

**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, August 26, 2015 in the West Annex Meeting Room at Torrance City Hall.

2. ROLL CALL:

Present: Commissioners Chim-Lieu, Craft, Marshall, McGee, Nishinaga, and Chairperson Kawai.

Absent: Commissioner See.

Also Present: Senior Administrative Analyst Schaich and Water Operations Superintendent Berndt.

MOTION: Commissioner McGee moved to grant Commissioner See an excused absence for the August 26, 2015 Water Commission meeting. Commissioner Nishinaga seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected unanimous approval.

3. FLAG SALUTE

Commissioner Marshall led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. AFFIDAVIT OF POSTING

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

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

5A. MINUTES OF JULY 22, 2015

Commissioner Nishinaga offered the following clarification to the minutes: Page 4, paragraph 2: "Commissioner Nishinaga stated that he read in the newspaper that Palo Verde Irrigation District..."

MOTION: Commissioner Craft moved to approve the July 22, 2015 Water Commission meeting minutes as amended. Commissioner Nishinaga seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected unanimous approval (absent Commissioner See).

6. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM PUBLIC – None.

7. OLD BUSINESS

7A. WATER CONSERVATION IN THE MUNICIPAL SERVICE AREA

Senior Administrative Analyst Schaich distributed "Potable Water Use Monitoring Report in Accordance with Governor's Executive Order and State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) Regulations." He reported that potable water use decreased 26.7% in May, 28% in June, and 24.7% in July 2015. He provided background on the Deborah Schaffer

Executive Order and noted that the SWRCB set Torrance's baseline at 20% reduction compared to 2013, adding that the Executive Order started in June 2015 and runs through February 2016.

He reported that State officials met in Monterey recently and are recommending that the Governor keep the 25% statewide reduction mandate in place. He stated that, thanks to ongoing conservation efforts of its customers, Torrance Municipal Water (TMW) has realized significantly lower potable usage compared to the target. He noted that reductions have been in every sector and include multi-family residences at a 16% reduction. Referring to the chart of MWD's imported water deliveries, he noted that TMW also came in below the annual Water Supply Allocation Plan reduction target. He noted that for the month of July TMW's use of 1,089 acre-feet (AF) was 25% less than expected.

Responding to Commissioner Nishinaga's inquires, Senior Administrative Analyst Schaich stated that conservation outreach to multi-family residential is through homeowner associations, managers, and owners, and that funding for MWD's Turf Removal program has been exhausted due to tremendous response.

Commissioner Craft expressed interest in knowing the breakdown of commercial and residential properties that have taken advantage of the Turf Removal program.

Senior Administrative Analyst Schaich offered a cautionary note that ExxonMobil is not fully operational yet since its explosion in February and that their potable water usage is 60-65% of normal. He noted, however, that in the past week they have been using as much potable water as they were using prior to the accident and that staff plans to meet with them to determine their plans for potable and recycled water use.

8. NEW BUSINESS

8A. CONSIDERATION OF WATER REPLENISHMENT DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA'S GRIP PROJECT

Senior Administrative Analyst Schaich provided background on the role of the Water Replenishment District (WRD) as the groundwater management agency for Central and West Coast basins. He reviewed a map of WRD's service area of 420 square miles, 43 cities, and population of 4 million. He stated that WRD owns the Goldsworthy Desalter and is the lead agency for its Expansion Project as well as the seawater barrier project to prevent further intrusion of saline water into the Basins. He noted that the Desalter Expansion is the first step in developing additional groundwater desalters throughout the West Coast Basin to reduce the seawater plume.

He reported that the GRIP (Groundwater Reliability Improvement Program) Project is a component of the WIN (Water Independence Now) program established seven years ago. He stated that GRIP is a partnership between WRD and Sanitation District of Los Angeles County to enhance utilization of storm water capture and additional recycled water supplies for spreading in the Montebello Forebay area in Central Basin. He noted that in a few years the project would eliminate the need to purchase over 21,000 AF of imported supplies for replenishment purposes.

In response to Commissioner Nishinaga's inquiry about recycled water rights, Senior Administrative Analyst Schaich explained that West Basin Municipal Water District's Edward Little Recycling Plant has not been able to produce enough water and

that they are waiting for final approval for their fifth expansion. He noted that in six to nine months they should be able to use 100% recycled water for the barrier.

Senior Administrative Analyst Schaich stated that the primary goals of the GRIP Project include: to provide a sustainable and reliable local supply for replenishing the Basins, to protect and preserve groundwater quality, and to provide long term rate stability and cost savings. He stated that recycled water is drought-proof and that even in times of drought wastewater is generated locally and then recycled. He noted that WRD has safely used recycled water for more than 50 years and that the project would be strictly regulated to ensure water quality compliance. He stated that one caveat is that with increased conservation more costly treatment is required because there is less water flow. He noted, however, that recycled water is a reliability incentive, not an economic incentive.

At Commissioner Craft's request, he explained what happens to all the water that flows into the Hyperion Plant.

In response to Commissioner Marshall's inquiry about the Governor's proposed groundwater regulations, he stated that his intent is to accelerate the process of groundwater management, primarily in the Central Valley.

Senior Administrative Analyst Schaich informed the Commission that WRD has purchased the property for the advanced water treatment facility and is seeking additional State and Federal funding. He stated that they plan to begin site demolition in September 2015, with the goal to be operational by summer/fall 2018. He recommended that the Commission take the position to recommend that City Council approve a Resolution of support for the GRIP Project.

MOTION: Commissioner Marshall moved to recommend that City Council approve a Resolution of support for the Water Replenishment District of Southern California's Groundwater Reliability Improvement Project. Commissioner McGee seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected unanimous approval (absent Commissioner See).

9. METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Senior Administrative Analyst Schaich stated that MWD Director Lefevre is attending an Urban Water Conference and could not be here this evening. He distributed his August Report to the Mayor and Council Members regarding MWD Activities. He highlighted items in the letter: MWD now owns 20% of the Palo Verde Irrigation District, MWD received an additional 100,000 AF from the Imperial Irrigation District through Intentionally Created Surplus, and development of a recycled water site at Calle Mayor/South High School.

Responding to Commissioner Chim's inquiry, he explained that the recycled water pipeline extension was halted due to funding issues but that the long-range goal is for it to lead to a site at Riviera Elementary School and ultimately to Palos Verdes Golf Course.

10. WEST BASIN WATER ASSOCIATION REPORT

Senior Administrative Analyst Schaich reported that, at the annual joint meeting of the Central and West Basins, West Basin discussed broad-based potable water reductions in the South Bay ranging from 12% to 31%, the recycled lateral extension

study, and current drought legislation including the Feinstein bill. He stated that WRD reported on the GRIP Project and continued under-pumping of the West Basin. Additionally, the Department of Water and Power discussed plans for a groundwater recovery project.

11. MONTHLY DEPARTMENT REPORT

Water Operations Superintendent Berndt distributed a revised Monthly Department Report for July 2015. He reported that production of potable water for the month was 1,469.2 AF, a decrease of approximately 24.6% compared to July 2014. He noted that total water production in 2015, including recycled water, is 24.4% below last year. He attributed the decrease to conservation efforts and reduction in potable water use by ExxonMobil. He stated that there were six water main breaks in July and that, on a cumulative basis, 20 main breaks have occurred so far in 2015. He reported that the Desalter and Well #9 have been fully operational for the last two months. He provided an update on the completed saline Desalter production well at Delthorne Park and reported that a pilot test well is currently being drilled at the City Yard. He noted that they plan to advertise for bids for the Expansion Project next week, with construction expected to begin in November or December 2015.

12. ORALS

12A. Commissioner Chim-Lieu discussed a recent trip to Seattle and the drought there. She also visited Israel where she learned that 60% of their water comes from desalination, that they recycle 85-90% of their wastewater, and 100% agricultural use is recycled water.

12B. Commissioner Marshall thanked Senior Administrative Analyst Schaich and the City for allowing him to attend the MWD of Orange County banquet.

12C. Commissioner Nishinaga also attended the banquet and found speaker Felicia Marcus from the Department of Water Resources Control Board to be very informative. He stated that conservation is not enough and discussed the need to expedite local water production projects.

12D. Chairperson Kawai stated that water has become a serious issue and that the rest of the country is learning from California's efforts.

12E. At Commissioner Craft's request, Senior Administrative Analyst Schaich provided an update on West Basin Municipal Water District's weather-based controller program.

13. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: At 8:48 p.m., Commissioner McGee moved to adjourn the meeting to Wednesday, September 23, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. in the West Annex Commission meeting room. Commissioner Marshall seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected unanimous approval.

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Approved as submitted October 28, 2015 s/ Rebecca Poirier, City Clerk
