

March 15, 2007

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

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The Torrance Water Commission convened in a regular session at 7:05 p.m. on Thursday, March 15, 2007 in the West Annex meeting room at Torrance City Hall.

**2. ROLL CALL:**

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

Absent: None.

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

**3. FLAG SALUTE**

Commissioner White led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**4. AFFIDAVIT OF POSTING**

**MOTION:** Commissioner White 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.

**5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**5A. MINUTES FROM AUGUST 16, 2006**

**MOTION:** Commissioner Warner moved for the approval of the August 16, 2006 Water Commission meeting minutes as submitted. Commissioner White seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval.

**5B. MINUTES FROM FEBRUARY 15, 2007**

**MOTION:** Commissioner White moved for the approval of the February 15, 2007 Water Commission meeting minutes as submitted. Commissioner Warner seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval.

Chairperson Hoffman suggested that staff and Commissioners try to keep the length of Commission meetings down to an hour and a half.

**7A. RECOMMENDATION TO APPROVE INTEGRATED REGIONAL WATER MANAGEMENT PLAN**

This item was considered out of order.

Senior Administrative Analyst Schaich introduced the item and welcomed Fernando Paludi, Manager of Planning and Water Resources, West Basin Municipal Water District.

With the aid of a power point presentation, Mr. Paludi provided an update on the Greater Los Angeles County Region Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWMP). He provided background information about the State grant process that is forcing regions to come together to come up with integrated solutions, noting that this will be the way to apply for grant funding in the future. He showed a map of the Greater Los Angeles County Region but noted that there are five sub-regional steering committees that include the South Bay for purposes of organization and efficiency. He stated that the South Bay sub-region goes from the Santa Monica Mountains to the Palos Verdes peninsula and Steering Committee members include the City of Torrance, Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, South Bay COG, West Basin Municipal Water District, and Water Replenishment District.

Mr. Paludi discussed accomplishments in less than one year: secured \$1.5 million State grant to develop IRWMP, formed a Leadership Committee and five sub-regional Steering Committees, obtained \$950,000 in matching local funding, received more than 1,500 projects submitted and included in the IRWMP, held 24 public stakeholder workshops, developed and adopted the IRWMP, were awarded Round 1 funding for 13 projects for \$25 million, and received large carve-out of funds in Proposition 84.

He provided a summary of 2025 quantifiable targets that include water supply, water quality clean-up, open space/wetlands/restoration, Riparian corridors, and infrastructure. He showed a graph of current Greater Los Angeles County Region water demand and projected water demand in 2025, noting the gap of 800,000 acre feet of water. He explained that the current Memorandum of Understanding in the material of record pertains to Proposition 50 funds and that a new Memorandum of Understanding is required for Proposition 84 and Proposition 1E funds and will be drafted this summer/fall, with implementation expected in winter 2007/08. He outlined sources of funding that include Proposition 84, Proposition 1E, and Proposition 50.

In response to Chairperson Hoffman's inquiry, Mr. Paludi stated that his advice to Torrance is to continue to groom its projects and to try to integrate them with any other communities or agencies. Senior Administrative Analyst Schaich added that the City's most viable projects are retention basins for storm water run-off.

Mr. Paludi concluded his presentation with next steps that include:

- continue planning work,
- apply for additional Proposition 50 funding if available,
- prepare for Proposition 84, and
- update the IRWMP to meet new guidelines that will come out under Proposition 84.

Responding to Commissioner Deemer's inquiry, Mr. Paludi stated that there are 20 to 30 regions in the State, with more forming.

Commissioner Deemer related his observation that estimates for future water demand in the Greater Los Angeles County Region seem low.

Chairperson Hoffman stated that he would like to have additional information on what projects and funding would be Torrance-related.

**MOTION:** Commissioner White moved to recommend that City Council endorse and approve in concept the Integrated Regional Water Management Plan as presented. Commissioner Warner seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected unanimous approval.

**7B. RECOMMENDATION TO APPROVE AN INTERIM SERVICE AGREEMENT WITH THE WATER REPLENISHMENT DISTRICT (WRD) FOR POTABLE SUPPLIES FROM GOLDSWORTHY DESALTER**

Senior Administrative Analyst Schaich introduced Senior Engineer Jason Weeks from WRD and provided background on the Tri-Party Master Agreement of 1998 for the Goldsworthy Desalter, the Metropolitan Water District (MWD) grant of \$250 per acre-foot, design and construction in 1999-2001, the adjacent Brewer Desalter, and the facility's operations since May 2002. He discussed the Judgment Amendment that exempts the Desalter providing chloride levels above 1,000 ppm, noting that the judgment does not confer water rights to WRD. He stated that if the Desalter's chloride levels fall below 1,000 ppm in three consecutive months it triggers a meeting of the Desalter Working Group (DWG). He explained that WRD has experienced continual problems meeting the 1,000 ppm chloride level.

Mr. Weeks described some of the modifications that have been performed to try to raise the desalter's chloride level.

Discussion centered on the possibility of amending the judgment and reasons for opposition by the Central Basin.

MWD Director Wright arrived at 7:52 p.m.

Senior Administrative Analyst Schaich reported that the Goldsworthy Desalter has been below the 1,000 ppm level since April 2006 and that the Desalter Working Group convened, discussed options, and recommended that the current exemption be extended until April 23, 2007 until WRD could negotiate an agreement with Torrance Municipal Water (TMW).

He presented the Interim Service Agreement to provide treated water from the Desalter to Torrance Municipal Water at a negotiated rate until the Desalter is able to meet chloride concentration levels in the future. He stated that TMW would be considered the groundwater extracting entity and that there would be no transfer or direct use of groundwater rights by WRD. He noted that advantages of the agreement include: keep the Desalter operational; avoid transferring water rights to WRD; provide reliable, high quality water supply local water source with a yield of approximately 2,000

acre-feet of water per year; prevents TMW from incurring higher MWD Tier II rate penalty; provides net value to TMW for use of groundwater rights; and enables WRD to continue \$250/acre-foot MWD subsidy.

In response to Chairperson Hoffman's inquiry, Mr. Weeks provided clarification that the actual rate that Torrance would be paying for recycled water is \$464 per acre-foot starting in 2007 and escalating each year with inflation.

Senior Administrative Analyst Schaich discussed groundwater pumping rights, noting that TMW owns 5,640 acre-feet rights in West Basin on a use or lose annual basis. He stated that current use of rights includes lease of 300 acre-feet to a local cemetery and use of approximately 1,200 acre-feet per year for Well #6. He estimated unused TMW groundwater rights of 4,000 acre-feet over the next three to five years, noting that the Desalter would put 2,000 acre-feet to beneficial use. He estimated that the Interim Service Agreement would yield a direct net value to TMW of \$73 to \$137 per acre-foot. He noted that when new TMW wells are constructed in three to five years, water rights would revert to direct groundwater production.

**MOTION:** Commissioner White moved to recommend approval of an Interim Service Agreement with the Water Replenishment District for potable supplies from the Goldsworthy Desalter. Commissioner Deemer seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected unanimous approval.

**6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**6A. STATUS REPORT BY AD HOC COMMITTEE ON WATER COMMISSION PURVIEW**

Chairperson Hoffman reported that the ad hoc committee met on March 15, 2007, agreed to consolidate his December 2006 presentation to the Commission, and to present it to the full Commission at the April 19, 2007 Commission meeting.

Commissioner Rizzardi left at 8:25 p.m.

**6B. MODIFICATION TO CHAIRPERSON AND VICE CHAIR TERMS**

Senior Administrative Analyst Schaich reminded Commissioners that in December 2005 the Commission decided to change the terms of Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson to a calendar-year basis. He stated that terms of Commission officers have now been standardized to a fiscal-year basis and requested that the Commission amend current terms to end on June 30, 2007.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Warner moved to modify the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson positions to end on June 30, 2007 and thereafter be on a fiscal basis, and that Chairperson Hoffman and Vice-Chairperson Lew continue in office until June 30, 2007. Commissioner Deemer seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval (absent Commissioner Rizzardi).

**6C. UPDATE REGARDING REPLENISHMENT ASSESSMENT COST ALLOCATION**

Deputy Public Works Director van der Linden provided background on the Southeast Water Coalition (SEWC) study presented to the Commission in February 2007 and which proposes a significant increase in the replenishment assessment for the West Basin. He reported that staff presented a letter, included in the agenda material, to the Water Replenishment District on February 23, 2007 that stated concerns and asked them to provide necessary technical information in order to counter the study's recommendations.

He reported that, in the meantime, SEWC has come together and told their members to go back to their City Councils and come up with resolutions in support of the new assessment. He noted that the lead agency is the City of Downey and that others have a spot bill, AB640, being held in Sacramento. He stated that staff has also raised concerns with the West Basin Water Association and that a working group has formed and met once so far to resolve the issue.

Chairperson Hoffman suggested that a copy of the letter to WRD be sent to Assemblyman Lieu and that MWD should take a stand against the change in assessment.

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

Deputy Public Works Director van der Linden reported that at the last West Basin Water Association meeting the Department of Water Resources reported that groundwater pumping has decreased in the West Basin and noted that WRD was not allowed to pump groundwater from the Orduna Well site. He stated that West Basin Municipal Water District presented information about AB640, related that they and the South Bay Cities of Government have written letters opposing the replenishment assessment cost allocation, and that they have received \$500,000 for conservation from Proposition 50 funding. He stated that WRD has moved to their new offices in the City of Lakewood and that West Basin Water Association met with the conjunctive use work group.

#### **8. MONTHLY DEPARTMENT REPORT**

Deputy Public Works Director van der Linden reported that there was only one water main break in February 2007 and that potable water production was down due to a turn-around at the Exxon-Mobil Refinery. He stated that water main has been installed on Sepulveda Boulevard up to Anza Avenue and should be in service in the next 30 to 45 days.

**MOTION:** Commissioner White moved to accept and file the Deputy Public Works Director's Monthly Department Report as submitted. Commissioner Lew seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval (absent Commissioner Rizzardi).

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

MWD Director Wright distributed his March 5, 2007 letter to City Council as well as a February 2007 pamphlet regarding the Quagga and Zebra Mussels and Colorado

River Aqueduct Shutdown Project Training. He stated that chlorine kills the mussels and that the water supply will be treated if necessary. He reported that the Colorado River water shed and the State Water Project is close to normal this year, but that Owens Valley/Mammoth Lakes area is 35 to 40% of normal.

**11. ORALS**

**11A.** Commissioner Warner announced a documentary film on the restoration of the Hetch Hetchy at the Gene Autry Museum on March 24, 2007.

**11B.** Commissioner Deemer initiated a brief discussion regarding projected energy costs if a reservoir is built near Sacramento.

**11C.** Senior Administrative Analyst Schaich announced a special event with Congresswoman Harman regarding conservation of energy, water, and other resources at Toyota on April 3, 2007.

**11D.** Commissioner Lew offered to invite a speaker from MWD to a Commission meeting regarding pharmaceutical residues in water.

MWD Director Wright discussed waste water that contains pharmaceuticals from the City of Las Vegas flowing into Lake Mead.

**12. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:** At 8:55 p.m., Commissioner White moved to adjourn the meeting to April 19, 2007 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 April 19, 2007 s/ Sue Herbers, City Clerk
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