

**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 Wednesday, June 25, 2014 in the West Annex Meeting Room at Torrance City Hall.

2. ROLL CALL:

Present: Commissioners Craft, Leone, Kawai, Marshall,
McGee, See, and Chairperson Nishinaga.

Absent: None.

Also Present: Public Works Director Beste, Senior Administrative Analyst
Schaich, and Senior Water Services Supervisor Berndt.

3. FLAG SALUTE

Commissioner See led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. AFFIDAVIT OF POSTING

Commissioner See moved to accept and file the report of the City Clerk on the posting of the agenda for this meeting. Commissioner Kawai seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected unanimous approval.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – APRIL 23, 2014 AND MAY 28, 2014

Minutes were not available.

6. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM PUBLIC

None.

7. OLD BUSINESS

None.

8. NEW BUSINESS

**8A. CONSIDERATION REGARDING BAY DELTA CONSERVATION PLAN (BDCP)
AND RECOMMENDATION THAT CITY COUNCIL ADOPT A POSITION IN
SUPPORT OF THE BDCP**

Senior Administrative Analyst Schaich provided a PowerPoint presentation on the Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP). He reported that the BDCP is in final review stages, with the last day of the comment period extended until July 29, 2014. He stated that the BDCP was launched seven year ago and has two main goals: 1) eco system

restoration and habitat conservation of the Bay Delta region over a 50 year period, and 2) ensure the integrity and reliability of the water supply coming from that area. He noted that, with the Commission's concurrence, the item would be presented to City Council on July 22 with the recommendation to support the BDCP with Alternative #4—construction of a new conveyance system with three intakes and twin tunnels under the Delta with a combined capacity of 9,000 cubic feet per second.

He reported that Torrance Municipal Water (TMW) currently derives 80% of its potable water supplies from imported purchases from Metropolitan Water District (MWD) and that, even with its water diversification program, TMW will continue to have a large reliance on MWD. He stated that January 9, 2013 to January 8, 2014 was the driest calendar year on record and showed graphs of Water Supply Conditions, MWD Storage Reserves, and MWD Water Supply Strategy. He noted that, if drought conditions continue into early 2015, it is likely that MWD will impose an allocation formula.

In response to Commissioner Craft's inquiry, staff explained that Diamond Valley Lake is 70% full and, if it had no more water put into it, the storage supply would only last two or three months. It was pointed out that currently the MWD service area has 19.5 million people but the population is expected to increase to 24-25 million by 2050.

Public Works Director Beste stated that all of California relies on water that flows through the Delta and that it is not a north/south issue. He discussed the potential for saltwater intrusion without seismic risk because the flow is so small from above the American River.

Senior Administrative Analyst Schaich described key Delta risks that include fishery declines, seismic risk, subsidence, and sea level rise. He explained what would happen if the area flooded with seawater and provided background regarding the State Water Project, the Peripheral Canal proposal, and the Cal Fed process that set the stage for the BDCP.

He described the eco-restoration goal that addresses fish screens, toxic pollutants, invasive species, predator control, land acquisition, levee improvements, illegal poaching, and hatchery practices over a 50 year period. He noted that the BDCP also proposes construction of two 30-mile tunnels with intake points to transport water under the Delta. He stated that the eco-restoration and other stressors would cost \$9 billion and the conveyance facility would cost \$16 billion, noting that the tunnels would be paid entirely by water users and would take ten years to construct.

Public Works Director Beste explained that TMW currently pays approximately \$900 per acre foot for MWD water and that the additional costs would increase it by \$150 per acre foot. He stated that the estimated cost for TMW customers would be \$5 to \$8 per month.

Senior Administrative Analyst Schaich showed a chart of Cost Comparison of Water Portfolio Projects that compares costs of storm water, groundwater recovery, recycled, and seawater desalination. He described risks of doing nothing and BDCP major benchmarks: provides for enhanced supply reliability; enhances eco system; improves water quality; allows for flexible pumping operations; reduces seismic risks; and mitigates adverse effects of climate change.

Responding to Commissioner Marshall's inquiry, staff explained that they pay \$500,000 for State Water Project water on a "take or pay" basis, regardless of the allocation.

MOTION: Commissioner Marshall moved to recommend to City Council that it approve a resolution in support of the draft Bay Delta Conservation Plan. Commissioner Craft seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected unanimous approval.

MOTION: Commissioner Kawai moved to recommend support of Alternate #4-- construction of a new conveyance system with three intakes and twin tunnels under the Delta with a combined capacity of 9,000 cubic feet per second. Commissioner Leone seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected unanimous approval.

8.B. ELECTION OF NEW CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR FOR FISCAL 2014-15

Commissioner Leone, with Commissioner Craft seconding, nominated Chairperson Nishinaga for Chairperson of the Water Commission. Chairperson Nishinaga accepted the nomination and there were no further nominations.

MOTION: Commissioner Craft moved to elect Chairperson Nishinaga for Chairperson of the Water Commission for fiscal 2014-15. Commissioner Kawai seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected unanimous approval.

Vice-Chairperson Marshall declined any nomination for Vice-Chairperson of the Water Commission, stating his belief that it is important to pass positions around.

Commissioner Marshall nominated Commissioner Kawai and Commissioner See nominated Commissioner Leone for Vice-Chairperson of the Water Commission. Commissioner Leone declined the nomination and there were no further nominations.

MOTION: Commissioner Marshall moved to elect Commissioner Kawai for Vice-Chairperson of the Water Commission for fiscal 2014-15. Commissioner See seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected unanimous approval.

9. METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT DIRECTOR'S REPORT

No report.

10. WEST BASIN WATER ASSOCIATION REPORT

Public Works Director Beste provided an update on the conjunctive use litigation. He reported that environmental issues with Tesoro have been resolved and now they are negotiating governance issues before the Court date in the fall.

In response to Commissioner Marshall's inquiry regarding the San Diego lawsuit, he stated that MWD lost two of the three pieces and are in the process of appealing.

11. MONTHLY DEPARTMENT REPORT

Senior Water Services Supervisor Berndt noted that the Monthly Department Report for May 2014 was included in agenda packets. He reported that production of

potable water for the month was 1,981.5 acre feet, an increase of 6% compared to May 2013. He attributed this increase to major maintenance at ExxonMobil and the decline in recycled water use. He reported that there were no water main breaks in May compared to one for the same period last year. He stated that field crews are in the process of installing new mains in North Torrance. Referring to the Goldsworthy Desalter, he reported that the final design for expansion is complete and that two new saline water source wells will be drilled in late fall.

Chairperson Nishinaga inquired about corrosion of copper pipes and staff explained how orthophosphate is used to stabilize water to create a film around pipes.

12. ORALS

12A. Commissioners and staff congratulated Chairperson Nishinaga and Commissioner Kawai for being elected Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson.

12B. Commissioners discussed their participation on the MWD water inspection trip to the Bay Delta and expressed their appreciation to staff for giving them the opportunity.

12C. Commissioner Craft expressed interest in creating a series about water issues on CitiCABLE.

12D. Commissioner Marshall thanked fellow Commissioners for his year as Vice-Chairperson, discussed a recent visit to Bonneville Dam in Oregon, and stated that he got two new low flush toilets at the toilet exchange.

12E. Senior Administrative Analyst Schaich invited Commissioners to a reception for Randy Record at Sea Lab on July 8, 2014.

13. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: At 8:38 p.m., Commissioner Leone moved to adjourn the meeting to Wednesday, July 23, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. in the West Annex Commission meeting room. Commissioner Marshall seconded the motion and, hearing no objection, Chairperson Nishinaga so ordered.

###

Approved as submitted June 25, 2014 s/ Rebecca Poirier, City Clerk
--