



**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**

February 8, 2024  
8:00 AM

**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER**

Date/Time: February 8, 2024 / 8:01 AM

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**ROLL CALL**

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

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 January 11, 2024.

Motion: MOVED by Vice Chair Nystrom, SECONDED by Commissioner Nehoray to approve the Consent Calendar item as presented (4/0).

AYES: Commissioners Ritterbush, Kimura, Nehoray, Vice Chair Nystrom, Chair Millan.

NOES: None.

CARRIED

## **REPORTS FROM PRIORITY AGENCIES**

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

Metropolitan Water District Director Dr. Barry Pressman gave an update on water and snowpack levels following the atmospheric rivers that swept through California in the previous week. He also invited the Commission on a tour of the Colorado River Aqueduct from April 19 to 20. The Commission asked about the state's water income statement being low due to the deficit of snowpack.

City Clerk Huma Ahmed gave a presentation on the upcoming election in March to fill two councilmember seats, including the various ways residents can vote. The Commission thanked her for her presentation.

Environmental Compliance & Sustainability Program Manager Josette Descalzo introduced Irvine Sloan, the co-founder and CEO of Navigating Grey. He gave a presentation on the company, which focuses on fostering communication in neighborhoods and cities on sustainability and increasing sustainable socio-economic impact. The Commission asked about the company's daily operation and what kind of data could be gained from users engaging in sustainability challenges through the company's app.

## **CONTINUED BUSINESS**

### **2. Water and Wastewater Rate Ordinances**

Public Works Director Shana Epstein gave a presentation on the proposed rate adjustments to the water and wastewater ordinances. She explained what the proposed rates would accomplish and how the changes would be reflected on customers' water and wastewater bills over the next five years for both single/multi-family and commercial customers. The Commission voted to recommend bringing the proposed rates to the City Council for their consideration.

Motion: MOVED by Commissioner Nehoray, SECONDED by Vice Chair Nystrom to recommend bringing the proposed water rate adjustments to the City Council for their approval (5/0).

AYES: Commissioners Ritterbush, Kimura, Nehoray, Vice Chair Nystrom, Chair Millan.

NOES: None.

### **CARRIED**

*The commission took a break at 9:18 AM.*

*The commission returned from break at 9:28 AM.*

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **3. 2022 Water Loss Audit Update**

Water Resources/Operations Manager Vince Damasse gave a presentation on the 2022 Water Loss Audit, which evaluates both real and apparent water losses in potable water systems so utilities can identify ways to save water/recover revenue. The Commission asked about preventative measures to prevent physical water loss, calculating the volume of water lost, and replacing meters to get more accurate results.

## PROJECT UPDATES AND STATUS ITEMS

### 4. La Brea Subarea Update

Water Resources/Operations Manager Vince Damasse and Project Manager Tristan Malabanan gave an update on the La Brea subarea. A contract has been awarded by the City Council to the lowest bidder for drilling of the wells. The Commission asked about a possible start date for drilling, and why there was only one bidder who applied in the bid process.

### 5. Water Efficiency Update

Utilities General Manager Rob Welch gave an update on the empty water conservationist position. Job specifications have been finalized and are under union review. Once approved, the job will be brought to the City Council for approval to advertise and fill. The Commission asked if the Burton Way median is operational to capture rainwater.

### 6. Capital Projects Update

Engineering Services Manager Samer Elayyan gave an update on several CIP projects either starting up or currently underway. The Commission asked about the installation of bollards on Rodeo Drive, the design process for the Cabrillo reservoir's RMS system, and what happens with water captured by tanks and pumped into bioswales.

### 7. Specific Information and Department Updates

Public Works Director Shana Epstein said the department is tracking well with finances.

## COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE COMMISSION

### 8. Chair's Report

Chair Millan said he would report back after the next Mayor's Cabinet meeting.

## COMMUNICATIONS FROM STAFF

### 9. Director's Report

Public Works Director Shana Epstein discussed upcoming events, including a City Council meeting for water and wastewater rates, the visit from Team Beverly Hills on March 15, Earth Day on April 28, and Public Works Day on May 19. Staff will bring the Plastic Waste Ordinance and the Dewatering Ordinance to the City Council in March 2024.

## ADJOURNMENT

Date/Time: February 8, 2024 / 10:06 AM

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 14TH DAY of MARCH, 2024

  
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John Millan, Chair