

**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 Wednesday, June 22, 2016 in the West Annex Meeting Room at Torrance City Hall.

2. ROLL CALL:

Present: Commissioners Chim-Lieu*, Craft, Marshall,
McGee, Nishinaga, and Chairperson Kawai.

Absent: None.

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

*Commissioner Chim-Lieu arrived at 7:07 p.m.

3. FLAG SALUTE

Commissioner Marshall led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. AFFIDAVIT OF POSTING

MOTION: Commissioner Nishinaga moved to accept and file the report of the City Clerk on the posting of the agenda for this meeting. Commissioner McGee seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected 5-0 approval.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

5A. MINUTES OF MAY 25, 2016

MOTION: Commissioner McGee moved to approve the May 25, 2016 Water Commission meeting minutes as presented. Commissioner Craft seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected 5-0 approval.

6. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM PUBLIC

Charles Deemer inquired about the Colorado River's power generation due to its low water level, and MWD Director Lefevre responded that it is not having an effect on electricity yet but may in the future.

7. OLD BUSINESS

7A. ELECTION OF COMMISSION CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR FOR FISCAL 2016-17

Commissioner Nishinaga nominated Commissioner Craft for Chairperson of the Water Commission. Commissioner Craft accepted the nomination and there were no further nominations.

MOTION: Commissioner Marshall moved to elect Commissioner Craft for Chairperson of the Water Commission for fiscal 2016-17. Commissioner Nishinaga seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected 5-0 approval (Commissioner Craft abstaining).

Commissioner Craft nominated Commissioner Nishinaga, and Commissioner Marshall nominated Commissioner Chim-Lieu, for Vice-Chairperson of the Water Commission. Commissioner Chim-Lieu declined the nomination, Commissioner Nishinaga accepted the nomination, and there were no further nominations.

MOTION: Commissioner Marshall moved to elect Commissioner Nishinaga for Vice-Chairperson of the Water Commission for fiscal 2016-17. Commissioner McGee seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected 6-0 approval.

7B. STATUS REGARDING WATER CONSERVATION IN THE MUNICIPAL SERVICE AREA AND PENDING CHANGES IN STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD (SWRCB) REGULATIONS

Senior Administrative Analyst Schaich provided background and reported that Torrance Municipal Water (TMW) met the State Water Resources Control Board's (SWRCB) mandated reduction target in potable water use compared to the 2013 baseline year. He noted that total potable water was reduced by a cumulative 19.9% for the 12-month mandatory reduction period June 2015-May 2016. He stated that TMW was also 12-13% below MWD's target, adding that MWD has rescinded its Water Supply Allocation Plan. He noted that the water situation has improved but stressed the importance of continued outreach and water conservation programs.

He announced that the SWRCB has lifted its mandatory target reductions with a more realistic approach that focuses on an agency's water supply reliability under different water supply scenarios over the next three years. He explained that this "stress test" is designed to demonstrate whether an agency has sufficient water source reliability if the drought continues. He stated that preliminary water supply and demand information has been submitted to the SWRCB and TMW does not expect to have any mandatory reduction target imposed. He added that TMW expects to receive a formal response from the SWRCB in two to three weeks and will continue to send them reports on a regular basis.

8. NEW BUSINESS

8A. CONSIDERATION OF DEACTIVATION OF LEVEL 2 OF THE CITY'S CONSERVATION ORDINANCE AND REINSTATEMENT OF BASELINE STAGE OF ORDINANCE

Administrative Analyst Garcia provided background on the City's Water Conservation Ordinance No. 3717 and its four Water Supply Shortage stages. With the aid of slides, he described MWD's water sources, water supply conditions as of April 1, 2015 and June 1, 2016, and U.S. Drought Monitor maps of April 2015 and June 2016. He reviewed Governor Brown's Executive Orders and consequent actions. He reported that the Governor's Executive Order and the State Water Resources Control Board's (SWRCB) mandated reduction targets have been eliminated and replaced with permanent reporting on water usage and self-certification of a three-year drought plan by urban water agencies. He noted that on June 15, 2016 MWD submitted its report to the SWRCB certifying its ability to provide three years of water supply in case of drought conditions.

He reviewed a chart comparing the City's permanent Base-Level, Level 1, Level 2, and Level 3 water level restrictions, noting that the City's current water restriction is Level 2. He presented staff's recommendation to deactivate the Level 2 stage of the City's Water Conservation Ordinance due to improvement in the water supply situation and the Governor's curtailment of mandatory water reduction targets. He further recommended reinstating the permanent Base-Level stage in accordance with Ordinance 3717 and Ordinance 3782.

Commissioner Marshall inquired why Lake Mead's water level is only 36% when the Upper Colorado Basin snowpack condition is at 97%.

MWD Director Lefevre noted that the Colorado River has been in a drought condition for two decades and that there is more demand than what exists due to structural deficit.

In response to Commissioner Chim-Lieu's inquiry, staff explained that the City adopted changes to the Water Conservation Ordinance to be in compliance with State mandates.

Administrative Analyst Garcia discussed the importance of continuing significant outreach to educate the public of permanent conservation and ongoing drought, and to continue to reduce the City's water usage at public parks, landscape medians, and parkways. He presented options for the Commission to consider: maintain Level 2 Water stage, lower restrictions to Level 1 stage, or lower restrictions to the Permanent Base-Level Water Conservation requirements.

Responding to Commissioner Craft's inquiry regarding expansive soil areas, Deputy Public Works Director Knapp explained that exemption for these areas was incorporated into the Water Conservation Ordinance in May 2015.

When Commissioner McGee indicated that it might be better to lower restrictions to the Level 1 stage, Deputy Public Works Director Knapp explained that staff's recommendation is based on current and not future conditions, the need to be able to justify restrictions, and to avoid conservation "fatigue." He added that there is a new

public awareness about water conservation and that staff is confident that residents are not going to become wasteful.

MOTION: Commissioner Craft moved to recommend deactivation of the Level 2 Water Conservation and Water Supply Shortage Ordinance stage, and to reinstate the permanent Base-Level stage in accordance with Ordinance 3717 and Ordinance 3782. Commissioner Chim-Lieu seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected 6-0 approval.

8B. CONSIDERATION OF 2015 URBAN WATER MANAGEMENT PLAN (UWMP) FINDINGS

Senior Administrative Analyst Schaich provided background on the Urban Water Management Planning Act that requires urban water agencies to prepare an update to the Urban Water Management Plan (UWMP) every five years. He confirmed that Commissioners received draft copies of the Plan on June 21. He explained amendments to the UWMP, the Water Conservation Act of 2009 (SBx7-7), who is required to prepare an UWMP, and its primary purpose to demonstrate water reliability standards under different water shortage and availability scenarios. He reported that the current 2015 UWMP covers calendar year 2011 through 2015 and projects water demands and supplies for a 25-year period through 2040.

He reviewed the contents of the TMW's 2015 UWMP: 1) Introduction and TMW Service Area, 2) City's Water Supply Resources, Water Supply FY 2015, Planned and Potential Supply Projects, Imported Water, Groundwater, West Coast Basin Facts, Goldsworthy Desalter, and Recycled Water, 3) Water Quality and Concerns, 4) Water Demands, 5) Reliability Planning and Supply vs. Demand, 6) Conservation Measures and Seven Primary Demand Management Measures, 7) Contingency Planning, and 8) Water Recycling.

In response to Commissioner Nishinaga's inquiries, Senior Administrative Analyst Schaich stated that they do not expect significant changes in ExxonMobil's recycled water use and that the new owner PBF is expected to take over operations on July 1.

Commissioner Marshall left the meeting at 8:30 p.m.

Senior Administrative Analyst Schaich announced that TMW received permits for Well #10 for the North Torrance well field. He stated that Phase 2 of the project starts on June 23 now that school has ended and consists of storm drain piping and substructure work. He noted that award of contract for design/build is expected this fall, with completion by mid/end 2018. He provided West Coast Basin facts and an update on the Goldsworthy Desalter Expansion Project that is on schedule to be completed by late 2017 and provide approximately 25%, or approximately 5,000 acre-feet (AF), of the municipal water system's potable water supply.

Referring to Section 4) Water Demands, he stated that total potable water demand equals water sales plus unaccounted for water. He noted that unaccounted for water, primarily from inaccurate water meters, has averaged less than 3% over the last five years, adding that the industry standard in California is 8-9%. He noted that TMW expects less than 1% annual growth due to the City being "built out."

Senior Administrative Analyst Schaich briefly reviewed the seven primary Demand Management Measures (DMM): Water Waste Ordinance, Metering, Conservation Pricing, Public Education and Outreach, Distribution System, Conservation Coordinator, and Other DMMs that include rebates and distribution programs. Referring to Section 7) Contingency Planning, he discussed MWD's Water Supply Demand Management, Water Allocation Supply Plan, and Integrated Resources Plan as well as regional storage reservoirs that provide emergency storage. He concluded his report by stating that TMW has more than adequate supplies to meet projected demand under all scenarios.

MOTION: Commissioner Craft moved to conceptually approve the 2015 Urban Water Management Plan (UWMP). Commissioner Nishinaga seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected 5-0 approval.

9. METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT DIRECTOR'S REPORT

MWD Director Lefevre provided an update on the Colorado River and concern if a shortage is declared for Lake Mead. He stated that, if a shortage is declared at the end of the year, Nevada and Central Arizona would have to start conserving water usage. He added that there might also be an intentionally created reserve condition that would make it difficult for MWD to get its stored water in Lake Mead. He noted that MWD has started negotiating with other states to give up some of its water if there is a shortage declaration.

He stated that MWD voted to discontinue its 2015-16 Water Supply Allocation Plan and to not implement a Water Supply Allocation Plan for 2016-17. He stated that he supported the decision because of MWD's significant outreach program, Northern California reservoirs are high, and in 2016 they expect to put 300,000 AF into storage.

MWD Director Lefevre stated that one division of the Department of Fish and Wildlife believes that sufficient water needs to flow into the Delta to protect the Delta Smelt; however, another division believes that water needs to be kept at Lake Shasta for the salmon. He stated that there is consideration to purchase water north of the Delta to put water into the Delta while keeping water in Lake Shasta.

Responding to an inquiry from Commissioner McGee regarding the Water Fix, he stated that an Environmental Impact Report is currently under review for the twin tunnels. He added that the Report needs to be approved by the end of the year before there is a new Secretary of Interior.

10. WEST BASIN WATER ASSOCIATION REPORT

Senior Administrative Analyst Schaich reported that at the last West Basin Water Association meeting the Water Replenishment District provided an update on its GRIP program. He stated that the City of Los Angeles gave a presentation on its redevelopment of a new well field in Central Basin.

11. MONTHLY DEPARTMENT REPORT

Water Operations Superintendent Berndt distributed a Monthly Department Report for May 2016. He reported that production of potable water for the month was 1,519.4 AF, an increase of approximately 12.3% compared to May 2015. He noted that total water production in 2016, including recycled water, was nearly 5% below last year. He stated that there were two water main breaks during May, compared to one for the corresponding period last year. He distributed a construction map for water main projects. He reported that the Goldworthy Desalter has been shut down due to the Expansion Project but should be back online on July 15. He stated that they received preliminary approval for a permit for Well #14 at Descanso Park.

12. ORALS

12A. Commissioner Chim-Lieu requested an excused absence for the July 27, 2016 Commission meeting.

12B. Commissioner Craft expressed appreciation to staff for the informative presentations this evening.

12C. Commissioner Nishinaga discussed a newsletter article about his involvement on the California High Speed Rail Authority's Business Advisory Council.

12D. Commissioners and staff thanked Chairperson Kawai for his service as Chairperson of the Water Commission.

12E. Commissioners expressed interest in going out to the field to see ongoing projects.

12F. Raymond Jay stated that the City is not using enough recycled water, noting that the UWMP indicates very limited increase in its use in the future. He encouraged them to find more industrial customers and to take advantage of Proposition 1 funds and grant programs.

Staff discussed challenges with distribution line extensions and water quality issues, but noted that they plan to work with West Basin to maximize recycled water use.

13. ADJOURNMENT

At 9:27 p.m., Chairperson Kawai adjourned the meeting to Wednesday, July 27, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. in the West Annex Commission meeting room.

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Approved as amended August 24, 2016 s/ Rebecca Poirier, City Clerk
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