



**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**

October 12, 2023  
8:00 AM

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

Date/Time: October 12, 2023 / 8:00 AM

#### **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

#### **ROLL CALL**

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

Commissioners Absent: None.

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

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

Public Speaker: 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 September 14, 2023.

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

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

NOES: None.

CARRIED

## REPORTS FROM PRIORITY AGENCIES

### Operations Reports from City Departments, Consultants and Outside Agencies

Utilities General Manager Rob Welch gave an update on the Metropolitan Water District (MWD). On September 29, 2023, MWD announced that Diamond Valley Lake will be renamed in honor of Senator Dianne Feinstein following her passing. MWD will be hosting a dedication ceremony of the Grace F. Napolitano Pure Water Southern California Innovation Center on November 2, 2023, in Carson.

Utilities General Manager Rob Welch introduced Richard Werner, expert almond grower, as a guest speaker. He gave a presentation on biodiversity in plant life and preventing desertification. Methods to prevent desertification include increasing the rotation in crops, growing trees as wind shields, and introducing clay and mycorrhizal fungi into desert soils. He also discussed potable water and methods to create drinking water from the sea or air, which include condensation devices, forward osmosis, and fog nets. In addition, he discussed tree grafting and gene enhancement for crop bearing plants and trees to increase harvests while reducing water demand. The Commission thanked him for his presentation and asked which methods presented the City of Beverly Hills could replicate at home, if desalination changes the required size of plants, and the biodiversity of almonds.

## CONTINUED BUSINESS

### 2. Organics Program Update

Solid Waste Manager James Burnley gave an update on the city's organics collection program. Out of 684 required businesses, 395 qualified for waivers from the organics collection program as they do not produce enough organics. There are currently 62 non-compliant businesses in the city. There are also 163 non-compliant multi-family properties in the city. Non-compliant notices will be sent out starting in October 2023. Starting in January 2024, non-compliant locations will be subject to fines. The city's food recovery program is also continuing to operate smoothly. Tier 2 food generators (hospitals, schools, hotels, restaurants) will have to participate in food recovery programs starting in January 2024. The commission asked about the causes of non-compliant multi-unit residential buildings, which options can be taken to enforce the program, preventing foul odors and rodent infestations in the green organics bin, and how to prevent cross contamination from people misusing bins in shared alleyways.

### 3. Update on the Proposed Ordinance Amending the Beverly Hills Municipal Code to Regulate Polystyrene Foodware and Plastic Waste (*presented before Tab 2 per Director Epstein's request*)

Utilities General Manager Rob Welch provided an update on the proposed ordinance to regulate polystyrene foodware and plastic ware. A first draft of the ordinance was presented to the commission in April 2023. An ad hoc committee in August 2023 provided guidance on the current draft. The goal of the ordinance is to prohibit distribution and sale of single-use articles and expanded polystyrene, while allowing flexibility for any businesses experiencing undue hardships or items with no feasible alternative. Staff is asking for a recommendation to move forward to City Council. The commission objected to the exclusion of food trucks and street food vendors from the ordinance and asked for modification. Staff will modify and bring back the ordinance to the November Public Works Commission Meeting.

Public Speaker:

Public comment was heard from Shawn Saeedian.

*The commission took a break at 9:30 AM.  
The commission returned from break at 9:38 AM.*

## **NEW BUSINESS**

None.

## **PROJECT UPDATES & STATUS ITEMS**

### **4. La Brea Subarea Update**

Water Resources and Operations Manager Vince Damasse and Project Manager Tristan Malabanan gave an update on the sand pit site and the La Cienega wells. The search is continuing for another location on La Cienega for well sites. One large site in a less residential area has been identified. The Commission asked about the zoning limitations in relation to one proposed site where a car wash is currently located.

### **5. Water Efficiency Update**

Utilities General Manager Rob Welch gave an update on MWD's planned maintenance on the Santa Monica feeder from November 6 – November 8, 2023, which will cause a temporary shutdown of the feeder providing water to Beverly Hills. Staff is working with MWD and LADWP to minimize service disruption for residents and communicate with residents on any outdoor water restrictions during that time period. He also provided an update on state level legislation aimed at increasing water conservation, including the Urban Water Use Objective, a drafted regulated water budget that is the sum of efficiency budgets for a subset of urban water uses and must be met by January 1, 2025. Compliance would be based on water use objective and water loss standards. The Commission asked about how it would impact water conservation in the city and the possibility of being forced to budget the residents' water usage. Staff is writing a letter to provide feedback to the State Water Board and will share with the Commission so they can add their comments as well.

### **6. Capital Projects Update**

Engineering Services Manager Samer Elayyan gave an update on multiple projects in the city, including the Coldwater Cañon water main replacements. The Commission asked for an update on finalizing the Burton Way project and about the reservoir bids.

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

Public Works Director Shana Epstein announced that the Water and Wastewater Rate item has been moved to the City Council Study Session on November 7, 2023. If approved, notice hearings would likely be scheduled in February 2024. The SSMP has been moved from "Continued" to "New business" on the City Council Agenda for their meeting on October 17, 2023. The Commission asked if the city could further investigate protected bike lanes. Director Epstein informed the Commission that the City Council has approved protected bike lanes on Beverly Boulevard, and that a modified version of the Roxbury Park bike lane will be presented to the City Council at a future date.

## **COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE COMMISSION**

### **8. Chair's Report**

Chair Nystrom asked staff to investigate further ways to enforce code compliance with recyclables, water usage, and other issues. She also asked for increased outreach to the community on changing ordinances.

## COMMUNICATIONS FROM STAFF

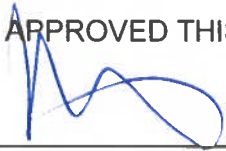
### 9. Director's Report

Public Works Director Shana Epstein gave an update on upcoming events. The city's composting event will be held on October 15, 2023, and the art show will be held October 21 – 22, 2023. The Commission asked about compost distribution requirements.

## ADJOURNMENT

Date/Time: October 12, 2023 / 11:13 AM

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 9TH DAY of NOVEMBER 2023



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Wendy Nystrom, Chair

Link to October Public Works Commission Video:

[https://beverlyhills.granicus.com/player/clip/9405?view\\_id=58&redirect=true&h=bdde34dacb6af9500dfcc9f39dc591fc](https://beverlyhills.granicus.com/player/clip/9405?view_id=58&redirect=true&h=bdde34dacb6af9500dfcc9f39dc591fc)

Link to October Public Works Commission Transcript:

[https://beverlyhills.granicus.com/TranscriptViewer.php?view\\_id=58&clip\\_id=9405](https://beverlyhills.granicus.com/TranscriptViewer.php?view_id=58&clip_id=9405)