

Council Meeting of
September 18, 2012

Honorable Mayor and Members
of the City Council
City Hall
Torrance, California

Members of the Council:

SUBJECT: Public Works - Information on the functions of the Public Works Department and capital projects in the North Torrance area

The Public Works Department is comprised of five divisions that include Sanitation, Streetscape, Street Operations, Water, and Engineering. The Department is responsible for maintaining and operating the public infrastructure and designing and managing capital improvement projects.

SANITATION:

The Sanitation Division is responsible for residential refuse/recycling and the now fully implemented green waste recycling collection. The division maintains 287 miles of City-owned sewer lines and 9 sewer lift stations. This division is also responsible for the many of the City's storm water compliance activities that include catch basin cleaning and street sweeping. Goals for the division include:

- Implementation of mandated recycling programs for commercial and multifamily facilities;
- Reducing wastewater overflows; and
- Street sweeping posting/schedule changes

STREETSCAPE:

The Streetscape Division plants and maintains trees and landscaped medians within the public right-of-way. Recent projects include:

- Hawthorne Blvd center median landscape improvements from 190th Street to 182nd Street;
- Provide "Mulch" bark chips for Columbia Park Community Gardens;
- Assisting in the design of the upcoming Crenshaw Boulevard landscape improvements as part of the Crenshaw Boulevard Street Rehabilitation Project; and
- Ongoing "grid trimming" of North Torrance area trees.

STREET OPERATIONS:

The Operations Division is responsible for street maintenance repairs, concrete repairs (curb/gutter/sidewalk) and traffic & lighting maintenance. The division also maintains the storm water retention basins (sumps) and open ditches in the city. This includes street name signs at over 2,000 intersections, hazard markers, guardrails, and signs in City-owned parking lots. Recent repairs include:

- Slurry preparations and pavement repairs on street areas within and bordered by 182nd Street to 186th Street, and Van Ness Avenue to Western Avenue.
- Crack-Sealing of main arterial roadways, such as 182nd Street between Hawthorne Boulevard & Van Ness Avenue; and Van Ness Avenue between 190th Street & Artesia Boulevard.
- Refresh crosswalks, limit lines, red curb, lane lines and legends in areas 1-2 & 7-8 within the northern (north of 190th Street between east and west city limits) and southern city boundary areas.

WATER:

Torrance Municipal Water serves approximately 115,000 residents and business customers covering 78 percent of the city. The division is responsible for local water supply, the monitoring and maintenance of water quality, planning preventative and predicative maintenance, the operation and repair of the water system distribution system, and interfacing with the State Department of Health Services and other agencies regarding water quality matters. Division enhancements include water system security, reliability and sufficiency for fire protection

Recent projects and improvements include:

- Water main replacement of approximately 600 feet by in-house staff in the 4200-4300 Block of 173rd Street;
- Water main replacement of approximately 580 feet by in-house staff along 169th Place between Van Ness and Wilton Place;
- Upcoming water main replacement along Osage Street and Prairie Avenue;
- Installation of a Fluoridation System to add to the well supply will be starting this month; and
- Well No. 9, was placed in service February 2011, and is producing approximately 12 percent of our overall water supply.

ENGINEERING:

The Engineering Division is responsible for the development, design and construction of projects included in the City's Capital Improvement Program that rehabilitate the city's existing roadways, traffic signals, signing and striping, storm drains, sanitary sewer and water system facilities. The Engineering Division also is responsible for Traffic Engineering, which includes the design of traffic signals, timing and coordination of traffic signals. Recent and upcoming projects include:

- Completion of the Del Amo Boulevard Extension. This new roadway segment which will improve traffic circulation throughout the City and reduce traffic volumes along 190th Street;
- Undergrounding of Utilities along Hawthorne Boulevard between Del Amo Boulevard and 186th Street;
- Water main replacement of approximately 4,700 feet along Western Avenue from 190th Street to Del Amo Boulevard;
- Preliminary engineering for the North Torrance Well Field located directly west of Yukon elementary school has been completed and access easements have been secured.
- Two new well potential well sites are being considered in the vicinity of Van Ness and 180th Street and 180th Place. Pilot wells will determine water quality and production capacity.
- Crenshaw Boulevard Street Rehabilitation between 190th Street and 182nd Street will provide for pavement rehabilitation and landscape enhancements between 182nd Street and 190th Street Design efforts will be completed in spring 2013 with construction scheduled for summer 2013.
- Completed slurry sealing several residential streets in the North Torrance are between 182nd Street, 190th Street, Western Avenue, and Crenshaw Boulevard. This is part of the Public Works Department's maintenance efforts to extend the life of the streets and improve aesthetics. The 2012 Slurry Seal project also included the Columbia Park parking lots.
- 190th Street Rehabilitation between Hawthorne Boulevard and Prairie Avenue will provide for pavement rehabilitation and repairs. Design efforts will begin in spring 2013 with construction anticipated in 2015.

Respectfully submitted,



ROBERT J. BESTE
Public Works Director

CONCUR:



LeRoy J. Jackson
City Manager