



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

In-Person / Telephonic / Video Conference Meeting

PUBLIC WORKS COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING

MINUTES

April 13, 2023
8:00 AM

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Date/Time: April 13, 2023 / 8:00 AM

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

Commissioners Present: Commissioners Nehoray, Millan, Greer, Vice Chair Alpert, Chair Nystrom

Commissioners Absent: None

Staff Present: Vince Damasse, Josette Descalzo, Samer Elayyan, Daren Grilley, Michael Hensley, Ilene Knebel, Tristan Malabanan, Rob Welch

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE AUDIENCE

Members of the public may address the Commission regarding any items 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.

Public Speaker: Public comment was heard from Wendy Klenk and Nadia Mansour.
Public Comment: Public comment was read into the record from AGirlsWorld (Robertson Blvd Special Task Force), Darian Bojeaux, Sapphire Dance, Alexandria Gianakos, Tiffany Paige, and Lee Pasternak, Jesse Sanford, Randy Simon, Save the Trees Robertson Blvd, and Greystar Tenants (Robertson Blvd Special Task Force).

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion: MOVED by Vice Chair Alpert, SECONDED by Commissioner Greer to amend the Agenda as requested by staff (5/0).

AYES: Commissioners Nehoray, Millan, Greer, Vice Chair Alpert, Chair Nystrom

NOES: None.

CARRIED

CONSENT CALENDAR

1. Consideration of Minutes

Consideration of Minutes of the Public Works Commission special meeting of March 3, 2023.

Motion: MOVED by Vice Chair Alpert, SECONDED by Commissioner Nehoray to approve the Consent Calendar item as presented (5/0).

AYES: Commissioners Nehoray, Millan, Greer, Vice Chair Alpert, Chair Nystrom

NOES: None.

CARRIED

REPORTS FROM PRIORITY AGENCIES

Operations Reports from City Departments, Consultants and Outside Agencies

MWD Director Dr. Barry Pressman reviewed updates on water levels, including an announcement from the federal government about the opinions they are weighing over for balancing water supplies between the states from Lake Mead and Lake Powell. The commission asked about the winter storms' effect on water levels and possible water allocation reductions from the Colorado River.

CONTINUED BUSINESS

2. City Council Priorities Update

Deputy Director of Public Works/Operations Michael Hensley provided an update on priorities from the City Council for the current fiscal year. The parking structures façades and the Climate Action Plan are promised deliverables for the next fiscal year. The Commission re-emphasized the importance of priority #40, the Reservoir Restoration Project, and also noted priorities of Public Safety, Expanding the Water Portfolio, the Tiny Forest Demonstration Project and Communication.

Public Speaker: Public comment was heard from Wendy Klenk.

3. Amending the Ordinance of the City of Beverly Hills Relating to the Removal of Groundwater- Dewatering Ordinance

Environmental Compliance and Sustainability Programs Manager Josette Descalzo provided an update on the city's dewatering ordinance. Staff recommends amending the dewatering ordinance removing the R-1 (single family resident zone) exemption and to present the amended ordinance to City Council for approval. The Commission asked about the impact of using city trucks to remove groundwater from construction projects in residential areas and if the ordinance must specify where money for the removal and use of beneficial water is coming from.

Motion: MOVED by Vice Chair Alpert, SECONDED by Commissioner Nehoray to recommend the ordinance to be presented to City Council (5/0).

AYES: Commissioners Nehoray, Millan, Greer, Vice Chair Alpert, Chair Nystrom
NOES: None.

CARRIED

4. Proposed Ordinance Amending the Beverly Hills Municipal Code to Regulate Polystyrene Foodware and Plastic Waste

Environmental Compliance and Sustainability Programs Manager Josette Descalzo provided an update on the single-use plastic prohibition ordinance, including the average compliance cost increase per unit and the outreach plan to educate the community on the ordinance, which includes an early adopter program with incentives. The communication and messaging to the restaurants is important. Staff recommend moving forward with suggesting the ordinance to the City Council.

Motion: MOVED by Commissioner Nehoray, SECONDED by Vice Chair Alpert to approve recommending the ordinance to City Council (5/0).

AYES: Commissioners Nehoray, Millan, Greer, Vice Chair Alpert, Chair Nystrom
NOES: None.

CARRIED

5. Legislative Update

Senior Management Analyst Melissa Gomez provided an update on legislative matters that involve the city of Beverly Hills. She highlighted several bills, including one that would ban gas stoves. She provided an overview of funding for climate action and water infrastructure/quality from President Biden's proposed fiscal year budget, and a proposal from the EPA that would require water agencies to remove and monitor six PFAS substances from drinking water. The Commission asked about the state grant proposal for the La Cienega wells project.

NEW BUSINESS

6. Monthly Educational Speaker Series – Braid Theory (Presented after Tab 1)

Utilities General Manager Rob Welch introduced Ann Carpenter, CEO co-founder of Braid Theory. She gave a presentation on Braid Theory, an advisory firm that focuses on supporting science and engineering-based companies. The commission asked about how Braid Theory works with other agencies to integrate programs. Ann also invited the commission to attend the MWD Sustainability Expo on April 25 and the Ignite 22 Expo on May 4.

The commission took a break at 9:07 AM.

The commission returned from break at 9:20 AM.

7. Response to Governor Newsom Rescinding Portions of California's Drought Emergency

Utilities General Manager Rob Welch provided an update on the state's effort to address the ongoing drought, including state-wide regulatory water restrictions. Staff recommends maintaining the existing restrictions originally adopted by City Council in June 2022. The

Commission supported that recommendation and commented about the need to fill the vacancy for the Water Conservation Administrator position.

Motion: MOVED by Chair Nystrom, SECONDED by Vice Chair Alpert to approve recommending continuing the existing water restrictions to City Council (5/0).

AYES: Commissioners Nehoray, Millan, Greer, Vice Chair Alpert, Chair Nystrom

NOES: None.

CARRIED

PROJECT UPDATES & STATUS ITEMS

8. La Brea Subarea Update

Water Resources and Operations Manager Vince Damasse introduced Project Manager Tristan Malabanan, who provided an update on LCW-1 equipping. He also provided an update on the design process of LCW-2 and 3, including CEQA and outreach requirements. The Commission emphasized that the possible installation of these wells in Frank Fenton Park might be controversial. The Commission asked if potential sites were eliminated due to the future master plan of park improvements. Staff clarified that the sites would have to go through much discussion before being selected. The Commission asked about delays in lab sampling of water quality and suggested evaluating the lab being used.

9. Water Efficiency Update

Utilities General Manager Rob Welch was available for inquiries regarding the water efficiency update, including information that MWD Director Dr. Barry Pressman covered in his presentation. The commission emphasized the importance of minimizing water usage even though there has been recent heavy rainfall.

10. Capital Projects Update

Engineering Service Manager Samer Elayyan provided an update on the Coldwater Canyon water main replacement project. Traffic interruptions are being managed by staff. He also provided an update on the Burton Way median project. Planting on the median was delayed due to the rain impact and is now scheduled for the end of April.

Public Speaker: Public comment was heard from Wendy Klenk.

11. Specific Information and Department Updates

Regarding the Water Fund Report, provided by the Finance Department, the Commission commented on the operating expenses as opposed to the revenues from water sales and asked about miscellaneous revenue.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE COMMISSION

12. Chair's Report

Chair Nystrom asked residents to continue to conserve water.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM STAFF

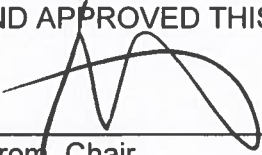
13. Director's Report

Assistant Public Works Director/City Engineer Daren Grilley provided an overview of the city's upcoming Earth Day event at the Farmer's Market on April 23 and the Arbor Day event on April 28. An explanation about the Repair Café at the Earth Day event was presented.

ADJOURNMENT

Date/Time: April 13, 2023 / 11:36 AM

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 11TH DAY of MAY, 2023



Wendy Nystrom, Chair

Link to April Public Works Commission Video:

https://beverlyhills.granicus.com/player/clip/9140?view_id=58&redirect=true&h=4d7d484575ab7f387c5dd383466ad8d5

Link to April Public Works Commission Meeting Transcript:

https://beverlyhills.granicus.com/TranscriptViewer.php?view_id=58&clip_id=9140