



CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS

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

**PUBLIC WORKS COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

June 8, 2017
8:00 a.m.

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Date/Time: June 8, 2017 / 8:04 am

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

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

Commissioners Absent: None

Staff Present: Vincent Chee, Mark Cuneo, Vince Damasse, Shana Epstein, Ilene Knebel, Erick Lee, Chad Lynn, 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 amended.

CONSENT CALENDAR

1. Consideration of the Minutes of the regular meeting of May 11, 2017.

Motion: MOVED by Commissioner Aronberg, SECONDED by Commissioner Pressman to approve the minutes as presented (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
 - Dr. Wunderlich was unable to attend.

- **LADWP Representative**

Representatives in attendance from LADWP included Assistant Director of Water Distribution Jeff Bray, Manager of Infrastructure and Resiliency, Alvin Bautista and District Engineer for the Beverly Hills area, Jesus Gonzalez. They provided a follow-up on the information provided in the February 2017 Public Works Commission Meeting, results of the pipe inspection and the next steps. Kudos was expressed for the City of Beverly Hills Fire and Public Works Departments for their support and expertise in the operation.

A summary of the findings was reviewed. The inspection was performed from March to April 2017 on the 68 inch pipe that runs from Franklin Canyon to the City of Los Angeles Boundary. There is over three miles of pipe that LADWP owns and maintains within the City of Beverly Hills. The pipe was installed in 1914 and in the 1980's it was cement lined to help lessen the corrosion and help with the structural integrity. This was a challenging inspection due to the wet weather and having to shut down the pipe to perform the inspection. The inspection was both physical – going inside the pipe – and a series of laboratory tests to get a better understanding of possible corrosion that might be occurring. The results were that the pipeline is in good condition and there were no leaks identified. They expressed their confidence with the structural integrity of the pipe. Next steps include continuing to monitor the pipe, start to develop the schedule and scope of work if necessary to replace the pipe, and continue discussions about the emergency management plan if a response becomes necessary.

- A sample part of pipe (from another location) was on display and a video was shown to show what the actual pipe looks like at this time.
- In the next 10 years, LADWP will begin planning for the replacement of the pipes.
- There is a leak detection pilot project system being tested. It was suggested to use it on the 68" pipe.
- This is the first inspection since the 1980's. The cement lining can extend the life of the pipe an additional 50 – 60 years.
- The pipes are located underneath yards and streets.

Commissioner comments:

- Quarterly meetings (including Commissioners) were suggested to discuss relevant topics.
- A brief explanation of the water pipe break in Westwood was given.

CONTINUED BUSINESS

2. Capital Improvement & Major Projects

City Engineer Mark Cuneo presented an update on Capital Improvement Projects. He reviewed the projects outlined on the packet including the Maple Wells, Cabrillo Reservoir Project, La Brea Subarea – Central Basin Development, RO Water Treatment Plant Rehabilitation, Pump Station No. 8 Rehabilitation, North Santa Monica Boulevard Reconstruction, Purple Line Subway Extension – Metro, Citywide Street Resurfacing, Sidewalk Maintenance Inventory and Traffic Signal Modification and Curb Ramp Replacement – W. Olympic Blvd. /Beverwil Drive/Beverly Drive..

Commissioner comments:

- There was concern about the work around Santa Monica Boulevard and what pipes are being installed. Mr. Cuneo relayed the water mains along Santa Monica

Boulevard are in Beverly Gardens Park. They are working with park designers to make sure all are installed or remain where they should be. This includes storm drains and reclaimed water pipes. In addition, new conduit crossings for the fiber to premise project for Information Technology and a complete assessment of all utilities in the area has been done.

- Mr. Cuneo confirmed that we have significant infrastructure in our security system at the water pumping facilities.
- Commissioners were concerned about the charges to the water enterprise fund for sidewalk repair. Staff explained because utilities impact the streets and sidewalks, i.e. meter boxes, there is a charge to the water enterprise fund for the sidewalk work. This is considered the fair share we pay for the upkeep of the sidewalks. Commissioners disagreed with the charge and expressed it should be charged to the CIP, because it is a CIP project.
- Mr. Cuneo explained we are continuing to work with Metro and keep communication fluid. We control the permits that are issued and can minimize impacts to the community. We work with all interested parties to find an acceptable solution to get the significant work done.
- The report indicated that the RO Treatment Plant Project was being closed out but the plant is not operating due to water quality issues. All items in the scope of the current contract have been completed and we must release retention in a timely manner.

3. Community Choice Aggregation

Senior Management Analyst Caitlin Sims provided a brief update on the program. Staff recommends continuing to monitor the initial roll out before making any determination if the City of Beverly Hills desires to be an initial participant.

4. Local Water Production Update

Water Resources Manager Vince Damasse presented a summary of the local groundwater, the recent testing and the next steps. Fine sand is still passing through and iron sulfide is still present. Staff recommends pilot/bench scale testing to identify/test potential solutions (pre-treatment) in addition to a long-term solution of well rehabilitation and operational improvements.

Subcommittee comments:

- Staff conveyed sanding and mineral issues clearly and identified the need for pre-treatment.
- Staff has recommended moving forward with Carollo Engineering Report
- Staff has recommended moving forward with testing in Attachment C.
- Public Works Commission should review the 10 year Master Plan.

Public Comment: Joshua Greer

Discussion highlights:

- Concern about deferred maintenance of the wells. The Commission has requested future clarification on this topic.

- Staff described the scope of the Carollo contract; to develop the test plan, validate the lab results and implement solutions. Within the next six months there should be more answers/data.
- Commissioners are concerned with what it is going to cost to implement the corrections. They have requested the cost before the testing occurs. Staff is developing the planning level cost estimate but will validate this cost estimate once the pilot/bench scale testing is completed.
- Staff is aware of possible consequences with changing the pH level in the well and will report back if there is further evaluation needed.
- The current estimate is \$150,000 to complete the analysis in order to determine what treatment technologies and systems are going to be required.
- The Commission inquired about the costs for pre-treatment.
- Staff explained there is no flaw in the groundwater basin. What is being seen is formational and present in the other local areas and is due to a combination of the drought and the recovery of the static water levels and encountering parts of the aquifer that have been dormant for years.
- Well rehabilitation may not solve all of the issues. Regular maintenance is necessary.
- Comments by Richard Slade, President and Principal Groundwater Geologist.
- There are places within the City and within the La Brea Subarea that additional groundwater resources could be developed.
- Budgets are a tool for long term planning to make sure we have the revenue in place. It is necessary to identify costs annually. A five-year CIP plan has been prepared.
- Costs for rehabilitating the wells were reviewed.
- Other items in the Staff Report were clarified.
- Minimum amount of water that are recommended to flow through the plant were discussed.
- According to Staff, additional wells are needed to meet the needs of the WEP.
- Staff will keep the Commission informed on the testing process and results as they become available.
- Staff's goal is to return with answers to the Commission about how to solve the issue and present planning level estimates of what it will cost. Chair has requested monthly updates to determine what will be required.

The Commission took a break at 9:37 a.m.

The Commission reconvened at 9:47 a.m.

NEW BUSINESS

5. La Brea Subarea Wells, Water Treatment, and Transmission Main Project Preliminary Design Report

Project Manager Vincent Chee was joined by Michael Baker International (MBI) Project Manager Cindy Miller, President and Principal Groundwater Geologist Richard Slade, Consultant Technical Advisor Mike Rudinica and Project Engineer Tori Yokoyama.

The 2015 Water Enterprise Plan recommended the City drill additional water wells in the Central Basin to bring additional water to the city. In April 2016, the City entered into a contract agreement with Michael Baker International to develop the PDR) Preliminary Design Report). In the past ten months MBI completed all the field work and collected all

the water quality data and completed the PDR. They are presenting their findings and recommendations. The presentation is a brief overview of what is contained in the PDR. The estimate is preliminary and for planning purposes only.

The ultimate project goal is to develop a 1700 acre feet per year (1.5 million gallons a day) of new potable water supply in the La Brea Subarea of the Central Groundwater Basin (located 1-2 miles south of the city boundary near I-10/La Cienega Blvd.)

Environmental site assessments were done at the Sand Pit and Coffee Bean locations and coordinated with the Division of Drinking Water (DDW). It was concluded that, pending DDW approval, they are potential locations for production wells.

The La Cienega Transmission Main Water Line was also investigated. It was previously used to convey water from the Sand Pit location to the water treatment plant at La Cienega Park. A remote camera was used to inspect the pipe and it was concluded that a portion of the pipe is suitable for rehabilitation.

There have been many interactions with the Division of Drinking Water (DDW) with regard to the projects. This coordination will continue. There has also been ongoing correspondence and meetings discussing project partnering with LADWP. There is currently no final decision on partnering so the City of Beverly Hills will proceed with an independent project.

The recommendations for the La Brea Project are:

- Construct three new groundwater wells;
- Treat the raw groundwater by expanding the existing Foothill WTP;
- Convey groundwater to the Water Treatment Plant.

Key decision points and pros and cons of the recommended project were reviewed.

The projected total design and construction cost is \$50 million. The estimates for Operation and Maintenance Costs are \$300,000 per year starting in FY 19/20 and \$1.25 million per year starting in FY 23/24.

Public Comment: Joshua Greer

Commissioner Comments:

- Commission inquired about similar concerns in the La Brea Subarea Basin as are in the Hollywood Basin.
- Commissioners asked if there will be an issue with sanding.
- The drilling will take place in the unadjudicated part of the basin. How does the City acquire the water rights?
- Water rights are very valuable to the City; The City does not have adjudicated water rights.
- We are in a better position if there was to be an adjudication but we would not be perfecting any water rights.
- Concerns with the estimates – Are they conservative – Could it cost less?
- The City should consider acquisition of adjacent properties.
- Little vacant land to acquire in the area
- Can drilling be expanded beyond Central Basin?
- The PDR is a Class 4 estimate – that is the range as defined as the level of engineering that was completed to prepare the report.

- As design work is done, the range will be tightened up.
- Net production rate of a 500-700 gpm for each well, will produce 1700 acre feet of potable water production per year.
- Utilization is 75%.
- DWP – Is there a likelihood of a water exchange? – Beverly Hills has a small volume of water. DWP has not said no - so Beverly Hills will continue to pursue.
- It was expected to have an alternate DWP Project to present, but that is not the case.
- Discussed conversations with DWP and possibility of a water exchange.
- From an engineering standpoint, the project is workable and worthwhile
- People are looking trying to develop alternative water supplies to get independence and reliability, considering recycling, repurification, and recovering old groundwater basins.

Motion: MOVED by Commissioner Pressman, SECONDED by Commissioner Aronberg to accept the Staff recommendation of the Preliminary Design Report should the Commission decide to move forward, this alternative will be the preferred approach (5-0).

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

NOES: None

CARRIED

The Commission also expressed that they are accepting the recommendation but will not move forward unless the capability of treating the water at the present Foothill site is demonstrated.

6. Water Rates and Wastewater Rates Development Update

- Item tabled until July Public Works Commission Meeting

PROJECT UPDATES & STATUS ITEMS

7. Water Conservation Update

- No discussion.

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.

- No discussion.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE COMMISSION

9. Chair's Report

- Comments from the Commissioners
 - Commissioners commented on Commissioner Pressman's accomplishments during his 2011 – 2017 tenure on the Public Works Commission.

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- Ad Hoc Subcommittee Updates
 - No discussion.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM STAFF

10. Report from Director (Taken out of Order)
- Introduction of Acting City Engineer Tony Antich
 - Use of City Issued Email Address
 - Upcoming Events
 - Event list is in packet.
 - Meeting Dates

ADJOURNMENT

Date / Time: June 8, 2017 / 11:40 a.m.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 24TH DAY of JULY, 2017



Jeff Wolfe, Chair