

**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 Thursday, August 16, 2012 in the West Annex Meeting Room at Torrance City Hall.

**2. ROLL CALL:**

Present: Commissioners Deemer, Haddon, McCabe, McGee, Nishinaga, and Chairperson Lefevre.

Absent: Commissioner See (excused).

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

**3. FLAG SALUTE**

Commissioner McGee led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**4. AFFIDAVIT OF POSTING**

**MOTION:** Commissioner Haddon 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.

**5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**5A. MINUTES OF JUNE 21, 2012**

**MOTION:** Commissioner McCabe moved to approve the June 21, 2012 Water Commission meeting minutes as presented. Commissioner Deemer seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval (absent Commissioner See).

**6. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM PUBLIC - None.**

**7. OLD BUSINESS - None.**

**8. NEW BUSINESS**

**8A. PRESENTATION BY STAFF REGARDING THE CITY'S GREEN BUILDING CODE REQUIREMENTS PERTAINING TO WATER USE EFFICIENCY (WUE)**

Senior Administrative Analyst Schaich provided background information on the item and welcomed Felipe Segovia, the City's Building Regulations Administrator.

Building Regulations Administrator Segovia provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding CALGreen Building Standards and the 2010 California (Cal) Plumbing Code and its relationship to Water Use Efficiency (WUE). He presented background on the CALGreen Building Code that became effective on January 1, 2011, noting that it represents the first in the nation for a State mandated green building code. He stated that it addresses water use efficiency and conservation as well as planning and design, energy efficiency, water use efficiency and conservation, material conservation, and environmental quality. He described CALGreen's three levels of compliance and the City's decision to select level 1 compliance for the initial period.

He compared requirements for both the CALGreen Building Code and 2010 Cal Plumbing Code with regard to WUE. He reported that the Cal Plumbing Code applies to all new construction and remodel work as well as to both commercial and residential sectors. He stated that it regulates the type of water fixtures installed and places restrictions on the water flow rate for all plumbing fixtures. He explained that CALGreen restrictions are over and above the Cal Plumbing Code and regulate interior and exterior, irrigation sprinkler systems, and require a 20% reduction in baseline water usage. He noted that CALGreen Standards govern if there are differences between CALGreen and Cal Plumbing Codes, and that CALGreen allows approved alternatives that are at least equivalent to the CALGreen Code.

Mr. Segovia pointed out that CALGreen requires a minimum 20% savings from baseline for allowable water use of plumbing fixtures and described the two options for compliance—the prescriptive method and the performance method. He noted that almost all new development has opted for the prescriptive method that uses approved water saving fixtures to meet a Reduce Flow Rate. He further discussed outside water use requirements, noting that CALGreen also requires that automatic sprinkler systems be weather based or soil moisture controllers and that irrigation sprinklers and emitters be based on specifics of the site.

He concluded his presentation by maintaining that CALGreen is a major step forward in promoting green building development and that the City is actively promoting and enforcing its requirements.

The Commission expressed its gratitude to Mr. Segovia for providing an insightful presentation on CALGreen and the City's role and requirements in promoting green development with regard to enhanced water use efficiency.

## **9. METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

MWD Director Wright distributed copies of his monthly report that highlights major policies and activities at MWD during the past month. He briefly reviewed California water supply conditions and indicated that, despite the below average precipitation conditions in key northern California and Colorado watersheds, MWD has adequate water supplies in storage. He noted that projected MWD imported water sales have declined substantially from original estimates this year due to conservation, increased local water production, and seasonal factors.

He provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding optimizing utilization of MWD's Jensen Treatment plant. He noted that Jensen is the newest of MWD's treatment plants and is the second largest in the United States. He stated that the plant has inadequate

dewatering and disposal facilities to handle the disposal of waste products produced during the treatment process, which limits its production to less than half of capacity. He presents options that MWD considered: to construct additional dewatering disposal facilities at the site or to negotiate a long-term agreement with Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) to use its nearby dewatering lagoons. He stated that the MWD Board decided to enter into an agreement with LADWP that would result in reduced risk to MWD, more fully utilize the treatment plant, and temporarily defer MWD capital expenditures.

**10. WEST BASIN WATER ASSOCIATION REPORT**

Deputy Public Works Director van der Linden reported that he was unable to attend the August 2012 West Basin Water Association meeting.

**11. MONTHLY DEPARTMENT REPORT**

Deputy Public Works Director van der Linden noted that the Monthly Department Report for July 2012 was included in agenda packets. He reported that total potable water production through August was approximately 1% higher compared to last year and that total water production for both potable and recycled water was 6% above last year. He noted that, although there were three main breaks in July, main breaks were tracking at nearly a 75% reduction compared to 20 years ago. He reported that the Goldworthy Desalter is producing approximately 150 acre feet per month; however, the groundwater well source supplying the Desalter is clogging and a complete rehabilitation of the well will need to be performed later this year. He indicated that Well Number 9 is exceeding projections and is expected to produce 2,400 acre feet this year.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Deemer moved to accept and file the Monthly Department Report for July 2012. Commissioner Haddon seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval (absent Commissioner See).

**12. ORALS**

**12A.** Senior Administrative Analyst Schaich distributed fliers for WRD's "Innovative Groundwater Management: 50 Years of Groundwater Recharge with Recycled Water" on September 8, 2012 at San Gabriel Coastal Spreading Grounds.

**13. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:** At 8:50 p.m., Commissioner Haddon moved to adjourn the meeting to September 20, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. in the West Annex Commission meeting room. Commissioner Deemer seconded the motion and, hearing no objection, Chairperson Lefevre so ordered.

Approved as Submitted November 15, 2012 s/ Sue Herbers, City Clerk
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