

Council Meeting of
April 17, 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 South 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 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:

- Tree trimming on Bindewald, Zakon, Macafee, and Vanderhill Roads

Street Operations:

The Operations Division is responsible for street maintenance repairs, concrete repairs (curb/gutter/sidewalk) and traffic and 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:

- Calle Mayor pavement repairs from Pacific Coast Highway to Anza
- Rolling Hills Road pavement grinding and capping
- Change out incandescent amber lights to L.E.D. lights

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.

Public Works is also active in promoting water conservation in the community. The City has joined a program with the West Basin Municipal Water District (MWD) and the South Bay Cities Council of Governments to install toilets, shower heads, and water efficient washers in multi-family buildings and laundromats. The City also works with the Metropolitan Water District to conduct classes on water efficient gardening. In addition, the City works with West Basin MWD to provide recycled water to large water users such as City parks and large industrial customers.

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:

- Sepulveda Boulevard Street and Water Main Project – Replaces 12-inch water main and repaves the street from the West City Limit to Hawthorne Boulevard.
- Residential Street and Water Main Project – Repaired infrastructure on five residential streets (Kent, Galva, 230th, 231st St and 230th Pl) in Southwest Torrance were improved in 2006.
- Residential Slurry Seal Project – Areas completed in 2006 include: east of Hawthorne Boulevard between Lomita Boulevard and Sepulveda Boulevard and south of De Portola Park between Hawthorne Boulevard and Crenshaw Boulevard.

On March 27, 2007, the City Council directed staff to begin the process of obtaining control of the 6-mile segment of Hawthorne Boulevard and the 5-mile segment of Pacific Coast Highway from Caltrans through the relinquishment process. Relinquishment will allow the City to regulate the rights-of-way without Caltrans approval, better control signal timing, and improve the condition of the roadways. Staff has estimated that each roadway will require approximately \$25-30 million to bring the streets to an acceptable level of repair and the process usually takes two to three years to complete.

Respectfully submitted,



ROBERT J. BESTE
Public Works Director

CONCUR:



LeRoy J. Jackson
City Manager