



CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS

Room 280A
455 North Rexford Drive
Beverly Hills, CA 90210

**PUBLIC WORKS COMMISSION
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES**

April 17, 2017
8:00 a.m.

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Date/Time: April 17, 2017 / 8:03 a.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

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

Commissioners Absent: None

Staff Present: James Burnley, Mark Cuneo, Vince Damasse, Josette Descalzo, Debby Figoni, Michael Hensley, Ilene Knebel, Erick Lee, Chad Lynn, Trish Rhay, Michelle Tse

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 March 9, 2017.

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

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

NOES: None

CARRIED

REPORTS FROM PRIORITY AGENCIES

Operations Reports from City Departments, Consultants and Outside Agencies

Metropolitan Water District (MWD) Director Report (Taken out of order)

Dr. Wunderlich provided an update about Metropolitan adding a million acre feet of water into storage after the recent rains. The supply allocation is currently 80%. This is the most they have ever put in storage in their history. The wet year is resulting in a lot of water becoming available. The water goes to groundwater basins and various lakes in the area.

Also discussed was Senate Bill 231 which will make storm water management treated like a utility. This will make it easier to adjust fees to pay for storm water management. Metropolitan will support the bill. The City is currently drafting a letter of support to Congress.

Finally, Dr. Wunderlich relayed that he will be stepping down from the Metropolitan Board.

Commissioner comments:

- The ready to serve fee will still be collected even though we have had a wet year.

CONTINUED BUSINESS

2. Capital Improvement & Major Projects

City Engineer Mark Cuneo presented an update on Capital Improvement Projects. Some of the costs have been updated since the last meeting.

Water Projects:

a. Maple Wells

Work will continue for the next 9 – 10 months.

b. Cabrillo Reservoir Project

Minor adjustments made; reservoir is filling; feasibility study to be completed within next month.

c. La Brea Basin Development

Draft preliminary design report has been submitted and is being reviewed. Will be presented at a future Commission Meeting.

d. RO Water Treatment Plant

Construction phase being closed out.

Major Projects:

e. North Santa Monica Boulevard Reconstruction

Currently on second phase on the south side of the street. Further update in May will be presented with regard to further traffic restrictions. Staff will remain cognizant of not having two main street restrictions at the same time. Lane closures may begin in early June for three weeks.

f. Purple Line Extension

Installation of piling for the shoring system has begun. Report to City Council to occur with regard to the Southern California Edison conduit relocation near the Wilshire/Rodeo Station.

Other projects reviewed were the City Wide Street Resurfacing; alley paving in the southeast portion of the city and the next steps for the Sidewalk Maintenance Inventory.

Commissioner comments:

- Positive comments about financial savings on the well and Cabrillo Reservoir construction.
- Commissioner comment about expense for feasibility study for water that is non-potable.
- It was also noted part of the feasibility study was to look at the structural capacity of the reservoir as well as determine what the reservoir can be used for.
- It was confirmed that the structure liner for the Cabrillo Reservoir was safe in order to move forward with the liner project and if any repairs were needed they could be done once the liner was intact. The liner is filled only to six feet at this time. There is still analysis taking place before the liner is to be filled fully. There will be future conversations after the feasibility study is completed with regard to the water uses.
- Funding comes from the Water Enterprise Fund. Money was previously set aside from the General Fund by City Council.
- Staff may want to reconsider timing of Santa Monica Boulevard lane closures/traffic restrictions due to possible decreased traffic during June in the area.
- Potholes and road condition needs to be remediated along Santa Monica Boulevard where there no construction.

3. Well Water Quality Analysis and Recommendations

Water Resources Manager Vince Damasse and PE, Principal in Charge from Hazen & Sawyer Lynn Grijalva reported on the analysis and findings of the well water quality and recommendations moving forward.

The plant was shut down in 2015 for rehab, maintenance and upgrades. Prior to the shut down the water quality was of acceptable levels. During the startup of the wet commissioning process, there was a noticeable change in water quality. Increased levels of sanding as well as a finer sand getting through the filters, higher levels of Manganese than previously observed and black particulate matter, Iron Sulfide, are the main concerns at all four wells. These substances can cause discoloration, odor issues and customer complaints.

Due to the issues with particulate matter, and the clogging of the membranes, the installation of new RO membranes was postponed and an investigation started.

A treatment flow diagram of the RO plant was displayed and the effects on the operation were described.

Samples of water with the particulate matter that passed through the filters was shown to the Commission.

The historical significance of the Manganese levels at each well were also discussed.

Recommendations include:

- Placing the water treatment plant offline, or in standby mode, to pursue long term alternatives.

- Next step includes a feasibility analysis of possible alternatives:
 - Well rehabilitation/New Wells
 - Pretreatment
 - Permitted blending station at Sunset Reservoir

Commissioner comments:

- Concern if the age of the wells has anything to do with the issues currently occurring. The experts do not think so. They found the wells are in good shape. The age of the well does diminish its production capacity; how much water it can produce. Rehabbing the area would also not remedy the situation. It is possible drilling a new well might make a difference, but will not be a dramatic difference.
- Discussion about why there have been the changes in the water. These items have always been there but not all the levels they are seeing now. They are not sure there are similar levels of these items at other well sites. It was asked if other city having the same conversations about increases in levels of Manganese. Recommendation of using a green sand filter to remedy certain issues and a coagulant will also be used for the iron sulfate concern.
- There was a brief discussion about the gravel pack which is put in when the well is drilled.
- Comments were made about the RO plant and it's not being able to function. The treatment plant has operated correctly but there are concerns with the initial design.
- There are questions about continuing to fund the water treatment plant when there are so many concerns with ours. There are surrounding cities that are selling their plants because of the cost of the insurance to maintain the plants
- RO Plant may need to be expanded and it might be necessary to have a new conveyance system from La Brea to Foothill. Moving forward will only be done with testing and recommendations from consultants.
- The water system is dynamic – one day it might be solid – the next day it changes. It is important to know the amount of risk the city wants to bear if there are changes.
- Commission and staff give a great deal of weight to consultants.
- Further discussion about the running of the plant. The parameters need to be established.

Next steps will include the meeting of the Water Enterprise Subcommittee. They will look at the entire Water Enterprise Plan and come up with a set of recommendations including costs.

The Commission took a break at 10:25 a.m.
The Commission reconvened at 10:35 a.m.

4. Water Conservation and Rebates Update and Large Landscape Evaluations
Senior Management Analyst Michael Hensley updated the Commission on the current water conservation programs as well as the information from the Governor to end the drought state of emergency and the modification of water restrictions. This item will be presented to City Council on April 20, 2017.

Staff sought feedback from the Commission on the proposed Large Landscape Water evaluation program.

Commissioner comment:

- MWD Grant money is being used to offset the cost of the Large Landscape Audits as staff does not always have the resources to assist.

Motion: MOVED by Commissioner Aronberg, SECONDED by Commissioner Shalowitz that staff move forward with the large landscape audits (5-0).

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

NOES: None

CARRIED

NEW BUSINESS

5. Introduction to the Environmental Compliance and Sustainability Bureau
Environmental Compliance and Sustainability Programs Manager Josette Descalzo presented this item to the Commission. He described the many facets of this bureau and the technical support they provide to other city departments.

The Commission appreciated the detailed report.

Commissioner comment:

- Public Works is required to do many things to do due outside regulations. It is important that we are aware of and appreciate the work that is being done.

6. July 2017 Public Works Commission Meeting Date
The Commission discussed the July Meeting date. The date is now confirmed for July 24, 2017. Time of the July meeting will be confirmed at the May meeting.

7. Water Enterprise Plan (WEP) Update
The Commission decided to move this item to the May Public Works Commission meeting.

PROJECT UPDATES & STATUS ITEMS

8. Specific Information and Department Updates
The report provided transmitted responses to questions posed at prior Commission meetings, a synopsis of the Department's items for the most recently completed and upcoming City Council meetings and an update on the status of the Department's master plans.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE COMMISSION

9. Chair's Report/Mayor's Cabinet Meeting

- Comments from the Commissioners:

- Commissioners made brief comments about our obligation of providing water to West Hollywood.
 - Concern over numerous hotel rooms in West Hollywood and if we can meet the demand for their water needs.
 - Pleased we completed an evaluation of the lead levels in our schools drinking water and we meet all standards. Recently a San Diego School was found to have a high lead content in their school's water.
- Ad Hoc Subcommittee Updates
 - None.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM STAFF

10. Report from Director, Assistant Directors and Deputy Director
- Upcoming Events

ADJOURNMENT

Date / Time: April 17, 2017 / 11:47 a.m.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 11TH DAY of MAY, 2017



Jeff Wolfe, Chair