

**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 Wednesday, May 25, 2016 in the West Annex Meeting Room at Torrance City Hall. Due to the absence of Chairperson Kawai, Vice-Chairperson See led the meeting.

2. ROLL CALL:

Present: Commissioners Chim-Lieu, Craft,
Marshall, McGee, Nishinaga, and See.

Absent: Chairperson Kawai.

Also Present: Senior Administrative Analyst Schaich,
Deputy Public Works Director Knapp,
Water Operations Superintendent Berndt,
Administrative Analyst Garcia, and
Metropolitan Water District Director Lefevre.

MOTION: Commissioner Nishinaga moved to grant Chairperson Kawai an excused absence for the May 25, 2016 Water Commission meeting. Commissioner Craft seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected 6-0 approval.

MOTION: Commissioner McGee moved to grant Commissioner Craft an excused absence for the April 27, 2016 Water Commission meeting. Commissioner Marshall seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected 5-0 approval (Commissioner Craft abstaining).

3. FLAG SALUTE

Commissioner McGee led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. AFFIDAVIT OF POSTING

MOTION: Commissioner Chim-Lieu moved to accept and file the report of the City Clerk on the posting of the agenda for this meeting. Commissioner Marshall seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected 6-0 approval (absent Chairperson Kawai).

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

5A. MINUTES OF APRIL 27, 2016

MWD Director Lefevre offered a revision as follows: Page 3, Item 8B, last paragraph: "Responding to Commissioners' inquiries, MWD Director Lefevre explained that MWD agreed to purchase four and a half islands in the Delta."

MOTION: Commissioner Marshall moved to approve the April 27, 2016 Water Commission meeting minutes as amended. Commissioner McGee seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected 4-0 approval (absent Chairperson Kawai and with Commissioners Chim-Lieu and Craft abstaining).

6. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM PUBLIC

The Commission welcomed Administrative Analyst Garcia.

7. OLD BUSINESS

7A. STATUS REGARDING WATER CONSERVATION IN THE MUNICIPAL SERVICE AREA

Senior Administrative Analyst Schaich provided an update on water conservation savings in the municipal service area. He reported that in April 2016 total potable water use declined by approximately 17% compared to the 2013 baseline year. He noted that total potable water declined 20.2% overall for the first 11 months of the mandatory reduction period. He stated that in March the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) provided TMW with a 1% reduction due to its use of recycled water for the West Coast Injection Barrier, resulting in a new reduction target of 19%. He noted that there is one more month of reporting for May and then the SWRCB is replacing mandatory reduction targets with a more realistic water reliability based approach. He added that MWD has lifted its Water Supply Allocation Plan, and that TMW is 12% below their goal for imported deliveries.

Commissioner Marshall received clarification from staff that Torrance Municipal Water (TMW) would not be subject to any penalties, even once ExxonMobil resumes full production next month.

7B. UPDATE REGARDING LATEST CHANGES IN STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD (SWRCB) DROUGHT MITIGATION REGULATIONS

Senior Administrative Analyst Schaich reported that the SWRCB met on May 18 to consider revising its emergency water conservation regulations. He stated that the SWRCB has decided to replace the current percentage reduction based tiers with a localized “stress test” approach that takes into account a water agency’s ability to meet its water needs under drought conditions. He stated that they would look at the reliability of water sources, using base years 2012-2015. He noted that Torrance is fortunate to have four reliable water sources—imported, groundwater, Desalter, and recycled water. He stated that SWRCB would review these “stress tests” and set water reduction goals if needed, adding that he does not expect TMW to receive any mandated reductions. He noted that the new regulations would be in effect from June 2016 through January 2017, adding that no specific direction has been released yet regarding the transition.

Responding to Commissioner Nishinaga’s inquiry, he explained how the SWRCB might consider options for water agencies that only have one water source.

Senior Administrative Analyst Schaich stated that at the next Commission meeting staff would present alternatives to the City’s current Level 2 Conservation Ordinance. He indicated that the Commission could consider rolling back the current

level to Level 1 or baseline that would incorporate all the Governor's emergency measures mentioned in his Executive Order.

In response to Commissioner Craft's inquiry, he stated that there would be extensive outreach to the public about the transition through brochures, social media, and website. He added that the drought has improved but it is important for people to continue conserving water due to long-term water conditions.

MWD Director Lefevre added that MWD would continue providing outreach through radio and television in its seven county service area.

8. NEW BUSINESS

8A. OVERVIEW PRESENTATION REGARDING THE CHANGEOVER IN UTILITY BILLING FUNCTIONS

Water Operations Superintendent Berndt provided background and a presentation "Utility Billing Transition." He stated that, after five years with Global Water, City Council approved a contract in August 2015 with Minol, Inc. for third party utility billing for water, sewer, and refuse, with the transition to go into effect June 1. He stated that since approval the City has reviewed and updated standard operating procedures, extracted, validated, and tested historical data, implemented a new ticketing system, and performed a meter audit. He provided information about Minol and noted that their services would not only include utility billing, but also customer service support with online portal interfaces, improved automation with GPS mapping, future system flexibility with customizable modules, and enhanced reporting capabilities. He demonstrated how to log into the customer portal and access an account, activate and terminate services, pay bills with AutoPay and online banking, and set up eBilling.

Deputy Public Works Director Knapp discussed Sanitation's map of all assets in the field that would be integrated with all the data that Midol is using for TMW. He stated that they would be using a Torrance-based company CalAmp that would import safest routes and maximize productivity.

In response to Commissioners' inquiries, he explained that a customer would be able to call and find out where a sanitation truck is in route, how many times a day trucks go to a landfill, how the City benefits from the recycling program, and the transition from gray to blue recycling bins.

Responding to Commissioner Craft's inquiry, he stated that customer service telephone numbers for Water and Sanitation would remain the same and that bills would continue to be for two months.

Commissioner Chim commended staff for their efforts in improving services.

9. METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT DIRECTOR'S REPORT

MWD Director Lefevre reported on discussion items at the MWD retreat he attended on April 26-27. He stated that the agenda addressed implementation of MWD's Integrated Water Resources Plan as well as information needed to decide whether to proceed with support of the California Water Fix. Referring to his April Report Regarding

MWD Activities, he stated that the IRP concluded that MWD would need to develop approximately 200,000 acre-feet (AF) of new water by 2040. He noted that MWD's share of the cost of the \$16 billion California Water Fix would be \$4-5 billion, adding that the project would probably not go forward unless MWD supports it.

He reported that MWD has agreed to the proposal to reduce the Water Use Efficiency Framework from a Condition 3 to Condition 2. He announced that the State Water Project allocation has been increased to 60%, noting that this would allow MWD to store 1.1 to 1.5 million AF of water. He stated that they expect to receive 860,000 AF from the Colorado River Aqueduct and more than one million AF from the State Water Project. He showed a chart of 2016 Supply Demand Balances and noted that there should be enough water storage to carry us through 2017.

In response to Commissioner Nishinaga's inquiry, MWD Director Lefevre stated that MWD has in excess of 6 million AF of storage capacity.

He discussed a lawsuit that was dismissed regarding the four islands in the Delta that MWD agreed to purchase, noting that escrow is due to close mid-June. He called attention to a May 23 article in the Los Angeles Times regarding Lake Mead and what would happen if it goes to a shortage situation.

Responding to Commissioner McGee's inquiry, Water Operations Superintendent Berndt stated that Lake Mead is at 1,074 feet above sea level, the lowest level since 1936.

10. WEST BASIN WATER ASSOCIATION REPORT

Senior Administrative Analyst Schaich reported that at the last West Basin Water Association meeting the Water Replenishment District (WRD) gave a presentation on its GRIP program and there was discussion regarding conjunctive use.

11. MONTHLY DEPARTMENT REPORT

Deputy Public Works Director Knapp distributed a Monthly Department Report for April 2016. He reported that production of potable water for the month was 1,312.6 AF, a decrease of approximately 7% compared to April 2015. He noted that total water production in 2016, including recycled water, was nearly 12% below last year. He stated that there were four water main breaks during April, compared to two for the corresponding period last year. He discussed Well #9 and securing estimates to make remedial repairs to keep it operational until the new North Torrance Groundwater Project is complete.

Water Operations Superintendent Berndt announced that the Health Department sent a letter of approval to proceed with the drilling of the Yukon well and building the tank, with construction to begin this summer when school lets out.

12. ORALS

12A. Commissioner See informed the Commission that after nine and a half years of serving on the Commission he is resigning effective next month due to new employment.

Commissioners and staff expressed their appreciation to Commissioner See and bid him a fond farewell.

12B. Water Operations Superintendent Berndt stated that the 2015 Water Quality Report is on the website.

12C. Jack Walser, Amapola Avenue, discussed a problem with his bill for a fire service protection charge; staff offered to look into it.

12D. Senior Administrative Analyst Schaich encouraged Commissioners to attend the June 4 City Yard Open House, Disaster Preparedness Expo, and Environmental Fair at the City Services Facility.

13. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: At 9:10 p.m., Commissioner Marshall moved to adjourn the meeting to Wednesday, June 22, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. in the West Annex Commission meeting room. Commissioner Nishinaga seconded the motion and, hearing no objection, Vice-Chairperson See so ordered.

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Approved as submitted June 22, 2016 s/ Rebecca Poirier, City Clerk
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