

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

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Torrance Water Commission convened in a regular session at 7:04 p.m. on Thursday, April 19, 2007 in the West Annex meeting room at Torrance City Hall.

2. ROLL CALL:

Present: Commissioners Deemer, Lew, Rizzardi, See, Warner, White, and Chairperson Hoffman.

Absent: None.

Also Present: Public Works Director Beste,
Senior Administrative Analyst Schaich, and
Metropolitan Water District Director Wright.

3. FLAG SALUTE

Commissioner See 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 Deemer seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

5A. MINUTES FROM MARCH 15, 2007

MOTION: Commissioner White moved for the approval of the March 15, 2007 Water Commission meeting minutes as submitted. Commissioner Lew seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval.

6B. UPDATE REGARDING REPLENISHMENT ASSESSMENT (RA) COST ALLOCATION ISSUE

Senior Administrative Analyst Schaich requested that this item be taken out of order to address the proposal to split the current uniform Replenishment Assessment (RA) in both the Central and West Basin into separate assessments for both basins. He advised that legislative bill AB640 was expected to be introduced by Assemblyman Hector De La Torre to the Local Government Committee in Sacramento on April 25, 2007.

Public Works Director Beste reported that AB640 is an attempt to change 50 years of cooperative history and cooperative projects with a piece of legislation that is based on a faulty study by the Southeast Water Coalition (SEWC). He stated that SEWC was a group of approximately 13 cities, primarily led by the Cities of Downey and Lakewood, noting that Long Beach Water Department is also supporting the legislation. He noted that the Water Replenishment District (WRD) has been active in leading several meetings to address the issue and has provided information regarding the historic underflow of groundwater from Central to West Basin. He stated that WRD staff would be giving a presentation to the WRD Board on April 20, 2007 and that several water agencies including Torrance will be pushing them to oppose the bill.

Responding to Chairperson Hoffman's inquiry, Public Works Director Beste stated that private water companies are opposed to the proposed reallocation. He noted that State Water Agency Association staff is taking an opposed recommendation to their legislative committee on April 20, 2007 because they do not believe the State should be getting involved in local matters.

In response to Commissioner White's inquiry, he stated that Assemblyman Lieu has indicated that he was against the spot bill and a brief discussion centered on reasons why Assemblyman De La Torre is carrying this bill.

Public Works Director Beste stated that the Department's focus is to mobilize the South Bay and West Basin agencies as well as to learn about the history of the formation of the District. He noted that this is the fifth time that this issue has come up, but that it has never gone this far.

Metropolitan Water District Director Wright stated that MWD was taking a neutral stand on the issue because it does not want to be involved in a fight between agencies. He discussed the importance of developing the Basin and reliable local storage, noting that Torrance only has one and a half days of water storage.

Public Works Director Beste discussed the economical, environmental, and hydrologic impacts of a split replenishment assessment.

In response to Commissioner Deemer's inquiry, Public Works Director Beste stated that the Department of Water and Power and the City of Los Angeles have not taken a position on the proposal.

He requested that the Commission take a position of opposition to AB640 and to recommend that City Council adopt a resolution against it on April 24, 2007. He noted that the Cities of Lomita, Culver City, Manhattan Beach, and Inglewood have already adopted resolutions. He stated that it would be very difficult for the Department to sell its groundwater program with those kinds of costs attached to it, noting that it would be the most expensive groundwater in the State.

Responding to Commissioner Warner's inquiry regarding a possible compromise, Public Works Director Beste stated that the only compromise would be to say that Torrance is interested in continuing working cooperatively, as it has for the last 50 years, to develop good water projects in the West and Central Basin.

MOTION: Commissioner Warner moved to recommend that City Council adopt a resolution in opposition to legislative bill AB640 and to forward it to all interested agencies in the local area. Commissioner White seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected unanimous approval.

When Commissioner Rizzardi initiated a brief discussion about engaging the services of a lobbyist or legislative analyst, staff advised that MWD's lobbyist conveys water-related information to the Department.

Public Works Director Beste left the meeting at 7:50 p.m.

Commissioner White suggested that staff meet with the Editorial Board of the Daily Breeze to inform them about the issue.

6A. STATUS REPORT BY AD HOC COMMITTEE ON WATER COMMISSION PURVIEW

Chairperson Hoffman stated that the ad hoc committee, composed of Commissioners Rizzardi, Lew, and himself, recommended presenting a shortened version of "Expanding Beyond the Torrance Water Commission: Creating a Public Service Commission for Certain Torrance Enterprise Funds" to Mayor Scotto and/or City Council members. He stated that the proposal was for a Public Services Commission to have advisory purview over the City's enterprise funds that provide billed public services to the community at large: water, sewer (waste water), and refuse removal, including recycling. He reviewed his report that includes why the scope of the Water Commission should be expanded, information about Torrance public services, goals and suggested roles of a Torrance Public Service Commission, community needs, and moving forward.

In response to Commissioner White's inquiry, Chairperson Hoffman stated that there would be some overlap of areas of responsibility with other City Commissions and Senior Administrative Analyst Schaich stated that the Environmental Quality and Energy Conservation Commission is involved with recycling.

Commissioner Rizzardi stated that he did not see any danger of overlapping in roles as long as the three functional areas are defined and parameters are set, adding that expanding the role of the Commission would be an opportunity for education and to provide a channel for communication.

Commissioner Warner suggested arranging a meeting with Mayor Scotto first before presenting the proposal to City Council and Chairperson Hoffman stated that, if the proposal were to be rejected, he would like a detailed reason why.

MOTION: Commissioner Warner moved that the sub-committee present the proposal to create a Public Service Commission for certain Torrance Enterprise Funds to Mayor Scotto. Commissioner Deemer seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected unanimous approval.

7A. PRESENTATION BY METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT REGARDING RESIDUAL PHARMACEUTICALS IN DOMESTIC WATER SUPPLIES AND RELATED WATER QUALITY ISSUES

Senior Administrative Analyst Schaich requested that this item be rescheduled for the May or June 2007 Water Commission meeting.

Commissioner Deemer distributed copies of "Traces of Trouble" from the March 10, 2007 www.sciencenews.org.

7B. PROPOSED TORRANCE PROJECTS IN INTEGRATED REGIONAL WATER MANAGEMENT PLAN (IRWMP)

Senior Administrative Analyst Schaich noted that a listing of the City's projects currently included in the Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWMP) was included in the agenda material. He reported that the proposals consist of conversion of several storm water retention basins into infiltration basins to reduce storm water runoff into Santa Monica Bay. He stated that an engineering consultant would be retained to perform necessary preliminary engineering to make four of thirteen retention basins in the City eligible for potential grant funding. He explained that the intent was to retain the water and infiltrate it down to the subsurface layer so that very little would go into the storm drains. He noted that Project Manager Dettle would be giving a presentation on the retention basins to the Commission at the May or June 2007 Commission meeting.

8. WEST BASIN WATER ASSOCIATION REPORT

Senior Administrative Analyst Schaich stated that he was unable to attend the last West Basin Water Association meeting but relayed Deputy Public Works Director van der Linden's comments about the meeting. He stated that the Water Master reported that all California watersheds are below average and that groundwater pumping has decreased in the West Basin. He stated that West Basin Water Association was preparing a letter of opposition to legislative bill AB640 and that West Basin Municipal Water District discussed its conservation program, noting that the first commercial program on April 19, 2007 had 34 attendees. He stated that WRD has moved to their new offices in the City of Lakewood.

Commissioner Rizzardi initiated a brief discussion on the need for coordination between the Planning Commission and other City Commissions.

9. MONTHLY DEPARTMENT REPORT

Senior Administrative Analyst Schaich reported that there were only two water main break in March 2007.

In response to Commissioner Rizzardi's inquiry, he advised that the water main replacement on Sepulveda Boulevard has been completed and was currently being paved.

10. METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT DIRECTOR'S REPORT

MWD Director Wright distributed his April 17, 2007 letter to City Council and reported that precipitation and snowfall is way below average, with the Colorado River

Basin runoff to be about 50% of normal. He stated that the reservoirs are all nearly full and that MWD does not anticipate any shortages this coming year.

11. **ORALS**

11A. Commissioner Rizzardi stated that the meeting tonight was very informative and meaningful.

12. **ADJOURNMENT**

MOTION: At 9:16 p.m., Commissioner Rizzardi moved to adjourn the meeting to May 17, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. in the West Annex Commission meeting room. Commissioner Warner seconded the motion and, hearing no objection, Chairperson Hoffman so ordered.

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| Approved as Submitted May 17, 2007 s/ Sue Herbers, City Clerk |
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