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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, JULY 23, 2025
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, Lefevre, Masnek, Mazinani, Stecker, Thomas, and Chair Siani

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 Blvd. and on the City's Website on Thursday, July 17, 2025.

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 ANNOUNCEMENT OF WITHDRAWN, DEFERRED, AND/OR SUPPLEMENTAL ITEMS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 of May 28, 2025.

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. Accept and File Report regarding the induction of Raymond Jay as Torrance's Metropolitan Water District (MWD) Director and Recognition of former Director Russ Lefevre for his dedicated service.

Recommendation of the Water Operations Manager that the Water Commission accept and file this presentation and report.

7B. Accept and File Election report for Water Commission Chair and Vice-Chair positions for fiscal 2025-26.

Recommendation of the Water Operations Manager that the Water Commission Accept and file this report.

7C. Accept and File Presentation and Report regarding major drivers for the Metropolitan Water District's Budget and Imported Wholesale Water Rates for the next two-year budget cycle.

Recommendation of the Water Operations Manager that the Water Commission accept and file this presentation and report.

7D. Accept and File Oral Presentation and Report regarding Annual Water Quality Report (CCR) for calendar 2024.

Recommendation of the Water Operations Manager that the Water Commission accept and file this report.

7E. Accept and File the Monthly Operations Report for June 2025.

Recommendation of the Water Operations Manager that the Water Commission accept and file this report.

8. METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT MATTERS

8A. Accept and File the Metropolitan Water District Director's Report.

Recommendation of the Water Operations Manager that the Water Commission accept and file this report.

9. COMMISSION AND STAFF ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

10. ADJOURNMENT

10A. Adjournment date for the next Water Commission Meeting to Wednesday, August 27, 2025, at 6:30 pm in the West Annex of City Hall located at 3031 Torrance Blvd.

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE
TORRANCE WATER COMMISSION**

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Torrance Water Commission convened in a regular session at 6:32 p.m. on Wednesday, May 28, 2025, in the West Annex Commission Meeting Room, 3031 Torrance Boulevard.

ROLL CALL

Present: Commissioners Deemer, Jay, Stecker, Thomas and Chair Siani

Absent: Commissioners Mazinani, Masnek

Also Present: Water Operations Manager Andrew Darlak,
Policy and Resources Specialist Chuck Schaich,
Metropolitan Water District Director Russell Lefevre,
Public Works Director Matthew Knapp

MOTION: Commissioner Jay moved to excuse Commissioner Masnek's absence from today's meeting. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected 5-0 approval (Commissioners Masnek and Mazinani absent).

2. FLAG SALUTE

Commissioner Jay led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. REPORT ON POSTING OF AGENDA

Policy and Resources Schaich reported that the agenda for the Water Commission was posted on the Public Notice Board and on the City's website on Thursday, May 22, 2025.

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

None.

5. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

None.

6. CONSENT CALENDAR

6A. APPROVE MEETING MINUTES OF DECEMBER 18, 2024 AND MARCH 26, 2025

MOTION: Commissioner Thomas moved to approve the December 18, 2024, meeting minutes. Commissioner Stecker seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected 5-0 approval (Commissioners Masnek and Mazinani absent).

MOTION: Commissioner Jay moved to approve the March 26, 2025, meeting minutes. Commissioner Deemer seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected 3-0 approval (Commissioners Masnek and Mazinani absent and Commissioners Stecker and Thomas abstained.)

7. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

7A. ACCEPT AND FILE PRESENTATION AND REPORT FROM THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA (MWD) REGARDING THE STATUS OF THE PURE WATER PROJECT

Policy and Resources Specialist Schaich presented item 7A, introducing Metropolitan Water District's Acting Chief Engineer Mai Hattar.

Ms. Hattar provided a slide presentation on the status of the Southern California Pure Water Project.

Ms. Hattar announced the Metropolitan Water District's recently adopted "Climate Adaptation Master Plan for Water" (CAMP4W) to address the challenges being faced with a goal to increase the resiliency and reliability of water supply, provide greater flexibility of delivery systems and provide equitable access to affordable water for all.

Ms. Hattar spoke on the regional benefits of the Pure Water Project. Some of the benefits include reducing the risk of net shortage and improving groundwater sustainability.

MOTION: Commissioner Stecker moved to accept and file the presentation and report from the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD) regarding the status of the Pure Water Project. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected 5-0 approval (Commissioners Masnek and Mazinani absent).

7B. ACCEPT AND FILE PRESENTATION AND REPORT FROM THE WATER REPLENISHMENT DISTRICT (WRD) REGARDING THEIR NEW VIDEO AND UPDATE ON THE BRACKISH WATER REMEDIATION PROGRAM

Policy and Resources Specialist Schaich introduced Water Replenishment District's Director Rob Katherman.

Mr. Katherman provided an overview of the video presented on the brackish plume problem in the local West Coast Groundwater Basin.

MOTION: Chair Siani moved to accept and file presentation and report the water replenishment district (WRD) regarding their new video and update on the Brackish Water Remediation Program. Commissioner Jay seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected 5-0 approval (Commissioners Masnek and Mazinani absent).

7C. ACCEPT AND FILE PRESENTATION AND REPORT REGARDING WATER SUPPLY CONDITIONS AND THE INCREASE IN THE WATER SUPPLY ALLOCATION FROM THE STATE WATER PROJECT

Policy and Resources Specialist Schaich provided a presentation and report regarding the water supply conditions and the increase in the water supply allocation from the state water project.

Policy and Resources Specialist Schaich announced that the water supply allocation has increased to 50%.

MOTION: Commissioner Thomas moved to accept and file the presentation and report regarding Water Supply Conditions and the increase in the water supply allocation from the State Water Project. Commissioner Deemer seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected 5-0 approval (Commissioners Masnek and Mazinani absent).

7D. ACCEPT AND FILE THE MONTHLY OPERATIONS REPORT FOR APRIL 2025

Water Operations Manager Andrew Darlak provided a report on the monthly water operations.

- North Torrance Wellfield continues to produce at a high rate of 438 AF.
- The Desalter has been taken offline.
- There was one water main break in April which bring the total of water main breaks to 18 for 2025 in comparison to only 9 in 2024.

MOTION: Commissioner Stecker moved to accept and file the monthly operations report for April 2025. Commissioner Jay seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected 5-0 approval (Commissioners Masnek and Mazinani absent).

8. METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT MATTERS

8A. ACCEPT AND FILE THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Metropolitan Water District Director Lefevre presented the Water District Director's Report.

Metropolitan Water District Director Lefevre shared that he attended a meeting for the Metropolitan Water District and provided an update:

- The DWR is the authority to issue bonds. The bonds will be paid by participating agencies such as the Metropolitan Water District.
- Recruitment for a new general manager will begin in June. Interviews will be conducted in July, and the final selection will be made in August/September.

Commissioner Jay added that during the meeting, there was positive feedback shared regarding the site reservoir.

MOTION: Commissioner Jay moved to accept and file the Metropolitan Water District Director's Report. Commissioner Stecker seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected 5-0 approval (Commissioners Masnek and Mazinani absent).

9. **COMMISSION AND STAFF ORAL COMMUNICATIONS**

Policy and Resources Specialist Schaich provided an update on the Delta Conveyance Project, noting that the City has been asked to offer support and provide feedback. He emphasized that the next phase will be critical and could determine whether the project ultimately moves forward.

Water Operations Manager Andrew Darlak announced that the goats will be arriving in a few weeks to assist with vegetation management on the hillside.

10. **ADJOURNMENT**

MOTION: At 08:26 p.m., Chair Siani adjourned the meeting to Wednesday, June 25, 2025, at 6:30 p.m. in the West Annex Commission Meeting Room. Commissioner Jay seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected 5-0 approval (Commissioners Masnek and Mazinani absent).

TO: WATER COMMISSION
FROM: ANDREW DARLAK, WATER OPERATIONS MANAGER
SUBJECT: ACCEPT AND FILE REPORT REGARDING THE INDUCTION OF RAYMOND JAY AS TORRANCE'S METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT DIRECTOR AND RECOGNITION OF FORMER DIRECTOR RUSS LEFEVRE FOR HIS DEDICATED SERVICE

With the recent retirement of the City's long-time Director on the Metropolitan Water District Board, Russ Lefevre, Raymond Jay was appointed by the Mayor and City Council as Torrance's new representative on the MWD Board. At the MWD Board meeting on June 24th, Raymond was formally inducted and seated as a member. Raymond served on the Water Commission for nearly eight years and was its chair for two terms. Raymond brings a wealth of experience and knowledge to his post with over 35 years of experience in the water resource and related fields. He recently retired from Metropolitan after approximately 19 years of service, primarily in the Water Resources Management Group. Prior to that Raymond worked for nearly 17 years with water regulatory agencies. He also served for 5 years as the president of the Los Angeles Chapter of WateRuse, which promotes the use of recycled water.

Russ Lefevre became the City's MWD Director in the fall of 2013, upon the retirement of Bill Wright. Russ was one of the most engaged and influential directors at MWD, and served with great distinction and dedication. With a strong commitment to sustainable water resource management and regional collaboration, he was extremely effective in representing Torrance's interests and as well as the collective interests of the MWD community. Russ was one of the most knowledgeable, respected well liked directors at Metropolitan. Russ, as you are aware, was leading advocate for MWD participation in the development of Sites Reservoir. The good news is that Russ was recently appointed by the City Council to serve on the Water Commission for his second stint having previously served for six years in that capacity prior to becoming an MWD director.

Please welcome both Raymond Jay and Russ Lefevre in their new roles.



Andrew Darlak
Water Operations Manager

Roll Call: _____ Deemer _____ Lefevre _____ Masnek _____ Mazinani
_____ Stecker _____ Thomas _____ Chairperson Siani

COMMISSION MEETING OF
July 23, 2025

TO: WATER COMMISSION
FROM: ANDREW DARLAK, WATER OPERATIONS MANAGER
SUBJECT: ACCEPT AND FILE ELECTION REPORT FOR WATER COMMISSION CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR POSITIONS FOR FISCAL 2025-26

The terms of the Water Commission Chair and Vice-Chair expired at the end of fiscal year 2024-25. Therefore, it is necessary that the Commission hold an election for both positions for fiscal 2025-26 at this month's meeting.

The Commission has broad discretion regarding the appointment of both positions and there are no term limit requirements, and the current and past Chairs and Vice-Chairs are eligible for reappointment. The current chair is Sue Siani, and the Vice-Chair is Alan Masnek. The term for both positions is through fiscal 2025-26. The Commission should conduct a nomination process and then vote to choose both positions.



Andrew Darlak
Water Operations Manager

Roll Call: _____ Deemer _____ Lefevre _____ Masnek _____ Mazinani
_____ Stecker _____ Thomas _____ Chairperson Siani

TO: WATER COMMISSION
FROM: ANDREW DARLAK, WATER OPERATIONS MANAGER
SUBJECT: ACCEPT AND FILE PRESENTATION REGARDING MAJOR DRIVERS FOR THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT'S BUDGET AND IMPORTED WHOLESALE RATES FOR THE NEXT TWO-YEAR BUDGET CYCLE

The Metropolitan Water District (MWD) establishes its operating and capital budgets and wholesale water rates every two years. In April 2024, the MWD Board of Directors adopted its budget for both calendar years 2025 and 2026. As a result, wholesale rates for treated imported water supplies increased from \$1,256 per acre-foot (AF) in 2024 to \$1,395/AF in 2025 and to \$1,526/AF in 2027, which represents a cumulative increase of over 21% during this period. As a result of prolonged budget deliberations and issues encountered in the last budget/rate cycle, MWD will be starting its consideration and discussions on the 2027 and 2028 budget and rate process in the early fall to permit adequate time to thoroughly vet proposals.

Metropolitan is facing a number of challenges and uncertainties including reduced sales of imported water, major cost escalation for water treatment and infrastructure replacement and new capital projects, increased supply costs on both the State Water Project and Colorado River Aqueduct systems and climate change related costs. In addition, volatile volumetric revenue poses a central challenge and will be major driver regarding future budget, rate increase and long-term capital investments. Although MWD adopts its budget over a two-year cycle, the district also prepared a 10-year forecast through calendar 2034, which projected that MWD treated wholesale rates would increase by 13% in both 2027 and 2028 based on budgetary assumptions and conditions at that time.

Major drivers for higher operating costs, capital expenditures and rate increases are summarized as follows:

- Water sales and revenue volatility including current declining water demand driven by conservation, local water supply expansion and climate change impacts.
- The need to invest in major capital projects to ensure future supply reliability, resilience and sustainability within the MWD service area. Major capital projects under consideration include the regional Pure Water Project, the Sites Reservoir Project, the Bay-Delta Conveyance Project (DCP), a potential surface reservoir project in the MWD service area, and a number of large system refurbishment and replacement projects (RRP) on MWD's distribution, treatment and reservoir systems.
- Higher energy and increased conveyance and distribution costs due to volatility in energy markets resulting in higher power costs.
- Increased fixed and variable costs on both the State Water Project (SWP) and Colorado River Aqueduct system.

Roll Call: _____ Deemer _____ Lefevre _____ Masnek _____ Mazinani
_____ Stecker _____ Thomas _____ Chairperson Siani

- Financial planning and rate stabilization considerations including use of reserve funds to buffer rate increases and the need to preserve MWD's bond rating.
- A decrease in imported MWD water sales over the last several years.

In conclusion, MWD's budget and rates will be shaped by rising water supply costs, capital project investments, regulatory demands and requirements, and climate related pressures. In addition, the need to maintain focus on long-term reliability will drive investment decisions, while significant MWD rate increases may be necessary in the future to support infrastructure and programmatic needs to ensure sustained reliability.

Staff will provide an overview presentation on this matter.



Andrew Darlak
Water Operations Manager

Roll Call: _____ Deemer _____ Lefevre _____ Masnek _____ Mazinani
_____ Stecker _____ Thomas _____ Chairperson Siani

TO: WATER COMMISSION
FROM: ANDREW DARLAK, WATER OPERATIONS MANAGER
SUBJECT: ACCEPT AND FILE ORAL PRESENTATION AND REPORT REGARDING ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT (CCR) FOR CALENDAR 2024

The primary purpose of the Annual Water Quality report, also known as the Consumer Confidence Report (CCR), is to inform consumers about the quality of their drinking water, and to provide information regarding potential contaminants that could impact their water quality. The CCR's detail what substances, if any, that are found in the water, their levels, and how these levels compare to established water quality regulations and safety standards. The CCR's also explains the potential health effects associated with any detected contaminants and provides guidance on how to mitigate risks. CCR's can encourage consumers to learn about their drinking water and how it produced, treated and protected from contamination. In addition, the CCR explains where their water supplies come from and identifies its sources whether it's from a groundwater well, river, lake or other source.

These reports are required to be provided to customers within their water agencies service area by the federal Environment Protection Agency (EPA) on an annual basis. The CCR is prepared in the spring and this report covers the prior calendar year of 2024. Water supplied by TMW to its municipal customers met all primary and secondary standards. Staff will provide a brief oral overview presentation on this item.



Andrew Darlak
Water Operations Manager

Roll Call: _____ Deemer _____ Lefevre _____ Masnek _____ Mazinani
_____ Stecker _____ Thomas _____ Chairperson Siani

TO: WATER COMMISSION
FROM: ANDY DARLAK, WATER OPERATIONS MANAGER
SUBJECT: ACCEPT AND FILE MONTHLY WATER OPERATIONS REPORT FOR JUNE 2025

It is the recommendation of the Water Operations Manager that the Water Commission accept and file this report.

Monthly Water Department highlights for the month of June 2025 are:

1. Total potable water produced from local potable sources is 2.7% lower than in June 2024. On a year-to-date basis, total potable water is 5.4% lower than last year and total water produced from all sources, including recycled water is 4.2% lower than in 2024. The decrease in potable water production is primarily due to a roughly 25% reduction in potable water sales to the Torrance Refining Company compared to the same period last year.

Month: June				Year to Date: 2024 vs 2025			
Water Source	June 2024	June 2025	Change	Water Source	2024 YTD	2025 YTD	Change
Potable Groundwater				Potable Groundwater			
Wells*	359.0	417.0	16.2%	Wells	1,464.2	2,561.2	74.9%
WRD Desalter*	155.2	0.0	-100.0%	WRD Desalter	1,289.8	174.3	-86.5%
Subtotal	514.2	417.0	-18.9%	Subtotal	2,754.0	2,735.5	-0.7%
Imported Potable				Imported Potable			
MWD	1,118.0	1,171.6	4.8%	MWD	6,503.9	6,021.3	-7.4%
Imported Recycled				Imported Recycled			
WBMWD	461.9	506.8	9.7%	WBMWD	2,393.9	2,405.7	0.5%
Total Produced/Imported							
All Potable Sources	1,632.2	1,588.6	-2.7%	All Potable Sources	9,257.9	8,756.8	-5.4%
All Sources + Recycled	2,094.2	2,095.4	0.1%	All Sources + Recycled	11,651.8	11,162.5	-4.2%

*data estimate based on production reads

2. There was 1 water main break for the month of June 2025, same as June 2024. Total main breaks for calendar year 2025 are 22, compared to 12 in 2024.
3. The Goldsworthy Desalter has been taken offline to repair the Delthorne Park well that developed a vibration. Contractors have completed tear down of the well and are investigating the cause of the malfunction.
4. The permanent blower and scrubber system is scheduled to be delivered at the end of August. System install and testing is scheduled for the Fall. We are currently producing water from all 3 wells, including well #9, 10 and 11. Production for June was 417 AF and if sustained, well production at the North Torrance Wellfield would produce in the range of 5,000 AFY, our original target.



 Andy Darlak
 Water Operations Manager

Roll Call: _____ **Deemer** _____ **Lefevre** _____ **Masnek** _____ **Mazinani**
 _____ **Stecker** _____ **Thomas** _____ **Chairperson Siani**