

**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 Thursday, June 16, 2005.

**2. ROLL CALL:**

Present: Commissioners Deemer, Gonzalez, Haddon, Hoffman, Lew, Warner, and Chairperson White.

Absent: None.

Also Present: 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 Warner 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 FROM MAY 19, 2005**

**MOTION:** Commissioner Gonzalez moved for the approval of the May 19, 2005 Water Commission meeting minutes as submitted. Commissioner Deemer seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval.

Chairperson White read the following statement to be entered into the record:

“The Water Commission agenda was posted on June 9, 2005. Subsequent to the posting of the agenda, the liaison to the Commission received verbal comments and information from the City Manager’s Office regarding the recommendation to adopt a conjunctive use Memorandum of Understanding.

It is necessary for the Water Commission to take immediate action in order to determine what the position of the Commission is regarding this item. The liaison to the Commission asks that the Water Commission add this item to tonight’s agenda as Item 7B. In order to take action on a matter that is not on the agenda, the California

Government Code requires a determination by a two-thirds vote of the Water Commission that immediate action is necessary and that the need to take action arose subsequent to the posting of the agenda.”

**MOTION:** Commissioner Haddon, seconded by Commissioner Deemer, moved that the Water Commission consider this item as part of tonight’s public session agenda as Item 7B pursuant to Government Code Section 54954.2(b)(2); a voice vote reflected unanimous approval.

**6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**6A. STATUS REPORT ON WATER COMMISSION WORK PLAN**

Senior Administrative Analyst Schaich advised that the final Water Commission Work Plan was accepted and approved by City Council on May 24, 2005.

Commissioner Haddon inquired if the Commission needed staff approval before recommending an item to City Council. Senior Administrative Analyst Schaich explained that staff would need to prepare the item, but then the Commission could review and revise it. He added that the item would need to be within the parameters of the Work Plan and pertain to policy and not administration.

**6B. STATUS REPORT ON WATER CONSERVATION SUBCOMMITTEE**

Commissioner Hoffman reported that the Committee has not met since May 19, 2005.

Chairperson White pointed out that one of the stated goals was to make a recommendation regarding water conservation in the General Plan. She informed Commissioners that there would be two workshops on Industrial, Commercial, and Residential in July and August 2005.

At Commissioner Hoffman’s request, Senior Administrative Analyst Schaich offered to determine when the Commission’s input would be needed. He noted that the current Water Conservation element was written in 1990 and was outdated.

Commissioner Gonzalez offered to relieve Commissioner Hoffman as Chairperson of the subcommittee if his schedule was too full.

Commissioner Hoffman stated that he did not realize the urgency of holding meetings, and indicated that he would be able to arrange his schedule to meet in the afternoon or evening of June 27, 2005.

Commissioner Lew gave Commissioner Hoffman documentation he received from the Community Development Department on guidelines and requirements for new developments.

**7. NEW BUSINESS**

**7A. PRESENTATION OF CURRENT WATER CONSERVATION PROGRAM**

Due to technical difficulties, Senior Administrative Analyst Schaich was unable to give the power point presentation that he had planned. He distributed copies of the slides, included in the material of record.

He provided background information on the California Urban Water Conservation Council that was formed in 1991 to develop a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) among all stakeholders in the State regarding urban water conservation measures. He noted that the City signed the MOU in 1993 and that most cities are currently signatories to it.

He provided details on the 14 Cost Effective Best Management (BMP) Practices in the MOU: 1) Residential—customer surveys and investigations, 2) Residential—plumbing retrofits of fixtures such as low flow shower heads, 3) Water system audits, leak detection and repairs, 4) Universal metering, 5) Large landscape programs, 6) High Efficiency Clothes Washer rebates, 7) Public information programs, 8) School education programs, 9) CII—Commercial, Industrial and Institutional program, 10) Wholesale agency (applies to Metropolitan Water District), 11) Conservation pricing and rates 12) Conservation Coordinator, 13) Water waste prohibition, and 14) Ultra Low Flow Toilet replacement and rebate programs.

Referring to BMP 13) Water waste prohibition, Commissioner Deemer asked who could reactivate the Conservation Ordinance established in 1991 in the City. Senior Administrative Analyst Schaich advised that it would ultimately be City Council after going through Metropolitan Water District and the Department of Water Resources.

Responding to Commissioner Gonzalez' inquiry regarding BMP 1), he explained that customers were not surveyed to find out if they employ conservation measures.

In response to Commissioner Haddon's inquiry, he stated that a 50% increase or decrease of water usage would trigger an investigation. He described the "tattle tale" device that is on every meter that helps to detect leaks.

He discussed Protector del Agua landscaping and irrigation classes for residential as well as commercial customers.

Chairperson White's initiated a brief discussion centered on cost effectiveness of conducting audits in the commercial and industrial as well as the residential sectors.

Chairperson White mentioned that California Water Service Company was giving away low flow toilets. Senior Administrative Analyst Schaich stated that Torrance had a similar program a few years ago, but decided that a rebate program was simpler.

He advised that the number one water conservation device was the water meter and that the Department planned to tighten up the accuracy of its meters.

He discussed demonstration landscapes and the 400 native plants that are on display at the Madrona Marsh Preserve.

He provided information about the water energy resource management Living Wise Program for sixth grade students in the Torrance Unified School District, co-sponsored by Southern California Edison. He stated that the Department was exploring

the possibility of introducing Metropolitan Water District educational programs into the school district.

Referring to BMP 9), he reported that the Department was applying for a grant offered by the Bureau of Reclamation for pressurized water brooms.

He advised that currently 85% of current rates were commodity based but that the Department hoped to develop a true conservation structure. He further stated that he was appointed as Conservation Coordinator that amounts to ten to twenty percent of a full time employee. He stated that the Department's budget for conservation was currently \$60,000, and that an expansion of a conservation program would require additional staff resources.

He reported that planned expanded programs include High Efficiency Clothes Washer rebates, landscape demonstration areas, expanded Protector del Agua classes, expanded Commercial, Industrial, and Institutional program, retrofit of various parks with high efficiency controllers, and exterior conservation kits.

Commissioner Deemer initiated a brief discussion centered on also retrofitting landscape systems of schools with high efficiency controllers.

**7B. RECOMMENDATION TO EXECUTE SIX PARTY CONJUNCTIVE USE AGREEMENT**

Senior Administrative Analyst Schaich introduced the item to recommend that the City Council execute a Six Party Conjunctive Use Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in order to implement conjunctive use programs in the local groundwater basin. He advised that the agreement was between the Central Basin Municipal Water District, the City of Compton, the City of Long Beach, the City of Los Angeles, the West Basin Municipal Water District, and the City of Torrance.

He provided background on conjunctive use discussions and areas of dissention among stakeholders in both the Central and West Basins over the last several years. He explained that the MOU was an extension of the five-party Conjunctive Use Agreement approved by City Council in August 2001. He advised that the agreement was the only viable conjunctive use program for the Basins and that it was an interim program until the pumpers and agencies could resolve outstanding issues. He stated that the agreement would allow unique funding opportunities under Proposition 50. He requested that the Commission concur with staff's recommendation to support the adoption of the agreement.

When MWD Director Wright noted that Water Replenishment District was not included in the agreement, Senior Administrative Analyst Schaich advised that WRD would be the approving body and groundwater manager for conjunctive use programs.

Responding to Commissioner Hoffman's inquiry, Senior Administrative Analyst Schaich explained that the scope of this MOU was nearly the same as the 2001 agreement but contains different language. He advised that the basic difference was that it was now a six-party agreement, with the addition of the City of Los Angeles, instead of a five-party agreement.

Commissioner Hoffman noted that it was not clear in the agreement who would fund the projects. Senior Administrative Analyst Schaich stated that Metropolitan Water District would fund infrastructure to the amount it stores and that facilities were needed to extract the stored water. He advised that there was concern that some parties would like to establish a storage right and lease it to outside parties, and that this MOU would restrict this.

Responding to Chairperson White's inquiry regarding partnerships, he explained that with the MOU, Torrance could develop agreements with other parties who were not member agencies. He clarified that it was a 25-year term until the year 2030, that the program was entirely voluntary, and that there was no obligation to the other parties post-termination.

Commissioner Hoffman requested that staff provide items for consideration more than one day in advance of a Commission meeting to allow time for review.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Gonzalez moved to recommend that City Council execute a Six Party Conjunctive Use Memorandum of Understanding in order to implement Conjunctive Use programs in the local groundwater basin. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Haddon and passed by unanimous voice vote approval.

#### **8. WEST BASIN WATER ASSOCIATION DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Senior Administrative Analyst Schaich reported that at the last West Basin Water Association meeting the major topics of discussion were Metropolitan Water District's rates, its rate stabilization fund, and what to expect in the future. He advised that the Technical Advisory Committee was reviewing the West Coast Operations Plan developed by the Water Replenishment District. He discussed the letter that was written and the five to four vote opposing Water Replenishment District's interim conjunctive use program.

Commissioner Haddon noted that in speaking to the opposing parties he learned that were in favor of conjunctive use but were leery of allowing the Water Replenishment District to have so much control.

Chairperson White stated that she enjoyed attending the June 3, 2005 tenth anniversary celebration of West Basin's water reclamation plant.

#### **9. MONTHLY DEPARTMENT REPORT**

##### **9A. DEPUTY PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Responding to Commissioner Deemer's inquiry, Senior Administrative Analyst Schaich provided an update on the status of the Walteria Reservoir. He advised that staff has selected a design firm and is in the process of negotiating the Scope of Work and fee proposals. He discussed the water quality problems due to poor circulation.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Warner moved to accept and file the Deputy Public Works Director's Report as submitted. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Deemer and passed by unanimous voice vote approval.

**9B. MWD DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Metropolitan Water District Director Wright reported that the 2005-06 budget was approved and that it is 5% higher than last year due to capital improvement projects. He advised that MWD has 30 major construction contracts going on at present and that they were predicting water sales to be 300,000 acre-feet less. He discussed the rate stabilization fund and the reasons for Tier 1 and Tier 2 price increases. He stressed the importance of utilizing groundwater pumping rights and local production as water becomes more expensive.

**10. ORALS**

Senior Administrative Analyst Schaich stated that at the last City Council meeting West Basin Municipal Water District director Carol Kwan honored Mayor Walker with a plaque.

Commissioner Warner shared articles from the Daily Breeze regarding West Basin.

Commissioner Deemer discussed a report by Public Policy Organization that predicted the growth of the State and need for increased water supply.

**11. ADJOURNMENT**

At 8:58 p.m., Commissioner Gonzalez, with a second by Commissioner Hoffman, moved to adjourn the meeting to Thursday, July 21, 2005 at 7:00 p.m. in the West Annex Commission Meeting Room.

Approved as Written July 21, 2005 s/ Sue Herbers, City Clerk
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