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Direct questions or concerns to the Commission Liaison at (310) 781-6900 or individual department head prior to submission to the Commission. Parties will be notified if the complaint will be included on a subsequent agenda.

The Water Commission is an advisory body to the City Council that meets on the fourth Wednesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. All meetings are open to the public.

Staff reports are attached to the agenda and available for review online. Questions or concerns may be directed to Chuck Schaich at (310) 781-6900. Agendas and Minutes are posted on the City of Torrance Home Page www.TorranceCA.Gov.

**TORRANCE WATER COMMISSION AGENDA
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2023
REGULAR MEETING
6:30 P.M.
WEST ANNEX COMMISSION MEETING ROOM
CITY HALL
AT 3031 TORRANCE BOULEVARD
TORRANCE, CA 90503**

**WATER COMMISSION MAY TAKE ACTION ON ANY ITEM
LISTED ON THE AGENDA**

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

ROLL CALL: Commission Members Deemer, Kawai, Masnek, Mattie, Siani, Thomas, Chair Jay

2. FLAG SALUTE

3. REPORT OF THE PUBLIC WORKS STAFF ON THE POSTING OF THE AGENDA

The agenda was posted on the Public Notice Board at 3031 Torrance Bl. and on the City's Website on Thursday, September 21, 2023

4. ANNOUNCEMENT OF WITHDRAWN, DEFERRED, AND/OR SUPPLEMENTAL ITEMS

5. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS (Limited to a 30-minute period)

This portion of the meeting is reserved for public comment on items on the agenda or on topics of interest to the general public. Under the Ralph M. Brown Act, Commissioners cannot act on items raised during public comment but may respond briefly to statements made or questions posed; request clarification; or refer the item to staff. Speakers under this Public Comment period will have no longer than 3 minutes per speaker.

6. CONSENT CALENDAR

Matters listed under the Consent Calendar are considered routine and will be enacted by one motion and one vote. There will be no separate discussion of these items. If discussion is desired, that item will be removed by a Commissioner from the Consent Calendar and considered separately.

6A. Approval of Minutes

- I. Regular Meeting July 26, 2023

7. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

Matters listed under Administrative Matters are considered separately. Comments by members of the public on each is limited to a maximum of 2 minutes per item. Speakers must stay on topic and confine their comments to the item under consideration.

7A. Discussion and Consideration - Water Commission Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2022-23 - Recommendation of the Deputy Public Works Director - Operations that the Water Commission provide conceptual approval for the Fiscal 2022-23 Water Commission Annual Report.

7B. Presentation and Discussion Regarding Water Loss Audit Report - Recommendation of the Deputy Public Works Director - Operations that the Water Commission accept and file this report.

7C. Discussion - Monthly Water Operations Report - Recommendation of the Deputy Public Works Director - Operations that the Water Commission accept and file this report.

8. METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT MATTERS

8A. Metropolitan Water District Director's Report - Recommendation of the of the Deputy Public Works Director - Operations that the Water Commission accept and file this report

9. COMMISSION AND STAFF ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

10. ADJOURNMENT

10A. Adjournment of the Water Commission Meeting date to Wednesday, October 25, 2023 at 6:30 p.m.

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE
TORRANCE WATER COMMISSION AGENDA**

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

The Torrance Water Commission convened in a regular session at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, July 26, 2023, in the West Annex Meeting Room.

ROLL CALL

Present: Commissioners Deemer, Kawai, Masnek, Mattie, Siani, Thomas, and Chair Jay.

Absent: None.

Also Present: Water Operations Manager Andrew Darlak, Deputy Public Works Director Matthew Knapp, Senior Administrative Analyst Leah Portman, Policy and Resources Specialist Chuck Schaich, and Metropolitan Water District Director Russel Lefevre.

2. FLAG SALUTE

Commissioner Mattie led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. REPORT OF THE PUBLIC WORKS STAFF ON THE POSTING OF THE AGENDA

Policy and Resources Specialist Schaich reported that the agenda was posted on the Public Notice Board at 3031 Torrance Boulevard and on the City's Website.

4. ANNOUNCEMENT OF WITHDRAWN, DEFERRED, AND/OR SUPPLEMENTAL ITEMS

None.

5. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

A member of the public spoke.

6. CONSENT CALENDAR

6A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: JUNE 28, 2023

MOTION: Commissioner Kawai moved to approve the June 28, 2023, minutes as presented. Commissioner Siani seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected unanimous approval.

7. **ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**

7A. **DISCUSSION - PRESENTATION REGARDING STATUS OF PURE WATER PROJECT**

Policy and Resources Specialist Schaich presented Item 7A.

- Metropolitan Water District received \$80 million in funding from the state; funding will go toward study and design.
- Bio-reactive membranes are being tested as a pretreatment process, the intent is to utilize the membranes in treatment processes and develop direct potable reuse.
- The State has been developing regulations; the State Board Chairperson indicated that the regulations will promulgate at the end of 2023, or the beginning of 2024.

Members of the Commission and staff spoke.

MOTION: Commissioner Masnek moved to accept and file the report. Commissioner Siani seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected a unanimous vote.

7B. **ELECTION OF WATER COMMISSION CHAIR & VICE CHAIR FOR FISCAL 2023-2024**

Policy and Resources Specialist Schaich presented Item 7B.
Chair Jay nominated Commissioner Kawai as Chair.

Chair Jay nominated Commissioner Siani as Vice Chair.

MOTION: Commissioner Thomas moved to close the nominations and approve Commissioner Kawai as Chair. Commissioner Masnek seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected unanimous approval.

MOTION: Commissioner Thomas moved to close the nominations and approve Commissioner Siani as Vice Chair. Commissioner Deemer seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected unanimous approval.

7C. **DISCUSSION - MONTHLY WATER OPERATIONS REPORT**

Water Operations Manager Darlak presented Item 7C:

- Groundwater production is down due to the North Torrance Well Field being offline; all potable sources are down 9.1% for the year.
- There were (2) water main breaks for the month of June 2023; water main replacements are showing benefits.
- The North Torrance Well Field's engineering division is looking at proposals for a scrubber and blower for the Hydrogen sulfide issue. If the scrubber and blower does not resolve the issue, greensand will be researched.

Members of the Commission and staff spoke.

MOTION: Commissioner Kawai moved to accept and file the report. Commissioner Masnek seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected unanimous approval.

8. **METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT MATTERS**

8A. **METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Metropolitan Water District Director Lefevre presented Item 8A:

- Metropolitan Water District Director Lefevre stated that his is looking to get a representative to present what is going on with the Imperial Irrigation District.
- The Palo Verde Irrigation District will be visited; the district is under the process of a healthy soils study.
- Legislature passed several bills that addressed CEQA related items.

Members of the Commission and staff spoke.

MOTION: Commissioner Kawai moved to accept and file the report. Commissioner Masnek seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected unanimous approval.

9. **COMMISSION AND STAFF ORAL COMMUNICATIONS**

Commissioners Masnek, Deemer, Kawai, Siani, Thomas, and Chair Jay spoke.

Policy and Resources Specialist Schaich stated that a tour of a local facility can take place in October 2023, and that an email will be sent to the Commissioners to confirm a tour date.

Chair Jay inquired on a refinery tour. Deputy Public Works Director Knapp stated that he will inquire on a tour.

10. **ADJOURNMENT**

MOTION: At 8:44 p.m., Chair Jay moved to adjourn the meeting to Wednesday, September 27, 2023, at 6:30 p.m. in the West Annex Meeting Room. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected unanimous approval.

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COMMISSION MEETING OF
September 27, 2023,

TO: WATER COMMISSION
FROM: MATTHEW KNAPP, DEPUTY PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR - OPERATIONS
SUBJECT: WATER COMMISSION ANNUAL REPORT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2022-23

The Water Commission functions as an advisory body to the City Council on issues pertaining to water policy and related matters. Commission meetings are held on the fourth Wednesday of the month and a total of eight meetings were held during the fiscal year 2022-23. The Water Commission Annual Report summarizes the activities of the Commission and the matters the Commission reviewed and considered during this period. It is requested that the Commission review the report and take a motion to provide conceptual approval of the report.



Matthew Knapp
Deputy Public Works Director-Operations

Roll Call: _____ Deemer _____ Jay _____ Masnek _____ Mattie
_____ Siani _____ Thomas _____ Chairperson Kawai

DRAFT

FISCAL 2022-23 WATER COMMISSION ANNUAL REPORT JULY 1, 2022, THROUGH JUNE 30, 2023

SUMMARY REPORT: PURPOSE AND GOALS OF THE TORRANCE WATER COMMISSION

The Water Commission is an advisory board to the Torrance City Council on water policy matters. The Commission makes recommendations regarding plans for development of the City's water service facilities, as well as the capital improvement and resource programs of both the Torrance Municipal Water system (TMW) and the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD). In addition, the Commission advises the Council on various policy matters regarding water rates, water resources, conservation, the adequacy of water supplies, infrastructure investment, legislative and policy initiative matters regarding water service, and other related issues.

The major issues addressed during fiscal 2022-23 were as follows:

Conservation, Drought, Water Supply and Sustainability Matters - The Water Commission considered a number of presentations and items throughout the past year regarding the drought and water supply situation, conservation programs, actions by the Metropolitan Water District (MWD), the State and other agencies to address the impacts of climate change and highly variable weather conditions and precipitation patterns in California and the southwest. In December 2022, approximately 97% of the entire state was either in an extreme or exceptional drought status, with both calendar 2021 and 2022 being the two driest consecutive years in California's history. A continuation drought conditions into 2023 would likely have triggered the imposition water rationing measures by MWD and the state.

Beginning in January 2023, the Commission received information and several staff reports/presentations on a complete turnaround in the water situation from drought to surplus water conditions due to near record snowpacks in the key Sierra Mountain range, which is the primary supply source for the State Water Project (SWP). As a result, the Metropolitan Water District and other SWP contractors received over 100% allocation of their State Water Project deliveries. This enabled MWD, who currently provides 70% of the City's potable water, to increase its storage reserves to an all-time record of over 3.3 million acre-feet. While MWD has adequate storage reserves to meet its regional imported water demands for at least the next two years, the transition cycle from wet to extremely dry conditions can occur rapidly. Eleven of its last eighteen years have been very dry or drought years.

The Commission was informed on the challenges on the Colorado River. The Colorado River Aqueduct (CRA) is MWD's other source of imported water supplies and the long-term outlook for this source remains problematic. Although the Colorado River (CR) Basin also experienced a good water year, it is the midst of an historic 23-year drought cycle. Both Lake Mead and Powell, which are the two largest reservoirs in the west, remain at near record low levels at about 35% of fill capacity. The critical status of these reservoirs prompted the US Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) to issue cutback requirements in CR deliveries from the three lower basin states (Arizona, California, Nevada) over the next three years to raise reservoir levels. Further reductions in CR exports may be required in the near future, if reservoir levels continue to drop. This could result in a reduction in MWD deliveries from the CRA.

The Commission also received presentations and considered changes in the City's water conservation and community outreach programs to increase awareness and participation. A key priority is a reduction in outdoor water use by avoiding wasteful water use due to leaks, excessive landscape watering and washing down exterior surfaces. In addition, the Commission reviewed the City's recent co-sponsorship of a series of on-line and in-person water efficient workshops and other programs designed to increase water use efficiency and promote the planting of California Friendly landscapes.

Water Capital Improvement and Water Supply Diversification Programs - The Commission was briefed and discussed the status of the Torrance Municipal Water's (TMW) capital program, which is currently primarily focused on local water source diversification. The Commission was apprised regarding the development of additional groundwater well capacity, a new phase to expand the Goldsworthy Desalter facility at the City Yard, the North Torrance Well Field Project (NTWP) and the first phase of the Van Ness Wellfield. The Commission discussed the strategic initiatives to reduce dependence on imported potable water supplies from the Metropolitan Water District by implementation of the multi-year local source diversification program designed to reduce MWD's supplies from the current 75% of potable demand to 25% or less within the next four to five years. The Commission had previously taken positions strongly supporting the implementation of the water supply diversification program.

The Commission received several updated presentations regarding the North Torrance Wellfield Project that will triple potable groundwater production and reduce reliance on imported water to approximately 50% within the next year. Although construction of the facility has been completed, additional treatment equipment was needed to reduce the presence hydrogen sulfide. With the pending installation of the new treatment equipment the NTWP is projected to be operational in late 2023. Diversification of TMW's water supply will increase water supply reliability, reduce dependence on vulnerable imported water supplies, help drought proof the community, reduce long-term water costs, and mitigate future rate increases.

The Commission was apprised of the Water Replenishment District's new strategic plan to increase local groundwater pumping in the local West Coast Groundwater Basin by over 50%. The Commission also received a presentation from WRD regarding the status of the first phase of a second expansion to the Goldsworthy Desalter at the City Services Facility (City Yard) that will increase its capacity from approximately 4,000 acre-feet (AF) to 8,000-10,000 AF annually in 2026. This project will rid the main groundwater aquifer in the basin of a major brackish water plume on a phased basis over the next 20-25 years. The Commission also considered the status of the ongoing water main replacement program and other related system improvements.

Regional Water Supply Augmentation Programs - The Water Commission was briefed regarding several regional water supply and storage programs, including the planned regional water reuse program, now known as the "Pure Water Project" (PWP). The Commission received a comprehensive presentation from Basil Hewitt of the Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County (SDLAC) regarding the status of Pure Water and an overview of SDLAC's overall operations and programs. The Pure Water Project is a partnership between MWD and SDLAC that will ultimately convert approximately 165,000 acre feet (AF = 326,000 gallons) of wastewater at the Sanitation District's main sewage treatment plant located the City of Carson to a highly purified water supply that will be used initially to replenish local groundwater basins and for industrial use. The first increment of this project is scheduled for completion in 2030 and would provide approximately 30,000 AF of water to recharge local groundwater basins and water for industrial use, including potential supplies for the Torrance Refining Company (TRC)

facility.

In addition, the Commission was apprised and received a presentation from MWD Program Manager Randall Neudeck regarding the proposed development of a new 1.5 million gallon reservoir in northern California, known as the Sites Reservoir. If MWD commits to join as participant, it would receive a 20% share in the project, which could provide approximately 50,000 to 100,000 AF of additional reliable annual supply to MWD's service area in Southern California. The project could be constructed and on-line by 2030.

Water Operations - The Commission reviews the monthly water operation summary reports, which are presented by the Water Operations Manager. The major topics discussed were the status of potable and recycled water production and use, the operation of water supply sources, main break occurrences/repairs and the overall performance of major operational related programs. As a result of a systematic replacement program, water main breaks have been reduced by approximately 70% since the early 1990s. Other items that were presented and considered included; water loss prevention and control, (water loss audit), updates on the North Torrance Wellfield Project, phase 1 of the Van Ness Wellfield Project, pending and current water main replacement projects, operation and rehabilitation work at the Goldsworthy Desalter located in the City Service Facility and related matters. In addition, the Commission considered issues pertaining to water quality and reviewed the Annual Consumer Confidence (CCR) Water Quality Report for calendar 2022.

West Basin Water Association (WBWA) and Related Water Management Issues - The Water Commission received periodic updates at Commission meetings regarding the activities of the West Basin Water Association. A staff member of TMW serves on WBWA board, and the association has been active in formulating advocacy policy positions, particularly regarding groundwater issues. Matters reported to the Commission included; the status of West Basin Municipal Water District's Edward Little Water Recycling Plant in El Segundo, the operation of Replenishment District's ARC Water Recycling Plant, WRD's progress in obtaining 100% of groundwater replenishment water from local sources in normal years, retention of a new vendor to test groundwater wells throughout the basin, pending legislation, changes in state water policy and matters pertaining to water resource stewardship and demand management.

Metropolitan Water District Matters (MWD) - The City's representative on the Metropolitan Water District's Board of Directors, Russ Lefevre, regularly attends Water Commission meetings and apprises the Commission regarding important policy matters at MWD that could impact the City and the region. Issues addressed by Director Lefevre during the past year included; the status the ongoing environmental review process for the proposed water conveyance tunnel under the Sacramento Bay-Delta, the declining storage levels in Lake Mead and other Colorado River Reservoirs, ongoing negotiations among the seven states that share Colorado River supplies, MWD strategic priorities, voluntary agricultural land fallowing programs to increase MWD's water supply sources, voluntary agreements regarding river flows in northern Californian watersheds, regional water supply and demand balances, water shortage problems for agencies in MWD's service area that are entirely dependent on supplies from the State Water Project, the proposed Sites Reservoir in northern California, progress on the regional Pure Water Project, MWD multi-year rate projections and the development of a new long-range financial plan, the initiation of a new Climate Adaption Master Plan process to better inform decisions regarding future regional investments in water reliability and resilience projects, the election of MWD Director Russ Lefevre as Vice-President of Bay-Delta Finance Authority that is responsible for financing the proposed single water conveyance tunnel under the Delta, and the reorganization of MWD's committee structure.

On November 18-19, 2022, Torrance MWD Director Lefevre and Director Harold Williams of the West Basin Municipal Water District jointly sponsored a combined agency Inspection Tour of State Water Project facilities in Northern California. The inspection tour was attended by approximately 40 residents from Torrance and the WBMWD service area. Council Members Lewis and Sheik along with Water Commissioners Jay, Kawai, Masnek and Siani and a number of members of the Torrance community attended. The inspection tour was very informative and interesting and included visits to Lake Orville, MWD legislative offices in Sacramento, the Bay-Delta region, Big Bend informational center, and the Delta Smelt Fish Incubation Center and Hatchery. The inspection tour provided an excellent overview of the complex situation on the SWP, particularly in the Bay-Delara region.

The Water Commission wishes to acknowledge, commend, and thank Director Lefevre for his commitment and dedicated service to the City and his many contributions as the City's representative on the Metropolitan Board.

Water Commissioners serving in Fiscal Year 2021-22

Raymond Jay, Chair
Kent Kawai, Vice-Chair
Charles Deemer, Commissioner
Melvin Glass, Commissioner
Alan Masnek, Commissioner
Emily Mitchell-Mattie, Commissioner
Sue Siani, Commissioner

TO: WATER COMMISSION
FROM: MATTHEW KNAPP, DEPUTY PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR - OPERATIONS
**SUBJECT: PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION REGARDING WATER LOSS
AUDIT REPORT**

In 2015, the California state legislature passed AB 555 (Wolk), which required urban water suppliers with 3,000 or more service connections to submit an annual potable water loss audit to the state each year. The purpose of this legislation is to assess, identify and minimize "real water loss" in the water system due to seepage, leaks, pipe failures, aging infrastructure, and other causative factors. In addition, the water loss audit provides an estimate of water loss that is due to errors in data, billing inaccuracy, water theft, and other factors, known as "apparent loss", which represent paper losses that are not actually due to actual water loss in the water system. The primary purpose of the audit is to identify the scale of these losses to enable the water agency to increase their usable water supply as well as recover revenue due to apparent losses. Currently, these reporting requirements only apply to water retailers and water wholesale agencies, such as the Metropolitan Water District (MWD) are exempt.

A water suppliers annual audit is performed in accordance with procedures developed by the American Water Works Association (AWWA) and must be checked and validated by a certified water auditor. The audit for Torrance Municipal Water (TMW) for calendar 2022 was just completed and we are awaiting the final results from our water auditor. A major focus of the audit is the validation of the prescribed data submittals, which are scored by the auditor in accordance with established criteria. This verification and authenticity of data is a major element of the audit.

The most important information in a potable water loss audit is total water introduced into the system (production) and water consumption (sales). The ratio between the two is known as the water balance. In the country the average water loss (real + apparent loss) is approximately 20%, and in California it averages between 8 -10%. By comparison, TMW's water loss in calendar 2022 was approximately 4.9%, with real loss comprising about 60% of this amount.

Staff will provide brief overview presentation regarding the water loss audit process and our 2022 audit.



Matthew Knapp
Deputy Public Works Director – Operations

Roll Call: _____ Deemer _____ Jay _____ Masnek _____ Mattie
_____ Siani _____ Thomas _____ Chairperson Kawai

TO: WATER COMMISSION
FROM: MATTHEW KNAPP, DEPUTY PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR - OPERATIONS
SUBJECT: ACCEPT AND FILE MONTHLY WATER OPERATIONS REPORT FOR AUGUST 2023

It is the recommendation of the Deputy Public Works Director - Operations that the Water Commission accept and file this report. Monthly Water Department highlights for the month of August 2023 are:

1. Total potable water produced from local potable sources is 13.2% lower than in August 2022. On a year-to-date basis, total potable water is 9.0% lower than last year and total water produced from all sources, including recycled water is 7.2% lower than in 2022. The Torrance Refining Company continues to use a large volume of both potable and recycled water as a result of continued high refinery production.

Water Produced and Imported (Acre-feet)


Month: August

Water Source	August 2022	August 2023	Change
Potable Groundwater			
Wells*	128.0	0.0	-100.0%
WRD Desalter*	227.0	308.2	35.8%
Subtotal	355.0	308.2	-13.2%
Imported Potable			
MWD	1,409.7	1,271.6	-9.8%
Imported Recycled			
WBMWD	497.7	492.6	-1.0%
Total Produced/Imported			
All Potable Sources	1,764.7	1,579.8	-10.5%
All Sources + Recycled	2,262.4	2,072.4	-8.4%

Year to Date: 2022 vs 2023

Water Source	2022 YTD	2023 YTD	Change
Potable Groundwater			
Wells	1,252.1	145.2	-88.4%
WRD Desalter	2,248.2	2,249.4	0.1%
Subtotal	3,500.2	2,394.6	-31.6%
Imported Potable			
MWD	9,401.9	9,347.5	-0.6%
Imported Recycled			
WBMWD	3,213.9	3,219.6	0.2%
Total Produced/Imported			
All Potable Sources	12,902.1	11,742.1	-9.0%
All Sources + Recycled	16,116.0	14,961.7	-7.2%

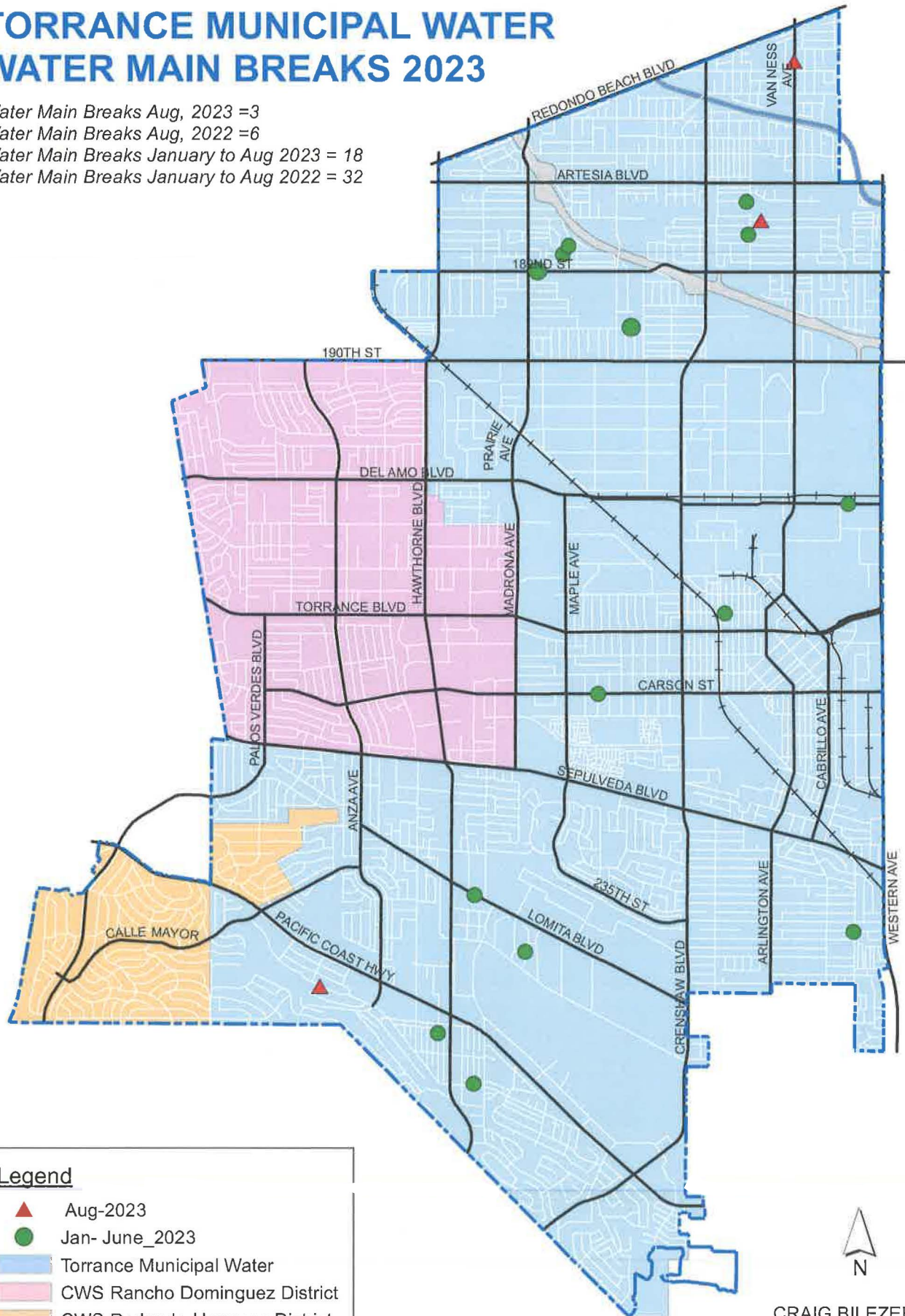
2. There were 3 water main breaks for the month of August 2023, compared to 6 for the same period in 2022. Total main breaks for calendar year 2023 are 27 compared to 34 in 2022.
3. Goldsworthy Desalter is operating at nearly full capacity. The Water Replenishment District (WRD) continues to work on plans to connect the Brewer Well with the Goldsworthy Desalter. WRD has drilled the pilot wells to test water quality in anticipation of expanding the Goldsworthy Desalter in the near future and are now gathering data.
4. Currently, all potable ground water wells are out of service due to the occurrence of a higher level of hydrogen sulfide. Our consultant for the North Torrance Well Field has procured the additional treatment equipment and will begin installation this month. Testing and sampling will begin immediately once the equipment is online and


 Matthew Knapp
 Deputy Public Works Director - Operations

Roll Call: _____ Deemer _____ Thomas _____ Kawai _____ Masnek
 _____ Mattie _____ Siani _____ Chairperson Jay

TORRANCE MUNICIPAL WATER WATER MAIN BREAKS 2023

Water Main Breaks Aug, 2023 = 3
 Water Main Breaks Aug, 2022 = 6
 Water Main Breaks January to Aug 2023 = 18
 Water Main Breaks January to Aug 2022 = 32



Legend

- ▲ Aug-2023
- Jan- June_2023
- Torrance Municipal Water
- CWS Rancho Dominguez District
- CWS Redondo-Hermosa District



CRAIG BILEZERIAN
PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR