

**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 Thursday, September 15, 2005.

2. ROLL CALL:

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

Absent: Commissioner Haddon.

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

MOTION: Commissioner Gonzalez moved to grant excused absences to Commissioners Haddon and Lew* for the September 15, 2005 Water Commission meeting and, hearing no objection, Chairperson White so ordered.

*Commissioner Lew arrived at 7:19 p.m.

3. FLAG SALUTE

Commissioner Warner 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 Warner seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval (absent Commissioners Haddon and Lew).

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

5A. MINUTES FROM AUGUST 18, 2005

Commissioner Hoffman noted the following correction to the August 18, 2005 Water Commission meeting minutes as follows:

Page 3, Item 8, paragraph 4: “Responding to Commissioner Hoffman’s inquiry, staff explained that the Department of Water Resources acts as water master to administer groundwater rights in the Basin.”

MOTION: Commissioner Hoffman moved for the approval of the August 18, 2005 Water Commission meeting minutes as amended. Commissioner Deemer seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval (absent Commissioners Haddon and Lew).

6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

6A. PRESENTATION BY THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT REGARDING CITY’S GENERAL PLAN REVISION

Chairperson White introduced Senior Planning Associate Chun and Senior Planning Associate Lodan from the Community Development Department.

Senior Planning Associate Lodan reported that the General Plan provides a snapshot of Torrance today, a vision for the City tomorrow, policy guidelines for decision-makers, and a work program that outlines the steps required to get from today to tomorrow. He noted that policies, programs, and regulations pertaining to development flow from the General Plan. He provided information on California law requirements for cities to adopt a General Plan as well as policy guidelines to identify a series of elements, provide a basis for local government decision-making, provide citizens the opportunity to participate in the process, and inform citizens, developers, decision-makers, and other cities and counties of the plans that guide development. He advised that the City may choose to combine elements and that optional elements may also be included that address topics of local concern.

*Commissioner Lew arrived at 7:19 p.m.

Senior Planning Associate Chun discussed the update process, noting that the last comprehensive update to the General Plan occurred in 1992, with an update to the Housing Element in 2001. She stated that the update allows the City to reflect and comment upon current patterns of growth, to update current General Plan goals and policies, and to craft new implementation measures necessary to achieve those goals.

She advised that the role of the Water Commission was to shape the portion of the Conservation Element that deals with water issues and resources. She described topics that may be included in the Conservation Element and requested that Commissioners review the Conservation Element from the current General Plan and provide input on issues related to water.

In response to Commissioner Hoffman’s inquiry, she explained that conservation of energy and open space land would be addressed by other Commissions. She noted that some topics, such as green building, overlapped with water conservation efforts.

Commissioner Deemer initiated a brief discussion on the recycling of waste water and making the City’s sewer system work more effectively.

Responding to MWD Director Wright's inquiry regarding jurisdiction over conservation of California Water areas, Deputy Public Works Director van der Linden explained that building codes were within the jurisdiction of the City.

Commission Hoffman inquired how the General Plan gets translated into action. Senior Planning Associate Chun explained that policies included in the document served as a guideline to be used by the Community Development Department for new development.

Senior Planning Associate Lodan stated that staff would first compare the project and its location against the General Plan and then look to zoning law which implements the General Plan vision.

In response to Chairperson White's inquiry regarding environmental assessment, he stated that if a project required an initial study, staff would analyze the plans and look at them in terms of how policies and programs have been implemented and how they impact the environment. He advised that while the State mandates what that checklist consists of, staff would look to local policies as to how the broad topics that they identify are implemented.

Commissioner Hoffman discussed the mission statement, goals, and five general objectives prepared by the Water Conservation Subcommittee in July 2005. He inquired how these objectives could be translated into a form that can be used for the General Plan update. He summarized the general objectives of the Subcommittee's Policy Recommendation and stated that the subcommittee was willing to meet with staff to explain and clarify their recommendations.

Senior Planning Associate Chun advised that, once received by email, the Subcommittee's Policy Recommendation would be forwarded to the City's General Plan consultants for use in drafting the new Conservation element.

Senior Administrative Analyst Schaich discussed the need to update the Conservation element, noted that the existing element was written in 1990 and could not have incorporated the impact of the 1991 water drought.

Public Works Director Beste stated that the General Plan update would be used as a guideline to implement CIP plans and rate structures.

Responding to Commissioner Hoffman's inquiry regarding emergency preparedness, Senior Planning Associate Lodan advised that the topic was covered under the Safety element. He further noted that the Office of Planning and Research determined General Plan elements.

Public Works Director Beste stated that staff was looking at a capital program in the next few years focusing on water reliability, diversification, and production to address a possible water storage.

Senior Administrative Analyst Schaich added that a water shortage contingency plan element was included in the Urban Water Management Plan.

Commissioner Lew stated that he was in the process of reviewing the Area Plan for the City for emergency response and offered to provide information on the section regarding water at the next Commission meeting.

Discussion centered on whether the Community Development Department staff should meet to discuss the Water Conservation Subcommittee Policy Recommendation with the subcommittee or entire Water Commission. It was determined that the subcommittee would be available to meet with the Community Development Department and General Plan consultants to discuss revisions, and that the draft would be brought back to the Commission for review prior to its inclusion in the draft General Plan.

7. NEW BUSINESS

7A. WATER COMMISSION ANNUAL REPORT

Deputy Public Works Director van der Linden presented the fiscal 2004-2005 Water Commission Annual Report for the 12-month period from July 1, 2004 through June 30, 2005. He requested that the Commission review the report, provide input, and approve the forwarding of the report to the City Council for acceptance.

When Chairperson White noted that recycled water as a resource was not mentioned in the report, Deputy Public Works Director van der Linden advised that it was mentioned under Section 8: West Basin Matters.

Commissioner Hoffman commented that he would prefer to see more mention of what the Water Commission does for the City and what policy issues the Commission discusses. He suggested that the Commissioner training session, the Commission's Work Plan, the Water Conservation Subcommittee Policy Recommendation, the conjunctive use issue, the Water Department budget, conservation, and recycled water be included in the report as topics that the Commission feels are important. He suggested that the top three or five "hot issues" be highlighted for City Council.

Responding to Chairperson White's inquiry regarding the Commission Work Plan, Senior Administrative Analyst Schaich advised that City Council accepted it as submitted on their Consent Calendar.

Commissioner Warner suggested that in the future staff provide the Commission with a draft of the Annual Report for their input.

Public Works Director Beste stated that staff would summarize Commission guidance on general policy discussion and outcome under each topic. He noted that the Commission's position on issues was often taken into consideration, such as conjunctive use at West Basin Association meetings.

8. WEST BASIN WATER ASSOCIATION DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Senior Administrative Analyst Schaich reported that the West Basin Municipal Water District reviewed their budget and reserves at the last meeting. He stated that there was a combined meeting with West Basin and Central Basin Associations to discuss conjunctive use, with the intent to reconvene negotiations on outstanding issues. He advised that this session has not yet taken place and that the West Basin executive

board planned to work directly with the attorney for Central Basin to see if the session could be facilitated in a timely manner.

In response to Commissioner Hoffman's inquiry, Public Works Director Beste stated that the City was unable to put water into the ground under the conjunctive use interim agreement due to mechanical issues.

MWD Director Wright stated that MWD hoped to implement a general program that would fit all member agencies.

Senior Administrative Analyst Schaich added that MWD could provide infrastructure funding in exchange for having water available on demand.

Deputy Public Works Director van der Linden stated that the Water Resources Planning team has been meeting the past few months to discuss conjunctive use, wells, resources, water quality, conservation, land acquisition, and capital projects.

Staff suggested that Commissioner Hoffman meet with them at a future date to discuss implementation of a conjunctive use program and water resources that are being considered.

9. MONTHLY DEPARTMENT REPORT

9A. DEPUTY PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Responding to Commissioner Deemer's inquiry regarding Torrance Boulevard, Deputy Public Works Director van der Linden advised that the water main replacement was completed several years ago.

MOTION: Commissioner Gonzalez moved to accept and file the Deputy Public Works Director's Report. Commissioner Deemer seconded the motion and, hearing no objection, Chairperson White so ordered (absent Commissioner Haddon).

9B. MWD DIRECTOR'S REPORT

MWD Director Wright discussed MWD's response to Hurricane Katrina. He stated that MWD has offered to provide needed equipment and employee volunteers to assist the Red Cross. He advised that at the next Commission meeting staff would report on MWD's response in the event of a local catastrophe.

In response to Commissioner Deemer's inquiry, he stated that MWD plans to complete the conversion of treatment plants to ozone by 2009.

He initiated a brief discussion on the Peripheral Canal and the possibility of enhancing levees.

10. ORALS

10A. Commissioner Hoffman suggested that staff give a presentation on emergency preparedness plans and how the Water Commission could educate the public.

10B. Commissioner Lew mentioned that the Fire Department offered CERT training to learn how to prepare for emergencies.

10C. Commissioner Warner shared information about friends in the Louisiana area. He stated that the Salvation Army has raised \$6 million in Southern California, that they were converting a downtown Los Angeles warehouse into a 300 unit apartment building, and asked for volunteers to be part of a team to assist Katrina victims.

10D. Chairperson White shared information about her visit to Hetch Hetchy last weekend.

10E. Senior Administrative Analyst Schaich encouraged Commissioners to attend the Health Fair on September 22, 2005 at the Toyota Meeting Hall from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

10F. Senior Administrative Analyst Schaich discussed plans to tour West Basin facilities in El Segundo as well as Torrance facilities on a Saturday morning.

11. ADJOURNMENT

At 8:37 p.m., Commissioner Gonzalez, with a second by Commissioner Warner, moved to adjourn the meeting to Thursday, October 20, 2005 at 7:00 p.m. in the West Annex Commission Meeting Room.

Approved as Amended October 20, 2005 s/ Sue Herbers, City Clerk
