approved as Amended September 20, 2007 s/ Sue Herbers, City Clerk
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