

**CITY OF LONG BEACH  
WATER COMMISSION  
MINUTES**

**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2020  
VIA TELECONFERENCE/WEB, 9:00 AM**

Frank Martinez, President  
Arthur Levine, Vice President

Christopher J. Garner, General Manager



Robert Shannon, Secretary  
Gloria Cordero, Commissioner

Richard Anthony, Deputy City Attorney

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**REGULAR MEETING**

**FINISHED AGENDA & DRAFT MINUTES**

**CALL TO ORDER**

The Board of Water Commission meeting was called to order by President Martinez at 9:00 A.M. This meeting was held via teleconference pursuant to Executive Order N-29-20 issued by Governor Gavin Newsom.

**ROLL CALL**

Executive Assistant to the Board, Sandra Fox took the roll call and confirmed a quorum.

Also present: Christopher J. Garner, General Manager; B. Anatole Falagan, Assistant General Manager; Tai Tseng, Assistant General Manager - Operations; Sandra Fox, Executive Assistant to the Board.

**Commissioners** Gloria Cordero, Robert Shannon, Art Levine and Frank Martinez  
**Present:**

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

1. [20-170WA](#) October 15, 2020 Board of Water Commission meeting public comments

President Martinez opened the public comment period and asked if any written public comment had been received. Ms. Fox advised no written

public comment had been received for the October 15, 2020 Board meeting. President Martinez then inquired if there was any public on the line who would like to speak. Hearing none, he closed the public comment period.

## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

President Martinez reviewed the current Standing Committee assignments as follows:

Finance Committee - Martinez, Chair Member - Vacant  
Infrastructure Committee - Levine, Chair Member - Martinez  
Communications Committee - Cordero, Chair Member, Levine  
Government Affairs Committee - Shannon, Chair Member - Vacant

Commissioner Cordero expressed an interest on serving on the Government Affairs Committee.

President Martinez requested that Deputy City Attorney Anthony review how assignments are made for Board Standing Committees.

Mr. Anthony responded.

President Martinez commented on the possibility that Standing Committee assignments could be shuffled once Naomi Rainey joins the Commission.

Commissioner Shannon expressed his interest in being assigned to the Finance Committee.

Commissioner Levine advised he wished to remain on the Communications Committee.

President Martinez confirmed the following Standing Committee appointments:

Commissioner Shannon was appointed to the Finance Committee.

Commissioner Cordero was appointed to the Government Affairs Committee.

President Martinez mentioned that a lot of activity had recently taken place at the Metropolitan Water District meeting on October 13, 2020 and noted that MWD Director Cordero would be providing a report later on in the meeting.

## GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Garner reported to the Board that there had only been a total of two cases of COVID for the entire department. He congratulated the employees in remaining diligent and practicing social distancing when applicable.

He provided information to the Board regarding employee temperature testing equipment that is being used in a pilot program. He advised that the Port had loaned the test equipment to the department, and it was being used at the Treatment Plant.

He noted that Shaun Curtis is also researching additional temperature monitoring equipment for possible use at the department.

President Martinez commented regarding the successful use of this kind of equipment in other industries.

Mr. Garner reported to the Board that he had made a virtual presentation to the Rotary Club on October 14, 2020 regarding the department and safe drinking water.

At this point in the meeting Mr. Verceles made a verbal presentation to the Board regarding the Professional Services Procurement Process.

President Martinez thanked Mr. Verceles for the excellent presentation and asked if the Commissioners had any questions or comments.

Commissioner Levine inquired how many vendors typically bid on proposals.

Mr. Verceles responded.

2. [20-171WA](#) Recommendation to review November & December 2020 and January 2021 Board Meeting Schedules.

President Martinez reviewed the November 2020, December 2020 and January 2021 Board meeting calendars.

The November board meeting dates as presented to the Board were agreed upon: November 5, 2020 and November 19, 2020.

Commissioner Shannon made a motion that the Board meet on December 3, 2020 and December 17, 2020. For the record a second was not made to this motion.

At this point in the meeting President Martinez inquired about the ACWA Fall Conference that will be held virtually in December 2020. He asked if an agenda had yet been published, and what would the cost be for each participant.

Ms. Fox responded.

President Martinez noted that he did not feel this conference would be as valuable being conducted as a virtual event. Commissioner Shannon noted that he agreed with President Martinez's comments. President Martinez suggested passing on attendance at this conference this year to preserve funding.

Commissioner Shannon asked Mr. Garner about the suggested December meeting dates, and possibly adding an additional meeting early in the week of December 28th. Mr. Garner suggested leaving the December and January meeting dates as proposed due to holiday schedules. He noted a special meeting could be added as necessary.

At this point in the meeting Richard Anthony, Deputy City Attorney noted he did not feel a motion was necessary to set Board meeting dates, as these rules for every other Thursday meetings had been set by resolution a few years back, and noted the last Thursday of December would be skipped.

Commissioner Shannon made a new motion (previous motion died for lack of a second) to have the Board meet on November 5, November 19, December 3, and December 17, 2020.

There was discussion on whether the January meeting dates needed to be included in the motion on the floor. Mr. Anthony and the President advised this was not necessary.

Commissioner Shannon revised his motion to add the meeting dates of January 7, and January 21, 2021 to the motion. Commissioner Cordero seconded the motion.

President Martinez called for any public comment. Hearing none he called

for a roll call vote.

The motion carried unanimously 4 -0.

3. [20-172WA](#)

Recommendation to approve August 20, 2020 Board meeting minutes & August 27, 2020 Prop. 218 Public Hearing Minutes.

President Martinez called for a motion to approve the August 20, 2020 Board meeting minutes, and the August 27, 2020 Prop. 218 Public Hearing minutes.

He called for any public comment. Hearing none he called for a roll call vote.

**A motion was made by Secretary Shannon, seconded by Vice President Levine, to approve recommendation. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Yes:** 4 - Gloria Cordero, Robert Shannon, Art Levine and Frank Martinez

4. [20-173WA](#)

Recommendation to approve Transfer of Funds by Journal Entry dated October 15, 2020.

BUREAU: Business - Finance

President Martinez introduced the Transfer of Funds for October 15, 2020 and called for any Commission questions.

Commissioner Shannon inquired about item 276. Sustainability charges. He asked what the department was receiving for the yearly charge of \$65,000.

Mr. Garner advised he could schedule someone from the group to present a report to the Board. He noted that staff had worked very diligently in revising the MOU with the Office of Sustainability this year. He advised staff could bring a summary report back to the Board at the next meeting regarding this item.

President Martinez called for any public comment. Hearing none he called for any other Commissioner comments or staff comments. He then called

for a roll call vote.

At this point in the meeting Mr. Garner advised that in answer to a question brought up under the Engineering report presented under the General Manager report regarding the bidding process, that there is no cost for a vendor to join Planet Bids to be notified of upcoming projects throughout the city.

**A motion was made by Secretary Shannon, seconded by Commissioner Cordero, to approve recommendation. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Yes:** 4 - Gloria Cordero, Robert Shannon, Art Levine and Frank Martinez

5. [20-174WA](#)

Adopt Specifications WD-11-20 for the Sanitary Sewer Rehabilitation and Replacement Project 6 (SC-0366) and authorize the General Manager to sign a Construction Contract with Sancon Technologies, Inc. in the amount of \$508,103.99.

BUREAU: Engineering

Ms. Jinny Huang-Uy provided the staff report.

President Martinez called for any Commission comments or questions. Hearing none President Martinez remarked on the savings that were noted in the board letter regarding the engineer's estimate and Sancon's bid.

Ms. Huang-Uy responded.

President Martinez inquired if Sancon uses the same method as Insituform by inserting a sleeve for pipe repairs.

Ms. Huang-Uy responded.

President Martinez asked if Sancon had worked for the department before.

Ms. Huang-Uy responded yes.

President Martinez called for a motion.

**A motion was made by Vice President Levine, seconded by Secretary Shannon, to approve recommendation. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Yes:** 4 - Gloria Cordero, Robert Shannon, Art Levine and Frank Martinez

**6. [20-175WA](#)**

Recommendation to authorize the General Manager to revise the scope of work for the Agreement with the Beach Sports Properties Marketing and Advertising Program final payment of \$7,600.

BUREAU: Public Affairs

President Martinez introduced agenda item 6.

Ms. Weatherly provided the staff report.

President Martinez called for any Commission comments or questions.

Commissioner Cordero noted her support in completing the contract, and spoke about the opportunity for streaming the message during the games.

Commissioner Cordero made a motion to approve the contract.  
Commissioner Levine seconded the motion.

Mr. Anthony, Deputy City Attorney clarified that this motion was for the approval of recommended action Option 1.

Commissioner Shannon commented on approval of the remainder of the contract. He cautioned about the deliverables being the best use of ratepayer monies.

President Martinez suggested that all future contracts might include a clause regarding the possibility of future emergencies or pandemics affecting the deliverables be noted in contracts so there would not be a need for an item to be returned to the Board for further action.

Commissioner Cordero made additional comments.

At this point in the meeting, President Martinez called on Ms. Fox to read a written public comment into the record that had been received for agenda

item 6. as follows:

Padric Gleason Gonzales:

I'm writing in support of Option 2 of the staff recommendation. Right now, during a public health crisis and municipal fiscal crisis, the money would be better spent on other matters. Long Beach has a noteworthy history and reputation in aquatics and water sports, but now is not the time to spend \$7,600 promoting local sports. Please vote to terminate the Beach Sports Properties Marketing and Advertising Program and not complete the final payment of \$7,600.

Commissioner Shannon spoke.

President Martinez called for a roll call vote.

**A motion was made by Commissioner Cordero, seconded by Vice President Levine, to approve recommendation. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Yes:** 4 - Gloria Cordero, Robert Shannon, Art Levine and Frank Martinez

7. [20-176WA](#)

Recommendation to receive report from October 13, 2020 Metropolitan Water District Board of Directors Meeting

Ms. Cordero, Metropolitan Water Department (MWD) Director provided a report from the October 13, 2020 MWD board meeting.

She noted that the MWD Board had held their elections for the MWD Chair of the Board of Directors. She reported that Ms. Gloria Gray had been re-elected as the Chair of the Board for her second term.

She reported that the MWD Board had authorized an additional expenditure of \$150,000 for pending litigation (along with other agencies) against the State of California over the California Endangered Species Act. She advised the suit was against the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, Department of Water Resources and the Department of Natural Resources. She advised this litigation was related to the Incidental Take permit.

She provided background on the proposed Sites Reservoir and noted the MWD Board had approved a \$5 million expenditure to research the

feasibility of this reservoir.

She also spoke about the proposed raising of Shasta Dam.

She requested that staff consider making a presentation to the Board regarding the proposed Sites reservoir and the raising of Shasta Dam.

President Martinez called for any Commission comments or questions.

Commissioner Shannon commented on the MWD lawsuit against the State of California, and other MWD litigation.

Director Cordero responded.

Commissioner Shannon made additional comments.

President Martinez agreed with Director Cordero that the LBWD Board might benefit from a briefing on the proposed Sites reservoir, and the proposed raising of Shasta Dam, which should include a timetable and information related to environmental justice for these projects and financial implications.

Director Cordero advised that she felt that LBWD staff should be able to provide these briefings. She also made additional comments regarding these two proposed projects.

President Martinez spoke regarding environmental justice for Native Americans.

Mr. Falagan spoke regarding the requested briefings and possible presentations regarding these two projects.

President Martinez thanked Director Cordero for her MWD service and her ongoing practice of keeping the LBWD Board updated on the work of the MWD board.

Director Cordero responded.

Mr. Garner thanked Mr. Falagan for all of his assistance with MWD board meetings and committee meetings, and helping to keep Director Cordero updated regarding MWD information for her Board position.

Director Cordero spoke.

President Martinez called for any additional comments or questions from the Commission or the public.

Hearing none he moved on in the agenda.

### **CONSIDER STANDING COMMITTEE REFERRALS**

President Martinez called for any Standing Committee referrals.

There were none.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

President Martinez called for any new business. There was none.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

President Martinez read the closed session items (2) into the record, and adjourned the Board meeting to the closed session at 10:14 A.M.

President Martinez reconvened the Board meeting at 11:01 A.M. and advised he had nothing to report from the closed session.

President Martinez adjourned the Board meeting at 11:03 A.M. to the teleconference Board meeting to be held on October 29, 2020 at 9:00 A.M.

**NOTE:**

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