



**CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS**  
Room 280A  
455 North Rexford Drive  
Beverly Hills, CA 90210

**PUBLIC WORKS COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

October 12, 2017  
8:00 a.m.

**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER**

Date/Time: October 12, 2017 / 8:02 a.m.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**CIVILITY STATEMENT**

**ROLL CALL**

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

Commissioners Absent: None

Staff Present: Vincent Chee, Mark Cuneo, Vince Damasse, Josette Descalzo, Shana Epstein, Ilene Knebel, Erick Lee, Derek Nguyen, Trish Rhay, Caitlin Sims

**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 special meeting of September 13, 2017.

Motion: MOVED by Commissioner Greer, SECONDED by Vice Chair Felsenthal to approve the minutes as presented (3-0).

AYES: Commissioner Greer, Vice Chair Felsenthal, Chair Wolfe

ABSTAIN: Commissioner Aronberg, Shalowitz

NOES: None

CARRIED

2. Consideration of the Minutes of the regular meeting of September 14, 2017.

Motion: MOVED by Commissioner Greer, SECONDED by Vice Chair Felsenthal to approve the minutes as presented (4-0).

AYES: Commissioners Greer, Shalowitz, Vice Chair Felsenthal,  
Chair Wolfe

ABSTAIN: Commissioner Aronberg

NOES: None

CARRIED

## REPORTS FROM PRIORITY AGENCIES

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

- Metropolitan Water District (MWD) Director
  - Dr. Wunderlich reported that the vote taken on the Bay Delta Project passed, although the Los Angeles delegation votes were not unanimous.
  - Dr. Wunderlich introduced Dr. Barry Pressman as the new Director of Metropolitan Water District as of October 11, 2017.
  - Dr. Pressman explained his reasons for voting in favor of the project.
  - Dr. Wunderlich was thanked for this thoughtful presentations over the 10 years of his service as the Director.

## CONTINUED BUSINESS

### 3. Water Rates Public Hearing

Director of Public Works Shana Epstein introduced the item. This was the final presentation to the Commission prior to seeking a recommendation on Phase #1 to present to City Council.

Speakers: Susan Rifkin, Robert Wunderlich

Chair Wolfe explained that what is being supported is a notice that, related to the requirements of Proposition 218, allows us legally to raise rates up to 3% per year without going through this process again (in subsequent years through 2022). The Commission is not voting yet to actually make the increase for the subsequent years; the vote is to start the process and allow the rates to go up. A separate decision would be made if funds were to be spent on upgrades to the water treatment plant, which is a capital project.

Motion: MOVED by Vice Chair Felsenthal, SECONDED by Commissioner Aronberg to recommend moving forward with the rate increases (5-0).

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

NOES: None

CARRIED

#### 4. Capital Improvement & Major Projects

City Engineer Mark Cuneo updated the Commission on the following items in the Commission packet; the Maple Wells, Cabrillo Reservoir Project, La Brea Subarea – Central Basin Development, Pump Station No. 8 Rehabilitation, North Santa Monica Boulevard Reconstruction, Purple Line Subway Extension – Metro, Citywide Street Resurfacing, and Traffic Signal Modification and Curb Ramp Replacement – W. Olympic Blvd. /Beverwil Drive/Beverly Drive.

Commissioner comments:

- The Commission inquired about the swale completion. Swales have been completed in the first phase of the Santa Monica Boulevard Project.

#### 5. Hollywood Basin Wells Pre-Treatment Testing Update

Water Resources Manager Vince Damasse presented an update on the testing and preliminary results. Assisting with the pilot testing is Vice President of Carollo Engineering, Adam Zacheis. He described the complex water quality challenges they are facing with the reverse osmosis plant. They have completed some testing. He described advantages of different pre-treatment options.

Commissioner comments:

- The Commission inquired about a possible carcinogenic byproduct of the sodium hydrochloride used in the process. Mr. Zacheis replied there was no risk as they use very small amounts.
- The Commission asked about effectiveness of a sand separator.
- A determination of the next steps will be made once the testing and analysis is complete.

#### 6. Rehabilitation of Well No. 5 Update

Project Manager Vincent Chee presented the scope of work and project milestones. Samples are still being tested from this well. Director Shana Epstein commented that it is important to remember that being in the groundwater business means we have a commitment to rehabilitate and develop our well field so it has longevity.

Speaker: Richard Slade

Commissioner comments:

- The Commission commented about a deadline to accommodate the BH Art show being held in Beverly Gardens Park the third weekend in October.
- The Commission asked about the possibility of adding a casing/liner to help with the sanding issue. Staff responded that adding a sand separator at the treatment plant may be a proposed option.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### 7. Water Enterprise Plan (WEP) Re-evaluation

Assistant Director Trish Rhay introduced the item. As part of the approval from the Public Works Commission and City Council, the request was made to have a re-evaluation/check-in to confirm the decisions and recommendations in the Water Enterprise Plan still hold true. Psomas representatives, Michael Swan and Robert Brandom were in attendance to present their reassessment.

Staff recommends moving forward with the development of the La Brea basin as directed in the Preliminary Design Report (PDR) and to continue to be aggressive with conservation to counteract growth and change in the future.

Commissioner comments:

- The Commission commented on water supply in West Hollywood and its development.
- The Commission also inquired about staying at levels of conservation or if levels of water usage will rise over time.
- It was noted that the WEP Analysis includes and agrees with the Michael Baker Report on the Central Basin.
- The Commission noted large commercial projects in West Hollywood, including hotels that have not been included in the population numbers. They are concerned there will be a marked increase of usage in locations that have been vacant for years.
- Director Epstein noted that the estimate of 190 gallons per capita per day would include the consumption of commercial uses such as of hotels. In addition, rehabilitating a well does not necessarily mean there will be new water; it's getting the same amount of water.
- Commissioner Shalowitz suggested that the Robertson land be investigated for the opportunity to drill a well and discussions begin with the City of West Hollywood to identify land that could be potential wells.
- There was discussion about the viability of the Sand Pit Site.
- The Commission requested for future updates, they be given the opportunity to suggest items to be considered prior to the report being presented to the Commission.

The Commission took a break at 10:40 a.m.

The Commission reconvened at 10:50 a.m.

#### 8. West Hollywood Service Commitments

Assistant Director Trish Rhay, with Water Resources Manager Vince Damasse and Attorney Jim Markman, addressed questions related to the West Hollywood Service Commitments and how the will serve process and fees, relate to West Hollywood. Fees and charges were discussed.

The next step is to revisit the water capacity fee and water supply fee in November 2017.

Speaker: Chuck Alpert

Commissioner comments:

- The supply and capacity fees and will service letters were discussed.
- Commissioner Felsenthal suggested we issue new development will serve letters in the event that we do not have sufficient water. He requested that part of the will serve letter says if we reach a certain point in time where we do not have sufficient water, then the analysis will be done. He suggested the concept be presented to the Commission at a later date so we can protect ourselves in the future so that the current level of water service that is available to us is not diminished.

- The Commission requested to know how many will serve letters have been released for those that have entitled water, but have not built yet. Staff replied that there are none at this time.
- The Commission requested further discussion at the next meeting regarding Will Serve Letters.

Staff will report back with more details of the evaluation the water supply fee. We have a reliable supply with Metropolitan, we have not set up demand factors for single and multifamily homes. There are many elements to be considered when re-evaluating on an annual basis.

The Commission further discussed new construction and the two-meter plan.

#### 9. Cabrillo Reservoir Non-Potable Water Distribution System Project

This project was requested when we were in the drought and we had regulations that we could not water the medians with potable water. We were asked to look at how we could make beneficial use of groundwater at Cabrillo. The presentation is an evaluation of how to use that water. Project Manager Derek Nguyen presented background on the reservoir and the water. He was joined by John Nagel, Vice President at Michael Baker International, Richard Slade, Hydrogeologist from Richard Slade and Associates and Pei-Shin Wu, Engineer from Carollo.

The structural evaluation, recommendations and costs were presented. A summary of the conveyance options were presented as well as evaluation of the alternative pipeline alignments to determine the most cost effective solution.

Chair Wolfe left the meeting at 12:00 p.m.

#### Commissioner comments:

- The Commission asked about the comparable costs of conveying the water vs trucking it and/or recharging the groundwater to water the medians.
- The Commission inquired if it would be advisable to add a backup reservoir.

The Commission decided the proposed PDR was not feasible and asked how else to use a new reservoir and in addition, asked when would the replanting of the medians occur.

### **PROJECT UPDATES & STATUS ITEMS**

#### 10. Water Conservation Update

- Information only. No discussion.

#### 11. Specific Information and Department Update

This report transmits answers to questions that have been raised at previous Public Works Commission meetings, information regarding upcoming items for the City Council meeting, an update on the Department's Master Plans, an update on the collection of water capacity fees and water supply fees, and a financial statement for the Water Enterprise Fund for fiscal year 2016-17.

**COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE COMMISSION**

12. Chair's Report

- o Comments from the Commissioners
  - o Request for the long term plan for the watering/maintenance of the median.
  - o Would like a report on the maintenance schedule of the parking structures.
- o Ad Hoc Subcommittee Updates
  - o No discussion.

**COMMUNICATIONS FROM STAFF**

13. Report from Director

- o Innovations Day was a success for employee training on Columbus Day.
- o Will present updated Resolution #1 protocol for the Public Works Commission at the November Meeting to review.
- o Upcoming Events – Great ShakeOut – October 19.
- o Meeting Dates

**ADJOURNMENT**

Date / Time

October 12, 2017 / 12:20 p.m.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 9<sup>TH</sup> DAY of NOVEMBER, 2017

  
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Jeff Wolfe, Chair