

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

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The Torrance Water Commission convened in a regular session at 7:03 p.m. on Wednesday, August 24, 2016 in the West Annex Meeting Room at Torrance City Hall. Due to the absence of Chairperson Craft, Vice-Chairperson Nishinaga led the meeting.

**2. ROLL CALL:**

Present: Commissioners Chim-Lieu, Kawai, Marshall,  
McGee, Walsler, and Vice-Chairperson  
Nishinaga.

Absent: Chairperson Craft.

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

**MOTION:** Commissioner McGee moved to grant Chairperson Craft an excused absence for the August 24, 2016 Water Commission meeting. Commissioner Kawai seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected 6-0 approval.

**3. FLAG SALUTE**

Commissioner Chim-Lieu 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 Marshall seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected 6-0 approval.

**5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**5A. MINUTES OF JUNE 22, 2016**

Vice-Chairperson Nishinaga requested that the following be added to the minutes: Page 6, 12C, "Commissioner Nishinaga discussed a newsletter article about his involvement on the California High Speed Rail Authority's Business Advisory Council."

**MOTION:** Commissioner McGee moved to approve the June 22, 2016 Water Commission meeting minutes as amended. Commissioner Kawai seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected 6-0 approval (absent Chairperson Craft).

**8A. PRESENTATION BY REPRESENTATIVE OF THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT REGARDING DISTRICT'S SEISMIC RESILIENCE AND CONTINGENCY RELIABILITY PLANNING**

This item was taken out of order.

Senior Administrative Analyst Schaich introduced the item and the Commission welcomed Unit Manager David Clark, Metropolitan Water District (MWD).

Manager Clark provided a PowerPoint presentation "Metropolitan's Approach to Seismic Preparedness." He first defined reliability and MWD's obligations that are broken into five components: water supply, system capacity, infrastructure reliability, system flexibility, and emergency response. He noted that his presentation would focus on the last three components as they relate to seismic preparedness. He discussed MWD's Seismic Upgrade Program that looks at buildings, structures, dams, and reservoirs built before 1990 to determine if they are still reliable, adding that they also look at geotechnical aspects. He described facilities that have been retrofitted and reasons for upgrades that include code changes and increased knowledge about earthquake faults. He stated that they use the latest codes and site-specific data, with the goal to expect the same performance as for new facilities. He noted that out of 310 structures that were evaluated, 196 were okay, 53 were upgraded, and 32 are still in progress.

In response to Commissioner Marshall's inquiry, he explained that acceleration is based on magnitude on the governing fault and the distance of the facility from that fault. He briefly discussed the Northridge and Sylmar earthquakes.

Manager Clark reviewed three seismic vulnerability assessments that are evaluated for the Colorado River Aqueduct, Distribution System Flexibility, and Distribution System Pipelines and Tunnels. He noted that Torrance is fortunate because it can be served by three different treatment plants and there is a network of distribution lines. He described how pre-stress concrete cylinder pipes are lined with steel cans to make them stronger. He stated that they identify significant vulnerabilities, develop mitigation options, and execute practical mitigation measures. He showed a diagram of the three main aqueducts for the conveyance systems and the San Andreas Fault.

He compared a 2010-2012 study predicting what would happen if there is a 7.8 magnitude earthquake on the southern part of the San Andreas Fault and another 2014 study conducted by MWD. He stated that MWD's study showed a potential vertical uplift of less than one meter, with less than 20% reduction in flow. He noted that a panel of experts estimated that with pre-planning the tunnel could be repaired in six months.

Responding to inquiries from Charles Deemer, he stated that either side of an uplift would be problematic and that they work closely with Metropolitan District of Orange County.

Manager Clark discussed other vulnerability studies and projects that have been completed or are in progress and stated that they are prepared for seismic events. He described steps that MWD has taken for emergency response that include coordinating with member agencies and emergency partners as well as investing in equipment to

provide the ability to repair at least two large diameter pipe breaks simultaneously. He stated that MWD, Department of Water Resources (DWR), and LADWP have formed a task force to perform facility assessments, evaluate vulnerabilities, develop a collaborative emergency response plan, and explore mitigation options.

Commissioner Walser inquired about funding and Manager Clark stated that MWD goes through its standard process and capital investment program when it makes investments.

Responding to Commissioner McGee's inquiry regarding emergency generators, he explained that fortunately most of their systems are gravity flow, but that there are emergency generators at the treatment plants.

Vice-Chairperson Nishinaga thanked Manager Clark and stated that he is impressed with the assessment and collaboration with other agencies. In response to his inquiry, Manager Clark stated that the DWR assesses the State Water Project and that MWD is planning on conducting a joint investigation with them.

6. **ORAL COMMUNICATION FROM PUBLIC** - None.

7. **OLD BUSINESS**

7A. **STATUS REGARDING WATER CONSERVATION IN THE MUNICIPAL SERVICE AREA AND UPDATE REGARDING STATE WATER CONTROL BOARD RESTRICTIONS**

Senior Administrative Analyst Schaich provided background on the State Water Resources Control Board's (SWRCB) suspension of mandatory target reductions and adoption of a "stress test" designed to demonstrate whether an agency has sufficient water source reliability if the drought continues. He stated that it focuses on an agency's water supply reliability under different water supply scenarios over the next three years. He noted that preliminary water supply and demand information was submitted to the SWRCB and that TMW received a zero mandated reduction requirement. He added that 80% of agencies in the State were able to demonstrate that they have an adequate water supply.

He reported that City Council approved the Commission's recommendation to de-activate Level 2 of the City's Water Conservation and Water Supply Shortage Ordinance, and to reinstate the permanent Base-Level stage in the Ordinance. He stated that, for the month of July, Torrance Municipal Water (TMW) potable water use was 4.4% below the same period in 2013. He noted that the reduction would have been approximately 11%; however, Torrance Refining Company had to temporarily take delivery of additional potable water supplies due to water quality problems with recycled water. He explained that reasons for the degraded recycled water include conservation and variance of quality from the Hyperion plant.

Responding to Vice-Chairperson Nishinaga's inquiry, Senior Administrative Analyst Schaich stated that West Basin Municipal Water is aware of the problem and is doing what it can to mitigate the situation.

Commissioner McGee inquired about the Central Valley, and Senior Administrative Analyst Schaich stated that some of the basins have collapsed and the problem will not be solved until there is more precipitation.

Vice-Chairperson Nishinaga expressed concern that TMW customers may be confused about the return to the Base-Level stage when there is still a drought.

Staff explained that they want to avoid conservation “fatigue” and discussed the importance of reflecting the current water supply, what is being used, and justifying restrictions. They noted that the Ordinance allows the flexibility to go back to Level 1 if necessary and that there is expanded public outreach efforts for continued conservation. They referred to Residential Water Use Fiscal 2011-12 through 2015-16 in Acre Feet (AF) in supplemental materials and expressed confidence that water use may increase a little but will remain below 2013 levels.

In response to Commissioner Marshall’s inquiry, Senior Administrative Analyst Schaich stated that they have a 25-year contract with Torrance Refining Company that does not expire for four more years.

Commissioner McGee inquired about new water rates, and Senior Administrative Analyst Schaich stated that the Rate Study was pulled back for six months due to pending capital projects. He stated that the Study would be modified with new rates to become effective in January-February 2017.

Responding to Vice-Chairperson Nishinaga’s inquiry, he explained that the Carson plant does not provide tertiary treated water and its goal is to provide replenishment water.

Commissioner McGee inquired about West Basin’s desalination plant, and Senior Administrative Analyst Schaich stated that it is currently in the permitting stage, adding that the project is moving forward but there are environmental and financial issues to deal with.

At Commissioner Chim-Lieu’s request, Senior Administrative Analyst Schaich explained how to best define local and State-wide drought.

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

Staff reported that MWD Director Lefevre is at a three day Urban Water Institute conference in San Diego.

**10. WEST BASIN WATER ASSOCIATION REPORT**

Senior Administrative Analyst Schaich reported that the last West Basin Water Association meeting was an annual meeting of the West Coast and Central Basins. He stated that Water Replenishment District showed a video of its new GRIP facility.

**11. MONTHLY DEPARTMENT REPORT**

Water Operations Superintendent Berndt distributed a Monthly Department Report for July 2016. He reported that production of potable water for the month was

1,865.5 AF, an increase of approximately 27% compared to July 2015. He noted that total water production in 2016 year to date, including recycled water, was 4.7% lower than last year. He stated that there were five water main breaks during July, compared to six for the corresponding period last year. He reported that the Goldworthy Desalter, shut down due to the Expansion Project, has resulted in a reduction of local water production. He announced that on August 23 City Council approved the repair of the North Torrance water tank and rehabilitation of Well #9.

In response to Commissioner Marshall's inquiry, he stated that the increase in main breaks is due to temperature and soil conditions.

Commissioner Kawai inquired about the status of the North Torrance well field, and Water Operations Superintendent Berndt stated that Phase 2 is almost complete, with construction expected to begin in March-April 2017.

## 12. ORALS

Senior Administrative Analyst Schaich provided information about the October 14-16 MWD water trip to the Colorado River.

## 13. ADJOURNMENT

**MOTION:** At 8:52 p.m., Commissioner Marshall moved to adjourn the meeting to Wednesday, September 28, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. in the West Annex Commission meeting room. Commissioner McGee seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected approval.

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Approved as submitted September 28, 2016 s/ Rebecca Poirier, City Clerk
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