

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

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The Torrance Water Commission convened in a regular session at 7:06 p.m. on Thursday, May 18, 2006.

**2. ROLL CALL:**

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

Absent: Commissioner Lew.

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

**MOTION:** Commissioner Warner moved to grant an excused absence to Commissioner Lew for the May 18, 2006 Water Commission meeting. Commissioner Rizzardi seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval.

**3. FLAG SALUTE**

Commissioner Warner led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairperson Hoffman welcomed Brian Kim from Boy Scout Troop 785.

**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 (absent Commissioner Lew).

**5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**5A. MINUTES FROM FEBRUARY 16, 2006**

**MOTION:** Commissioner White moved for the approval of the February 16, 2006 Water Commission meeting minutes as submitted. Commissioner Warner seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval (absent Commissioner Lew).

**5B. MINUTES FROM MARCH 16, 2006**

**MOTION:** Commissioner White moved for the approval of the March 16, 2006 Water Commission meeting minutes as submitted. Commissioner Warner seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval (absent Commissioner Lew).

**7A. PRESENTATION BY WATER REPLENISHMENT DISTRICT ON INTERIM CONJUNCTIVE USE PROGRAM AND WEST COAST BASIN OPERATING STUDY**

This item was considered out of order.

Senior Administrative Analyst Schaich introduced Assistant General Manager and Chief Engineer Mario Garcia and Senior Engineer Jason Weeks from the Water Replenishment District of Southern California (WRD).

Senior Engineer Weeks gave a power point presentation on the West Coast Basin Operating Plan Study and operations of the West Coast Basin. He explained that the reason for conducting the study was to determine if the Basin's operating scheme developed in the 1960s still makes sense today and was cost effective. He stated that replenishment occurs through injection at barrier systems, natural recharge, and seawater intrusion. He showed the Newport/Inglewood uplift, noting that there is some water flow from the Central Basin across the uplift to the West Coast Basin. He stated that the primary source of replenishment water for this area is the series of injection wells.

Responding to Deputy Public Works Director van der Linden's inquiry, he stated that there were 150 to 200 wells in the West Coast Basin barrier, approximately 120 in the Dominguez Gap barrier, that spacing of wells was one quarter to one half mile, and that they were 200-300 feet deep. He explained that water is injected through the barriers to maintain a pressure ridge that keeps seawater from flowing inland.

MWD Director Wright provided information about the history of the West Coast Basin and the over-pumping that occurred.

Senior Engineer Weeks reported that the average production in the West Coast Basin is approximately 50,000 acre-feet per year, but that natural inflow is only between 15,000 to 20,000 acre-feet per year. He stated that the cost today for replenishment water is over \$500 per acre-foot.

In response to Chairperson Hoffman's inquiries, he explained that injecting captured storm water would require extensive treatment and that the Dominguez Gap barrier injection water costs more because they use less recycled water.

He reported that the West Coast Basin Operating Plan (WCBOP) Study started in 2005 and that from input received eleven operational scenarios were identified, reviewed, and refined. He noted that five scenarios have been selected, assuming seven-year normal rainfall and three-year drought, for modeling by USGS using the District's regional groundwater model.

Responding to Commissioner White's inquiry, he explained that Central Basin operates differently from West Coast Basin because of their spreading grounds.

In response to Commissioner Deemer's inquiry, Senior Engineer Weeks explained that the Palos Verdes Hills serve as a natural barrier and that there are no aquifers under them.

Senior Engineer Weeks briefly discussed three alternatives being considered: 1) to “bank” water through barriers during normal years and extract it through existing or new wells during dry years, 2) to “bank” water through Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR) wells during normal years and extract it through ASR wells during dry years, and 3) to fill the basin and inject water through ASR wells on a seasonal basis and replace refinery demands with recycled water.

At Commissioner Deemer’s request, WRD representatives provided information regarding the current differential in pressure in the West Coast Basin, noting that there will be a loss of pressure as long as there is groundwater pumping occurring inland.

Senior Engineer Weeks reported that WRD was in the process of assigning costs to all scenarios, and that the project will be discussed in detail at the Technical Advisory Committee meeting on May 24, 2006. He stated that he expected the study to be completed this summer and will include detailed modeling and further refinement of cost estimates of the preferred scenario.

Responding to Senior Administrative Analyst Schaich’s inquiry, Assistant General Manager Garcia advised that in the mid-1990s it was estimated that it would cost \$13 million to replace the barriers.

Assistant General Manager Garcia gave a power point presentation on WRD’s interim rules for conjunctive use storage and in-lieu exchange and recovery in the Central and West Coast Groundwater Basins. He defined conjunctive use as a coordinated use of all sources of water to maximize long-term reliability and then discussed some of its values. He noted that there was an estimated available storage capacity of 450,000 acre-feet in the Basins.

He discussed the water master, adjudications, and judgments that were established for the groundwater basins, noting that they do not account for ups and downs of the hydrologic cycle. He stated that ideally WRD would like to minimize pumping in the West Coast Basin because it is a difficult and expensive area to replenish and so it will recover better, but that they also want it to be a useful resource. He advised that WRD overlies both basins and treats them as one unit, and that their primary duty is to replenish the deficit in the basins.

Commissioner Deemer initiated a brief discussion centered on building regional desalter systems as a possible option.

Assistant General Manager Garcia explained that WRD’s powers come from Chapter 2 of the 2005 California Water Code, the October 2001 trial court ruling, and the June 2003 appellate court decision. He discussed disagreement between stakeholders and the timeline leading up to the adoption of the interim rules in May 2005. He advised that the interim rules provide an administrative process to develop storage projects. He stated that under the interim rules, storage was open to all, that WRD can offset impact of required assessment through storage agreements, that priority would be given to storage use within the service area, and that WRD would pass all economic benefits from storage to replenishment assessment.

He discussed what an agency needs to do in order to apply for storage and the criteria reviewed before a project is approved or denied. He described representation on

the Program Review Committee (PRC), noting that presently there are no members appointed from Central and West Coast Basin associations due to ongoing disagreements.

He reviewed reasons for disagreement between water agencies that include storage authority and control as well as public resource vs. individual storage rights. He advised that the Department of Water Resources is now involved and that facilitated workgroups talks will reconvene this summer utilizing the services of mediator Jim Waldo.

Commissioner Deemer initiated a brief discussion on conjunctive use programs in Long Beach, Compton, and Walnut Valley as well as in other areas in the State.

The Commission was in recess from 8:35 p.m. to 8:46 p.m.

**6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**6A. WATER COMMISSION INPUT ON REVISED WATER CONSERVATION SECTION OF CITY'S GENERAL PLAN UPDATE**

Senior Administrative Analyst Schaich introduced the item and welcomed Environmental Services Administrator Cessna from the Community Development Department.

Environmental Services Administrator Cessna presented the draft Goals, Objectives, and Policies of the Conservation Element that included feedback from the Environmental Quality and Energy Conservation Commission meeting earlier this month. She requested that Commissioners review the workbook and choose to affirm, modify, or delete each objective and policy.

Chairperson Hoffman initiated discussion centered on comparing the Water Conservation subcommittee's July 2005 policy recommendation with the draft document. He stated that he could not pass judgment on the draft until he saw the procedural trail where it came from.

Commissioner Warner added that, although there were no obvious objections, it was important to make sure that none of the subcommittee's recommendations were missing.

Deputy Public Works Director van der Linden assured subcommittee members that the majority of their recommendations were included in the draft Element, noting that the wording and format may differ. Staff also explained that implementation programs and measures would be added to the Element at a later stage and may not be included.

It was decided that staff would prepare and bring back a comparison that differentiates the subcommittee's recommendations.

Environmental Services Administrator Cessna advised Commissioners that any additions or comments would be forwarded by staff to the General Plan consultants, and

that the draft Element would be presented to the Commission in late fall or early winter for further review.

**8. WEST BASIN WATER ASSOCIATION REPORT**

Deputy Public Works Director van der Linden reported that conjunctive use was the major topic of discussion at the West Basin Water Association meeting earlier this month. He stated that West Basin Municipal Water District and Central Basin Municipal Water District are going forward with their split. He reported that West Basin Water Association would be holding their quarterly dinner meeting on May 24, 2006, noting that he has been nominated for president of the West Basin Water Association.

**9. MONTHLY DEPARTMENT REPORT**

Deputy Public Works Director van der Linden recommended that the Commission accept and file the monthly department report.

In response to Commissioner Deemer's inquiry regarding Capital Improvement Program S-31, Deputy Public Works Director van der Linden discussed circulation problems in the Walteria and Ben Haggott reservoirs.

Responding to Commissioner Deemer's inquiry, he explained that replacement and repair of water mains often cause increased pressure and additional breaks in neighboring lines.

**MOTION:** Commissioner White, seconded by Commissioner Warner, moved to accept and file the Deputy Public Works Director's Report; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval (absent Commissioner Lew).

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

MWD Director Wright reported on negotiations with the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) to approve a new plan to offer financial incentive for employees to change from PERS Care to PERS Choice.

Deputy Public Works Director van der Linden thanked MWD Director Wright for the Colorado River inspection tour.

MWD Director Wright stated that next spring he hoped to host a trip to the Center for Water Education in Diamond Valley Lake.

**11. ORALS**

**11A.** Deputy Public Works Director van der Linden encouraged Commissioners to attend the Armed Forces Day Parade and exhibits on May 20, 2006 and invited Commissioners to the Torrance Public Works Employee Appreciation Barbeque on May 25, 2006.

**11B.** Chairperson Hoffman expressed his sadness at the passing away of Dorothy Lew, Commissioner Lew's wife. The memorial service is May 20, 2006 at Green Hills Mortuary in Rancho Palos Verdes at 1:00 p.m.

**11C.** Senior Administrative Analyst Schaich announced the City Yard Open House and Emergency Preparedness Expo on June 3, 2006.

**12. ADJOURNMENT**

At 9:32 p.m., Chairperson Hoffman adjourned the meeting in memory of Dorothy Lew to Thursday, June 15, 2006 at 7:00 p.m. in the West Annex Commission Meeting Room.

Approved as Submitted June 15, 2006 s/ Sue Herbers, City Clerk
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