



MINUTES

CITY OF HUNTINGTON BEACH CIAB/PUBLIC WORKS COMMISSION AUGUST 20, 2025

CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chair Clifford called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Ghuman led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Commissioners Present:

Clifford, Frousiakis, Ghuman, Macdonald

Commissioners Absent:

Rivas, Michalski

Others Present:

Chris Davis, Senior Management Analyst
Gretchen Erickson, Senior Administrative Assistant
Joe Fuentes, Principal Civil Engineer
Tom Herbel, Deputy Director/City Engineer
April Maese, Management Analyst
John Poehler, Deputy Director
Kristen Schroeder, Water Quality Supervisor

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

25-674 Approval of June 4, 2025 Minutes

Commissioner Ghuman asked for the minutes to be corrected to reflect Sarah Whitecotton's proper title, Senior Management Analyst, in Item 25-441. It was also noted that language for the motion to approve Item 25-441 needed to be updated to reflect the motion by Clifford and second by Ghuman to vote to approve File 25-441 Approve Infrastructure Fund Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2023/24. Commissioner Ghuman motioned to approve minutes as amended, seconded by Frousiakis. The commission voted to approve the June 4, 2025 Minutes.

VOTE:	The motion carried.
AYES:	4
NOES:	0
ABSENT:	2
ABSTENTIONS:	0

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

DIRECTOR'S ITEMS

Deputy Director/City Engineer, Tom Herbel, announced he would be retiring from City service effective October 2, 2025. He thanked the Commission for the dedication to the City and the Commission and wished them continued success. He also advised the Commissioners that a CIP Tour would be scheduled with City Council Members and Commissioners soon. He provided a brief update on the department's participation in Surf City Summer Camp at Murdy Park and the upcoming Junior Citizens Academy at City Hall.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

Capital Improvement Program update provided by Joe Fuentes, Principal Civil Engineer. Project highlights included:

- Pump Station Building Improvements
 - Under Construction
- Heil Pump Station
 - Under Construction – Building and wet well have been installed
- Downtown Parking Structure Improvements Elevator and Stairs
 - Equipment for elevator #1 is being installed and elevator #2 will be underway in early 2026
- Replace R22 Air Conditioning Equipment
 - Under Construction – Nearing completion
- Oil Production Abandonment
 - Under Construction – Nearing completion
- Upgrade Central Plant Cooling at Civic Center
 - Under Construction – Nearing completion
- Blufftop Pathway Area Lighting
 - Under Construction – Two lights have been installed and the third is pending
- Discovery Well Park Pump Replacement
 - Completed
- Sewer Lift Station Reconstruction (Humboldt LS)
 - Under Construction – Nearing completion
- Bridge Rehabilitation (Admiralty)
 - Under Construction – Expected completion in 1-2 months, weather permitting

Commissioner Clifford asked where Heil Pump Station is. Tom Herbel noted that it is on Heil Avenue between Goldenwest and Gothard Street. He added that this location will likely be a stop on the pending CIP Tour. Commissioner Ghuman asked what other sites may be considered. Tom noted that Admiralty Bridge is likely a stop, with others pending.

There were no Beautification, Landscape and Tree items for discussion.

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

25-578 Sewer Service Fund Performance Audit Fiscal Year 2024/25

Chris Davis, Senior Management Analyst, presented the Sewer Service Fund Performance Audit Fiscal Year 2024/25. He explained that the Sewer Service Charge was adopted by City Council in September 2001. The Sewer Service Fund (511) is restricted to sewer-related operations, maintenance, and capital improvements. Rates are set based on the cost of providing service, with the Public Works Commission serving as the oversight body. An annual review and performance audit are required to ensure accountability and transparency.

Chris Davis noted that Key performance indicators for the reporting period demonstrate strong operational performance. A total of 1,226 lift station inspections were completed, and 125 wet wells were cleaned, supporting system reliability and preventive maintenance goals. There were zero sanitary sewer overflows (SSOs) during this period, resulting in no response or overflow containment time being recorded. These metrics reflect effective system management and proactive maintenance efforts.

Commissioner Macdonald asked how often a sewer can be relined and how long the lining will last. Deputy Director Poehler advised that the CCTV inspection determines how often relining takes place. Tom Herbel noted that lining can last upwards of 50 years under certain conditions. Vice Chair Clifford asked how the interest income is determined. Chris Davis advised that the Finance Department sets the budget, and it is not dispersed and/or pro-rated by the Public Works Department. Vice Chair Clifford asked how rates are set. Tom Herbel noted that rate studies are conducted, economic forecasts are reviewed, and ultimately the City Council sets rates. Commissioner Ghuman highlighted the importance of no sanitary sewer overflows (SSOs) for this reporting period.

Motion by Frousiakis and second by Clifford, the Commission voted to receive and file the Sewer Service Fund Performance Audit for FY 2024/25 in accordance with HBMC Section 13.54.070.

VOTE:	The motion carried.
AYES:	4
NOES:	0
ABSENT:	2
ABSTENTIONS:	0

PUBLIC HEARING ITEMS

25-579 Public Hearing to Consider Acceptance of Public Works Utilities Division Public Health Goals Report

Kristen Schroeder, Water Quality Supervisor, presenting the Public Works Utilities Division Public Health Goals Report. She noted that the City of Huntington Beach has completed its 2025 Public Health Goals (PHGs) Report in compliance with Section 116470 of the California Health and Safety Code. The report evaluates drinking water

constituents exceeding PHGs or federal MCLGs, which are non-enforceable, health-based advisory levels. Constituents above these levels include arsenic, bromate, gross alpha and beta activity, hexavalent chromium, PFOS, and uranium. All results remain in full compliance with enforceable state and federal standards. Treatment to meet PHG levels would cost \$8.2–\$70.5 million annually. The City remains committed to protecting public health through ongoing monitoring, reporting, and future PHG updates.

Vice Chair Clifford opened the Public Hearing.

SUPPLEMENTAL COMMUNICATIONS – None

PUBLIC SPEAKERS – None

There being no Supplemental Communications or Speakers, Vice Chair Clifford Closed the Public Hearing.

Vice Chair Clifford asked if the constituents found in the City's report are comparable to surrounding areas. Kristen Schroeder noted that any agency obtaining water from the Orange County Water District's Groundwater Basin will likely have similar constituents. Vice Chair Clifford asked how our levels are determined. Kristen advised the City obtains samples multiple times per month at multiple locations. He asked if the City is considering technologies such as reverse osmosis. Kristen noted the City is not considering such technology at this time. Commissioner Ghuman noted that it is likely not necessary or fiscally responsible for all water to undergo reverse osmosis, particularly for water used for landscaping or irrigation.

Motion by Ghuman and second by Frousiakis, the Commission voted to Accept the Public Works Utilities Division Public Health Goals Report.

VOTE:	The motion carried.
AYES:	4
NOES:	0
ABSENT:	2
ABSTENTIONS:	0

MEMBER COMMENTS

Commissioner Ghuman noted that some of the maps provided by the City during the recent tsunami alert were confusing. Tom Herbel advised that the Emergency Operations Center team, comprised of multiple departments, oversees communications distributed during an emergency including maps, warning sirens, and other alerts.

ADJOURNMENT

At 5:46pm a motion was made by Vice Chair Clifford, with a second by Ghuman, to adjourn to the next regularly scheduled meeting of the CIAB/Public Works Commission on Wednesday, September 17, at 5:00 PM at the Utilities Yard, Training Center.