

**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, July 22, 2015 in the West Annex Meeting Room at Torrance City Hall.

**2. ROLL CALL:**

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

Absent: None.

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

**3. FLAG SALUTE**

Commissioner Craft 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 roll call vote reflected unanimous approval.

**5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**5A. MINUTES OF JUNE 24, 2015**

**MOTION:** Commissioner See moved to approve the June 24, 2015 Water Commission meeting minutes as submitted. Commissioner Craft seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected unanimous approval (Commissioner Chim-Lieu abstaining).

**6. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM PUBLIC**

The Commission welcomed Matt Knapp, Deputy Public Works Director, and guests Charles Deemer and Jim Valerio.

Mr. Valerio stated that fluoride is a toxic by-product from phosphate and considered a medication by the FDA. He discussed how fluoridation was legitimized 60 years ago and stated that over the last 25 years 300 communities throughout North America have eliminated fluoride from their water systems. He asked Commissioners to consider this information if given an opportunity to make a decision about fluoridation.

He received clarification from staff that MWD began fluoridation in 2007 and that fluoride is added to the City's well water by State mandate.

Responding to Commissioner Nishinaga's inquiry, Water Operations Superintendent Berndt stated that originally they added .8 parts per million of fluoride and now the mandate requires .7 parts per million.

## **7. OLD BUSINESS**

### **7A. CONTINUED REVIEW AND CONSERVATION REGARDING DROUGHT MANAGEMENT AND CONSERVATION COMPLIANCE – ESTABLISHING CUSTOMER ADVISORY USAGE TARGETS AND CONSIDERATION REGARDING CONSERVATION RESPONSE AND OUTREACH PLAN**

Senior Administrative Analyst Schaich provided a PowerPoint presentation "Continued Consideration Drought and Conservation Issues." He presented background on severe drought conditions affecting 37 million people in California. He reported that Torrance Municipal Water (TMW) has met the SBx7-7 – 2020 target of 127 gallons per person per capita per day (GPCD), noting that usage is now in the low 120s.

He discussed drought-proofing efforts through conservation and supply diversification. He reviewed a chart of current potable water supply from MWD, Goldsworthy Desalter, and groundwater wells as compared to projected near future supply. He discussed the development of four new wells that would provide 35% or 7,000 acre feet (AF) per year of potable water in 3-5 years. He also described expansion of the Desalter that will be online in early 2017 and will provide 25% of the water supply.

Senior Administrative Analyst Schaich reported that on April 1 Governor Brown issued the first-ever Statewide mandatory water use reductions, requiring 25% urban reductions compared to base year 2013. He stated that the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) assigned TMW a 20% usage tier. In addition, MWD is implementing a 2,853 AF mandatory reduction, or 14%, on imported water deliveries, through its Water Supply Allocation Plan beginning July 15, 2015.

He announced that there has been a tremendous response by customers to the conservation program. He reported that for the past two months TMW potable water usage declined by 26% and 28% respectively from the corresponding period in 2013. He noted that a flat line projection shows they are tracking below the monthly 1,195 AF target. He attributed the reduction to conservation, less potable water usage by ExxonMobil, and recent precipitation.

Senior Administrative Analyst Schaich reported that the Conservation Committee, consisting of Commissioners McGee and See, met with staff on July 14. He stated that topics of discussion included: status of conservation saving, messaging and outreach campaign, possible advisory customer reduction targets, and possible surcharges required in the future. He stated that the Committee and staff came to a consensus to closely monitor and evaluate water reductions to targets, continue to focus efforts to meet goals, commend customers for their efforts and encourage continued conservation, customer targets should be advisory only, continue outreach and

educational programs, and implement conservation efforts to meet both short term and long term goals.

In response to Commissioner Craft's inquiry, he stated that they would use the website, brochures, PSA's, and social media to commend customers.

Chairperson Kawai inquired about residents' concerns about the expansive soil areas of Torrance and Senior Administrative Analyst Schaich stated that they are trying to locate a report that was done 25 years ago and that there are plans to do an updated study. He noted that they are allowing residents to use the appropriate amount of water needed to maintain the integrity of their foundations.

Responding to Commissioner Chim-Lieu's inquiry, he stated that in a normal year TMW customers use 45% of water for outside use and 55% for interior use.

Senior Administrative Analyst Schaich stated that currently TMW is exceeding conservation targets and that it may be premature to set advisory water use targets on bills. He recommended taking a "wait and see approach" until August and September and then revisiting the idea of implementing advisory targets. He discussed revenue impacts from possible MWD penalties as well as reduced water sales, noting that these will be factored into the Proposition 218 Rate Study that begins in August 2015.

A brief discussion centered on California Water Service Company's rate surcharge approved by the Public Utilities Commission in April 2015.

Responding to Commissioner Chim-Lieu's inquiry, staff and Commissioner Marshall explained that ExxonMobil is working with West Basin to increase the efficiency of the units that use recycled water.

**8. NEW BUSINESS - None.**

**9. METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

MWD Director Lefevre provided an update on the Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP). He reported that an updated EIR came out a week ago and responses are due by October 30. He explained how the BDCP are now two parallel programs that are not connected: \$15-16 billion for two conveyance tunnels under the Delta and \$300 million for a greatly reduced California Eco-Restore operation. He discussed the importance of developing three access points to capture water at the north end of the Delta, noting that they lost 200,000 AF in January that went into San Francisco Bay. He announced that Felicia Marcus, Chair of the SWRCB, is speaking at a dinner at MWD of Orange County on July 29; Commissioners Marshall and Nishinaga expressed interest in attending. He announced a water trip on October 16-17 to the Central Valley.

He presented a report "The Colorado River: Drought Impacts the Lifeblood of the Southwest." He showed a map of the Colorado River Basin and provided background on Colorado River Apportionments, 1931 Seven Party Agreement, and 2003 Quantification Settlement Agreement. He noted that in a normal year MWD receives just under one million AF from the Colorado River Aqueduct. He presented a chart of projected 2015 Colorado River supplies of 1.2 million AF due to recent negotiations for increased flowing in Palo Verde Irrigation District and the Southern Nevada and

Central Arizona Project Loan of 200,000 AF. He stated that now MWD will not have to pull intentionally created surplus water out of Lake Mead. He stated that the Colorado River is over-allocated and not sustainable for current demands and that a long-term solution to the Salton Sea is needed. He announced that the probability of Colorado River supplies in 2016 has decreased from 33% to 0%. He noted that the upper Colorado River basin hydrology was 214% of normal in May and that June and July are also trending higher than normal.

Commissioner Nishinaga read in the newspaper that Palo Verde Irrigation District gets water for \$20 AF and MWD Director Lefevre described how Central Valley farmers use drip irrigation underground at the root level with the aid of tractors with GPS.

Mr. Valerio initiated a brief discussion regarding the feasibility of ocean desalination. It was pointed out that MWD sells water for \$923 AF while desalinated water costs \$2,200 AF and that there are not many locations along the California coast where there is space to put a plant.

Commissioner Chim-Lieu inquired about the Salton Sea and MWD Director Lefevre stated that there are health concerns because there is no inlet or outlet and the water is being evaporated away.

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

Senior Administrative Analyst Schaich reported that he attended the July 6 Association meeting and that the Water Master function has been turned over to Water Replenishment District of Southern California. He stated that WRD is coming out with its first annual report in October and that with their Water Independence Now program they are close to using 100% recycled water and natural flow for their spreading basin water. He noted that WRD is planning to develop several desalter plants throughout the South Bay, with funding support from MWD.

He reported that West Basin Municipal Water District is pursuing funding to extend the recycled water system, adding that he hopes there will be a lateral hookup to Wilson Park. He announced a gray water workshop on August 25 at the South Bay Environmental Center. He stated that the conjunction use Water Storage Panel is in place and the first conversion of banking water storage is expected to take place next week. He noted that long term they will be able to carry over and bank as much as 11,000 AF.

In response to Commissioner Craft's inquiry, Senior Administrative Analyst Schaich explained that recent black water in the Golden State Water District was caused by manganese, adding that it is harmless but can stain clothing.

Commissioner Marshall left at 8:48 p.m.

## **11. MONTHLY DEPARTMENT REPORT**

Water Operations Superintendent Berndt noted that the Monthly Department Report for June 2015 was included in agenda packets. He reported that production of potable water for the month was 1,354.8 AF, a decrease of approximately 29.8% compared to June 2014. He noted that total water production, including recycled water,

on a year to date basis is 23.3% below last year. He attributed the decrease to conservation efforts and reduction in potable and recycled water use by ExxonMobil. He stated that there were four water main break in June and that, on a cumulative basis, 14 main breaks have occurred so far in 2015. He reported that the Desalter and Well #9 have been restored to full production and the new saline Desalter production well at Delthorne Park should be completed within the next two months.

**12. ORALS**

**12A.** Staff and Commissioners welcomed new Commissioner Chim-Lieu.

**12B.** Commissioner Nishinaga discussed the importance of expediting local water production projects as soon as possible.

**12C.** Chairperson Kawai urged Commissioners to continue promoting water conservation and volunteered to serve as the third member of the Conservation Committee.

**13. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:** At 8:55 p.m., Commissioner Nishinaga moved to adjourn the meeting to Wednesday, August 26, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. in the West Annex Commission meeting room. Commissioner Craft seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected unanimous approval.

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Approved as amended August 26, 2015 s/ Rebecca Poirier, City Clerk
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