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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, JUNE 26, 2024
REGULAR MEETING
6:30 P.M.
WEST ANNEX COMMISSION MEETING ROOM
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, Jay, Masnek, Siani, Thomas, and Chair Kawai

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 Friday June 21, 2024.

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 ANNOUNCEMENT OF WITHDRAWN, DEFERRED, AND/OR SUPPLEMENTAL ITEMS

5. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS (Limited to a 15-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 1 minute 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 –
Regular Meeting May 22, 2024.**

7. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

Matters listed under Administrative Matters are considered separately. Comments by members of the public on each item are limited to a maximum of 1 minute per item. Speakers must stay on topic and confine their comments to the item under consideration.

7A. Election of Commission Chair and Vice-Chair for Fiscal 2024-25

Recommendation of the Deputy Public Works Director - Operations that the Water Commission conduct a vote to select the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Water Commission for Fiscal Year 2024-25.

7B. Presentation and Discussion – Overview of Current Torrance Municipal Water Rates and Pending Water Rate Study

Recommendation of the Deputy Public Work 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 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 to Wednesday, July 24, 2024, at 6:30 p.m. in the West Annex Commission Meeting Room.

b
**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, May 22, 2024, in the West Annex Meeting Room.

ROLL CALL

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

Absent: None.

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

2. FLAG SALUTE

Commissioner Jay led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Water Operations Manager Darlak reported that the agenda was posted on the Public Notice Board at 3031 Torrance Boulevard and on the City's Website on Thursday, May 16, 2024.

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 ANNOUNCEMENT OF WITHDRAWN, DEFERRED, AND/OR SUPPLEMENTAL ITEMS

None.

5. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

None.

6. CONSENT CALENDAR

6A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: MARCH 27, 2024

MOTION: Commissioner Thomas moved to approve the March 27, 2024, minutes. Commissioner Siani seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected 6-0 approval.

7. **ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**

7A. **PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION – UPDATE REGARDING WATER SUPPLY CONDITIONS**

Senior Administrative Analyst Portman presented Item 7A:

- California has no areas in the state with drought. In 2022, the entire state was in a severe drought but wet conditions in 2023 – 2024 resulted in a drought free California.
- Due to migration of fish, environmental pumping restrictions are in place which limit the amount of water pumped in the State Water Project Aqueduct; an allocation increase is pending.
- Snowpack in the Northern California Watershed is at 123% of normal, due to this, California Department of Water Resources has been releasing water from Lake Oroville and other reservoirs. Snowpack on the Colorado River Basin is at 115% of normal; Lake Powell and Lake Mead are still at low levels.
- Metropolitan Water District's total available supply is projected to be at 1.64-million-acre-feet for the year with demand being at 1.4-million-acre-feet, resulting in a record high surplus.

Members of the Commission spoke.

MOTION: Commissioner Masnek moved to accept Item 7A. Commissioner Siani seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected 6-0 approval.

7B. **PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION – METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT WHOLESALE RATES FOR IMPORTED WATER SUPPLIES IN CALENDAR 2025 AND 2026 AND PROJECTION FOR FUTURE RATES**

Water Operations Manager Darlak presented Item 7B:

- Metropolitan Water District rates increase is due to cost of chemicals, costs of power going up, and inflation throughout the industry. Property taxes will increase from \$30 to \$60. Without the property tax increase, it was estimated that there would need to be a 5%-6% on the rate increase, hence the decision to go with the property tax revenue.

Members of the Commission spoke.

MOTION: Commissioner Jay moved to accept Item 7B. Commissioner Deemer seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected 6-0 approval.

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

Water Operations Manager Darlak presented Item 7C:

- Well 9 has been running and Well 10 was reintroduced into the system successfully. Staff is working to get Well 11 introduced in the system once the manganese issue is remedied. Goldsworthy is currently offline due to a scheduled rehabilitation; it is projected to be online July 2024.

- There was (1) main break in April 2024 at Calle Mayor and Susana Avenue where a pressure regulator failed.
- North Torrance Well Field is getting a proposal for a permanent blower system, once this is received, engineers will review and approve to move forward with purchasing.

Members of the Commission spoke.

MOTION: Commissioner Jay moved to accept and file Item 7C. Commissioner Masnek seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected 6-0 approval.

8. METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT MATTERS

8A. METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Metropolitan Water District Director Lefevre presented Item 8A:

- Department of Water Resources paid for the Benefit Cost Analysis of the Delta Conveyance Project. Benefits of the Delta Conveyance Project include urban water supply reliability, agriculture water supply, water quality, and seismic reliability.
- Mr. Adel Hagekhalil, The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California's General Manager and Chief Executive Officer, spoke at a hearing for the US Senate Budget Committee to consider *Droughts, Dollars, and Decisions: Water Scarcity in a Changing Climate*. Mr. Hagekhalil's testimony highlighted Metropolitan's achievements, challenges, and plans to ensure water reliability and climate resiliency.
- The Metropolitan Water District owns approximately 14,000-acres in the Palo Verde Irrigation District with approximately 6,000-acres being non-farmable. Metropolitan is in negotiations to lease the land to an energy company who will place solar panels on the acreage to generate electricity.

Members of the Commission spoke.

MOTION: Commissioner Thomas moved to accept and file the Metropolitan Water District Director's Report. Commissioner Jay seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected 6-0 approval.

9. COMMISSION AND STAFF ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Members of the Commission spoke.

10. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: At 7:42 p.m., Commissioner Siani moved to adjourn the meeting to Wednesday, June 26, 2024, at 6:30 p.m. in the West Annex Commission Meeting Room. Commissioner Masnek seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected 6-0 approval.

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TO: WATER COMMISSION
FROM: MATTHEW KNAPP, DEPUTY PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR - OPERATIONS
SUBJECT: ELECTION OF COMMISSION CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024-25

The terms of the Water Commission Chair and Vice-Chair expire at the end of fiscal year 2023-24. Therefore, it is necessary that the Commission hold an election for both positions for fiscal year 2024-25 at this month's meeting.

The Commission has broad discretion regarding the appointment of both positions. There are no term limit requirements, and the current and past Chairs and Vice-Chairs are eligible for reappointment. The current Chair is Kent Kawai, whose term as a Water Commissioner expires at the end of June 2024, and the Vice-Chair is Sue Siani. The term for both positions is through fiscal 2024-25. The Commission should conduct a nomination process and then vote to choose both positions.



Matthew Knapp
Deputy Public Works Director - Operations

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

TO: WATER COMMISSION
FROM: MATTHEW KNAPP, DEPUTY PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR - OPERATIONS
SUBJECT: OVERVIEW OF CURRENT TORRANCE MUNICIPAL WATER RATES AND PENDING WATER RATE STUDY

On November 14, 2017, the City Council held a Public Hearing on setting municipal water rates for the area of the City served by Torrance Municipal Water (TMW). A comprehensive water rate study was conducted by an outside consultant with extensive experience in developing municipal water rates and related financial matters. The rate process was conducted in accordance with modified Proposition 218 requirements for the five-year period of 2018 through 2022. As a result of the public hearing, the City Council approved rate increases of 12.5% in January 2018 followed by an increase of 10% in January 2019, and subsequent rate adjustments corresponding to the annual changes in the consumer price index for the LA/Long Beach area for the years 2020 through 2022.

These rate increases only applied to customers served by TMW, which serves approximately 80% of the City, and there were no rate adjustments in either 2023 or 2024. The rate increases were necessary to fund local water resource projects, infrastructure replacements and refurbishments, cover increased operating costs, meet new regulatory requirements and maintain adequate reserve levels. Even with these increases, TMW maintains the lowest water rates in the local area.

We are currently in the process of developing a new five-year rate study for the period of 2025 through 2029. The findings and results of this study are expected to be presented to the Commission at both its July and August meeting for consideration. The recommended rate adjustments over the proposed five-year rate period are expected to be brought to the City Council in September 2024 for initiation of the Proposition 218 process, and the item will be brought for final consideration at a Public Hearing in November 2024. Staff will provide an overview presentation regarding current municipal rates and the upcoming rate study.



Matthew Knapp
Deputy Public Works Director - Operations

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

TO: WATER COMMISSION
FROM: MATTHEW KNAPP, DEPUTY PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR - OPERATIONS
SUBJECT: ACCEPT AND FILE MONTHLY WATER OPERATIONS REPORT FOR MAY 2024

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 May 2024 are:


1. Total potable water produced from local potable sources is 51.3% higher than in May 2023. On a year-to-date basis, total potable water is 8.7% higher than last year and total water produced from all sources, including recycled water is 1.7% higher than in 2023.

Water Produced and Imported (Acre-feet)

| Month: May | | | | Year to Date: 2023 vs 2024 | | | |
|--------------------------------|----------|----------|--------|--------------------------------|----------|----------|---------|
| Water Source | May 2023 | May 2024 | Change | Water Source | 2023 YTD | 2024 YTD | Change |
| Potable Groundwater | | | | Potable Groundwater | | | |
| Wells* | 0.0 | 312.7 | - | Wells | 91.1 | 1,105.2 | 1113.3% |
| WRD Desalter* | 321.5 | 173.6 | -46.0% | WRD Desalter | 1,383.8 | 1,134.5 | -18.0% |
| Subtotal | 321.5 | 486.3 | 51.3% | Subtotal | 1,474.9 | 2,239.7 | 51.9% |
| Imported Potable | | | | Imported Potable | | | |
| MWD | 1,198.0 | 1,214.5 | 1.4% | MWD | 5,521.1 | 5,367.0 | -2.8% |
| Imported Recycled | | | | Imported Recycled | | | |
| WBMWD | 464.0 | 543.7 | 17.2% | WBMWD | 1,810.8 | 1,352.0 | -25.3% |
| Total Produced/Imported | | | | Total Produced/Imported | | | |
| All Potable Sources | 1,519.4 | 1,700.8 | 11.9% | All Potable Sources | 6,996.0 | 7,606.7 | 8.7% |
| All Sources + Recycled | 1,983.4 | 2,244.5 | 13.2% | All Sources + Recycled | 8,806.7 | 8,958.7 | 1.7% |

*data estimate based on production reads

2. There were 2 water main breaks for the month of May 2024, same as May 2023. Total main breaks for calendar year 2024 are 11 compared to 16 in 2023.
3. Goldsworthy Desalter will be producing approximately 200 to 275 acre feet (AF) per month to prevent premature loss of production in wells due to over pumping. The Water Replenishment District (WRD) continues to work on plans to connect the Brewer Well with the Goldsworthy Desalter planned expansion. In addition, WRD is planning to begin preliminary construction work on the Desalter expansion project in Fall 2024.
4. TMW is exploring purchasing a permanent blower and scrubber system. Water continues to be introduced into the system based on a phased approach and is meeting all water quality requirements. We anticipate increasing groundwater production at the North Torrance Wellfield in the near future.



 Matthew Knapp
 Deputy Public Works Director - Operations

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