

Council Meeting of
October 24, 2006

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 collection and wastewater maintenance and repair. 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:

- Investigating a residential green waste program
- 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:

- Artesia Boulevard median
- North Torrance residential street rehabilitation program
- Sycamore tree trimming starts in November

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:

- Asphalt repairs (patching and/or crack sealing) on 177th Street., 182nd Street, Crenshaw Boulevard, Gramercy Place, and Van Ness Avenue
- Concrete repairs 190th Street to 182nd Street, from Prairie Avenue to East city limit

- New traffic controller at 182nd Street and Van Ness Avenue, and miscellaneous striping, curb, and legend painting

Water:

Torrance Municipal Water serves approximately 105,000 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:

- Enhance water system security and reliability
- Recycled water retrofits of schools and landscaped medians
- Provide sufficient water supply for fire protection

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 projects include:

- Artesia Blvd Rehabilitation
- 190th Street Rehabilitation
- Western Ave Rehabilitation
- Various Residential Street Rehabilitations
- Various Water Main Replacements
- Various Slurry Seal Projects
- Safe Route to School

Respectfully submitted,



ROBERT J. BESTE
Public Works Director

CONCUR:



LeRoy J. Jackson
City Manager