



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

November 9, 2023
8:00 AM

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Date/Time: November 9, 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: Vince Damasse, Josette Descalzo, 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 October 12, 2023.

Motion: MOVED by Commissioner Millan, SECONDED by Commissioner Nehoray 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

Utilities General Manager Rob Welch introduced MWD's Colorado River Manager Bill Hasencamp, who gave an update on the current status of the Colorado River (including background history on the usage of the river) and its problems in the future in supplying water to the basin states (Arizona, California, Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah, and Wyoming) as climate change reduces the amount of water available from the river. The Commission asked about the Biden administration's proposal for the river, evaporation issues, and desalination plans.

Environmental Compliance and Sustainability Program Manager Josette Descalzo introduced guest speaker Keith Malone, Hydrogen Program Manager at RE+ Events, a company dedicated to hosting events focusing on clean, renewable energy across the world. He gave a presentation on hydrogen energy advancements in technology, including EV cars, retail hydrogen pump stations, zero emission transit buses, and fuel cell electric trucks, among others. The Commission asked about building hydrogen stations in Beverly Hills, the costs of fuel cell vehicles, the limitations of retrofitting homes and apartment buildings for hydrogen fueling, and how the fuel cell technology works.

CONTINUED BUSINESS

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

Environmental Compliance and Sustainability Program Manager Josette Descalzo provided an update on the updated proposed ordinance to amend the city's municipal code on regulating polystyrene foodware and plastic waste based on feedback provided by the commission from last month's meeting. The commission unanimously announced their support for the current version of the ordinance proposal.

Motion: MOVED by Commissioner Nehoray, SECONDED by Commissioner Millan to move forward with the current proposed ordinance and present it to City Council. (5/0).

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

NOES: None.

CARRIED

The commission took a break at 9:25 AM.

The commission returned from break at 9:35 AM.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

PROJECT UPDATES & STATUS ITEMS

3. La Brea Subarea Update

Water Resources and Operations Manager Vince Damasse and Project Manager Tristan Malabanan gave an update on the La Brea subarea. The Commission asked about the timeline on negotiating for potential new land to purchase for a well, rotational schedules for the city's wells, expanding the water treatment plant, feedback on the loss of parking space

at the Le Doux side of the park due to the future construction of two wells at Le Doux and Gregory, and potential next steps on probing at the new site.

4. Water Efficiency Update

Utilities General Manager Rob Welch gave an update on water efficiency. MWD's work on the lines that shut down the city's connections to MWD from November 6 – 8, is wrapping up. There were no issues with the work and the city did not need to bring in water from LADWP. The Commission asked about communications with the public concerning the shutdown and for an update on recruitment for the Water Conservation Administrator position.

5. Capital Projects Update

Engineering Services Manager Samer Elayyan gave an update on the RMS project. Bids have been received, and the plan is to present to City Council in December and proceed in December 2023/January 2024. The Commission asked about the delays on the Burton Way Median Project. Project Manager Tristan Malabanan said it was due to supply issues, and the subcontractor is encouraging their suppliers to deliver everything by late December 2023.

6. Specific Information and Department Updates

Public Works Director Shana Epstein gave an update on the Water Fund Financial Statement for the fiscal year 2022-2023. The Commission voiced concern with financials and asked when the last efficiency study was done regarding water and the budget. The Commission asked about the next discussion on water rates. Hearings at both the Public Works Commission Meeting and City Council Meeting will be noticed and expected to take place in February 2024.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE COMMISSION

7. Chair's Report

The commission gave a brief update on the Water ad hoc committee.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM STAFF

8. Director's Report

Public Works Director Shana Epstein gave an update on the Neighborhood Traffic Calming Plan, which was presented and approved by City Council on Tuesday, November 7. The North Canon sound mitigation wall will remain up for another six months due to Metro construction. The city's holiday lighting event will be held on Thursday, November 16. Parklets for outdoor dining will be going to City Council in December to extend the permits from 90 days to 5 years. The Commission asked if anything can be done with excessively loud vehicles on Rodeo Drive and children riding electric bikes at high speeds without helmets on Charleyville Blvd .

ADJOURNMENT

Date/Time: November 9, 2023 / 10:23 AM

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 14TH DAY of DECEMBER 2023



Wendy Nystrom, Chair

Link to November Public Works Commission Video:

https://beverlyhills.granicus.com/player/clip/9451?view_id=58&redirect=true&h=76a2dacb736fe1eb1276c4aae9079bc3

Link to November Public Works Commission Transcript

https://beverlyhills.granicus.com/TranscriptViewer.php?view_id=58&clip_id=9451