



CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS

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

And

Teleconference Location:
Atlantis Hotel
Crescent Rd; The Palm Jumeirah
Dubai, United Arab Emirates

In-Person / Telephonic / Video Conference Meeting

PUBLIC WORKS COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING

MINUTES

July 13, 2023
8:00 AM

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

SWEARING IN OF NEW COMMISSIONER SUSAN KIMURA

ROLL CALL

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

Commissioners Absent: None.

Staff Present: Vince Damasse, Josette Descalzo, Samer Elayyan, Shana Epstein, Daren Grilley, Michael Hensley, Ilene Knebel, Tristan Malabanan, Lucy Quiralte, Robert 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 June 8, 2023.

Motion: MOVED by Vice Chair Alpert, SECONDED by Commissioner Millan to approve the Consent Calendar item as amended (4/0).

AYES: Commissioners Nehoray, Millan, Vice Chair Alpert, Chair Nystrom
NOES: None.
ABSTAIN: Commissioner Kimura

CARRIED

REPORTS FROM PRIORITY AGENCIES

Operations Reports from City Departments, Consultants and Outside Agencies

Environmental Compliance and Sustainability Programs Manager Josette Descalzo introduced Metropolitan Water District Sustainability and Resilience Manager Adrian Hightower. Mr. Hightower gave a presentation on the Climate Adaptation Master Plan (CAMP) for water, including the planned implementation process and public engagement strategies. The Commission asked about the challenge of implementing the plan in time before the effects of climate change, how the city of Beverly Hills will participate in the implementation process, and how population/tourism growth was included in the model for the plan.

CONTINUED BUSINESS

2. Sanitary Sewer Management Plan (SSMP) Update

Environmental Compliance and Sustainability Programs Manager Josette Descalzo gave a presentation updating the Sanitary Sewer Management Plan (SSMP). SSMP is a plan to prevent sanitary sewer overflows (SSOs) and properly maintain the sewer system. The plan was adopted in 2017 and is being updated in 2023 per Statewide General Waste Discharge Requirements (WDR) orders. The Commission asked about the specific causes of SSOs, the current cleaning schedule for problem hotspots (places with high amounts of roots, fats, or greases) in the city sewer system, and the Smart Cover Monitoring System used to track sewer levels and identify possible SSOs before they occur.

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

Environmental Compliance and Sustainability Programs Manager Josette Descalzo gave a presentation on amending the wastewater ordinance which reflected feedback provided by the Commission on May 11. Per Commission feedback, no permits will be required for lateral maintenance. CCTV video inspection will be required to be sent to the city after pipe lining within three business days, as will notifying the city for cleaning within one business day. Owner responsibility will terminate at the main sewer line. The Commission expressed concerns about the penalties listed in the ordinance for failing to notify the city of cleaning and pipe lining within the listed guidelines and discussed the benefits of installing Overflow Protection Devices (OPDs) on cleanup lines and an educational program for residents and contractors. Staff will return with revisions and redlines per current feedback.

The commission took a break at 9:36 am.

The commission returned from break at 9:49 am.

4. Consumer Confidence Report

Water Quality Specialist Jason Dyogi gave a presentation on the Water Quality Report, which is made available to all residents by July 1 of each year. No water quality citations were issued in the calendar year 2022, and all city-level and federal standards for water quality were met or exceeded. One citation was written in January 2023 due to a contract laboratory failing to

analyze the City's collected Quarterly Disinfection By-Product sample and failing to notify the City of the issue. Additional standard operating procedures for both City sampling staff and contract laboratory receiving staff have been added to correct the issue. The Commission asked about the analytical process for testing water samples, testing for per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) that are resistant to grease, oil, water, and heat, and how the analysis process changed when the city started using its own groundwater for drinking water in addition to water supplied by the Metropolitan Water District (MWD).

NEW BUSINESS

5. Fiscal Year 2023/24 Public Works Operating and Capital Improvement Program Budget Update

Deputy Director of Public Works Michael Hensley and Public Works Manager Lucy Quiralte provided a presentation on the budget adopted by City Council that took effect on July 1. The Public Works operating budget for FY 2023-2024 is \$135 million with budget enhancements that include new positions throughout the department. The total Capital Improvement Project (CIP) budget for FY 2023-2024 is \$92.4 million, up from \$75 million the previous fiscal year. The Commission asked about scheduling a meeting to discuss how enterprise funds are set and managed, about the discretionary status of street and sidewalk maintenance/upgrades, the vacancy rate of Public Works positions, and placing the Chief Sustainability Manager's position inside of Public Works and not in the City Manager's division per original recommendation from the Climate Adaptation Action Committee (CAAC).

PROJECT UPDATES & STATUS ITEMS

6. La Brea Subarea Update

Water Resources and Operations Manager Vince Damasse and Project Manager Tristan Malabanan provided an update on the La Brea Subarea. The sand pit potential well site had an on-site visit in late June by the Division of Drinking Water (DDW). DDW provided feedback on water quality, location limits, and site security. Staff requested a conditional approval letter from DDW and will approach Caltrans and the commercial business owner next to the site with a plan for construction. The consultant team have moved forward with LCW-2 and LCW-3 and are preparing reports for Class 32 exemption. The Commission asked about the decision-making process on building a well at the sand pit and any complications from the active gas station located next door to the site. The Commission explained that there are positive aspects to the sand pit site as it is already owned by the City and is in the preferred location within the basin.

7. Water Efficiency Update

Utilities General Manager Rob Welch noted that with the budget approval, the Water Conservation Specialist position will be filled as soon as possible and that residents should be encouraged to continue water conservation tactics. The Commission asked about water usage numbers and how to educate residents on watering restrictions and watering violations.

8. Capital Projects Update

Project Manager Samer Elayyan provided an update on current capital projects. The Coldwater Cañon (Canyon) water main line replacement project is slightly ahead of schedule and on budget with estimated completion of March 2024. About half of the Robertson sidewalk replacement project is currently on hold regarding litigation involving the replacement of trees. The Commission asked about what work is being done around the limits set by the litigation.

9. Specific Information and Department Updates

Public Works Director Shana Epstein announced that staff hopes to take the Climate Action and Adaptation Plan (CAAP) to City Council in August for their feedback before returning it to the commissions. There is no scheduled date to bring Prop 218 to the council for their feedback. The Commission suggested a modification to the City Council Tracking format to highlight items with tentative presentation dates.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE COMMISSION

10. Chair's Report

The Chair provided an update on the Mayor's Cabinet meeting held on June 20, 2023. The Commission asked about a steady water discharge located at the Sunset Reservoir and the actual cost to produce water at the water treatment plan.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM STAFF

11. Director's Report

Public Works Director Shana Epstein confirmed that a quorum will be available for the August meeting. Renovations at the Public Works building are currently underway, and the Commission will be invited to tour after Phase 2 of construction is completed.

ADJOURNMENT

Date/Time: July 13, 2023 / 11:06 AM

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 10TH DAY of AUGUST, 2023



Wendy Nystrom, Chair

Link to July Public Works Commission Video:

https://beverlyhills.granicus.com/player/clip/9277?view_id=58&redirect=true&h=e44180d67efaf4a342a9fdac8c02d993

Link to July Public Works Commission Meeting Transcript:

https://beverlyhills.granicus.com/TranscriptViewer.php?view_id=58&clip_id=9277