Council Meeting of
February 27, 2007

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 Central Torrance area

The Public Works Department is composed 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:

- Implementing the trial 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. Upcoming projects include:

- Eucalyptus tree trimming on Torrance Boulevard
- Replanting Carson Street median

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:

- Installation of Historic District signs
- Replaced curb/gutters/sidewalks on Juniper from 230th to 225th
- Sepulveda intersection repairs at Arlington

Water:

The Torrance Municipal Water Division 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 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:

- Downtown water line replacement in Dominguez, Border and Columbia (Project completed in 2004 at a cost of $240,000)
- Downtown sewer main lining in the commercial area from Cota to 213th St and Torrance Blvd from Crenshaw to Hickory (Project completed 2005 at a cost of $620,000)
- Downtown sewer main, water main and alley replacement in the alley north of Carson from Crenshaw to Cota (Project completed in 2006 at a cost of $1,500,000)
- Sepulveda Boulevard repaving (Project Cost = $4M)
- Plaza Del Amo sewer replacement (Project Cost = $2M)

Respectfully submitted,

ROBERT J. BESTE
Public Works Director

CONCUR:

LeRoy J. Jackson
City Manager