

**CITY OF LONG BEACH  
WATER COMMISSION  
MINUTES**

**THURSDAY, JANUARY 9, 2020  
LONG BEACH WATER DEPARTMENT  
1800 EAST WARDLOW ROAD  
BOARD ROOM, 9:00 AM**

Harry Saltzgaver, President  
Frank Martinez, Vice President  
Arthur Levine, Secretary



Robert Shannon, Commissioner  
Gloria Cordero, Commissioner

Christopher J. Garner, General Manager

Richard Anthony, Deputy City Attorney

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**FINISHED AGENDA & FINAL MINUTES**

The Water Commission minutes are prepared and ordered to correspond to the Water Commission agenda. Agenda items can be taken out of order during the meeting.

The agenda items were considered in the order presented, except agenda item 2. was considered before agenda item 1., and the Annual Federal Legislative Summary was taken ahead of the Acting City Manager Update by Tom Modica.

**CALL TO ORDER**

The Board of Water Commission meeting was called to order by President Saltzgaver at 9:00 A.M. in the Board room at the Administration building.

**ROLL CALL**

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

Also present: Chris Garner, General Manager; Anatole Falagan, Assistant General Manager; Tai Tseng, Assistant General Manager - Operations; Sean Crumby, Deputy General Manager - Engineering; Sandra Fox, Executive Assistant.

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

**FLAG SALUTE**

Kaylee Weatherly led the Board and the audience in the flag salute.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

President Saltzgaver opened the public comment period. As there was no public comment, the public comment period was closed.

## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

Harry Saltzgaver, President, Board of Water Commissioners advised a Special Closed Session had originally been called to take place at 9:30 A.M. He advised this closed session would now be combined with the closed session agendized at the end of January 9, 2020 Board meeting.

President Saltzgaver reported that the City Council had approved an ordinance to increase stipends for some Commissions and establish stipends for those Board and Commissions who had not received any compensation in the past. The Deputy City Attorney advised since this action had been taken by ordinance it would be 45 days before this action could become effective. President Saltzgaver advised that language in the ordinance made this action retroactive to January 1st, 2020.

President Saltzgaver advised the Board that several Field Deputies of Senator Dianne Feinstein would be in Long Beach on Friday, January 10th to attend a round-table luncheon meeting. He noted that he and Vice President Martinez would be attending this luncheon. He advised they would report back to the Board at the next meeting regarding this luncheon meeting.

## **GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT**

Mr. Garner provided an update on the AMI agreement negotiations requested by Tribus to re-negotiate some items in the original agreement. He advised these negotiations were going well. He advised that staff hoped to bring the renegotiated agreement back to the Board in two weeks.

2. [19-117WA](#) Recommendation to approve September 19, 2019 minutes

President Saltzgaver took agenda item 2. out of order before agenda item 1. He called for a motion to approve the September 19, 2029 meeting minutes.

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

**Yes:** 5 - Harry Saltzgaver, Frank Martinez, Art Levine, Robert Shannon and Gloria Cordero

1. [19-116WA](#)

Recommendation to approve Consent Calendar: Approval of Transfer of Funds by Journal Entry dated January 9, 2020

President Saltzgaver introduced the Consent Calendar item - Approval of Transfer of Funds by Journal Entry dated January 9, 2020. He called for any questions from the Commission. He called for any public comment. Hearing none he called for a motion.

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

**Yes:** 5 - Harry Saltzgaver, Frank Martinez, Art Levine, Robert Shannon and Gloria Cordero

**REGULAR AGENDA**

3. [19-118WA](#)

Recommendation to authorize attendance and sponsorship of the California Conference for Equality and Justice (CCEJ)'s annual Interfaith Intercultural Breakfast on February 6, 2020

**BUREAU: Executive**

Mr. Garner provided the staff report. He advised the Commission had not previously sponsored this event. He advised CCEJ was seeking a \$500 sponsorship (Harmony table).

President Saltzgaver spoke.

President Saltzgaver called for any public comment. Hearing none he called for any Commissioner questions or comments.

Board approved a sponsorship at the \$500.00 level.

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

**Yes:** 5 - Harry Saltzgaver, Frank Martinez, Art Levine, Robert Shannon and Gloria Cordero

4. [19-119WA](#)

Recommendation to authorize attendance and sponsorship of the 29th Annual California Water Policy Conference being held in Davis, CA on April 2 - 3, 2020

**BUREAU: Executive**

Mr. Garner provided the staff report. He advised the agency was requesting a \$1,500 level 1 sponsorship. He advised the Board had previously sponsored this conference in 2016 and 2018.

President Saltzgaver spoke.

Commissioner Cordero spoke.

The Board approved the sponsorship in the amount of \$1,500.

President Saltzgaver called for any public comment. Hearing none he called for any additional Commission comments or questions.

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

**Yes:** 5 - Harry Saltzgaver, Frank Martinez, Art Levine, Robert Shannon and Gloria Cordero

5. [19-120WA](#)

Recommendation to authorize the General Manager to execute an agreement with Tetra Tech, Inc., to provide Engineering Design Services for the Groundwater Treatment Plant Filter Gallery Valve Rehabilitation Project (EO-3529), in an amount not-to-exceed \$277,282

**BUREAU: Engineering**

Ms. Patrizia Hall provided the staff report.

President Saltzgaver requested an explanation regarding the project that is taking place in front of the Treatment Plant on Redondo Avenue.

Ms. Hall responded.

President Saltzgaver called for any public comment. Hearing none he called for any Commissioner questions or comments.

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

**Yes:** 5 - Harry Saltzgaver, Frank Martinez, Art Levine, Robert Shannon and Gloria Cordero

6. [19-121WA](#)

Recommendation to Adopt Specifications WD-28-18 for the Alley Water Main Conversion for Daisy Avenue (MC-5129) and authorize the General Manager to sign a construction contract with the Stephen Doreck Equipment Rentals, Inc., in the amount of \$2,087,910.00.

**BUREAU: Engineering**

Mr. Robert Verceles provided the staff report.

President Saltzgaver called for any public comment. Hearing none he called for any questions or comments from the Commissioners.

Commissioner Cordero spoke.

Mr. Verceles spoke.

Commissioner Martinez inquired about a Facilities Master plan, and asked if these types of projects could be incorporated into that study.

Mr. Crumby responded.

Commissioner Levine inquired about a master document that contained historical information regarding all water and sewer pipes in the city.

Mr. Verceles responded.

Commissioner Martinez requested that staff provide a future report regarding the department's GIS system.

Mr. Garner spoke about the department's water and sewer lines, and the department's ongoing plans for replacement of the aging pipelines.

President Saltzgaver requested information regarding noticing the customers who will be impacted by this work.

Mr. Verceles outlined the department's normal noticing procedures.

Mr. Garner made additional comments.

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

**Yes:** 5 - Harry Saltzgaver, Frank Martinez, Art Levine, Robert Shannon and Gloria Cordero

## **ANNUAL FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY**

President Saltzgaver advised the Federal Legislative summary report would be taken out of order since Mr. Modica, Acting City Manager had not yet arrived to the Board meeting.

Ms. Jillian Croci made introductory remarks regarding Carpi Clay and introduced their staff, Julie Minerva and Laura Morgan-Kessler. She advised they would provide their annual report on the previous year's highlights and forecast for the coming year.

Ms. Morgan-Kessler provided an overview of the work that the Carpi Clay staff provides to the Long Beach Water Department. She also provided a review of 2019 appropriations, grants, congressional legislation and Federal agency actions.

She also outlined a look ahead for 2020 as it relates to the President's annual budget/fiscal

year 2021 appropriations; Federal grant opportunities; release of the final Water of the U.S. Rule and potential congressional action.

Commissioner Cordero spoke.

Ms. Minerva spoke.

Commissioner Martinez spoke.

Ms. Morgan-Kessler spoke.

Ms. Minerva spoke.

Mr. Garner spoke.

Commissioner Martinez inquired about a future advocacy trip to Washington, DC.

Ms. Minerva responded.

President Saltzgaver spoke.

#### **ACTING CITY MANAGER UPDATE - TOM MODICA**

President Saltzgaver introduced Acting City Manager, Tom Modica.

Mr. Modica provided a city update which included the following five top priorities:

1. Homelessness
2. Strategic Planning Vision for 2030
3. Employee engagement (through weekly newsletter to all employees)
4. Hiring priority to streamline on-boarding procedures
5. Budgeting challenges/solutions

He complimented the Board and the General Manager for their strong relationship and oversight.

Commissioner Shannon spoke.

Commissioner Levine spoke.

Commissioner Martinez spoke.

Commissioner Cordero spoke.

President Saltzgaver inquired about union negotiations.

Mr. Modica responded; noting there are now eleven bargaining units.

Commissioner Shannon inquired about the make-up of the negotiating team.

Mr. Modica responded.

Commissioner Martinez spoke about the Water Department's Strategic Plan.

Mr. Modica made additional comments regarding the City's Visioning Plan.

Commissioner Martinez requested an update on the City's Facilities Condition Assessment report.

Mr. Modica provided an overview of this program.

Mr. Garner spoke.

## **CONSIDER STANDING COMMITTEE REFERRALS**

President Saltzgaver called for any Standing Committee referrals.

Hearing none, he inquired about the date for the next Finance Standing Committee meeting.

Ms. Fox advised that meeting had been scheduled for January 23, 2020 at 8:00 A.M.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Commissioner Cordero noted that the CCEJ event that was just approved for a sponsorship falls on February 6th which is the first scheduled Board meeting in February. It was determined that an adjustment in the start time for that meeting could be made at the net Board meeting.

### **7. [19-122WA](#)**

#### **CLOSED SESSION:**

Pursuant to Section 54957.6 and paragraph (b)1 of Section 54957 of the California Government Code regarding Public Employee Performance Evaluation and Terms of Employment: General Manager



President Saltzgaver read the first closed session language into the record:  
Existing Litigation - closed session conference with legal counsel relating to  
existing litigation pursuant to Paragraph (1) of subdivision (d) of Section  
54956.9 of the California Government code.

1. *Diana Lejins and Angela Kimball v. City of Long Beach, et al.*, Los  
Angeles Superior Court Case No. 18STCP02628

He called for any public comment. Hearing none he moved onto the second  
closed session item.

8. [20-001WA](#)

CLOSED SESSION:

Existing Litigation - closed session conference with legal  
counsel relating to existing litigation pursuant to Paragraph (1)  
of subdivision (d) of Section 54956.9 of the California  
Government Code.

1. *Diana Lejins and Angela Kimball v. City of Long Beach, et al.*, Los  
Angeles Superior Court Case No.: 18STCP02628.

President Saltzgaver read the second closed session language into the  
record:

Existing Litigation - closed session conference with legal counsel relating to  
existing litigation pursuant to Paragraph (1) of subdivision (d) of Section  
54956.9 of the California Government code.

1. *Diana Lejins and Angela Kimball v. City of Long Beach, et al.*, Los  
Angeles Superior Court Case No. 18STCP02628

He called for any public comment. Hearing none he adjourned the Board to  
the closed sessions at 10:00 A.M.

President Saltzgaver called the regular meeting back into session at 11:10  
A.M.

He advised he had nothing to report from the closed sessions.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

President Saltzgaver adjourned the Board meeting at 11:11 A.M. to the next Special Meeting, Thursday, January 9, 2020, at 11:00 A.M. at Long Beach Airport Marriott Terrace Grille, 4700 Airport Plaza Drive, Long Beach, CA.

**Written materials relating to any item on the Commission's agenda which are submitted to the Commission after distribution of the agenda packet are available for public inspection at the Water Department Administration Offices located at 1800 E Wardlow Road, Long Beach, CA 90807.**

### **Note:**

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**NOTE:**

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Kung nais ang pagsasalin ng nakasulat na wika ng agenda ng Komisyon at ang minutes para sa mga taong hindi nagsasalita ng Ingles, mangyaring isagawa ang iyong hiling sa pamamagitan ng telepono sa Opisina ng Clerk ng Lungsod sa (562) 570-6101, 72 oras ng negosyo bago ang pagpupulong ng Commission.

Si desea obtener la traducción escrita en otro idioma de la agenda y actas de la comisión para personas que no hablan inglés, haga su solicitud por teléfono a la Oficina de la Secretaría Municipal al (562) 570-6101, 72 horas hábiles antes de la reunión de la comisión.

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