

**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, April 21, 2011 in the West Annex Meeting Room at Torrance City Hall.

2. ROLL CALL:

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

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 Haddon 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 voice vote reflected unanimous approval.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

5A. MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 17, 2011

MOTION: Commissioner See moved for the approval of the February 17, 2011 Water Commission meeting minutes as submitted. Commissioner McGee seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval.

6. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM PUBLIC

None.

8. METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT DIRECTOR'S REPORT

This item was taken out of order.

MWD Director Wright distributed his April 18, 2011 letter to the Mayor and Council Members regarding April 2011 MWD activities as well as a Board Action from the April 12, 2011 Board of Directors, Water Planning and Stewardship Committee meeting.

He provided a slide presentation on water supply conditions to date. He pointed out that the Statewide snow pack is 161% of normal, Northern Sierras 172% of normal, and Upper Colorado Basin 115% of normal. He reviewed graphs of storage in Lake Shasta Reservoir for the Central Valley Project and the Mammoth snow pack at 150% of normal for the Los Angeles supply. He noted that Lake Oroville is so full that there has been a flood release. He stated that Diamond Valley Lake storage is 91% full and is expected to top out in May, adding that Lake Matthews and Lake Skinner are also almost full.

He reported that MWD has 261,000 acre feet of storage in Lake Mead that is intentionally created surplus, noting that the higher the water level is, the more power that can be generated. He stated that the allotment on the State Water Project has been increased to 80% and that water is being stored locally and in Central Valley. He reported that the Board is meeting on April 26 to decide whether to sell it at a Tier 1 rate now or lose a future sale at a regular price.

In response to Commissioner Lefevre's inquiry, he explained that Lake Powell is the only source for Lake Mead and there will be an equalization release that will make Lake Mead go up 30 feet.

Chairperson Deemer inquired if all this water will make it difficult to pass the State bond issue next year and MWD Director Wright explained why it is still important to fix the Bay Delta.

7. NEW BUSINESS

7A. RECOMMENDATION TO CHANGE FROM A LEVEL 1 STATUS OF CITY'S WATER CONSERVATION ORDINANCE TO PERMANENT WATER CONSERVATION REQUIREMENT STAGE

Senior Administrative Analyst Schaich provided a slide presentation and recommended that the Commission recommend modification of the Conservation Ordinance from a Level 1 condition to Baseline Permanent Conservation requirements. He presented background on the adoption of the original Conservation Ordinance in 1991, MWD's Water Supply Allocation Program (WASP) in March 2009, and new Conservation Ordinance in 2009 focusing on eliminating wasteful uses of water through permanent measures and Level 1 – up to 15% shortage. He discussed implementation and successful results: Torrance Municipal Water was 18% below MWD imposed WASP imported water target and overall consumption reduced by 12% over the last two years. He pointed out the need to continue to conserve to meet State mandated 2020 usage reduction goals and to address long-term water supply shortage and reliability.

He reported that the current drought is over, with near record snow pack in the Sierra watershed, adding that MWD may receive 100% allocation of State Water Project. As a result, MWD terminated WASP effective mid-April and reaffirmed a baseline water use efficiency condition. He stated that, because of this, there is no reason to remain in Level 1, and recommended modifying the Ordinance to Baseline Permanent Conservation requirements with the following revisions: change no watering hours to 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; no requirement to limit watering to three days per week; and extend time to fix leaks to 15 days. He stressed the importance of continuing the active water

conservation and demand management programs due to increasing population, the State 2020 mandate, and water reliability.

Commissioner Lefevre expressed concern that the recommendation would send a contradictory message and did not see the necessity or motivation for changing it.

Senior Administrative Analyst Schaich responded that conservation would still be encouraged but that wasteful water complaints would no longer trigger an action. He pointed out that the Ordinance states that once an emergency shortfall has ended that it would revert back to a lesser stage. He also noted that people will continue to conserve because of increasing water rates, adding that they are still limited to watering for 15 minutes.

In response to Chairperson Deemer's inquiry, he explained that well development would not help with the 2020 mandate as it is based on per capita potable water usage regardless of where it comes from.

MOTION: Commissioner McGee moved to forward a recommendation to City Council to modify the Conservation Ordinance from a Level 1 condition to Baseline Permanent Conservation requirement; Commissioner See seconded the motion. The motion passed on a 6-1 voice vote (Commissioner Lefevre opposing).

Commissioner Lefevre explained his nay vote because the message is contradictory: on one hand, customers are being asked to conserve to meet long-range goals but on the other hand they are being told that they do not need to conserve as much as they did in the past.

Commissioner McCabe pointed out that most residents are not aware of the difference in the two levels.

At Chairperson Deemer's request, MWD Director Wright explained how the Hoover Power Allocation Act of 2011 would benefit MWD.

9. WEST BASIN WATER ASSOCIATION REPORT

Deputy Public Works Director van der Linden reported that at the April 5, 2011 Association meeting the Water Master reported that West Coast Basin pumped 3,200 acre feet in February, an overall decrease of 1,200 from the same period last year. He explained that a request from Shell Oil for a non-consumptive use permit for a 600 acre feet exemption for five years is still under consideration. He reported that West Basin Municipal Water District is conducting their Phase 5 expansion of the Edward Little recycling facility and announced a water and energy conservation event at the Little facility on May 21, 2011. He briefly discussed Senate Bill 34 that the Association is opposing. He reported that MWD discussed the discontinuation of WASP and their bi-annual budget. He stated that Water Replenishment District (WRD) is beginning their budget cycle and are concerned that Central Basin and West Basin may be raising surcharges. He stated that WRD reported that they are moving forward with their groundwater monitoring program and expressed opposition to Assembly Bills 954 and 701 along with the Association. He concluded his presentation with an announcement of the quarterly Association general membership meeting on May 18, 2011 in Carson.

A brief discussion centered on the Desalination Demonstration pilot program in Redondo Beach.

10. MONTHLY DEPARTMENT REPORT

Deputy Public Works Director van der Linden reported that there were three water main incidents last month, noting that there have only been 12 so far this year. He stated that Well 9 at McMaster Park is in full production and that water quality is good. He stated that they cannot pump it 24 hours a day because it is an old tank and the pumps are undersized. He noted that it may be two years before development of Well 10, a pump station, and reservoir are complete.

In response to Chairperson Deemer's inquiry, he stated that replacement of water mains on Western Avenue are on hold for funding and that they will move forward once the bond issue passes.

MOTION: Commissioner Lew moved to accept and file the Monthly Department Report for March 2011. Chairperson Deemer seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval.

11. ORALS

11A. Staff and Commissioners discussed the April 1-3, 2011 Colorado River water trip.

11B. Senior Administrative Analyst Schaich provided information about the Wyland Foundation Mayor's Challenge.

11C. Commissioner Lefevre recommended Fishman's The Big Thirst.

12. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: At 8:35 p.m., Commission Lew moved to adjourn the meeting to May 19, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. in the West Annex Commission meeting room. Commissioner See seconded the motion and, hearing no objection, Chairperson Deemer so ordered.

Approved as Submitted May 19, 2011 s/ Sue Herbers, City Clerk
