

**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 Thursday, March 15, 2012 in the West Annex Meeting Room at Torrance City Hall.

2. ROLL CALL:

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

Absent: Commissioner McCabe.

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

MOTION: Commissioner See moved to grant Commissioner McCabe an excused absence for the March 15, 2012 Water Commission meeting. Commissioner Lefevre seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval.

MOTION: Commissioner Lefevre moved to grant Commissioner Haddon an excused absence for the February 16, 2012 Water Commission meeting. Commissioner Deemer seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval (absent Commissioner McCabe).

3. FLAG SALUTE

Commissioner Lefevre led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. AFFIDAVIT OF POSTING

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

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

5A. MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 16, 2012

MOTION: Commissioner Nishinaga moved to approve the February 16, 2012 Water Commission meeting minutes as presented. Commissioner Lefevre seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval (absent Commissioner McCabe).

Chairperson McGee advised that minutes of January 19, 2012 Commission meeting would be available for approval at the April 19, 2012 Commission meeting.

6. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM PUBLIC - None.

7. **OLD BUSINESS** - None.

8. **NEW BUSINESS**

8A. **PRESENTATION REGARDING THE COMPLETION OF PRE-DESIGN ENGINEERING STUDY FOR DEVELOPMENT OF THE NORTH TORRANCE WELL FIELD PROJECT**

This item was deferred to the April 19, 2012 Water Commission meeting.

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

MWD Director Wright provided a brochure and slide presentation on MWD's current Water Supply Conditions as of March 11, 2012. He noted the lack of precipitation so far this year but pointed out that MWD has 92% capacity in storage. He stated that Donner Summit snowpack, the water supply for Lake Oroville, is 42% of normal to date. He noted that Diamond Valley Lake has 40,000 acre feet more in storage than this time last year. Referring to the Colorado River supply, he stated that Upper Colorado Basin snowpack is 76% of normal to date. He mentioned that Colorado River Aqueduct is shut down for repairs but MWD is able to pull water out of Lake Matthews. He discussed MWD's intentionally created surplus in Lake Mead and Mexico's interest in also storing surplus water there.

He advised that MWD will decide in April 2012 on rate increases and it appears that most support is for a 5% increase next year and 5% the following year. He pointed out that rates need to increase as less and less water is purchased from MWD. He added that MWD might have to give up on its plan to store extra water in Central Valley groundwater basins. He stated that there would not be a water allocation supply program this summer and that there is sufficient storage for two to three years. He predicted that issuance of the water bond to fix the Bay Delta will be delayed a couple of years.

Senior Administrative Analyst Schaich stated that Torrance is better than half way to meeting its 2020 goal through permanent reductions. He noted that the other half would be made up by reclaimed water use and continued passive and active conservation efforts. He pointed out that Torrance is given full credit for reclaimed water and that the seawater barrier will go to 100% reclaimed water within the next two to three years. He informed Commissioners that next month they would bring forward the Urban Water Management Plan for the Commission's consideration.

Commissioner Nishinaga noted that the Cal Green building code would also add to water use reduction.

In response to Commissioner Deemer's inquiry, Senior Administrative Analyst Schaich advised that it has been at least 20 years since Torrance used all of its water rights.

10. **WEST BASIN WATER ASSOCIATION REPORT**

Deputy Public Works Director van der Linden reported that at the March 6, 2012 West Basin Water Association meeting the Watermaster reported that water pumped from West Coast Basin was 3,900 acre feet in January 2012, an 11% increase as

compared to December 2011, noting that the cumulative total for this water year is 27,200 acre feet. He also commented on the reduction of available State Water Project supplies from 60% to 50%.

He reported that West Basin Municipal Water District (WBMWD) discussed a break in a disinfection chlorine line at Redondo Beach Desalination Pilot Facility resulting in the killing of fish and sea life at the Sea Lab Center. He stated that there was a special meeting to discuss a partnership agreement between WBMWD and LADWP on recycled water in the Terminal Island area and that WBMWD is looking at a new debt issuance for the expansion project at the Edward Little Recycling facility.

Deputy Public Works Director van der Linden reported that Water Replenishment District is working on a master plan for the Water Independence Now program and that the creation of an audit committee to review WRD finances is progressing. He stated that they have put 33,000 acre feet of water back in the ground for replenishment and distributed fliers for the Annual Groundwater Festival on March 17, 2012 in Lakewood.

11. MONTHLY DEPARTMENT REPORT

Deputy Public Works Director van der Linden noted that the Monthly Department Report for February 2012 was included in agenda packets. He reported that total water production in February was approximately 10% higher compared to last year and he attributed this to increased residential use due to dry weather conditions. He stated that there were two water main breaks compared to seven in February 2011. He reported that Goldsworthy Desalter replaced their membrane reverse osmosis filters during the last week of February and that Well Number 9 continues to perform satisfactorily.

Commissioner See discussed a problem with his water bill and Senior Administrative Analyst Schaich offered to check into it.

Responding to Commissioner Deemer's inquiry, Senior Administrative Analyst Schaich indicated that TUSD agreed to the easement for the North Torrance well field project and that there would be a presentation at the next Commission meeting.

MOTION: Commissioner Deemer moved to accept and file the Monthly Department Report for February 2012. Commissioner Haddon seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval (absent Commissioner McCabe).

12. ORALS

12A. Senior Administrative Analyst Schaich distributed and discussed a press release regarding San Diego County Water Authority's new website about MWD.

12B. Senior Administrative Analyst Schaich distributed a "Los Angeles Times" article about Senator Lara's financial audit request for MWD, Central Basin, and WRD.

12C. Commissioner Deemer requested an excused absence for the April 19, 2012 Commission meeting.

12D. Deputy Public Works Director van der Linden stated that confirmation letters would be going out for the April 27-28, 2012 water trip.

12E. Commissioner Deemer announced that Public Works Director Beste would be receiving a recognition award from the Director of WRD at the March 20, 2012 City Council meeting.

12F. Commissioner Deemer initiated a brief discussion centered on the City of Lomita's poor water quality.

13. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: At 8:12 p.m., Commissioner Haddon moved to adjourn the meeting to April 19, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. in the West Annex Commission meeting room. Commissioner Deemer seconded the motion and, hearing no objection, Chairperson McGee so ordered.

Approved as Submitted April 19, 2012 s/ Sue Herbers, City Clerk
