

July 24, 2013

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

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The Torrance Water Commission convened in a regular session at 7:04 p.m. on Wednesday, July 24, 2013 in the West Annex Meeting Room at Torrance City Hall. Due to the absence of Chairperson Lefevre, Commissioner McGee led the meeting.

**2. ROLL CALL:**

Present: Commissioners Haddon, Leone, Marshall,  
McGee, Nishinaga, and See.

Absent: Chairperson Lefevre (excused).

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

**3. FLAG SALUTE**

Commissioner Nishinaga led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**4. AFFIDAVIT OF POSTING**

**MOTION:** Commissioner Marshall moved to accept and file the report of the City Clerk on the posting of the agenda for this meeting. Commissioner Nishinaga seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval.

**5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**5A. MINUTES OF APRIL 24, 2013**

**MOTION:** Commissioner Haddon moved to approve the April 24, 2013 Water Commission meeting minutes as presented. Commissioner See seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval (absent Chairperson Lefevre).

**6. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM PUBLIC**

Commissioners and staff welcomed new Water Commissioner Charles Leone and Barbara Barbagallo.

**7. OLD BUSINESS      None.**

**8. NEW BUSINESS**

**8B. RECOGNITION OF BILL WRIGHT FOR HIS OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTIONS AS THE CITY OF TORRANCE REPRESENTATIVE ON THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

This item was taken out of order.

Staff members expressed their appreciation to MWD Director Wright for his 19-½ years of service, dedication, and contributions to the City and wished him well in his retirement and future endeavors, and Commissioner McGee presented MWD Director Wright with a Resolution and gift recognizing his outstanding service.

MWD Director Wright introduced his wife Sally and expressed his gratitude to staff members, attributing his successes to their support.

The Commission was in recess from 7:30 to 7:45 for refreshments.

**8A. PRESENTATION BY WATER REPLENISHMENT DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA (WRD) REGARDING THE DISTRICT'S COST OF SERVICE STUDY AND RELATED MATTERS**

Senior Administrative Analyst Schaich introduced the item and welcomed Robb Whittaker, General Manager, Water Replenishment District of Southern California.

General Manager Whittaker distributed copies of WRD's April 3, 2013 Cost of Service Report and provided an overview on its findings and implications. He described the formation of WRD in 1959 and explained its responsibility to provide for both natural and artificial recharge of the West Coast and Central groundwater basins that make up 40% of the groundwater supply. He explained that this ensures that water tables are maintained to appropriate levels to permit pumpers to extract their adjudicated water rights. He stated that WRD has levied a uniform Replenishment Assessment (RA) charge for each acre-foot extracted from both basins since its inception.

He reported that some agencies in Central Basin have filed legal challenges to WRD's rate setting process and are in favor of creating a split assessment. He stated that WRD conducted a Proposition 218 rate process and public hearing for the establishment of upcoming fiscal 2013-14 RA and were required to conduct a Cost of Service analysis to ensure that its rates are equitable and aligned to cost of service criteria. He explained that 800,000 notifications were mailed out even though they believed that WRD should be exempt from this process. He stated that the votes were counted three different ways and that protest about the rate increase was minimal.

Responding to Commissioner McGee's inquiry, General Manager Whittaker explained that the WRD Board adopted a \$268 RA per acre-foot increase from the originally proposed maximum of \$298 after hearing testimony from various parties and adjusting their budget to reflect the amount of water they would purchase.

In response to Commissioner Marshall's inquiry about the depth of some wells, General Manager Whittaker explained that they are so low because they were drilled or redrilled in the 1950s and 1960s.

Commissioner Nishinaga inquired about percentage of natural and artificial replenishment and General manager Whittaker explained that pumping is approximately double of natural replenishment and that WRD replenishes about as much as nature does.

Commissioner Marshall initiated a brief discussion about the barrier wells and the three to six percent that is lost when they are pumped down.

General Manager Whittaker ended his presentation with the conclusion that the Cost of Service Report shows that the basins are all one service area and that what is done in one part of the basin will affect the other part. He noted that WRD's Cost of Service Report concludes that the current uniform RA is fully justified

#### **8C. ELECTION OF NEW CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR FOR FISCAL 2013-14**

Commissioner McGee informed Commissioners that Vice-Chairperson McCabe has recently moved out of the City and subsequently resigned his post as a Water Commissioner. He asked for nominations for Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson for Fiscal 2013-14.

Commissioner Marshall nominated Commissioner Nishinaga for Chairperson. Commissioner Nishinaga accepted the nomination, there were no further nominations, and Commissioner Nishinaga was elected Chairperson of the Water Commission on a unanimous voice vote through June 30, 2014 (absent Chairperson Lefevre).

Commissioner See nominated Commissioner Marshall for Vice-Chairperson. Commissioner Marshall accepted the nomination, there were no further nominations, and Commissioner Marshall was elected Vice-Chairperson of the Water Commission on a unanimous voice vote through June 30, 2014 (absent Chairperson Lefevre).

#### **9. WEST BASIN WATER ASSOCIATION REPORT**

Deputy Public Works Director van der Linden reported that at the July 2 West Basin Water Association meeting the Watermaster presented the monthly groundwater report, requested an update on points of contact for each agency, and explained how to use their website to search for water right lease offers. He stated that West Basin Municipal Directors reported on gardening projects with the Cities of Carson, Lomita, and Manhattan Beach, as well as Redondo Beach Unified School District.

He reported that MWD provided an overview of the upcoming November election on the proposed \$1.4 billion water bond for the Bay-Delta fix and water supply sustainability. He stated that WRD provided updates on the Goldsworthy Desalter and Vander Lans expansion projects, the additional recycled water that they purchased, and various ongoing legal actions facing the District.

Deputy Public Works Director van der Linden announced that the West Basin Water Association Board awarded MWD Director Wright with an Honorary Life Member in recognition of his outstanding public service. He announced the annual joint meeting of the Central and West Basin Water Associations on August 1 in the City of Downey and the next regularly scheduled monthly meeting on August 6.

In response to Commissioner Marshall's inquiry, Deputy Public Works Director van der Linden stated that his term as President is until June 2014.

**10. MONTHLY DEPARTMENT REPORT**

Deputy Public Works Director van der Linden noted that the Monthly Department Report for June 2013 was included in agenda packets. He reported that total water production for the first six months of 2013 was approximately 4% higher compared to the same period last year. He stated that there were five water main breaks and, on a cumulative basis, 25 breaks have occurred in 2013 compared to 16 in 2012.

In response to Commissioner Leone's inquiries, staff explained that the water operations part of Torrance Municipal Water Department is a division of Public Works Department, why most water main breaks occur in the north area of the City, and that ExxonMobil is by far the largest user of recycled water for their cooling towers and boilers. They also explained that West Basin Municipal Water District owns the recycled water system and how recycled water is used for industrial and landscaping purposes.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Nishinaga moved to accept and file the Monthly Department Report for June 2013. Commissioner See seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval (absent Chairperson Lefevre).

**11. ORALS**

**11A.** Deputy Public Works Director van der Linden informed the Commission of the passing of Lillian Kawasaki, Director on Water Replenishment District's Board of Directors.

**11B.** Commissioner Marshall expressed appreciation to staff for providing a comparison of the 1989 Cross Connection Ordinance and the new Cross Connection Ordinance.

**11C.** Deputy Public Works Director van der Linden read an announcement he made to City Council on July 22 regarding the citation issued by California Department of Health Services to TMW for failure to perform quarterly sampling and monitoring of volatile organic chemicals on Well #9 at McMaster Park. He explained that due to this oversight TMW is required to notify customers serviced by this groundwater source by August 1. He assured them that the water served from this source was and still is perfectly safe to drink and that the citation is for a monitoring violation only. He described corrective actions being taken to ensure State and Federal water monitoring compliance.

**11D.** Senior Administrative Analyst Schaich distributed a May 29 California Natural Resources Agency press release regarding the Bay Delta Conservation Plan.

**12. ADJOURNMENT**

At 9:15 p.m., Commissioner McGee moved to adjourn the meeting to Wednesday, August 28, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. in the West Annex Commission meeting room.

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Approved as amended September 25, 2013 s/ Sue Herbers, City Clerk
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