



CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS
455 N. Rexford Drive
Beverly Hills, CA 90210
City Hall Room 280-A

**PUBLIC WORKS COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

September 8, 2016
8:00 a.m.

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Date/Time: September 8, 2016 / 08:02 am

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

Commissioners Present: Commissioners Felsenthal, Pressman, Shalowitz, Vice Chair Wolfe, Chair Aronberg
Commissioners Absent: None
Staff Present: Vincent Chee, Mark Cuneo, Vince Damasse, Derek Nguyen, Debby Figoni, Erick Lee, Chad Lynn, Trish Rhay, Michelle Tse, Audrey Wright

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE AUDIENCE

Members of the public may address the Commission regarding any items not on the Agenda that are within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Commission. By State law, the Commission may not discuss or vote on items not on the Agenda.

Speakers: None

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

By Order of the Chair, the agenda was approved as presented.

CONSENT CALENDAR

1. Consideration of the Minutes of the regular meeting of August 11, 2016.

Motion: MOVED by Commissioner Pressman, SECONDED by Vice Chair Wolfe to approve the minutes as amended (5-0).

AYES: Commissioners Felsenthal, Pressman, Shalowitz, Vice Chair Wolfe, Chair Aronberg

NOES: None

CARRIED

REPORTS FROM PRIORITY AGENCIES

Operations Reports from City Departments, Consultants and Outside Agencies

- **Metropolitan Water District (MWD) Director**

Dr. Wunderlich provided an update. MWD is moving forward with the Delta area islands purchase; it will make additional water available. There is slow progress on implementing the treated water fixed charge component; Beverly Hills will benefit once it is implemented. MWD's Colorado River / Hoover Dam trip is November 4-6, 2016.

The Commission discussed the following:

- Whether MWD will extend its transmission lines for untreated water. Dr. Wunderlich noted it is unlikely as it would be a major endeavor.
- The percentage of the cost of water that will be a fixed charge. Dr. Wunderlich noted he can look into the matter.
- Whether it is possible for the Water Rates Sub-committee to receive information from MWD as to its water rates process. Dr. Wunderlich noted MWD used Raftelis as the consultant in the process.
- A Los Angeles Times article stated water consumption has increased substantially since surcharges were removed; whether this affects MWD and allotments. Dr. Wunderlich noted MWD completed an analysis showing it can supply water for the next three years without a shortage allocation. It is wise to believe droughts may be persistent in the future and shortage allocations may be set in place. Beverly Hills should continue to encourage conservation.
- To make a 2013 water usage comparison in Water Tracker (WT), users must progress through steps. The possibility of keeping a means for comparing usage to 2013 as it is an incentive worth keeping. It was noted a drop-down box allows a comparison to any year. The possibility of a comparison being restored until a new policy is in place.

CONTINUED BUSINESS

(Out of Order)

3. Capital Improvement & Major Projects

City Engineer Mark Cuneo and Assistant Director Trish Rhay provided an update.

- a. **Water Treatment Plant**
Construction is near complete and Scada integration is in progress. Training will occur once controls are online. Work to get the Plant back online remains and permitting needs to take place.
- b. **Shallow Groundwater Wells**
Conveyance and treatment work has begun. The City has received 50% pipeline design layout. Hazen and Sawyer is assisting with the sampling plan to satisfy requirements to get the wells online.
- c. **Greystone Reservoir Rehabilitation**
Work is on schedule. East Basin repair is complete and the tank has been disinfected; Scada control work remains. Tentative back-in-service date is October.

d. **Cabrillo Reservoir Project**

A preconstruction meeting was held. Construction should begin late September or early October. Proposals for the conveyance pipeline from Cabrillo Reservoir to parks were received.

The Commission discussed the following:

- The significance of the date on the Shallow Groundwater Wells schedule of May 2018. Staff noted the date has been on the schedule.
- Concern of not receiving full disclosure on projects up front.
- Concerning Cabrillo, the cost of the reservoir wall needing reinforcement. Staff noted the reservoir is old and has been out of service a number of years. The preliminary recommendation was to reinforce its walls. Cost will be known at a later date.
- The reason the Commission was unaware the reservoir needed additional work. Staff noted that during relining design, a structural evaluation was requested. Staff was informed relining could go forward as long as there was no additional stress on the wall. Structural reinforcement will be included in the next phase, design for non-potable water. In the future, staff will complete more extensive studies up front. The City moved forward with relining as structural work can be completed from the outside.
- Whether non-potable water can be used as the State mandates no watering of medians. Where water will be conveyed to. The legality of conveying water to Sunset Beverly Gardens Park. Staff noted water will be conveyed to Sunset Beverly Gardens Park. The delivery system denotes legality; potable water cannot be used on medians.
- Whether Greystone Reservoir is complete. Staff noted the tank is being filled. Control and integration work remain then it will be complete.

(Return to Order)

2. Water Enterprise Plan (WEP) Update

Water Resources Manager Vince Damasse, Ms. Rhay and Consultants Cindy Miller and Mike Rudinica provided an informational update on current projects in process. The following were discussed: Presentation Overview; Project Background; Preliminary Design Report Objectives; Status of Project Elements - Wells; Status of Project Elements - Conveyance System; Status of Project Elements - Treatment Requirements; Activities Over Next Quarter; and Schedule Update.

The Commission discussed the following:

- Concerning the City's need to drill to obtain water quality and volume information, whether the Los Angeles Department of Water & Power (LADWP) is drilling. Consultants noted LADWP is not drilling.
- Whether the City can move through the process faster. Consultants noted they are working with the City and analyzing options. Staff noted the City is lead on the project and is working with LADWP Director of Water Resources David Pettijohn to coordinate efforts. There is one more property to locate; the City will continue to work to see if options exist. While looking to drill the pilot well, there were water rights issues. Staff is coordinating with LADWP on water exchange and creating regional solutions.
- LADWP needs the City's assistance concerning Sunset Boulevard; whether the City can reciprocate. Staff noted reciprocity is taking place.
- Richard Slade provided the same information years back. The City needs to coordinate with LADWP on the Sunset Project. Staff noted the City is cooperating with LADWP but is not using leverage to acquire property.

- The depth of the pilot borehole. Whether 'Not in My Back Yard' or Environmental Impact Report issues are likely. Consultants noted the depth is 800'. The City is in the environmental process. There will be challenges wherever the pipeline is located.
- The City of Claremont's lawsuit over the high cost of water. This project will impact the cost per acre foot to Beverly Hills customers. Using the City's existing easement on La Cienega would be faster and save money. Consultants noted the scope included three options. Parallel courses will be run to save time. Design dollars are being spent, but the City is saving time. Staff noted the La Cienega pipeline information was vague; staff is now discovering issues. The La Cienega site is an option, but as this project is schedule-driven, alternatives are being provided to move forward faster.
- The possibility of agendizing a status update regarding the conveyance line at the Sand Pit Property. Staff noted an update can be provided. The City and Consultants are working with Mr. Pettijohn regarding a water exchange.
- Time was spent discussing the Treatment Plant; money was spent to get it up to standard to operate 24/7; the reason why not using the Plant is being discussed. Consultants noted both are being analyzed at the same time.
- Whether the City is considering creating a forebay at La Cienega. Staff noted it is being considered on a parallel path. The Plant has added capacity but staff must work within current restraints, treat at the wellhead first or upgrade the Plant further.
- The reason the Sand Pit Property is not being drilled first. Consultants noted there are challenges with the site. Extensive demolition would have to occur; the *Coffee Bean* site is cleaner, fairly simple and the results of the Phase One site assessment deemed the Sand Pit site as not being viable.
- Whether properties being considered are vacant. Staff noted the properties are in use by LADWP; most are public yards or right-of-way under power lines. Staff noted the *Coffee Bean* property is on target as being optimal. If a treatment plant is not needed, there are other PW functions for which it can be used.
- The reason behind completing Phase One then waiting to complete Phase Two. Consultants noted Phase One was completed to identify possible solvents present to give more focus to Phase Two.
- The end of the alley is of no use to the City. The idea of purchasing the property to add it to the City's resources. Consultants noted one property needs access. Staff noted it can be done but is a different process as it involves utilities, public right-of-way, etc. Staff can place this on the list for consideration.
- The Commission was unaware the Department was considering the La Cienega site, fifteen other sites or that another site is needed; the manner in which the Commission can become informed and involved. Whether a Water Enterprise Sub-committee was set in place to work with staff on projects. Whether the Commission can receive reports on items of importance.

e. Metro Subway Extension

Public meetings have been held regarding conditions under which the La Cienega Station will be built. The Memorandum of Acceptance (MOA) will be taken to City Council tentatively in October. The MOA will then be taken to the Metro Board for approval and construction of the La Cienega Station will begin early 2017 for the Purple Line Extension. The Rodeo Station will begin in 2017 with utility relocation.

The Commission discussed the following:

- The construction duration estimate. Staff noted La Cienega Station is estimated to be fully operable in 2023.

f. N. Santa Monica Boulevard

The following were discussed: Proposed Construction Phasing; Phase A; Phase B; Phase C; Phase D; Detour; East V. West; Schedule; Construction Mitigation; and Next Steps. Staff is regularly meeting with the contractor and community feedback was sought. The project entails 1.5 miles of street reconstruction, built in two phases. The roadway will be in operation during construction. Phase C will be the most impacting phase; traffic will be down to one lane each side for roughly one month. Staff is looking at extended schedules for Phase C. There will be more space for Phase D; three lanes will be open. Local detours will be created using S. Santa Monica Boulevard.

The Commission discussed the following:

- Whether the East segment will be completed first, then the West segment. The reason the project is being broken into segments. Staff noted the West will be completed following the East; it is logical to break the work into linear phases. There will be substantial impacts to the business triangle.
- It is untrue that the eastern phase will not affect the western phase; the two are intertwined. The possibility of expanding the contract so larger crews can work. Staff noted this is an update; input may be taken back to City Council.
- Expanding the contract to limit phasing. Completing the West quickly is not enough; the East will impact the West; it would be better to complete them together.
- Outreach has not been completed as staff hoped. Staff noted that with the holiday season approaching, concerns exist. The City hopes to coordinate with the Metro construction. Private jobs are also ongoing; there are many moving parts.
- Decisions have been made and there will be an impact to Public Works; the suggestion was made that the Wilshire and Santa Monica Projects not occur at the same time. Staff noted schedules are tentative and being managed; changes may occur. Contingency plans are being built to address possible impacts; it is an 18-month project as currently laid out. Construction will start later this fall or early 2017. Efforts will be made to keep traffic out of residential areas.
- Metro is working with the Waze application – whether the City will do the same. Staff noted a traffic consultant is onboard and will get necessary information out.
- Drivers will use residential streets. There are major dips at some intersections; whether they will be smoothed out. Staff noted the City is looking to not allow north and south streets for commuter traffic.
- Whether staff can experiment now using S. Santa Monica Boulevard, restriping and removing meters. Staff noted this would likely be done prior to the start of construction.
- Removing four parking spaces at the corner of S. Santa Monica Boulevard and Rodeo could mitigate traffic; it seems the City is not proactively testing alternatives. Staff noted removal of parking spaces can be suggested. There is a huge business community voice to not remove parking. The City is trying to find solutions the community can live with. Extensive public comment and concern exists regarding parking removal.
- Some parking spaces are wide; narrowing them could provide more traffic space. Staff noted these ideas can be passed on.
- The possibility that City Council would reconsider phasing. The PWC is not the Commission making recommendations and has not been involved in the process.

(Return to Order)

4. Water Conservation Update & Water Use Regulations

Water Conservation Administrator Debby Figoni provided an update. The following were discussed: Water Conservation Efforts; Public Education; Water Reduction; Long-Term Water Use Efficiency Policy; Permanent Measures; Drought Stages; Excessive Water Use Policy; Program Implementation; SB 814; Recommendation; and Next Steps.

The Commission discussed the following:

- Whether potable water can or cannot be used on medians. Staff noted not at this time.
- None of the restrictions presented are new; this item will be taken to the Public Works Liaison Committee (PWLC). The restrictions are currently in place; this will clean up and codify permanent restrictions without needing to call stages into effect.
- The idea that this does not need to be a permanent ordinance.
- Conversations on this topic have been held; the intent is to decide on permanent restrictions to be codified. It applies to residential customers and is based on a factor of total allowance of indoor and outdoor use during drought stages.
- Senate Bill No. 814 (SB 814) requires water utilities to develop this framework.
- The reasoning behind the standard of 125%, not 100%. Maximum Applied Water Allowance (MAWA) relates to outdoor landscape requirement; current standards require municipalities to meet MAWA, according to new building standards.

NEW BUSINESS

5. Green Streets and Water Efficient Landscape On Burton Way

Project Manager Derek Nguyen provided an update. The following were discussed: Overview; Storm Water Regulations; Ballona Creek Watershed; MS4 Permit Compliance Schedule; Compliance Measures; Compliance Goals; Project Overview; Burton Way Median; Burton Way Rendering; X-Sectional View; Public Input Strategy; Public Input Process Draft Schedule; Public Workshop 1; and In Summary.

The Commission discussed the following:

- The initial source of water for Burton Way Median. Staff noted it will be urban runoff. Cabrillo water was not forecast to run to Burton Way.
- Staff to ensure Home Owner Associations receive information.
- Streamlining the process. Palm Desert completed a similar project; whether the City can mirror its efforts. Staff noted the median is a major gateway into the City; a strong desire exists for public input.
- Whether the City wants anything other than pedestrian use. If bikes, skateboards and other modes of transportation are not desired, the sidewalk should be broken up to not allow access/discourage use other than pedestrian. Staff noted the goal is to convey that the median is a walkway/viewing area for artwork. Construction is meant to discourage passage from one end to another; it is not to be used in lieu of a sidewalk.

PROJECT UPDATES & STATUS ITEMS

6. Grants Program Update

Planning & Research Analyst Michelle Tse provided information on the City's efforts to apply for grant funding for its eligible water projects and additional potential grant opportunities. Staff focused on funding opportunities to fund WEP capital projects and

stormwater projects. A grant application for *Proposition 1* funding was submitted; staff is awaiting a response. A Request For Proposals (RFP) for administrative support for grants released earlier this year yielded a low response. Grant firms and consultants were contacted and three proposals were received; one will likely be selected.

The Commission discussed the following:

- Whether the City can hire someone with a track record for receiving grant funds instead of seeking consultants. Staff noted the City has been in contact with agencies that focus on specialized areas of grant funding.
- Whether PW will hire a full-time permanent position dedicated to grant funding. Staff noted grant work is extensive; a request for personnel could be brought to City Council during upcoming budget sessions.
- Staff knows the steps in grant funding; a consultant is not needed.

Chair Aronberg noted Item 7 is provided for informational purposes; staff will respond to any questions.

7. Specific Information and Department Updates

A report was provided transmitting responses to questions that were posed at previous Commission meetings; a synopsis of the Department's items for the most recently completed and upcoming City Council meetings as well as an update on the status of the Department's master plans.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE COMMISSION

- Chair's Report – Thank you to staff for testing and providing results information on public water fountains; they are lead free. It would be helpful for the parks to have the information. Staff noted the City is coordinating with the Beverly Hills Unified School District to test school fountains.
- Mayor's Cabinet Meeting – Chair Aronberg attended the meeting of August 15, 2016; minutes are available online.
- Comments from Commissioners

Concerning the City's Fiber to the Premises Project (FTTP):

- A recent Wall Street Journal article stated Google is rethinking its endeavor after initial rollouts proved more expensive and time consuming than anticipated; whether the City will follow-up on its fiber plans.
- Whether the Commission supported the City's FTTP project at the August Meeting and whether the subject is under the purview of the PWC. Staff noted FTTP is not under the purview of PW or the PWC; staff can follow-up.
- The City was aware of the article and challenges mentioned.
- FTTP is under the PWC's purview as it pertains to the well-being of the City. Whether the City should consider subsidizing those needing bandwidth instead of getting into a potentially very large endeavor.
- Whether the project will affect PW as PW will be responsible for some of the work. Staff noted PW will provide some aspects of project management.

- o It is an error to spend a large amount of money on this project as Google could not achieve it. Staff noted this topic can be agendized for October then the Commission can make a motion or it can be taken to the PWCL for input.

Commissioner Shalowitz raised the following:

- o Whether Solarbees at City Reservoirs are functioning and if a camera can be set up to capture video of their operation.

Commissioner Felsenthal raised the following:

- o Townscape Project: It would take needed space from PW, negatively impacting operations. Finding land for PW operations would come at a great cost, loss of control and increase travel time to access equipment if stored off-site. Staff should inform City Council the Project works against the best interests of PW. He would like this topic agendized.
- o Concerning discussions of creating a park; there seems to be no concern with how important the land is to PW operations. Lots 12 and 13 can be purchased, renovated, a parking structure built underground and a park built on top.
- o Whether PW can discuss creating affordable water by using surplus funds to cover WEP costs instead of issuing bonds. He would like this topic agendized.
- o The City has three or four days of emergency water supply, more is needed. The City is producing more non-potable water; with additional storage water can be saved. Cabrillo water is valuable; the reservoir should be repaired and conveyance built. Whether the Commission can instruct staff to construct a mini processing plant at Cabrillo. He would like staff to look into converting it to a potable water system to service the area.
- o The cost of waiting until 2017 to modify water rates. Water costs increase each month; waiting pushes new rate implementation into the middle of 2017. He would like to know the monthly cost of waiting and for this topic to be agendized.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM STAFF

- Report from Director, Assistant Directors and Deputy Director – *None*
- Upcoming Events – *None*

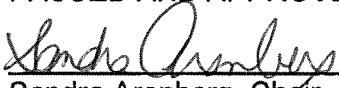
TOUR OF PROPERTIES LOCATED AT 1941-1949 S. LA CIENEGA BLVD., 1959 S. LA CIENEGA BLVD. AND 1956 CHARITON ST. IN LOS ANGELES, CA

Staff, the Commission and members of the public toured properties which are potential project development opportunities.

ADJOURNMENT

Date / Time: September 8, 2016 / 12:08 p.m.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 13TH DAY of OCTOBER, 2016


Sandra Aronberg, Chair