

September 25, 2013

**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 Wednesday, September 25, 2013 in the West Annex Meeting Room at Torrance City Hall.

2. ROLL CALL:

Present: Commissioners Marshall, McGee, See, and
Chairperson Nishinaga.

Absent: Commissioner Leone.

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

Senior Administrative Analyst Schaich regrettably informed the Commission of the passing of Commissioner Dean Haddon on September 24. He noted that Commissioner Haddon served on the Water Commission for two terms for a total of nearly 16 years. He stated that he would provide Commissioners with the details of his memorial service and suggested that tonight's meeting be adjourned in his memory.

MOTION: Commissioner Marshall moved to grant Commissioner Leone an excused absence for the September 25, 2013 Commission meeting. Commissioner McGee seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval.

3. FLAG SALUTE

Commissioner See led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. AFFIDAVIT OF POSTING

MOTION: Commissioner McGee 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 JULY 24 AND AUGUST 28, 2013

MOTION: Commissioner See moved for the approval of the July 24, 2013 Water Commission meeting minutes as presented. Commissioner Marshall seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval (absent Commissioner Leone).

Minutes of the August 28, 2013 meeting were not available.

6. **ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM PUBLIC** None.

7. **OLD BUSINESS** None.

8. **NEW BUSINESS**

8A. **UPDATE REGARDING STATUS OF DEVELOPMENT OF THE VAN NESS WELL FIELD AND NORTH TORRANCE GROUNDWATER FACILITIES PROJECT**

Senior Administrative Analyst Schaich provided an overview on the status of the Van Ness Well Field and North Torrance Groundwater Facilities projects. He began the presentation with background regarding approval of the drilling of two pilot wells at Carretera Park and on a City owned parcel on 185th Street behind Hamilton Adult School. He stated that funding was also approved for the first phase of the North Torrance Groundwater Facilities Project that includes construction of utility piping, access roads, and reconstruction of a portion of Yukon School parking lot in preparation for development of a well site adjacent to the school.

He reviewed the Water Supply Diversification Project that includes development of four additional freshwater wells, expanding the groundwater Desalter, and maximizing use of recycled water. He noted that enhancing local water supplies would increase reliability, reduce dependence on vulnerable water sources, lower long-term water costs, stabilize water rates in the future, and provide local supply during emergency.

In response to Commissioner Marshall's inquiry, Senior Administrative Analyst Schaich explained that Torrance Municipal Water (TMW) is entitled to pump 5,640 acre feet (AF) of water per year. He stated that the new wells would produce more than that but, because the groundwater basin is underpumped, there would be an opportunity to purchase or long-term lease more groundwater rights, probably from refineries.

Responding to Chairperson Nishinaga's inquiries, he stated that the four new wells, along with Well #9 at McMaster Park, could potentially produce a maximum of 10,000-12,000 AF. He also explained the process used by the Superior Court of Los Angeles to determine adjudicated rights based on historical usage.

Senior Administrative Analyst Schaich described the City's current, near term, and future water source mix, noting the goal to lower use of imported water from 70% to 30%. He noted that, if they are able to acquire more water rights, it might be possible to produce as much as 50% groundwater and desalter water. He briefly discussed economic advantages of developing local supply sources as well as plans to expand the Desalter and increased recycled water use by Exxon Mobil. He estimated that the Van Ness Well Field will yield 3000-4000 AF per year and would enable the groundwater production facility located at Border Avenue to be re-activated.

Commissioner Marshall inquired about the Border Avenue facility and staff explained that wells were constructed there 16 years ago; however the facilities had to be shut down due to taste, odor, and color problems, adding that the only viable solution was costly advanced reverse osmosis. Staff noted that the facility is still in good condition and is ready as a production plant with a one million gallon storage tank,

treatment, and pumping facilities on site. He stated that they plan to build a pipeline 3-1/2 miles down Van Ness Avenue to move water there for storage and eventual extraction.

Senior Administrative Analyst Schaich presented information regarding the North Torrance Well Field that will include two additional potable wells, wells #10 and #11, and construction of water treatment, storage, pumping, and related facilities. He stated that Phase 1 offsite improvements had to be done while Yukon School was closed and is near completion. He noted that the balance of the project, an estimated \$13-14 million, will be funded by long term financing.

Senior Water Services Supervisor Berndt provided additional information about the project. He reported that all sewer, water, storm drain, electrical, and telephone pipes are installed, the block wall between the school and the property is complete, and the access roadway will begin upon completion of the backfill.

In response to Commissioner McGee's inquiry, he stated that there is not enough room on Yukon Avenue to install a recycled water line for irrigation.

Senior Supervisor Berndt next described the drilling of pilot wells #12 and #13 behind Hamilton School and La Carretera Park that are completed. He stated that well #13 water quality is good and that they are awaiting water quality results for well #12. He showed a map of the pilot wells and photographs of the sound barrier, drilling rig, conductor casing, and holding tank, adding that they plan to develop well #13 first.

He discussed next steps that include design of Van Ness production wells, determine the size of pipe and construct the transmission line to Border Avenue plant, and construct the Van Ness facilities, with estimated completion in 2-1/2 years. Other plans include the design of on-site storage, treatment, pumping facilities and two wells at the North Torrance Well Field, with estimated completion in three years.

9. INTRODUCTION OF THE CITY'S NEW REPRESENTATIVE ON THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Senior Administrative Analyst Schaich was pleased to announce that on August 20 City Council unanimously appointed former Water Commissioner Russell Lefevre as the City's representative on the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California's (MWD) Board of Directors. He noted that there were several applicants for the position and that the City is fortunate to have him.

MWD Director Lefevre expressed his appreciation to Commissioners and staff and stated that Mr. Wright's shoes will be hard to fill. He discussed what he learned about direct potable reuse and the Carlsbad Desalter at a Municipal Water Reuse Joint workshop on September 23 in Long Beach. He mentioned that Torrance was complimented for its ability to collect storm water.

Deputy Public Works Director van der Linden described the City's approximately eight sumps, four or five of which have filtration pipes.

MWD Director Lefevre also discussed his attendance at the Bay Delta Conservation Plan Committee meeting on September 24. He reported that the public

draft of the Plan and Environmental Impact Report are due in November and the final Plan is due in spring 2014. He further noted that tunnel construction is expected to start in 2016 and be completed in 2026 and that habitat restoration will continue until 2050. He stated that four environmental projects were discussed at the end of the meeting.

Commissioners expressed interest in attending MWD Director Lefevre's official installation at the regular MWD Board meeting on October 8 in downtown Los Angeles.

10. WEST BASIN WATER ASSOCIATION REPORT

Deputy Public Works Director van der Linden reported that at the September 3 West Basin Water Association meeting the Watermaster presented the monthly groundwater report as well as the cumulative total of groundwater report in which water pumped from the West Coast Basin in the 2013-14 Water Year was 3,500 acre feet for August. He reported that West Basin Municipal Water District announced a "Greater Los Angeles Water Summit" on October 16-17 in Long Beach and reported on the construction of an "Ocean-Friendly" garden with Carson at its Civic Center.

He stated that MWD provided comment on the Integrated Resources Program and the available grant for conservation measures. He reported that WRD provided updates on the Goldsworthy Desalter expansion project and announced that the District is moving forward with the implementation of the Groundwater Reliability Improvement Program with the Los Angeles Sanitation District.

Deputy Public Works Director van der Linden informed the Commission that he is resigning as President of the West Basin Water Association and from the Board of Directors. He advised that the Vice-President will step up to the President position until there are elections in May 2014 and that Public Works Director Beste has been appointed to the Board to represent the City. He announced the next meeting on October 1.

11. MONTHLY DEPARTMENT REPORT

Deputy Public Works Director van der Linden noted that the Monthly Department Report for August 2013 was included in agenda packets. He reported that total water production for the first eight months of 2013 was approximately 1% less compared to the same period last year. He stated that there were nine water main breaks and, on a cumulative basis, 39 breaks have occurred in 2013 compared to 24 in 2012. He stated that the Goldsworthy Desalter was out of service in July due to a bio film problem in the treatment system but is now back on line and expected to produce approximately 1,500 acre feet of potable water in 2013.

MOTION: Commissioner See moved to accept and file the Monthly Department Report for August 2013. Commissioner Marshall seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval (absent Commissioner Leone).

12. ORALS

12A. Commissioners and staff expressed their sorrow at the passing of Commissioner Haddon, extended their condolences to his family, and noted how sorely missed he will be.

12B. Deputy Public Works Director van der Linden announced his retirement after 21 years of service to the City and 37 years in municipal government.

Commissioners expressed their appreciation to Deputy Public Works Director van der Linden and bid him a fond farewell. His retirement party is scheduled for October 3 at the City Yard.

Deputy Public Works Director van der Linden recalled his close relationship with Commissioner Haddon over the years and the different responsibilities he has had working for the City. He thanked Commissioners for being the eyes, ears, and spokespeople to the public and community as well as helping to direct and guide City Council.

12C. Commissioners congratulated MWD Director Lefevre on his appointment to the Metropolitan Water District Board of Directors and Chairperson Nishinaga thanked him for his year of Chairmanship on the Water Commission.

12D. Senior Administrative Analyst Schaich announced a West Basin Municipal Water Fair on October 26.

13. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: At 8:43 p.m., Commissioner McGee moved to adjourn the meeting in memory of Dean Haddon to Wednesday, October 23, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. in the West Annex Commission meeting room. Commissioner See seconded the motion and, hearing no objection, Chairperson Nishinaga so ordered.

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Approved as amended December 18, 2013 s/ Sue Herbers, City Clerk
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