



CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS
455 N. Rexford Drive
Beverly Hills, CA 90210
Room 280-A

**PUBLIC WORKS COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

February 11, 2016
8:00 a.m.

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Date/Time: February 11, 2016 / 08:03 am

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

Commissioners Present: Commissioners Felsenthal, Pressman, Shalowitz, Vice Chair Wolfe, Chair Aronberg

Commissioners Absent: None

Staff Present: George Chavez, Mark Cuneo, Josette Descalzo, Chad Lynn, Trish Rhay, Caitlin Sims, Michelle Tse, Audrey Wright

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE AUDIENCE

Members of the public may address the Commission regarding any items not on the Agenda that are within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Commission. By State law, the Commission may not discuss or vote on items not on the Agenda.

Speakers: None

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

By Order of the Chair, the agenda was approved as presented.

CONSENT CALENDAR

1. Consideration of January 14, 2016, Commission regular meeting minutes. – *TABLED*

REPORTS FROM PRIORITY AGENCIES

Operations Reports from City Departments, Consultants and Outside Agencies

- Metropolitan Water District (MWD) Director – Dr. Wunderlich provided an update. MWD began its process of establishing rates and budget for the next two years. The initial recommendation for the region is 4% per year for the next two years. Beverly Hills should see an increase of about 4% per year; fixed charges will be factored in. Once finalized, rates will go into effect January, 2017.

4. Modifications to the Penalty Surcharge Multiplier & Appeals Process

Ms. Rhay provided a PowerPoint presentation to discuss adjustments to the penalty surcharge multiplier and the appeals process criteria as discussed and analyzed by Staff and the Public Works Commission Conservation Subcommittee. The process included making adjustments based on actual numbers rather than assumptions. The following were discussed: Objective; Background; Surcharge Multipliers; Penalty Surcharge Impact on Conservation; Regional Performance; Appeals Process Criteria; Implementation Strategy; Subcommittee Proposal; and Next Steps.

The Commission discussed the following:

- Financial and behavioral components of a penalty surcharge.
- Surcharge levels.
- Conservation costs/assumptions.
- Appeals process criteria.

Motion: MOVED by, Commissioner Shalowitz, SECONDED by Commissioner Felsenthal to adopt the Penalty Surcharge Multiplier as presented (5-0).

AYES: Commissioners Felsenthal, Pressman, Shalowitz, Vice Chair Wolfe, Chair Aronberg

NOES: None

CARRIED

Motion: MOVED by, Vice Chair Wolfe, SECONDED by Chair Aronberg to add a new criteria to the Appeals Process for multifamily and commercial properties that have already implemented water efficient fixtures whereby the percentage of landscape and pool areas are less than a specific number to be determined and if they qualify, their new target reductions are: Level 1 Surcharge Penalty reduced to 20% and Level 2 Surcharge Penalty be reduced to 8% (5-0).

AYES: Commissioners Felsenthal, Pressman, Shalowitz, Vice Chair Wolfe, Chair Aronberg

NOES: None

CARRIED

5. Recommendation to Implement Restrictor Policy for Largest Water Users

Planning & Research Analyst, Ms. Tse provided a PowerPoint presentation to discuss installing water restricting devices on the largest customers, a City Council directive. The following were discussed: Background; Policy Framework; Implementation Considerations; and Next Steps.

The Commission discussed the following:

- This Item is a complicated, difficult issue with political and legal ramifications.
- Potential liabilities to the City.
- The existing ability in Stage D to place water restrictors.

The Commission does not support moving forward with this Item and developing a policy. The Commission chooses to defer to Staff; excessive/abusive use to be determined by Staff on a case-by-case basis.

PROJECT UPDATES & STATUS REPORTS

6. Update on Will Serve Policy Development & Groundwater Exaction Fee Study

Ms. Rhay provided a brief update. The City's Water Resources Manager is working with Community Development and the City of West Hollywood to set up contact, process and checklist procedures for new developments to determine capacity and exaction fees and infrastructure improvement requirements. Staff will bring this Item and a draft proposal back to the Commission for review in April.

The Commission discussed the following:

- Notification to potential applicants/developers of the City's proposed will serve fees and water capacity information.

7. Update on Water Conservation Efforts

Ms. Tse and Environmental Compliance & Sustainability Program Mgr., Mr. Descalzo provided an update. The State Water Resources Control Board declared the Drought Declaration will continue through October 2016. Staff has reached out to area businesses, Garden Guru appointments continue and a rain barrel event was held. The City has seen a large increase in penalty surcharge appeals. Mr. Descalzo introduced the City's Water Conservation Enforcement Team – Debby Figoni and Brad Cornelius. A goal of the Team is to contact and assist the City's highest water users and customers with leaks.

8. Jewish National Fund California-Israel Water Summit

Management Analyst, Ms. Sims and MWD Director Dr. Wunderlich provided an update. The Water Summit will be March 1st through 3rd in the general Los Angeles area; two events will be held in Beverly Hills. Information is in this month's packet. There will be an all-day event March 2nd at the Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts. The final agenda will be distributed to the Commission when available.

9. Update on Community Choice Aggregation

Ms. Sims provided an update. City Council adopted a Resolution to participate in a feasibility study regarding developing community choice aggregation in the City. Data is being collected to analyze potential costs. A report and study is expected to be released in roughly two months. Staff will update the Commission as information becomes available.

10. Update on Current Projects

Ms. Rhay provided a brief update on the Cabrillo Reservoir site. Staff is collecting water and discussion is ongoing regarding rehabilitating the well and water conveyance to Coldwater Canyon Park. This Item is on the City's priority list for receiving unallocated funds; City Council will choose amongst alternatives. Staff requested funds for the Cabrillo Reservoir site in the next budget cycle.

The Commission discussed the following:

- Staff taking a proactive position in requesting unallocated funds for the Cabrillo site.
- Grant funding for water projects & updated Water Master Plan / potential RFP.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE COMMISSION

- Chair's Report – *NONE*
- Mayors Cabinet Meeting – *NONE*
- Comments from Commissioners

Commissioner Felsenthal raised the following:

- Requests a report once Staff meets with W. Hollywood to discuss that City contributing funds for capital water costs.
- Requests information on the potential use of unallocated funds for water projects.
- Requests an update regarding the replacement of the Public Works Services Director and the status of Public Works Commission liaisons.
- Requests an updated Water Master Plan.
- His letter, as a resident, to Mayor Gold regarding the Central Basin Project.

Commissioner Shalowitz raised the following:

- Requests information regarding the Solid Waste RFP.
- Requests information concerning the Santa Monica Boulevard reconstruction start date.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM STAFF

- Director's Report – *NONE*
- Upcoming Events – *NONE*

ADJOURNMENT

Date / Time: February 11, 2016 / 12:01 p.m.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 18TH DAY of APRIL, 2016

Sandra Aronberg, Chair