

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

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Torrance Water Commission convened in a regular session at 7:03 p.m. on Thursday, July 21, 2005.

2. ROLL CALL:

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

Absent: Commissioner Haddon.

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

MOTION: Commissioner Warner moved to grant Commissioner Haddon an excused absence for the July 21, 2005 Water Commission meeting. Commissioner Deemer seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval.

3. FLAG SALUTE

Public Works Director Beste led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. AFFIDAVIT OF POSTING

MOTION: Commissioner Gonzalez moved to accept and file the report of the City Clerk on the posting of the agenda for this meeting. Commissioner Lew seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval (absent Commissioner Haddon).

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

5A. MINUTES FROM JUNE 16, 2005

Commissioner Hoffman noted the following correction to the June 16, 2005 meeting minutes:

Page 5, paragraph 3: "Commissioner Hoffman requested that staff provide items for consideration more than one day in advance..."

MOTION: Commissioner Gonzalez moved for the approval of the June 16, 2005 Water Commission meeting minutes as corrected. Commissioner Deemer seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval (absent Commissioner Haddon).

7. NEW BUSINESS

7A. PRESENTATION BY WEST BASIN MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT ON RECYCLED WATER PROJECT

This item was considered out of order.

Senior Administrative Analyst Schaich introduced West Basin Municipal Water District staff representatives.

Co-General Manager Richard Nagel gave a power point presentation on West Basin Municipal Water District. He provided a brief history of the District's formation in 1947 to preserve underground water supplies by providing supplemental water, its five publicly elected Board of Directors, and the 185 square mile service area serving 851,000 people. He discussed the imported water distribution chain from Metropolitan Water District of Southern California to West Basin Municipal Water District to retail agencies to consumers. He described the State aqueducts that supply imported water, noting that 2/3 of water comes from outside sources while only 1/3 comes from local sources. He pointed out that the more local resources, the more reliable the supply.

He described comparisons of pie charts of the District's water portfolio in 1990, 2005, and 2020, noting that in 2005 there was 6% conservation and 6% recycling, and that in 2020 they hope to have 11% conservation, 11% recycling, and 4% ocean desalination, with groundwater storage for their customer agencies.

In response to Commissioner Gonzalez' inquiry regarding the expansion of conservation efforts, he described the three elements of conservation that the District focuses on: active, passive, and outdoor, as well as the District's plan to prepare a Conservation Master Plan.

Public Works Director Beste noted that the City of Torrance uses approximately 20% recycled water.

Metropolitan Water District Director Wright stated that at present MWD was focusing on outdoor conservation and recently approved a \$20,000 grant for a native plant garden at Madrona Marsh Nature Preserve.

Co-General Manager Nagel provided information on West Basin's sources of funds that include: revenue bonds and certificates of participation, standby charges, Local Resources Program, water reclamation loan program, federal investments, and recycled water sales. He described the five different qualities of water that is provided: tertiary, nitrified, softened reverse osmosis, single reverse osmosis, and double reverse osmosis.

Recycled Water Project Manager Joe Walters described the City's water profile, comparing 1990 with 2004. He advised that in 2004 the City used 74% imported water, 23% recycled water, and 3% groundwater. He discussed the benefits of using recycled water that includes: conserves potable water, drought proof, reduces discharge of treated wastewater to Santa Monica Bay, saves energy, and is more cost effective. He described the five qualities of recycled water and their uses, noting that the largest user in the City was Exxon/Mobil. He noted that Arlington School, Casimir School, and

Magruder Middle School use recycled water as well as Columbia, Descanso, Guenser, and McMaster Parks.

Manager of Engineering Marc Serna reported on West Basin's capital program. He showed maps of satellite treatment plants, main transmission lines, and the current distribution system. He discussed the West Basin Water Recycling Plant that is presently undergoing its fourth expansion, and provided details of the project scope. He described the current treatment processes, noting that their goal was to inject 100% recycled water into the barrier.

At Chairperson White's request, he explained that Title 22 water is recycled water used for various purposes such as irrigation, parks, industrial use, and golf courses and that it has very specific parameters for performance of water quality.

Commissioner Deemer initiated a brief discussion on ultra violet wavelengths and dosages that will be used in the expanded facility.

Co-General Manager Nagel discussed a sixth type of water quality that is being considered, that has to be ten times purer than the purest they have, to be used by El Segundo Power Plant.

Public Works Director Beste initiated a brief discussion on why West Basin was getting involved with ocean desalination and public perception of drinking recycled water.

Manager Serna reported on the existing and future recycled water distribution system, focusing on the Harbor-South Bay Project. He discussed the current Madrona Lateral Project and a proposed pump station near Torrance Airport to pump water up the hill.

In response to Commissioner Deemer's suggestion to run an alignment along Anza Avenue, Co-General Manager Nagel explained the differences between transmission main and distribution main pipelines as well as their size and capacity to use.

Co-General Manager Nagel stated that the reasons recycled water, ocean water desalination, and conservation were being pursued were because supply was not subject to hydrologic variability, there were no third party water rights, it diversifies water supply portfolio, and would avoid rationing. He described the West Basin Desalination Pilot Project at the El Segundo Power Plant, noting that the cost of desalination to potable water 50 years ago was 30 times, 15 years ago it was ten times, and today it is twice.

Responding to Commission Hoffman's inquiry, he stated that the projected cost of unsubsidized desalinated water, distributed and treated, was \$900-1000 per acre-foot.

MWD Director Wright stated that MWD approved five projects, one with West Basin, for 20,000 acre-feet of desalinated water and was offering an incentive of \$250 per acre-foot. He advised that in the near future MWD would decide how involved it wanted to become with desalination of ocean water.

Co-General Manager Nagel commended MWD Director Wright for serving the City extraordinarily well. He extended an open invitation to the Commission and staff to tour their facilities and offered to provide a presentation on ocean desalination.

The Commission was in recess from 8:20 p.m. to 8:33 p.m.

6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

6A. STATUS REPORT ON WATER CONSERVATION SUBCOMMITTEE

Subcommittee Chairperson Hoffman reported that the Committee, consisting of Commissioners Deemer, Gonzalez, and himself, met on July 12, 2005 with Public Director Beste, Senior Administrative Analyst Schaich, and Deputy Public Works Director van der Linden. He stated that the subcommittee outlined their mission statement, goals, and general objectives, noting their goal of conveying their recommendations into the Torrance General Plan. He presented and reviewed a draft outline of the Water Conservation Subcommittee Policy Recommendations included in the material of record and requested that Commission members provide input regarding the draft proposal.

Commissioners suggested minor revisions to the Policy Recommendations document.

Public Works Director Beste suggested that the subcommittee and staff hold joint meetings with the Planning Department and their consultant who is working on the General Plan, and staff offered to arrange a meeting.

Senior Administrative Analyst Schaich briefly discussed the Urban Water Management Plan and Protector del Agua classes.

Commissioner Gonzalez recommended that community outreach be addressed at the next subcommittee meeting.

Commissioner Lew suggested that the subcommittee review the Community Development Department's guidelines and requirements for new developments before meeting with the Planning Department.

Senior Administrative Analyst Schaich stated that by introducing conservation guidelines into the General Plan, staff would need to make resource materials available to the Planning Department as part of a support mechanism.

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 rate structure and budget, the West Basin Operating Plan to maximize the utilization of the West Basin, the Technical Advisory Committee, and the Executive Committee's report on conjunctive use. He advised that the Water Replenishment District (WRD) extended an invitation to all members to reconvene and continue discussions to negotiate remaining differences regarding conjunctive use. He stated that a southeast coalition has formed a Joint

Powers Authority to look at a conjunctive use program. He noted that the only active conjunctive use program today is through Metropolitan Water District.

MWD Director Wright initiated a brief discussion on the possibility of the City and WRD making a conjunctive use agreement with MWD irrespective of other cities as well as the City's utilization of its water rights.

9. MONTHLY DEPARTMENT REPORT

9A. DEPUTY PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Senior Water Service Supervisor Berndt presented the Deputy Public Works Director's Report and recommended that the Commission accept and file the report. He noted that groundwater production was down approximately 23% due to decreased capacity from Well No. 6 and that Water Operations was in the process of filling vacant positions.

Responding to Commissioner Deemer's inquiry, he described some of the challenges involved in keeping the desalter running.

9B. MWD DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Metropolitan Water District Director Wright discussed the availability of agriculture water and the expansion of the Inland Empire.

10. ORALS

Chairperson White suggested that Commissioners tour West Basin facilities on a Saturday morning and staff offered to schedule a date.

Senior Water Service Supervisor Berndt advised that the water main replacement program in North Torrance began on July 6, 2005.

11. ADJOURNMENT

At 9:25 p.m., Commissioner Warner, with a second by Commissioner Deemer, moved to adjourn the meeting to Thursday, August 18, 2005 at 7:00 p.m. in the West Annex Commission Meeting Room.

Approved as Written August 18, 2005 s/ Sue Herbers, City Clerk
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