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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, JANUARY 28, 2026
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, January 22, 2026.

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 ANNOUNCEMENT OF WITHDRAWN, DEFERRED, AND/OR SUPPLEMENTAL ITEMS

5. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS (Limited to a 30-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 2 minutes 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 September 24, 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 2 minutes per item. Speakers must stay on topic and confine their comments to the item under consideration.

7A. Accept and File Presentation and Report regarding Water Supply Conditions.
Recommendation of the Water Operations Manager that the Water Commission accept and file this presentation and report.

7B. Accept and File Report on Water Commission Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2024-25.
Recommendation of the Water Operations Manager that the Water Commission accept and file this presentation and report.

7C. 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, February 25, 2026, at 6:30 pm in the West Annex of City Hall located at 3031 Torrance Blvd.

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

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

The Water Commission convened in a regular session at 6:30 PM on September 24, 2025, in the West Annex Commission Meeting Room 3031 Torrance Boulevard.

ROLL CALL

Present: Commissioners Deemer, Lefevre, Masnek, Mazinani, Stecker, Thomas and Chair Siani

Absent: None

Also Present: Water Operations Manager Andrew Darlak, Policy and Resources Specialist Chuck Schaich, Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, Principal Government and Regional Affairs Director Charles Gale Jr. and Metropolitan Water District Director Raymond Jay

2. FLAG SALUTE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Thomas.

3. REPORT OF STAFF ON THE POSTING OF THE AGENDA

Policy and Resources Specialist Schaich reported that the agenda was posted on the Public Notice Board at 3031 Torrance Boulevard on Wednesday, September 17, 2025.

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 ANNOUNCEMENT OF WITHDRAWN, DEFERRED, AND/OR SUPPLEMENTAL ITEMS

None

5. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

None.

6. CONSENT CALENDAR

6A. Approve Commission Minutes: July 23, 2025

MOTION: Commissioner Thomas moved to approve July 23, 2025 minutes. Commissioner Stecker seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected 7-0 approval.

7. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

7A. ACCEPT AND FILE PRESENTATION AND REPORT REGARDING THE COLORADO RIVER SITUATION AND THE PENDING NEW OPERATING AGREEMENT

Policy and Resources Specialist Schaich introduced the item.

Manager of Colorado River Resources for Metropolitan, and MWD's lead negotiator, Bill Hazenkamp provided a report regarding the Colorado River situation and pending new operating agreement.

Commissioners and staff discussed the item; Manager of Colorado River Resources for Metropolitan, Bill Hazenkamp answered questions.

MOTION: Commissioner Masnek moved to receive and file report regarding the Colorado River and pending operating agreement. Commissioner Lefevre seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected 7-0 approval.

7B. ACCEPT AND FILE THE MONTHLY OPERATIONS REPORT FOR AUGUST 2025

Water Operations Manager Darlak introduced and presented the item.

Commission discussed the item; Water Operations Manager Darlak, Metropolitan Water District Jay and Policy and Resources Specialist Schaich answered commission's questions.

MOTION: Commissioner Stecker moved to receive and file the monthly operations report for August 2025. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected 7-0 approval.

8. METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT MATTERS

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

Metropolitan Water District Director Jay introduced and presented the item.

Commission discussed the item; Metropolitan Water District Jay answered commission's questions.

Commission inquired as to who the new General Manager will be, Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, Principal Government and Regional Affairs Director Gale Jr. stated an announcement would be made on October 14, 2025 at the Executive Committee meeting.

MOTION: Commissioner Thomas moved to receive and file the Metropolitan Water District Director's report. Commissioner Masnek seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected 7-0 approval.

9. **COMMISSIONS AND STAFF ORAL COMMUNICATIONS**

None

10. **COMMISSION AND STAFF ORAL COMMUNICATIONS**

Commissioners and staff provided final comments.

10A. **ADJOURNMENT**

MOTION: At 8:08 PM Chair Siani moved to adjourn the meeting to October 22, 2025, at 6:30 PM in the West Annex Commission Meeting Room. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected 7-0 approval.

DRAFT SUBJECT TO APPROVAL

TO: WATER COMMISSION
FROM: ANDREW DARLAK, WATER OPERATIONS MANAGER
SUBJECT: ACCEPT AND FILE PRESENTATION AND REPORT REGARDING WATER SUPPLY CONDITIONS

In mid-November through December 2025, there were a series of major storms that occurred throughout California. However, in January, which is generally our wettest month, there has been little precipitation in key watersheds in the Sierra Mountain Range of central and northern California. Due to early rain events, water supply conditions in the Metropolitan Water District System (MWD) remain stable and reliable but continue to be vulnerable to significant hydrologic variability and long-term climate pressures.

While long-term hydrologic uncertainty persists, particularly on the Colorado River system, MWD has sufficient water in storage and numerous water exchange and transfer agreements to meet near and medium regional demands over the next several years regardless of hydrologic conditions without imposing mandatory water use measures under the district's Water Supply Allocation Program (WASP). MWD currently has a record level of approximately 3.9 million acre feet (AF) of water in storage.

As a result of the early season precipitation events there are currently no areas in the state that are experiencing any level of drought conditions. Water levels in major reservoirs in the state remain above historic levels for this time of year including Lake Orville (138%), San Luis Reservoir (107%) and Diamond Valley Lake (129%). While northern Sierra precipitation is at 139% of normal, snowpack in northern Sierra range is only at 55% of normal due to unseasonably warm weather. The situation on the Colorado River system is generally less favorable with snowpack at 68% of normal while Lake Mead remains at a critically low level of 34% of capacity.

Staff will provide an overview presentation on this matter.



Andrew Darlak
Water Operations Manager

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

COMMISSION MEETING OF
January 28, 2026

TO: WATER COMMISSION
FROM: ANDREW DARLAK, WATER OPERATIONS MANAGER
**SUBJECT: ACCEPT AND FILE REPORT ON WATER COMMISSION ANNUAL
REPORT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024-25**

The fiscal year 2024-25 Water Commission Annual Report for the period of July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025, is attached for your information and review. Any changes or edits will be incorporated into the final report to City Council.



Andrew Darlak
Water Operations Manager

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

**FISCAL 2024-25 WATER COMMISSION ANNUAL REPORT
JULY 1, 2024, THROUGH JUNE 30, 2025**

Purpose and Goals of the Torrance Water Commission

The Water Commission is an advisory board to the Torrance City Council on water policy matters. The Commission makes recommendations regarding plans for development of the City's water service facilities, as well as the capital improvement and resource programs of the Torrance Municipal Water system (TMW), the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD) and the Water Replenishment District of Southern California (WRD). In addition, the Commission advises the Council on various policy matters regarding water rates, water resources, conservation, the adequacy of water supplies, infrastructure investment, legislative matters and initiatives regarding water and related issues.

The major issues addressed during fiscal 2024-25 were as follows:

Conservation, Drought, Water Supply and Sustainability Matters - The Water Commission considered a number of presentations and items throughout the past year regarding the drought and water supply situation, conservation programs, actions by the Metropolitan Water District (MWD), the State and other agencies to address the impacts of climate change and highly variable weather conditions and precipitation patterns in California and the southwest. Although Southern California received less than one-half of its average rainfall, most portions of the state were not in a drought condition at the end of FY 24-25, which is in sharp contrast to the extreme or exceptional drought status experienced in both calendar years 2021 and 2022 that were the two driest consecutive years in California's history.

Beginning in January 2025, the Commission received several staff reports/presentations on both the local and regional water supply situation. Although Southern California experienced dry weather conditions, key watersheds in northern California received precipitation and snowpacks that were slightly above normal. As a result, the California Department of Water Resources (DWR), who manages the State Water Project (SWP), increased its allocation of SWP supplies gradually from an initial of 10% to 50% by end of FY 2024-25. This enabled MWD to increase its storage water to an all-time record of 3.9 million acre-feet. This will provide MWD with the capacity to meet all regional imported water demands over the next several years regardless of hydrologic conditions. However, the transition cycle from wet to extremely dry can occur rapidly. Over half of the last twenty years have been very dry or major drought years.

The Colorado River Aqueduct (CRA) is MWD's other source of imported water supplies and the long-term outlook for this source remains precarious. Although the Colorado River (CR) Basin experienced only a slightly below average water year, it is in the midst of a historic 25-year drought cycle. Both Lake Mead and Powell, which are the two largest reservoirs in the west, remain at near record low levels at less than 35% of full capacity. The critical status of these reservoirs prompted the US Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) to issue cutbacks in CR deliveries from the three lower basin states (Arizona, California, Nevada) in 2023 through 2026 to raise reservoir levels. Further reductions in CR exports will be required in the near future, if reservoir levels continue to drop. This could impact MWD deliveries from the CRA.

The Commission also received updates regarding the City's water conservation and community

outreach programs to increase awareness and participation. A key priority is a reduction in outdoor water use by avoiding wasteful water use due to leaks, excessive landscape watering and washing down exterior surfaces. In addition, the Commission reviewed the City's recent co-sponsorship of a series of on-line and in-person water efficient workshops and other programs designed to increase water use efficiency.

Water Capital Improvements, Supply Diversification, Water Rates and Policy - The Commission was briefed and discussed the status of the Torrance Municipal Water's (TMW) capital program, which is currently focused primarily on local water source diversification. The Commission was apprised regarding the development of additional groundwater well capacity, the expansion the Goldsworthy Desalter facility at the City Yard, the North Torrance Well Field Project (NTWP) and the status of the Van Ness Wellfield Project (VNWP) The Commission discussed the strategic initiatives to reduce dependence on imported potable water supplies from the Metropolitan Water District by implementation of the multi-year local source diversification program designed to reduce MWD's supplies from the current 60% of potable water demand in the municipal service area to 25% or less within the next five years. The Commission had previously taken positions strongly supporting the implementation of the water supply diversification program.

The Commission received updates regarding the performance of the North Torrance Wellfield Project, which has been online for over three years that has nearly tripled potable groundwater production and reduced reliance on imported water. With some additional improvements pending to the NTWP it is expected to produce approximately 5,000+ acre-feet of high quality groundwater annually, which equates to over 25% of TMW total water demand. Diversification of TMW's water supply will increase water supply reliability, reduce dependence on vulnerable imported water supplies, help drought proof the community, reduce long-term water costs, and mitigate future rate increases.

The Commission was appraised of the Water Replenishment District's (WRD) new strategic plan to by WRD Assistant General Manager, Rob Beste, and Project Manager, Mario Bautista, to increase local groundwater pumping in the local West Coast Groundwater Basin by over 50%. The Commission also received a presentation from WRD regarding the status of the first phase of a third expansion to the Goldsworthy Desalter at the City Services Facility (City Yard) that will increase its capacity from 3,500 acre-feet (AF) to approximately 7,000 AF annually by the end of 2028. This project will rid the main groundwater aquifer in the basin of a major brackish water plume of over fourteen square miles in the local West Basin on a phased basis over the next 20-30 years and restore it into a freshwater basin that will benefit the entire South Bay region. The Commission also considered the status of other related water system improvements.

The Water Commission received several updates and presentations regarding the proposed five (5) year water rate plan for annual adjustments in potable rates and related service fees for the calendar years 2025 through 2029, in accordance with Proposition 218 requirements. At the Commission meeting on August 24, 2024, the Commission reviewed the final rate proposal and received a comprehensive presentation from staff and the City's rate consultant, Raffetis Financial Consultants. After careful deliberation, the Commission supported the staff recommendation to increase potable water rates by an average of 6.5% in both calendar year 2025 and 2026 and by 6% in 2027 through 2029. Even with these adjustments, Torrance municipal water rates remain the lowest or among the lowest in the area. At a Public Hearing held on November 19, 2024, the City Council approved the five-year rate adjustment plan.

At the October 23, 2024, meeting the Commission received several oral presentations from

Metropolitan Water District (MWD) personnel including Chair of Board of Directors, the Interim General Manager, the Resilience and Innovation Manager and MWD's local Regional Affairs Representative. The presentations and discussions were focused on important regional policy matters and legislative initiatives.

At the January 22, 2025, meeting the Commission received a presentation and was appraised of the Bay-Delta situation by MWD Chief of Bay-Delta Resources, Nina Hawk. The presentation and discussion focused on the proposed Delta Water Conveyance Tunnel Project that would transport water from the Sacramento River through the environmentally sensitive Delta via a 35-mile underground tunnel, and the environmental restoration of the Delta wetlands.

Regional Water Supply Augmentation Programs - The Water Commission was briefed regarding several regional water supply and storage programs, including the planned regional water reuse program, known as the "Pure Water Project" (PWP). At the meeting on May 28, 2025, The Commission received a presentation regarding the status of Pure Water Project from MWD's Acting Chief Engineer, Mai Hattar. The proposed project is a partnership between MWD and the Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County (SDLA) that would ultimately convert approximately 165,000 acre feet (AF = 326,000 gallons) of wastewater at the Sanitation District's main sewage treatment plant located in the City of Carson to a highly purified water supply that will be used initially to replenish local groundwater basins and for industrial use. If approved by MWD's Board, the first increment of this project is scheduled for completion in 2035 and would provide approximately 30,000 AF of water to recharge local groundwater basins and water for industrial use.

Water Operations - The Commission reviews the monthly water operation summary reports, which are presented by the Water Operations Manager. The major topics discussed were the status of potable and recycled water production and use, the operation of water supply sources, main break occurrences/repairs and the overall performance of major operational related programs. As a result of a systematic replacement program, water main breaks have been reduced by approximately 70% since the early 1990s. Other items that were presented and considered included water loss prevention and control, (water loss audit), updates on the North Torrance Wellfield Project, phase 1 of the Van Ness Wellfield Project, pending and current water main replacement projects, operation and rehabilitation work at the Goldsworthy Desalter located in the City Service Facility and related matters. In addition, the Commission considered issues pertaining to water quality and reviewed the Annual Consumer Confidence (CCR) Water Quality Report for calendar 2023.

West Basin Water Association (WBWA) and Related Water Management Issues - The Water Commission received periodic updates at Commission meetings regarding the activities of the West Basin Water Association. A staff member of TMW serves on WBWA board, and the association has been active in formulating advocacy policy positions, particularly regarding groundwater issues. Matters reported to the Commission included; the status of West Basin Municipal Water District's Edward Little Water Recycling Plant in El Segundo, the operation of Replenishment District's ARC Water Recycling Plant, WRD's progress in obtaining 100% of groundwater replenishment water from local sources in normal years, pending legislation, changes in state water policy and matters pertaining to water resource stewardship and demand management.

Metropolitan Water District Matters (MWD) - The City's representative on the Metropolitan Water District's Board of Directors, Russ Lefevre, regularly attends Water Commission meetings and appraises the Commission regarding important policy matters at MWD that could impact the City and the region. Issues addressed by Director Lefevre during the past year included; the status of the ongoing environmental review process for the proposed water

conveyance tunnel under the Sacramento Bay-Delta, the declining storage levels in Lake Mead and other Colorado River Reservoirs, ongoing negotiations among the seven states that share Colorado River supplies to develop a new twenty year operating agreement by the end of 2026, MWD strategic priorities, voluntary agricultural land fallowing programs to increase MWD's water supply sources, voluntary agreements regarding river flows in northern Californian watersheds, regional water supply and demand balances, water shortage problems for agencies in MWD's service area that are entirely dependent on supplies from the State Water Project, the proposed Sites Reservoir in northern California, MWD multi-year rate projections the development of a new long-range financial plan, the status of a new Climate Adaption Master Plan (CAMP4W), which is a collaborative process to better inform decisions regarding future regional investments in water reliability and resilience projects, and the appointment of new MWD General Manager.

In November 2024, Torrance MWD Director Lefevre and Director John Morris of the City of San Marino jointly sponsored a combined agency Inspection Tour of State Water Project (SWP) facilities in Northern California and agricultural activities in the Central Valley. The inspection tour was attended by approximately 35 residents from Torrance and San Marino. The inspection tour was very informative and interesting and included visits to Lake Orville, the Bay-Delta region, Big Bend Informational Center, several farmers in the Central Valley who have adopted sustainable agricultural practices and a visitation to Cal State Fresno's agricultural office. The inspection tour provided an excellent overview of the complex situation on the SWP and innovation in agricultural practices to conserve water.

The Water Commission wishes to acknowledge, commend, and thank Director Lefevre for his commitment and dedicated service to the City and his many contributions as the City's representative on the Metropolitan Board. In late 2024, Director Lefevre indicated he would be stepping down as the City's MWD Director after nearly twelve years of service. Raymond Jay was selected by the Mayor and City Council as the City's new MWD Director and was formally appointed to MWD board in June 2025. Mr. Jay brings a wealth of experience to this position having been an MWD staff member in their water resources section for approximately twenty years. We wish to congratulate Mr. Jay, and the Commission looks forward to working with him.

Water Commissioners serving in Fiscal Year 2024-25

Charles Deemer
Raymond Jay
Alan Masnek
Ehsan Mazinani
John Stecker
Dan Thomas
Sue Siani, Chair

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

1. Total potable water produced is 6.8% lower than in December 2024. On a year-to-date basis, total potable water is 6.2% lower than last year and total water produced from all sources, including recycled water is 4% lower than in 2024. The decrease in potable water production is primarily due to a significant reduction in potable water sales to the Torrance Refining Company compared to the same period last year.

Month: December

Water Source	December 2024	December 2025	Change
Potable Groundwater			
Wells*	375.0	172.4	-54.0%
WRD Desalter*	0.0	183.2	-
Subtotal	375.0	355.6	-5.2%
Imported Potable			
MWD	1,134.5	1,051.4	-7.3%
Imported Recycled			
WBMWD	392.4	425.9	8.5%
Total Produced/Imported			
All Potable Sources	1,509.5	1,407.0	-6.8%
All Sources + Recycled	1,901.9	1,832.9	-3.6%

Year to Date: 2024 vs 2025

Water Source	2024 YTD	2025 YTD	Change
Potable Groundwater			
Wells	3,677.8	4,710.4	28.1%
WRD Desalter	1,979.7	786.5	-60.3%
Subtotal	5,657.5	5,496.9	-2.8%
Imported Potable			
MWD	13,794.5	12,747.7	-7.6%
Imported Recycled			
WBMWD	4,970.1	5,198.9	4.6%
All Potable Sources	19,452.0	18,244.6	-6.2%
All Sources + Recycled	24,422.1	23,443.5	-4.0%

2. There were 4 water main breaks reported in December 2025, compared to 3 breaks in December 2024. Year-to-date, there have been 48 main breaks in 2025, compared to 41 during the same period in 2024.
3. The Goldsworthy Desalter is back in service on a reduced production level with only Delthorne Park Well operating at this time. City Yard Well is scheduled to be online by the end of February.
4. The North Torrance Well Field is operating with Well 9 only at this time. Well 10 experienced a motor failure and is currently under repairs. Wells 10 and 11 are expected to be back online by the end of February.



 Andy 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 THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The City's Metropolitan Water District (MWD) Director, Raymond Jay, will provide an oral report regarding important issues at MWD.



Andrew Darlak
Water Operations Manager

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