

REVISED



CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS

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

and

Teleconference Location:
Hotel Barrière Le Majestic
10 Bd de la Croisette, 06400
Cannes, France

In-Person / Telephonic / Video Conference Meeting

PUBLIC WORKS COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING

MINUTES

May 11, 2023
8:00 AM

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Date/Time: May 11, 2023 / 8:00 AM

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

Commissioners Present: Commissioners Nehoray (virtual), Millan, Greer, Vice Chair Alpert, Chair Nystrom

Commissioners Absent: None.

Staff Present: Vince Damasse, Josette Descalzo, Samer Elayyan, Shana Epstein, Ilene Knebel, Tristan Malabanan, Rob Welch

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE AUDIENCE

Public Speaker: None.

Public Comment: None.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

By order of the Chair, the agenda was approved as presented.

CONSENT CALENDAR

1. Consideration of Minutes

Consideration of Minutes of the Public Works Commission regular meeting of April 13, 2023.

Motion: MOVED by Commissioner Greer, SECONDED by Vice Chair Alpert to approve the Consent Calendar item as amended (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

None.

CONTINUED BUSINESS

2. Amending the Wastewater Ordinance of the City of Beverly Hills

Environmental Compliance and Sustainability Programs Manager Josette Descalzo gave an update on amending the wastewater ordinance. The suggested amendments would include expanding the definition of house connection sewer to include common terms lateral, sewer lateral, etc. Expanding the definition will provide a better understanding between private and City responsibility. The update also includes permit requirements for installation of liners and top hat on private lateral system, proper termination (capping) of sewer laterals, relocating sewer easements to provide sufficient access for maintenance work, and allowing certain groundwater discharges to sewer systems. Staff is recommending the commission approve the amendments to move forward to City Council for adoption. The commission asked about the definition of top hats (the plastic liner that is installed from the city sewer line to the private lateral), the limitations of pipe lining, city outreach to plumbers, and costs to homeowners for lining fees. The commission voiced concerns about the amendments possibly discouraging homeowners from installing pipe liners due to the proposed permitting costs. Instead of permitting liners, the commission recommended the ordinance to require property owners to submit a self-inspected report to the City for proper installation of liners. The discussion continued with questions about the number of incidents where a liner has blocked the sewer main. The commission is also requesting staff to clarify language relating to the industrial waste section and prohibited discharges.

NEW BUSINESS

3. Monthly Educational Speaker Series – Central Santa Monica Bay Watershed Coordinators

Environmental Compliance and Sustainability Programs Manager Josette Descalzo introduced Mikaela Randolph, watershed coordinator for the Safe Clean Water Program. She gave a presentation on the program, including how its funds are generated via taxes, how the funds are allocated, and how funded projects capture and hold stormwater to increase water resources and green landscaping. She provided examples of recently approved projects, including the Burton Way project. The commission thanked her for her presentation and asked about stormwater infiltration, being compliant with water quality standards, and public education options. The commission also asked if the program had a means to handle bacteria contamination in the bay.

The commission took a break at 9:30 AM

The commission returned from break at 9:37 AM

PROJECT UPDATES & STATUS ITEMS

4. La Brea Subarea Update

Utilities General Manager Rob Welch gave an update on the ribbon cutting for the start of operations for LCW-1 and said that the department is working with Community Services on proposed well locations. Water Resources Manager/Operations Vince Damasse met with Division of Drinking Water (DDW) regarding the sand pit site and presented the water quality samples. They agreed that additional sampling be performed and then be discussed with the regional board due to the sampling we are doing, gasoline related products, is not part of Title 22 (the drinking water standard). Sampling will commence once feedback is received from the DDW. Project Manager Tristan Malabanan provided an update on the sand pit. LCW-1's final parts have been installed and the Purchase Order will be closed out. Future well building sites have been discussed with Community Services staff. Construction site layout will be developed and reviewed. The commission asked about communications with Cal-Trans, having a backup or using alternative laboratories due to continuing issues with the lab located closest to the city, and concern over the potential well site at Fenton Field.

5. Quarterly Water Treatment Plant Update

Water Resources Manager/Operations Vince Damasse gave a presentation on the water treatment plant, explaining the treatment process, and presented raw water quality data for each well in the city and finished water quality (the water that goes from the treatment plant and to homes). So far, the water treatment plant has been successfully treating raw water. LCW-1's opening has led to the highest production rate in recent months for the water treatment plant. The plant is anticipating a planned shutdown for replacement and retrofitting of water feed equipment. The commission asked about resident demands for water in April, and how much water the well can produce. It was also noted that the city should move to using the La Brea basin and away from the Hollywood basin for water resources.

6. Water Efficiency Update

The commission asked about Lake Mead's water levels. Utilities General Manager Rob Welch explained it could take several years of repetitive winter 2023 rainfall levels to bring back Lake Mead to the water level it was at 20 years ago. The Commission expressed water conservation needs to continue even with the recent rainfall and discussed the percentage of allocation we receive. Vice Chair Alpert suggested a future presentation on the Oroville/tunnel project to familiarize the new commissioners with the project and emphasized the city should support efforts to maximize rainwater capture and storage.

7. Capital Projects Update

Engineering Services Manager Samer Elayyan provided an update on several projects, including the Coldwater Cañon Water Main replacement project and the Burton Way Median project. The Commission inquired about the water collection at Burton Way and funding at the La Brea Subarea and Transmission Main and suggested further itemization of the numbers for clarity.

8. Specific Information and Department Updates

Chair Nystrom asked when the CAAP plan would be brought back to the commission. Director Epstein said they are working with the City Council liaisons on how to best present it to the varying commissions.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE COMMISSION

9. Chair's Report

Vice Chair Alpert provided an update from the most recent cabinet meeting with Mayor Gold. Chair Nystrom inquired about why the prohibition of single use plastic and styrofoam ordinance is going back to public outreach. Director of Public Works Shana Epstein said it was recommended by the City Manager to increase public awareness to avoid complaints. There was also concern voiced about getting Liaison Meetings scheduled.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM STAFF

10. Director's Report

Director of Public Works Shana Epstein provided an update on both the Arbor Day event and the ribbon cutting for LCW-1 and thanked the commission for their support. Public Works Day will be held on May 21 with big trucks on display at the Beverly Hills Farmers' Market. Lastly, budget meetings are scheduled with the City Council in June. In addition, the Commission's input on the City Council Priorities was shared. The Council accepted and requested that all of the sustainability issues are merged into one priority and discussed together.

ADJOURNMENT

Date/Time: May 11, 2023 / 10:46 AM

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 10TH DAY of AUGUST, 2023



Wendy Nystrom, Chair

Link to May Public Works Commission Video:

https://beverlyhills.granicus.com/player/clip/9197?view_id=58&redirect=true&h=812c14974e1905b6f5039d4bd167a318

Link to May Public Works Commission Meeting Transcript:

https://beverlyhills.granicus.com/TranscriptViewer.php?view_id=58&clip_id=9197 (Not available)