



**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**

September 14, 2023  
8:00 AM

#### **MEETING CALLED TO ORDER**

Date/Time: September 14, 2023 / 8:02 AM

#### **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

#### **ROLL CALL**

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

Commissioners Absent: None.

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

#### **COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE AUDIENCE**

Public Speaker: Public comment was heard from David Gingold.

#### **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 May 11, 2023.

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

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

NOES: None.

CARRIED

## **2. Consideration of Minutes**

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

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

AYES: Commissioners Kimura, Nehoray, Millan, 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 gave an update on operations at the Metropolitan Water District, including sales and revenues. Sales are down due to the heavy rains of recent months. Limits are being set for indoor and outdoor water use throughout the state making local resources very important. He also spoke about a gap analysis of water use, prepared years ago, and how data needs to be used to determine how we are going to fill the gap. The Commission asked about the impact of a possible wet winter on water sales.

Environmental Compliance and Programs Manager Josette Descalzo introduced filmmaker-chef – Co-Founder & CEO Common Table Creative Oliver English, who gave a presentation on his work promoting organic local farms and how he uses film production to spread the message about eco-friendly community farming. The Commission thanked him for his presentation and asked about ways to incentivize the community into taking up local farming.

## **CONTINUED BUSINESS**

### **3. Sanitary Sewer Management Plan (SSMP) Update**

Environmental Compliance and Sustainability Program Manager Josette Descalzo gave an update on the latest form of the SSMP, which is required by the State Water Resources Control Board in order to keep sewers clean and prevent backups and overflows. Staff recommends that the Commission recommend the 2023 edition of the plan for City Council consideration. The Commission asked about the various aspects of the plan, including emergency situations, private lateral cleaning, and the budget.

Motion: MOVED by Commissioner Millan, SECONDED by Commissioner Nehoray to recommend the 2023 SSMP for City Council consideration (5/0).

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

CARRIED

*The commission took a break at 9:42 am.*

*The commission returned from break at 9:52 am.*

### **4. Performance Measures Fiscal Year 2022/23 Year-End Update**

Deputy Director Michael Hensley gave a presentation on the 2022–2023-year end performance measures for the Public Works Department. The Commission asked about the trash diversion rate, traffic collisions involving city vehicles, the number of sanitary sewer overflows, and how the numbers reflect the work done by the department.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **5. Dewatering Ordinance Update**

Environmental Compliance and Sustainability Programs Manager gave a presentation on the updated dewatering ordinance, which focuses on removing groundwater for beneficial use. Staff is considering updating the ordinance by requiring beneficial use for new and substantially remodeled properties (focusing on irrigation systems only) and keeping the replenishment fee to drive beneficial use system analyses. The Commission asked about using discharge water, using dewatering to offset irrigation, and how the replenishment fee is calculated. The amended ordinance will be brought to the City Council Liaisons for further discussion prior to taking it to City Council for consideration.

### **6. Lead and Copper Rule Revisions (LCRR) Overview**

Water Resources and Operations Manager Vince Damasse gave an update on revisions made to the Lead and Copper Rule by the EPA and DDW. The update changes the definition of customer service lines, and the city is to comply by taking samples and surveying the city's water supply before the deadline of October 16, 2024. Staff has prepared an LSL (lead service lines) identification action plan to identify and determine how best to deal with lead lines. The Commission asked about the availability of the information on LSLs to the public, whether City water meters contain lead, responsibility for replacing lead pipes on private properties, and how residents can find accredited methods of testing their own water supply in addition to the sampling done by the city.

## **PROJECT UPDATES & STATUS ITEMS**

### **7. La Brea Subarea Update**

Water Resources and Operations Manager Vince Damasse gave an update on the La Brea subarea. The sand pit site is still waiting on the DDW conditional level of approval to begin turning the site into a well. The landowner is considering turning the site into a car wash, which may complicate well construction plans. The Commission asked about acquiring additional property and about future possible steps.

### **8. Quarterly Water Treatment Plant Update (April – June 2023)**

Water Resources and Operations Manager Vince Damasse gave an update on the water quality of the wells that supply the city's water treatment plant, as well as the quality of the water being pumped out of the plant. He also gave an update on the completed chemical feed system retrofit. The Commission asked about the plant operating schedule.

### **9. Water Efficiency Update**

The Commission asked about nonfunctional turf in the city.

### **10. Capital Projects Update**

Engineering Services Manager Samer Elayyan introduced Project Manager Christine Chung, who gave an update on the Purple Line Metro extension project. The Wilshire/La Cienega station is expected to open in late 2024, and the Wilshire/Rodeo station is expected to open in 2025. The Commission asked about steps that need to be taken by the City to be prepared for the station openings.

#### **11. Specific Information and Department Updates**

Utilities General Manager Robert Welch noted that members of the Climate Action Adaptation Committee (CAC) will be recognized for their work by the City Council at the formal session on Tuesday, September 19.

#### **COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE COMMISSION**

#### **12. Chair's Report**

Chair Nystrom asked the community to continue conserving water as best they can.

#### **COMMUNICATIONS FROM STAFF**

#### **13. Director's Report**

Utilities General Manager Robert Welch noted that the city will be holding the NextNight street festival on September 23, a hazardous waste roundup on September 30, and a shredding event on October 15. The Urban Forest bureau will be releasing beneficial insects to deal with pests instead of using pesticides. The Commission asked for an update on the Robertson sidewalk project.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Date/Time: September 14, 2023 / 12:10 PM

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 12TH DAY of OCTOBER 2023

  
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Wendy Nystrom, Chair

Link to September Public Works Commission Video:

[https://beverlyhills.granicus.com/player/clip/9349?view\\_id=58&redirect=true&h=298e09d7bd02ba674ffc7778f5f66f91](https://beverlyhills.granicus.com/player/clip/9349?view_id=58&redirect=true&h=298e09d7bd02ba674ffc7778f5f66f91)

Link to September Public Works Commission Transcript:

[https://beverlyhills.granicus.com/TranscriptViewer.php?view\\_id=58&clip\\_id=9349](https://beverlyhills.granicus.com/TranscriptViewer.php?view_id=58&clip_id=9349)