

MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS
LONG BEACH, CALIFORNIA
JUNE 27, 2019

The Board of Water Commissioners of the City of Long Beach met in the Board Room at the Administration Building, 1800 E. Wardlow Road, Long Beach, California, on June 27, 2019.

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by President Cordero.

PRESENT:

Gloria Cordero	Commissioner	Robert Verceles	Manager, Engineering
Harry Saltzgaver	Commissioner	Abelardo Rendon	Manager, Engineering
Frank Martinez	Commissioner	Jennifer Rojas	Superintendent Sewer
Arthur Levine	Commissioner		Operations
Gary Anderson	Deputy City Attorney	Kaylee Weatherly	Public Information
Christopher J. Garner	General Manager		Officer
Sandra L. Fox	Executive Assistant to the Board of Water Commissioners	Greg Sorensen	Manager of Budget and Rates
B. Anatole Falagan	Assistant General Manager	Dynna Long	Executive Secretary
		Patrizia Hall	Manager, Engineering
Lisa Squires	Executive Assistant to the General Manager	George Wong	Business Systems Specialist
		Randall Neudeck	MWD
Paul T. Fujita	Director of Finance		
Tai Tseng	Assistant General Manager – Operations		
Sean Crumby	Deputy General Manager – Engineering		
Lourdes Vargas	Director of Water, Sewer & Field Operations		

ABSENT:

Robert Shannon	Commissioner (Excused)
Richard Anthony	Deputy City Attorney
Dean Wang	Manager Water Resources
Robert Katzenberger	Superintendent Water Services
Mike Salas	Superintendent of Water Construction
Ken Bott	Manager, Administration
Liza Gutierrez	Manager, Support Services
Cynthia Andrews-Tate	Water Laboratory Manager
Monya Hawkins	Manager, Information Services
Doug McKee	Treatment Operations Superintendent
Chris Pincherli	Construction Services Officer

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Sandy Fox led the Board and audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

President Cordero opened the public comment period.

As there was no public comment, the public comment period was closed.

3. CALIFORNIA WATERFIX UPDATE

- **Randall Neudeck, Bay Delta Specialist Projects Manager, Metropolitan Water District**

Mr. Falagan provided introductory remarks regarding this topic.

Mr. Randall Neudeck, Bay Delta Specialist Projects Manager, provided an update of the California WaterFix (Delta Conveyance), noting some of the recent changes and policy directives received from Governor Newsom under his statewide Water Resilience Portfolio (Executive Order, April 29, 2019) regarding this project, that ensures that this plan adapts to climate change, is handled through a regional approach, that will also include local development projects as well.

His presentation also covered the following points:

- Managing risks for the future in the Delta
 - Climate change/sea level rise
 - Seismic (earthquake risks for Bay Delta region)
 - Ecosystem/Environmental
 - Water Quality
- Reviewed how snowpack has functioned as California's largest reservoir
 - Spoke about decreasing Sierra snowpack due to climate change
 - Changing precipitation patterns
- Reported that State agencies are seeking input on creating climate-resilient water system (comments requested by September 1st)
 - Input through the summer at public meetings
 - Working with universities, community organizations, water agencies to hold workshops and listening sessions
 - Agencies expect to submit recommendations to Governor Newsom later this year
- Metropolitan's Water Resilience Portfolio approach
 - Use of Integrated Resource Plan development
 - Achieve conservation savings
 - Develop local water supplies
 - Maintain Colorado River supplies
 - Stabilize State Water Project supplies
 -
- Diversify the Water Portfolio

He reviewed the revised Delta Conveyance Plan process – 2019 – 2022. He advised the Metropolitan Board will consider a revised Delta Conveyance project after the State Administration's proposal has been presented to the MWD Board: 1) Project has been defined by the State; 2) Cost allocation approach is agreed upon.

President Cordero thanked Mr. Neudeck for his report.

Mr. Falagan made comments regarding the report and the Delta Conveyance project.

Commissioner Saltzgaver commented on sea level rise in the Delta, and the importance of maintaining the flows of the river to keep seawater from intruding up into the Delta as noted in the presentation animation.

President Cordero commented on the various stakeholders in the Delta – farmers; residents; the need to maintain fish populations and the water purveyors. She noted all of these would have a vested interest in the changes made to the Delta conveyance project.

President Cordero called for any public comment. Hearing none she moved on in the agenda.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – APRIL 18, 2019

President Cordero called for a motion to approve the minutes.

Commissioner Martinez made a motion to approve the April 18, 2019 Board Meeting minutes. Commissioner Levine seconded the motion.

President Cordero called for any public comment. Hearing none she called for the vote.

The motion carried with a 4-1 (Shannon absent) vote.

5. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

- **Gloria Cordero, President, Board of Water Commissioners**

None.

6. GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

- **Christopher J. Garner, General Manager**

President Cordero called on Mr. Garner for his report.

PFAS PRESENTATION BY TAI TSENG

Mr. Tseng provided a report on PFAS (Per-and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances). He noted this report had been requested by President Cordero. He provided background information regarding health effects (potential birth defects and increased cholesterol readings) and noted the regulatory development for standards/guidelines for PFAS is still in its early stages. He reported that the State Water Resources Control Board recently issued an order to Long Beach Water to test 14 wells identified to be vulnerable to contamination due to their geographical proximity to pollution sources. He noted that for the first round of testing, all 14 wells did not have any detection of PFOS and PFOA, the two primary PFAS chemicals of concern. There was a discussion regarding the Fire Department use of foam that does not contain PFAS during their training exercises to minimize the potential of contaminating the groundwater. He concluded by advising staff would keep the Board apprised regarding any further updates regarding PFAS.

NEW BOARD AGENDA PROCESS

Ms. Weatherly provided a report on the new Board agenda process as follows:

- Changes necessitated when staff received notification from City Attorney that current LBWD website was not in compliance as per AB 2257.
 - Compliance laws regarding meetings on websites must be:
 - Downloadable
 - Indexable
 - Electronically searchable
 - Maintained on an agenda management platform

LBWD SOLUTION TO MEET COMPLIANCE STANDARDS

- Use of City's Legistar platform
 - Meets all compliance regulations
 - Transparency
 - Easier to manage than having our own system
 - Doesn't take up bandwidth on website
- Link on new LBWD website will take viewer to the Legistar In-Site link to agendas and minutes for the Commission
- She provided an overview of the new Board agenda process and agenda item deadlines

At the end of her report, Ms. Weatherly advised the Board that the launch date for the new LBWD website was now set for July 12, 2019.

Commissioner Levine inquired about the ability for the Board to add a last-minute item to an agenda as they had previously done. Ms. Fox and the Deputy City Attorney Mr. Anderson advised this could be handled through a supplemental agenda under the Legistar system.

Commissioner Saltzgaver commented on the initial two-week in advance agenda timeline that staff has established for agendas being prepared in the Legistar system. Ms. Fox explained that this timeline will probably be shortened depending on how long it takes staff to familiarize themselves with the Legistar agenda preparation process.

Commissioner Saltzgaver also questioned the ability of Board presentations being uploaded online, rather than having to use printed paper presentations. Ms. Fox advised that as she currently understands it there will be the capability of uploading a PDF file of any scheduled Board meeting presentations.

CIVIC CENTER GRAND OPENING

Mr. Garner announced that the grand opening of the new civic center had been scheduled for July 29, 2019.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF LONG BEACH (HSLB) "WATER CHANGES EVERYTHING" EXHIBIT OPENING

Mr. Garner advised the Board to see Ms. Fox for tickets to the HSLB "Water Changes Everything" exhibit opening

FEDERAL AND STATE LEGISLATIVE REPORTS

Mr. Garner advised the Board that copies of the current Federal and State legislative reports were in their cubby folders.

SUNNYSIDE CEMETERY

Mr. Garner reported that ongoing discussions are occurring regarding the possibility that the City may be taking over the operation and maintenance of the Sunnyside Cemetery (private cemetery adjacent to Municipal Cemetery on Willow) at the end of August 2019 due to the cemetery's ongoing financial problems.

He alerted the Board of the possibility that the Water Department may be approached to address the concerns with the cemetery's irrigation system (which he advised is not currently working). He advised there is also the possibility that the Water Department will be approached regarding access to reclaimed water for use at the cemetery and a possible turf replacement program.

Mr. Garner called on Mr. Crumby who provided an updated report regarding the possibility of supplying recycled water to the cemetery. He spoke about the problems and costs regarding this potential request.

UPDATE ON SALARY ADJUSTMENTS FOR CERTAIN LONG BEACH WATER DEPARTMENT EMPLOYEE JOB CLASSIFICATIONS

Mr. Garner advised that discussions regarding the Board and City Council approved salary adjustments for certain job classifications had become part of recent labor negotiations with the labor group ALBE. He noted these negotiations had been through mediation and were now in a fact-finding process for the last couple of months. He advised there may still be a few months process before this issue is resolved.

There was discussion regarding a potential strike by some of these workers as mentioned in the media. Mr. Garner noted he will keep the Board updated regarding this issue.

INTERVIEW PANEL FOR NEW CIVIL SERVICE DIRECTOR

Mr. Garner advised the Board that he had recently had the opportunity to serve on the interview panel for the new Civil Service Director. He advised the panel had made their recommendation to the Civil Service Commission who was expected to make an announcement soon regarding the selected candidate.

OUTSTANDING BOARD REQUESTED REPORTS

Mr. Garner advised that staff was working on bringing back to the Board reports on the following:

- General Liability
- Lifeline Program Information
- Mr. Sanjay Gaur report on city bill comparisons
- On-Call contract/purchasing guidelines
- Survey of customers

- 7. AUTHORIZE THE GENERAL MANAGER TO EXECUTE A ONE (1) MONTH EXTENSION OF A REVOCABLE FACILITY USE PERMIT WITH SULLY-MILLER CONTRACTING CO., AT LONG BEACH WATER DEPARTMENT-OWNED PROPERTY AT ST. LOUIS AVENUE AND 32ND STREET, FOR CONTINUED STAGING OF VEHICLES, EQUIPMENT AND MATERIALS, NECESSARY FOR PAVING AND OTHER STREET RELATED SERVICES PROVIDED TO THE LONG BEACH WATER DEPARTMENT (LBWD) AND CITY**
 - **B. Anatole Falagan, Assistant General Manager**

President Cordero introduced agenda item 7. Mr. Bott provided a staff report and presentation regarding this request which included the history regarding this permit.

Note: Commissioner Saltzgaver left the meeting at 9:54 a.m.

Note: Commissioner Saltzgaver returned to the meeting at 9:56 A.M.

Commissioner Levine inquired if the rent the Long Beach Water Department is receiving for this lease is consistent with the fair market value.

Mr. Bott explained that the lease amount Sully-Miller is currently paying is consistent with the last appraisal of the property. He advised that staff had recently had the property reappraised. He noted this one-month extension lease payment would be based on the current amount they are paying. He noted if the department were to enter into a long-term lease for this property the newly appraised lease amount would be used to establish a monthly rent payment.

Commissioner Martinez inquired if this was the property that was previously mentioned in discussions regarding the adjacent Boeing property.

Mr. Crumby responded yes this was that piece of property that had previously been discussed. He advised that the City is currently reviewing entitlements with potential developers for the Boeing property. He noted that once a developer is selected there is the potential that LBWD could possibly incorporate the LBWD property with the former Boeing property. He noted that any new agreements on the LBWD property would now contain a termination clause.

Commissioner Martinez inquired how long would they have to terminate. Mr. Crumby responded ninety days.

Commissioner Saltzgaver made a motion to authorize the General Manager to execute a one (1) month extension of a Revocable Facility Use Permit with Sully-Miller Contracting Co., at Long Beach Water Department-owned property at St. Louis Avenue and 32nd Street, for continued staging of vehicles, equipment and materials, necessary for paving and other street related services provided to the Long Beach Water Department (LBWD) and City. Commissioner Martinez seconded the motion.

President Cordero called for any public comment. Hearing none she called for the vote. The motion carried with a 4-1 vote (Shannon absent).

8. ADOPT SPECIFICATIONS WD-22-19 AND AUTHORIZE THE GENERAL MANAGER TO EXECUTE A CONTRACT WITH HAAKER EQUIPMENT COMPANY, TO FURNISH AND DELIVER ONE (1) TRUCK MOUNTED JETTER, IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$384,000

- **Tai J. Tseng, Assistant General Manager - Operations**

President Cordero introduced agenda item 8. and called on Mr. Tseng for a staff report.

Mr. Tseng provided background information regarding the bid and purchase of this truck.

Commissioner Levine requested an explanation on what a jetter does. Mr. Tseng provided an explanation.

Commissioner Martinez made a motion to adopt Specifications WD-22-19 and authorize the General Manager to execute a contract with Haaker Equipment Company, to furnish and deliver one (1) Truck Mounted Jetter, in an amount not to exceed \$384,000. Commissioner Saltzgaver seconded the motion.

Commissioner Saltzgaver inquired if the requested price included the jetter. Mr. Tseng responded yes.

President Cordero called for any public comment. Hearing none she called for the vote. The motion carried with a 4-1 vote (Shannon absent).

9. PRESENTATION REGARDING COMMUNICATIONS MASTER PLAN CONCEPTS

• Kaylee Weatherly, Public Information Officer

Ms. Weatherly provided a report on what a Strategic Communications Plan is, and the reasons for embarking on developing a Strategic Communications Master Plan. She also reviewed the goals of a Strategic Communications Master Plan; Plan elements and noted steps in an Action Plan for the Board and staff.

She then advised that staff would be looking for Board feedback on establishing such a Master Plan for the Long Beach Water Department.

Ms. Weatherly then requested any feedback from the Commissioners regarding this Communications Master Plan concept.

Commissioner Saltzgaver requested that in advance of any Board Workshop regarding this subject that the Board receive drafts or an outline to review.

Commissioner Martinez advised he liked the concept as outlined. He advised that when the surveys are being used that all the Commissioners participate in this process as well. He also reminded the Board and staff that it is very important that dissemination of information to the public regarding possible rate increases takes place well in advance of the final decision being made by the Board.

Commissioner Levine inquired what type of timeline was being set for implementation of this type of plan. Ms. Weatherly advised staff hoped to have something in the works within the next few months, beginning with the research component that could take several weeks. She advised staff would then want to conduct a Board workshop; and then proceed with implementation of a Master Communications Plan.

President Cordero spoke about the department's Education Master Plan, and the Strategic Plan. She inquired if an educational component could also be added to this Master Communications Plan. Ms. Weatherly advised that type of information would be included in the plan.

President Cordero asked if staff would be receiving public input regarding this plan. Ms. Weatherly advised that through surveys, discussions with other water agencies and city departments that ultimately public input would be included.

At this point in the meeting President Cordero introduced Mr. Charles Gale from the Metropolitan Water District, who she advised handles outreach and communications in the Legislative division at the district.

Commissioner Saltzgaver commented that this type of planning is an example of staff being proactive in trying to get ahead of some of the issues that the department may be facing. He expressed his appreciation for this type of staff work.

President Cordero called for any public comment. Hearing none she moved on in the agenda.

10. Consider Standing Committee Referrals

- **Gloria Cordero, President, Board of Water Commissioners**

President Cordero called for any Standing Committee referrals.

Commissioner Saltzgaver mentioned that there had been discussions at the last Board meeting regarding holding a Finance Committee meeting. He noted that a meeting date had been set but advised this item had not been formerly referred to that Committee.

Commissioner Saltzgaver made a motion to schedule a Finance Committee on August 22, 201 at 8:00 A.M. Commissioner Martinez seconded the motion.

President Cordero called for any public comment. Hearing none she called for the vote. The motion carried with a 4-1 vote (Shannon absent).

Commissioner Saltzgaver also reminded staff that Commissioner Shannon had requested at the last Board meeting that a closed session be set to discuss existing litigation. President Cordero mentioned that that date had not yet been set but would be scheduled when a full quorum of the Board would be present.

11. NEW BUSINESS

President Cordero called for any new business.

Commissioner Saltzgaver made a motion to excuse Commissioner Shannon from the June 27, 2019 Board meeting. Commissioner Martinez second the motion.

President Cordero called for the vote. The motion carried with a 4-1 vote (Shannon absent).

President Cordero closed the Board meeting by telling the Board about a recent book she had received – “The Dreamt Land: Chasing Dust and Water across California” by Mark Arax. She noted it is an excellent book.

Mr. Garner thanked Mr. Anderson for filling in for Mr. Anthony during his vacation time off.

12. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, President Cordero adjourned the regular meeting at 10:15 a.m. to the next regular meeting for the Water Commission to be held July 11, 2019 at 9:00 a.m., in the Board Room of the Administration Building, 1800 E. Wardlow Road, in Long Beach, California.

Art Levine, Secretary

Attest:

Harry Saltzgaver, President