



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

**PUBLIC WORKS COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

**October 8, 2015**

**8:00 A.M.**

The meeting was called to order at 8:05 a.m.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** led by Commissioner Wolfe.

**A. ROLL CALL**

Commissioners Present: Felsenthal, Wolfe, Aronberg, Shalowitz and Pressman.  
Commissioners Absent: None.

**B. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS**

1. AUDIENCE COMMENTS – None.

2. REPORT FROM THE CHAIRPERSON

**Mayor's Cabinet Meeting** – Vice Chair Aronberg attended the meeting of September 21, 2015. The Beverly Hills Ambassador Hotline is (424) 302-1487; 22 hour coverage, 7 days per week (no coverage 3am to 5am).

**Other Items of Interest** – None.

3. COMMISSIONER AND SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS – None.

4. REPORT FROM METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT (MWD) DIRECTOR – None.

**C. CONSENT CALENDAR**

Any item may be removed from the Consent Calendar by a member of the Commission or a person in attendance, with the concurrence of the Commission.

**Minutes**

1. **CONSIDERATION BY THE PUBLIC WORKS COMMISSION OF THE MINUTES** of the Regular Meeting of September 10, 2015. MOTION by Commissioner Pressman, SECONDED by Chair Shalowitz to approve. Absent objection by the Commission, the Minutes are approved by order of the Chair. **CARRIED 5/0**

**D. REPORTS FROM PRIORITY AGENCIES**

**Operations Reports from City Departments, Consultants and Outside Agencies**

1. **REPORT FROM METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT (MWD) DIRECTOR**

Dr. Wunderlich provided an update. MWD is updating its Integrated Resources Plan; background was provided. The Bay Delta Conservation Plan is now the California Water Fix; parameters of the project have not changed. There has been no discussion of recycling stormwater, large scale desalination or expanding non-potable pipe distribution. Information on heavy water abusers is between the retailer and consumer. Central valley subsidence has occurred throughout California historically; there is no word of aquifers being overdrawn to a significant extent. MWD does not manage aquifers; groundwater districts do. Commissioner Felsenthal asked Staff to agendize being proactive, not reactive.

2. **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT – CODE ENFORCEMENT**

Mr. Otazu provided an update on enforcement of water related conservation efforts. Beginning September 1<sup>st</sup>, one full time Enforcement Officer was dedicated to these efforts; performance measures are transitioning to Community Development. There will be one part time administration and one full time field staff. The following were discussed: Enforcement Process; Warning versus Notice of Violation; Water Conservation; and Compliance Program. He reported the following for September: 41 warnings issued, 13 resident complaints logged, 26 follow up notices and 1 Notice of Violation mailed. Regarding Water Tracker (WT) to monitor use, Staff has access and information can be used to generate letters. Ms. Tse stated Staff is enhancing WT to run reports for use as outreach. Ms. Rhay discussed the City's reduction in water use. Commissioner Aronberg requested presented material and noted the importance of Code Enforcement hours not having a significant overlap with watering hours. Staff to agendize Beverly Hills Schools' water use.

3. **INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY – WATER TRACKER**

Mr. Schirmer provided an update. The following were discussed: Overview (Users and Utilization); Progress; and Next Steps. Commissioner Pressman asked if the City Council can recognize WT as a major conservation tool. Chair Shalowitz asked if local news outreach can be used to promote WT. Commissioner Aronberg asked Staff to ensure WT instructions are included with bills.

E. **CONTINUED AND NEW BUSINESS**

1. **UPDATE ON WATER CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS UNDER CAPITAL ASSETS**

Mr. Cuneo provided an update.

a. **Water Treatment Plant Update**

The contractor mobilized on September 14<sup>th</sup>. Demolition and concrete work has begun. Staff is working to get the project completed early and is seeking an additional \$200,000 from City Council on October 20<sup>th</sup> for additional services in support of construction. Late February, early March is the targeted completion date.

b. **Shallow Groundwater Well Update**

*Cascade Drilling* was awarded the contract on September 10<sup>th</sup>. Preliminary scheduling and mobilization will soon follow; work is anticipated to begin in November. This contract does not include conveyance to the Water Treatment Plant. *Tetra Tech* will design the pumping and conveyance system when it appears a viable project exists for delivering water to the Plant. Staff met with the Division of Drinking Water and will provide them ongoing information to facilitate the permit amendment.

c. **Greystone Reservoir Rehabilitation**

Bids are scheduled to be received October 15<sup>th</sup> with the award of the construction contract in November.

2. **DISCUSSION AND RECOMMENDATION ON TIERED WATER RATES STRUCTURE**

*Carried over to November.*

3. **DISCUSSION AND PRIORITIZATION OF ZERO WASTE PLAN/SOLID WASTE ELEMENTS**

HF&H provided an update. The following were discussed: Session Objectives; Sustainable City Guiding Principles/Zero Waste Plan; Why Adopt a Zero Waste Plan; State Regulatory Timeline; On The Horizon; Zero Waste Goals in Other Jurisdictions; Zero Waste Policy and Program Options; Schedule; Solid Waste Contracting Schedule; and Resolution for Consideration by the

Commission. Commissioner Pressman would like improved environmental factors built into the proposed resolution. Mr. Ezzet stated the following can be added at the end, "at a benefit to the environment at reasonable cost." Chair Shalowitz asked to view Santa Monica's and/or W. Hollywood's Plan. This Item to be agendized again in January.

**MOTION** by Vice Chair Aronberg, **Seconded** by Commissioner Wolfe that the Commission supports recommending that City Council adopt the resolution presented by HF&H with the inclusion at the end of the words, "...at a benefit to the environment at a reasonable cost."

Ayes: Aronberg, Pressman, Shalowitz and Wolfe.

Noes: None

Abstentions: Felsenthal

Absent: None

**CARRIED 4/1**

#### **4. DISCUSSION ON PENALTY SURCHARGE APPEALS PROCESS**

Ms. Tse provided an update. Assessments began with October bills. Staff proactively pre-identified customers conserving prior to the mandated reduction and adjusted their conservation targets. Staff received roughly 90 Level I (Staff review) appeals. Today's discussion will cover Level II appeals (one Commission Member, one Staff Member). Commissioner Pressman will be the initial participant for October, November and December; in the event of a conflict of interest, Chair Shalowitz will replace him. Chair Shalowitz will serve January and February.

#### **5. PREPARATION FOR 2016 PUBLIC WORKS COMMISSION PRIORITY SETTING**

Mr. Lynn provided an update. He discussed background information on the process and reviewed Staff's and City Council's budget process and priority setting exercises. He asked the Commission to provide Staff a list of priorities. Staff to provide the Commission with PWS' internal list of priorities. Time to be set time aside at November's meeting for this Item.

#### **6. UPDATE ON CITY WATER CONSERVATION EFFORTS**

Ms. Tse provided an update. The Garden Handbook will be complete in October and will be available online and in limited print in the Library. Requests for turf rebates are slowing and those for water efficient devices are increasing. Staff is working on school conservation programs, outreach to businesses, developing a water advocate event to identify community members interested in disseminating conservation information and working with Cook+Schmid to develop a conservation microsite and general content for commercial toolkits. Staff attended various events to discuss conservation.

#### **7. UPDATE ON CURRENT PROJECTS**

Chair Shalowitz reviewed Staff's list of current projects. Commissioner Felsenthal stated the need for accountability as it pertains to water required for new developments. Ms. Rhay stated she and Mr. Chavez met with the City Manager and City Attorney to discuss developing justifiable, supportable and defensible policy covering the provision of water; Staff is ready to move forward with a consultant. Wastewater Capacity Fees are scheduled for presentment to City Council November 17<sup>th</sup>; if the tiered structure changes, fees may be impacted and the process slowed. Chair Shalowitz would like ongoing updates on water quality testing

#### **8. CABRILLO RESERVOIR PROJECT**

Ms. Rhay provided an update. Staff is analyzing shallow groundwater, developing a pilot project investigating groundwater to understand its viability without treatment. The water will be used to clean sewer lines and for street sweeping. A temporary mini treatment system will be brought in to desalinate the water to use it to fill the new electric fountain. Staff will ascertain the water's potential uses and amount available. Staff to follow up on whether there is any use for water

discharging from area hospitals. Commissioner Felsenthal stated the fundamental issue is not enough reserve water; City Council seems to have interest in building a storage reservoir as a priority. Ms. Rhay stated preliminary cost estimates were provided to Finance and will be provided to the Commission.

**F. OTHER BUSINESS**

**1. COMMENTS FROM COMMISSIONERS, PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR & STAFF**


Commissioner Felsenthal commented on the Commission making decisions with limited information; he would like the Commission to be engaged concerning priorities. He requested the following be agendized at a future meeting: 75 year ground lease on the property across from the Public Works (PW) Building and information on potential use of the land. Chair Shalowitz reminded the Commission about the following upcoming events: Team Beverly Hills PWS Open house on October 21<sup>st</sup> and Mandatory Commissioner Training from 8:00 a.m. until Noon on December 5<sup>th</sup>.

**G. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Chair Shalowitz, with the consent of the Commission, adjourned the meeting at 11:45 a.m.

Passed and approved

This 12<sup>th</sup> day of Nov, 2015

  
Chair Shalowitz

***The next Public Works Commission Regular Meeting will be held on November 12, 2015.***

Public Works Commission meetings are available via live webcast through the City's website at [www.beverlyhills.org](http://www.beverlyhills.org). Previous Public Works Commission meetings are also available on the City's website at [www.beverlyhills.org](http://www.beverlyhills.org).