

**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 Monday, February 18, 2010 in the West Annex Meeting Room at Torrance City Hall.

**2. ROLL CALL:**

Present: Commissioners Deemer, Haddon, Lefevre, McGee, Lew, White, and Chairperson See.

Absent: None.

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

**3. FLAG SALUTE**

Commissioner McGee led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**4. AFFIDAVIT OF POSTING**

**MOTION:** Commissioner White moved to accept and file the report of the City Clerk on the posting of the agenda for this meeting. Commissioner Haddon seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval.

**5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**5A. MINUTES OF JANUARY 21, 2010**

Minutes were not available.

**6. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM PUBLIC**

None.

**7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**7A. COMPREHENSIVE WATER RATE STUDY**

Senior Administrative Analyst Schaich provided an update on the Comprehensive Water Rate Study first presented by Raftelis Financial Consultants at the August 2009 Commission meeting. He provided background on Proposition 218 that requires that an agency notify customers in advance of any rate increase. He stated that the notification and public hearing process are routine but that there are difficulties regarding discount rates for low-income residents because it does not meet Cost of Service. As a result, the original Study will have to be expanded and updated by the consultants and implementation of the rate increase may not occur until the latter part of 2010 or January 2011. He was pleased to announce that MWD has revised its forecast and is now projecting an increase of 12.6% in January 2011 and this will decrease the pass-through increase. He stated that the contract with Raftelis needs to be extended

another year and that an attorney who is an expert on Proposition 218 will need to be retained. He advised that they hope to take the item to City Council on March 8, 2010 and expect to present revised recommendations to the Commission in May or June 2010.

MWD Director Wright discussed reasons why MWD has had to increase its water rates over the past few years due to an increase in water costs, cutbacks, depletion of reserves, drought, and environmental issues. He stated that MWD needs the 12.6% increase because of its bond rating.

In response to Commissioner White's inquiry, he advised that Proposition 218 passed in approximately 1994.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Deemer moved to recommend funding of approximately \$40,000 to extend the contract with Raftelis Financial Consultants for 12 months to increase the Scope of Work and complete the Comprehensive Water Rate Study and as well as approximately \$40,000 to \$50,000 to engage legal services to handle Proposition 218 issues. Commissioner Lefevre seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval.

#### **7B. EXTENSION OF AGREEMENT WITH FIRST FIVE L.A. FOUNDATION**

Senior Administrative Analyst Schaich provided background on the grant received from First Five L.A. Foundation for fluoridation and recommended that the Commission approve a one-year extension of the existing agreement until February 28, 2011. He stated that the item would be considered by City Council on March 8, 2010.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Lefevre moved to recommend approval of an extension of the First Five L.A. agreement to February 28, 2011. Commissioner White seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval.

#### **8. NEW BUSINESS**

##### **8A. WATER SUPPLY SITUATION AND RELIABILITY FOR THE FUTURE**

Senior Administrative Analyst Schaich provided an overview of the City's water supply situation and reliability for the future. He defined an acre-foot used to measure bulk water supplies, noting that one acre-foot is enough water for three families of four for one year. He discussed the looming global water crisis, continued population growth, and drought in California, adding that 75% of the population lives in Southern California while 75% of water supplies are in Northern California. He showed pictures of Lake Oroville, the San Luis Reservoir, and shrinking Sierra snow pack, and stated that California's water system is stretched thin and has not been improved in 30 years. He discussed problems with the Bay Delta, noting that deliveries have been cut by over 30% to protect the Delta Smelt due to pumping restrictions.

He discussed ways that Southern California has all the traits of a water problem area. He pointed out that currently Torrance uses 67% imported water and 33% local supplies that include recycled and desalinated water. He stated that their goal is to increase local control to over 60% by 2020 and discussed way to accomplish this that include developing additional groundwater wells, expanding the Desalter, increasing water recycling, more conservation and water education, conjunctive use, and starting ocean water desalination. He noted that TMW only pumps two-thirds of its water rights. He stated that alternatives to increasing local control would be to radically raise the cost

of water, put purified treated wastewater directly into the pipes, suffer shortages and economic impacts, or impose mandatory water restrictions.

Senior Administrative Analyst Schaich stated that water reliability 2020 will cost the same as importing less reliable water but will improve sustainability, local control, and reliability of future water. Some of the benefits from local control include improved reliability for sustainable cities, prevention of water rationing, drought protection, emergency supply, guaranteed water for industry/economy/environment/way of life, and reduced energy use. He concluded his presentation by reviewing the City's Conservation Ordinance, Wasteful Water Prohibitions, and conservation measures that residents can implement to reduce 20 gallons of water per day.

MWD Director Wright pointed out that there are not enough spreading grounds to capture most of the recent rainfall.

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

MWD Director Wright distributed his February report regarding MWD activities to the Mayor and Council Members dated February 16, 2010. He reported that MWD is considering building a 43 mile tunnel under the Bay Delta instead of an isolated facility or peripheral canal around it. He noted that the cost of a tunnel would be approximately \$11 billion while a canal is estimated at \$9 billion. He stated that one of the advantages of a tunnel would be less environmental restrictions and less harm to wildlife, noting that it could take 10 to 12 years to complete the tunnel.

He reported that MWD is looking for new supplies to replenish the groundwater basins. He stated that they are conducting a one-year feasibility study to see if the Los Angeles County Sanitation District wastewater can be further treated and taken from the treatment plant in Carson to the barriers or groundwater basins. He stated that it could then be taken out by agencies after five years and be retreated to become a new water supply, adding that the potential could be as much as two million gallons per day, or 200,000 acre feet per year. He stated that a similar project has been very successful in Orange County.

He distributed a map showing Current Reservoir Conditions and invitations for the State Water trip that will be shared with West Basin. He stated that seats are limited and asked that Commissioners who participated in the same trip 18 months ago be willing to be placed on a stand-by list.

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

Deputy Public Works Director van der Linden reported that at the February 2, 2010 Association meeting the West Basin Municipal Water District reported that Gloria Gray was elected President and Ron Smith the Vice President and that they shared information about their new video "Water Reliability 2020." He distributed fliers for the Water Replenishment District's Groundwater Festival "Treasure Beneath Our Feet" on March 13, 2010 in Lakewood. He reported that WRD has recently completed their 2009 Engineering Survey Report and were able to purchase 6,900 acre feet of Tier One water through the Central Basin Municipal Water District for recharge. He stated that the Association's quarterly luncheon meeting was on February 18, 2010 and there was a presentation by WRD on the saline plume study.

**11. MONTHLY DEPARTMENT REPORT**

Deputy Public Works Director van der Linden presented the Monthly Department Report for January 2010. He stated that overall water production decreased by 1% and that there were 12 water main breaks. He reported that as of January 1, 2010 the City has taken over operation of the Goldsworthy Desalter, commended the crews, and noted that water production has increased.

In response to Commissioner Deemer's inquiry, he explained that the City has three pressure zones based on elevation and that the size of pipe makes no difference.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Deemer moved to accept and file the Monthly Department Report as presented. Commissioner Lew seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval.

**12. ORALS**

**12A.** Commissioner White announced a MWD Water Dialogue meeting on February 24, 2010 regarding the Delta.

**12B.** Commissioner White requested that staff not bring bottled water to Commission meetings.

**12C.** Commissioner Haddon discussed the importance of participating in the Census.

**12D.** Senior Administrative Analyst Schaich encouraged Commissioners to attend a tour of the Goldsworthy Desalter on February 19, 2010.

**12E.** Senior Administrative Analyst Schaich distributed fliers for the South Bay Cities Council of Governments 11<sup>th</sup> General Assembly on February 26, 2010 in Carson.

**13. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:** At 8:55 p.m., Commissioner Haddon moved to adjourn the meeting to March 18, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. in the West Annex Commission meeting room. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Lew and, hearing no objection, Chairperson See so ordered.

Approved as Submitted March 18, 2010 s/ Sue Herbers, City Clerk
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