



info·bits

City of Torrance

spring/summer • 2015

Figuring Out the Drought

Part 2 – What Can We Do? A citizen's guide to water conservation.

(Second in a four part series on California's Drought)

In April, 2015, California's Governor Jerry Brown announced the first ever 25 percent statewide mandatory water reductions and an impressive agenda to address current drought issues and to prepare the state to be more drought resilient in the future. "The key is outside water," said Chuck Schaich, Senior Analyst, Torrance Public Works, "About 80 percent of the City's potable (drinking) water is imported from the Colorado River and Northern California and it is simply not there." The snowpack in the Sierra Nevada Mountains reached an all time low this past winter, less than 5 percent of the historical average. "We don't know what will happen next year, it is possible we may get the El Nino and have a wet year, but predicating future weather is fraught with uncertainty. For now, we are in formal rationing mode with both the State and our major wholesale supplier, the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD)".

Although penalties for overuse of water are not yet in the offing, the cost of water is going up as acquisition of augmented supplies and delivery become more difficult and expensive. "We won't assess penalties to our consumers unless the State or MWD levy additional costs to us," said Schaich, "And, if there are penalties, they won't come until 2016." While the City and its residents have already cut water use by about 25 percent over the last fifteen years, more cuts are needed to meet the Governor's recent mandate. In May, 2015, Torrance cut its water use by nearly 27 percent, due in part, to the City's largest single water consumer, the ExxonMobil Refinery being partially offline as it repaired damage from an accidental explosion on site earlier this year.



Lake Oroville, California – 2011 on the left, September 2014 on the right
Photo Sanfrancisco.cbslocal.com

In May, City Council approved Level 2 of the City's Conservation Ordinance water requirements which is designed to meet the Governor's potable water reduction mandate. Torrance residents seem to be on board with the public snapping up 500 rain barrels in a recent give-away program sponsored by Public Works. Classes on drought tolerant landscaping were jammed this spring and will be repeated in the fall. Also planned is a low-flow toilet distribution/exchange event.

City of Torrance - Level 2 Conservation Ordinance

- Up to 30 percent water use reduction
- No outside watering 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- Outdoor watering limited to two days a week for 10 minutes per area or irrigation station
- Fix all leaks within four days
- No watering 48 hours after rain event
- Certain restrictions on filling and refilling of pools, spas and ponds
- Provides for administrative rules to implement the ordinance

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City council approved the City budget for the next two year cycle, fiscal year 2015-17 on May 19, 2015. A special edition of Info-Bits summarizing the highlights of the budget will be published on the TEN, look for the posting notice.

2015 Annual Service Awards Barbeque

Red and white checkered tablecloths and cheerful sunflower centerpieces welcomed employees celebrating a multiple of five years of service for the City. The annual luncheon serves up a western style barbeque, along with door prizes, certificates of service presented by city council and the opportunity to have a little fun in the photo booth for the honorees.



Lucky Door Prize Winners



Chuck Schaich- 40 Years



Del Amo Fashion Center Renovation on Schedule

A major installation took place at Del Amo Fashion Center to help move the renovation plans along. Traffic was stopped and spectators came out early in the morning to check out the new air conditioning unit as it was brought in by helicopter. Workers were on site to make sure the unit was dropped into place safely. Other recent updates to the Del Amo Fashion Center include the announcement of new stores joining its retail lineup, including Zara and Steve Madden. The newly updated 2.3 million-square-foot Del Amo Fashion Center is scheduled to open in time for the holidays later this year.



CNG Station Opened in City Yard



On Thursday, April 16, 2015, the City cut the ribbon on the new Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) fueling station in the City Yard. The installation is a result of a public/private partnership between Clean Energy Fuels, a publicly held company with over 500 alternative fueling stations in the United States, South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) and the City. The five year contract specifies a sliding scale per gallon for the station that will exclusively serve Torrance Transit's CNG powered buses and Public Works' CNG trash trucks. There is another CNG fueling station open to the public on Madrona near the City Yard. Plans are underway to expand Torrance Transits' current fleet of 29 CNG buses by another 25.



City Council approves funding to upgrade on-board bike racks.

Torrance Transit analysts estimate that it will take 18 months to complete the refitting of larger capacity bike racks on the entire fleet. The new racks will carry up to three bicycles, one more than the old ones.

Transit Enhancement Program Takes a Seat!

100 new aluminum benches are replacing the old, blue fiberglass bus benches along the various Torrance bus routes. Del Amo Fashion Center's remodel design was the inspiration for the choice of the futuristic looking silver benches also deemed to be safe, moderately priced and graffiti resistant. Phase two of the program will bring new trash cans, signage and bus stop shelters at selected stops; all using federal funds through the Federal Transit Administration.



TORRANCE HISTORY

Moments in Torrance History

75 Years of Torrance Transit... almost didn't happen!



By Michael George

This year, Torrance Transit is celebrating its 75th anniversary of service to the South Bay, but most folks are unaware of how close we came to riding the RTD (now the Metro) instead of our own city buses. The department launched January 15, 1940 with three leased

1931 Mack-33 buses that almost immediately became a target of the local press for running in the red. Low ridership and costly maintenance necessitated an increased city subsidy triggering calls to sell the bus line. Ironically, at the same time residents in Waleria and the Hollywood Riviera were clamoring for more bus service.

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Retirees - 1/15/15 – 6/30/15

Name	Title	Retirement Date	Years of Service
Reba Cutting	Planning Associate	2/19/2015	13 years
Edward Desbiens	Police Officer	6/18/2015	25 years
Key Ebarle	Associate Engineer	4/30/2015	25 years
Jesse Fuentes, Jr.	Equipment Attendant	3/31/2015	31 years
Kim Hornbeck	Park Services Supervisor	4/4/2015	18 years
Joseph Huld	Records Mgmt. Coordinator	3/5/2015	18 years
Harold Peace	Bus Operator	2/27/2015	17 years
Randall Sellers	Risk Manager	2/21/2015	18 years
Christina Tsao	Office Assistant	6/15/2015	26 years

Promotions - 1/15/15 – 6/30/15

Community Development Christina Lang <i>Planning Associate</i>	Office of the City Manager Rosalia Vega <i>Administrative Assistant</i>	Doyle Saito <i>Sanitation Equipment Operator</i>
Community Services Leallani Stewart <i>Administrative Assistant</i>	Police Kylene Phelan <i>Administrative Assistant</i>	Luis Ochoa Jose Urtez <i>Public Works Supervisor</i>
Hector Flores Gregory Crisfield <i>Lead Maintenance Worker</i>	Jeremiah Hart Christiaan Roosen <i>Lieutenant</i>	Sean Adkins Robert Rusa Felipe Garcia <i>Tree Trimmer</i>
Fire Richard Kazandjian <i>Fire Prevention Manager</i>	Fareed Ahmad Jason Masalcas <i>Sergeant</i>	Transit Ariel Abueme Anton Boyd Mary Mayorga Terrance Peete Charles Randell Nicholas Seawright <i>Bus Operator</i>
General Services Jennifer McDonald <i>Administrative Assistant</i>	Public Works Stephanie Comon Daniel Gruezo <i>Associate Engineer</i>	
Joseph Gonzalez <i>Fleet Services Supervisor</i>	Arturo Rodriguez Vincent Stanojevic <i>Lead Maintenance Worker</i>	

New Hires - 1/15/15 – 6/30/15

Community Development Karen Guevara <i>Permit Technician I</i>	Office Of The City Treasurer Jonathan Palfi <i>Account Clerk</i>	Public Works Steven Finton <i>Engineering Manager</i>
Xina Tang <i>Engineering Technician I</i>	Emilio Campos, Jr. <i>Deputy City Treasurer</i>	John Arias John Buddhasiri James Carroll Ernesto Franco Alfred Hernandez Lee Ornatowski Byron Sargent <i>Maintenance Worker</i>
Community Services Sjon Swanson <i>Aquatics Program Coordinator</i>	Office Of The City Manager Deborah Dixon <i>Human Resources Analyst</i>	Caleb McLaughlin <i>Water Service Tech III</i>
Jesse De La Cruz Mary McDermott <i>Maintenance Worker</i>	Lisa Lee <i>Producer Writer, Assistant</i>	Transit Noelito Reglos Edwin Belamide Wonda Armstrong <i>Relief Bus Operator</i>
Finance Norma Alavarado Anna Bakardzhieva <i>Accountant</i>	Kara Musick <i>Human Resources Technician</i>	John Burnett <i>Transit Training Coordinator</i>
Krysten Davis <i>Office Assistant</i>	Police Eric Battles Branden Nakashima Drew Rodela Kevin Tanaka <i>Police Officer</i>	
General Services Juan Rodriguez <i>Senior Mechanic</i>	Anita Kersting Henrietta Kopecky <i>Police Records Technician</i>	
Office Of The City Clerk Evelyn Titiriga <i>Administrative Assistant</i>		

75 Years of Torrance Transit... Almost Didn't Happen

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Sale of Municipal Bus Line to RTD Approved

In 1950, there was even a citywide vote to sell the bus line to a private firm, the measure was roundly defeated, 2,434 to 749.

1968 saw the greatest threat to the existence of the City's bus line. As one councilman put it, "Why should 40,000 taxpayers subsidize a bus line used by only 1,100 people?" (Today Torrance Transit has over four million boardings per year.) "The value of the Municipal Bus System is beyond money," roared Mayor Albert Isen. That year saw the city council, with one dissenting vote (guess who); vote to sell the bus line to the RTD. The mayor "reaffirmed his refusal to sign the bus contract until forced to by a court." Isen invoked the need for a community bus line, fearing that, in time, the RTD would not serve the community well and would become more expensive than the old system. Also, many preferred a local control of the bus line to the county-wide RTD. The matter was put on the ballot, and then withdrawn. A court battle was looming, the Torrance Herald-Press was having a field day.

But Mayor Isen prevailed; instead of disappearing at age 28, Torrance Transit continues to serve the community into the new millennium with a beautiful new fleet of CNG buses and the latest technologies for accepting TAP cards, tracking real-time arrivals and departures and more. Today, 63 vehicles operate on eight fixed routes all around the South Bay, connecting with Metro and other transit agencies. Annually the system carries approximately 4.7 million riders driving over 22 million passenger miles.

Figuring Out the Drought *continued from page 1*

These are in addition to the City's standing water rules:

- No excessive runoff from outdoor watering
- No washing of exterior surfaces
- No washing of vehicles with "open hose"
- All water features must have a re-circulating system
- Restaurants to use water conserving spray valves
- Restaurants to serve water only upon request
- Lodging business must provide option not to launder linens daily

The average Californian uses approximately 196 gallons of water each day (in Torrance it is under 100 gallons) and officials say a 20 percent reduction could be reached by cutting daily use by 38 gallons. Luckily, there are a myriad of online resources and financial incentives for citizens, residents and businesses to take water conservation to the next level.

Water Conservation Resources Online

Found at - www.SaveTheWater.org:

- Replace older toilets with newer high efficiency model. (Pre-1980 toilets use up to 7 gallons per flush (GPF), new low flow toilets use as little as 1.2 gallons)
- Use a broom to clean driveways, sidewalks, and patios.
- Use shorter wash cycles for your laundry.
- Fill up a pitcher of water instead of running the tap.
- Repair leaks right away.
- Plant trees, flowers, and shrubs that are California weather friendly.
- Install a smart irrigation controller.

Just the first two alone can save 30 gallons a day per toilet and 18 gallons of water per minute, respectively.

Found at - Metropolitan Water District - www.SoCalWaterSmart.com

- Reduce your shower time from 10 to 5 minutes, that alone can save 12.5 gallons of water a day.
- You can also save up to 10 gallons a day by turning off the faucet while brushing your teeth.
- Homeowners can cut back on outdoor water usage as well by using your sprinklers for 3 to 5 minutes less than usual which could save up to 5 gallons a day and wait until the dishwasher load is full, that could save up to 15 gallons of water.
- You can also conserve water around the house by putting a layer of mulch around trees and plants, chunks of bark, moss or gravel will slow evaporation.
- Check for and repair leaky faucets, a dripping faucet can waste several gallons of water each day and install low flow faucet aerators, they can restrict flow to less than a gallon per minute.

The SoCal Water Smart Program through the Metropolitan Water District incentivizes consumers to save and reduce water usage by giving money back for implementing conservation. You can also find information on rebate programs for turf removal, clothes washers, toilets, rain barrels, sprinkler nozzles, soil moisture sensors and irrigation controllers on this site.

www.Saveourwater.com provides an interactive tour of home, yard and work with tips for every room and water using appliance.

And even more great resources: TorranceCA.Gov/PublicWorks; bewaterwise.com; CaliforniaDrought.Org

Thanks to Chuck Schaich, Senior Analyst, Public Works for providing information and clarifications for this series.

Editor's Note: On July 10, 2015, the MWD announced the funds for the turf removal incentive program have run out and the program has been terminated.

Coast Guard Honored at 56th Armed Forces Day Parade

This year's Armed Forces Day Parade honoring the Coast Guard took place on May 15-17 spanning three event filled days attended by record crowds. The 56th continuous year of this ambitious weekend honoring a different branch of the country's military each year is a result of interdepartmental cooperation and six months or more of committee meetings headed for his second year by Torrance Police Department's Lt. Mark Underwood. "The Coast Guard was very involved every step of the way this year; very beneficial," said Underwood.



The Air Force Band of the Golden West



US Marine Corps Major General Vincent Coglianese at the BBQ.

Photos courtesy of Craig Durling.



Coast Guard Silent Drill Team

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2015 Annual Service Awards *Continued from page 2*



Coast Guard Honored *Continued from page 5*

The two hour parade traditionally held on Saturday afternoon, was the centerpiece of a schedule of various events. The Air Force Band of the Golden West kicked off the weekend's festivities, with two free performances on Friday at the Armstrong Theatre. A change in the location for the Military Exhibits resulted in the largest public attendance ever. "We had great participation from all the branches of the military; they brought impressive vehicles and bands for the parade and the exhibition," said Underwood. As always, every city department had a hand in ensuring safety and smooth execution of all the weekend's events.



Parade Joint Services Color Guard



Louis Zamperini's Family and Friends



A Soldier greets a little parade watcher



A marine and his bomb dog at the Static Display site.

Photos courtesy of Craig Durling.



Torrance PD Officers coming down the parade route.

Torrance Trivia

Winter/Spring 2015 Answer & Correct Responses

Question: In these days of drought it may be surprising to learn that "in the day" most of Torrance's water problems were caused by too much water. Floods, temporary lakes (think Walteria Lake) and marshes were all part of the landscape. Through an impressive water control management system, flooding at the scale of past decades is almost unheard of. The city sumps can even generate revenue, filming at an urban oasis will cost \$3,000 a day. How many sumps/drainage retention basins are in Torrance?

Answer: According to the Public Works Department, there are **17 drainage retention basins/sumps located in the city.**

Correct answers submitted by:

Jeannie Fuller, Susan Zorich, Erin Aoki, Vicki Forsberg, Pat Roderick, Matthew Moses, Cheryl Huddle, Nancy Miller, Villa Hamilton, Toni Gurrola. And the winner is:

Susan Zorich! Please contact Myisha Phillips in HR to claim your prize.

New Trivia Question:

Who was the first paid Fire Chief of Torrance?

Send your answers to: JanetStancliff3@gmail.com with "Torrance Trivia" in the subject line. Those that submit correct answers will be entered into a random drawing for a gift certificate.

Thanks to Michael George for researching the Torrance Trivia Questions.