

**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, October 19, 2006 in the West Annex meeting room at Torrance City Hall.

**2. ROLL CALL:**

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

Absent: None.

Also Present: Deputy Public Works Director van der Linden,  
Senior Administrative Analyst Schaich,  
Project Manager Dettle,  
Assistant Engineer Martin, and  
Metropolitan Water District Director Wright.

**3. FLAG SALUTE**

Commissioner Lew led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**4. AFFIDAVIT OF POSTING**

**MOTION:** Commissioner Lew 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 FROM SEPTEMBER 21, 2006**

**MOTION:** Commissioner White moved for the approval of the September 21, 2006 Water Commission meeting minutes as submitted. Commissioner Rizzardi seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval.

**6. NEW BUSINESS**

**6A. PRESENTATION BY STAFF REGARDING MAJOR ACTIVITIES, FACILITIES AND PROGRAMS OF TORRANCE MUNICIPAL WATER**

Staff members provided a power point presentation on major facilities, operation and maintenance activities, water quality programs, capital improvements, water resources, and conservation and water management programs of Torrance Municipal Water (TMW).

With the aid of slides and maps, Deputy Public Works Director van der Linden reported on the Public Works Department organization and Torrance Municipal Water service area that includes five MWD connections, three wells, the Water Replenishment District (WRD) desalter, storage, three pressure zones, and six pump stations. He presented slides of Well #6 as well as the well, membrane filter, and chemical tank at the Goldsworthy desalter facility. He provided information about the SCADA system and Walteria reservoir, noting that it is the largest water storage area in the City.

Deputy Public Works Director van der Linden showed a slide of a display of underground equipment that includes a section of pipe, valve, sleeve, and fire hydrant connection. He stated that the system consists of 320 miles of pipe and approximately 2,600 fire hydrants. He discussed water main breaks from 1990 to present and noted that the City owns the necessary equipment to respond to problems. He showed slides of a hydraulic valve turning machine, a large meter upgrade, and an automatic meter reading (AMR) device.

He discussed water quality regulations and presented maps of the distribution system and sampling stations where bacteriological samples are collected daily and reported weekly. He concluded his presentation by showing slides of a double detector check, a water sampling station, and flushing out stagnant water and sedimentation.

MWD Director Wright discussed ozone conversion and noted that the City's tap water is safer than most bottled water.

Assistant Engineer Martin reported on computer software and tools used by TMW to analyze the water system that includes Computer Aided Design (CAD) for plan drawings and Geographic Information System (GIS). He explained that from the database it is possible to determine where a main break occurred, the probable cause, labor hours, and total cost of repair.

Project Manager Dettle reported on the current capital improvements program, noting that a number of projects are on hold while TMW reevaluates priority. He stated that I-25, I-60, and I-73 are complete in design but are on hold. Referring to I-89, Sepulveda Boulevard Water Main Replacement, Hawthorne Boulevard to West City Limit, he advised that the project is moving forward with an anticipated bid date of November 8, 2006. He advised that I-88, Kent/Galva Water Main Replacements, is complete pending delivery and installation of automatic radio read meters.

In response to Commissioner Rizzardi's inquiry, he stated that TMW coordinates with Street Operations and that I-89 was a street project that drove the water main project. He added that TMW meets quarterly with all Torrance utility companies to coordinate projects.

Project Manager Dettle provided information about the Walteria Reservoir Rehabilitation (S-31) and Slope Stability (I-95) projects. He discussed the installation of retaining and slurry walls, efforts to improve circulation and cycling of water in and out of the reservoir, and rehabilitation of the wells themselves.

MWD Director Wright noted that bids are coming in higher than estimated due to the cost increase of steel and concrete.

Project Manager Dettle presented slides showing how pipes are bagged for corrosion protection, how valves are assembled before putting in the ground, and how service lines are installed.

Senior Administrative Analyst Schaich provided an overview of conservation and resources. He stated that reliability planning includes water diversification, Integrated Resource planning, emergency preparedness, Urban Water Management Plan, and demand management measures to conserve water. He discussed current conservation programs as well as planned expanded programs that include sprinkler “smart” controller rebates, landscape demonstration areas, retrofit of various parks with high efficiency controllers, a conservation-based rate structure, and partnership programs with West Basin and South Bay COG.

He presented slides showing current and proposed water source mix, the base operating budget, revenue and other sources of funds, and actual and projected MWD and WRD water costs. He discussed unaccounted for water that is caused by main breaks, flushing, leaks, and slow meters. He concluded his presentation with a comparison of monthly potable water bills with surrounding cities and the monthly average Southern California utility costs.

Commissioner Deemer initiated a brief discussion centered on efforts to utilize current pumping rights by developing groundwater wells.

Chairperson Hoffman suggested a collaborative effort with Exxon-Mobil to develop a well.

Responding to Commissioner Deemer’s inquiry, Deputy Public Works Director van der Linden explained that TMW supplies water to South Bay Galleria.

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

This item was considered out of order.

MWD Director Wright reported that MWD would probably not be building any more surface reservoirs in this area and is conducting a Groundwater Basin Assessment Study to determine the current status and use of the groundwater basins in the MWD service area. He noted that the groundwater would serve as an emergency supply if Torrance develops the necessary infrastructure to pump the water.

In response to Commissioner White’s inquiry, he stated that the State does not have a groundwater management plan because most groundwater is controlled at the local level.

It was noted that MWD Director Wright’s report to the Major and Council members regarding MWD activities dated October 16, 2006 was included in the agenda material.

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

Deputy Public Works Director van der Linden reported that major topics of discussion at the October 19, 2006 meeting included the recent decrease of pumped

water for water quality reasons, the Integrated Water Management Plan, and the State Water Project. He stated that WRD reported on their desalter work group's recommendation to go back to court on November 6, 2006 to request an extension to meet required high chloride levels.

He distributed fliers announcing the 2006 Water Harvest on October 28 in the City of El Segundo and Protecta del Agua classes on November 4 and November 18, 2006 at Madrona Marsh Nature Center.

Deputy Public Works Director van der Linden announced the West Basin Water Association quarterly dinner meeting on November 15, 2006.

## **8. MONTHLY DEPARTMENT REPORT**

**MOTION:** Commissioner Lew, seconded by Commissioner Warner, moved to accept and file the Deputy Public Works Director's Report as presented; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval.

## **10. ORALS**

**10A.** Commissioner White announced a Delta Vision workshop at MWD on November 8, 2006.

**10B.** Deputy Public Works Director van der Linden announced that the Government and Finance Committee budget meeting is scheduled for November 14, 2006 at 5:30 p.m.

**10C.** Commissioner Rizzardi thanked staff for their informative presentation and received clarification that the fluoridation item would be going to City Council on November 14 or 24, 2006.

**10D.** Commissioner White announced a League of Women Voter's Candidates Forum on October 22, 2006 and noted that there is a DVD available on contested judges.

**10E.** Responding to Commissioner Deemer's inquiry, staff explained that condition of pipe was used as a criteria for replacement of water mains and not necessarily age of pipes.

**10F.** In response to Commissioner Deemer's inquiry, staff stated that most of the storm drain sump system was under control of the City.

**10G.** Chairperson Hoffman brought up the possibility of changing the purview of the Water Commission to a public services commission that would cover City enterprise businesses that bill customers. He stated that this expanded commission would cover water, sewage, and rubbish removal, and would oversee planning, budget and finance review, performance review, and rate setting.

Following discussion, it was decided to place Chairperson Hoffman's suggestion on the agenda for the November 16, 2006 meeting.

Deputy Public Works Director van der Linden stated that he would speak to the City Attorney's office to see if this was an item that could be brought forward to the Commission.

11. **ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION**: At 9:15 p.m., Commissioner Rizzardi moved to adjourn the meeting to November 16, 2006 at 7:00 p.m. in the West Annex Commission meeting room. Commissioner Deemer seconded the motion and, hearing no objection, Chairperson Hoffman so ordered.

Approved as Submitted December 21, 2006 s/ Sue Herbers, City Clerk
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