



**Water Commission  
Action Agenda**  
7:00 p.m. – Monday, January 11, 2010  
Council Chambers  
809 Center Street Santa Cruz

Action Agenda prepared January 12, 2010

**Call to Order** Chair H. Whitney called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers.

**Roll Call**

Present: B. Fouse, C. Keutmann, S. O'Hara, M. McClellan and H. Whitney.

Absent: L. Kasa and A. Schiffrin, absent with notice.

Staff: B. Kocher, Water Director and D. Paul, Administrative Assistant.

**Presentation** There were no presentations.

**Statements of Disqualification** There were no statements of disqualification.

**Oral Communications** There were no oral communications.

**Announcements** There were no announcements.

**Approval of Minutes**

Commissioner S. O'Hara moved approval of the December 7, 2009 Water Commission minutes as submitted. Commissioner M. McClellan seconded.

**VOICE VOTE MOTION CARRIED**

AYES: B. Fouse, S. O'Hara, M. McClellan and H. Whitney

NOES: None.

ABSENT: L. Kasa and A. Schiffrin.

ABSTAIN: C. Keutmann.

**Consent Agenda**

Commissioner C. Keutmann moved approval of the Consent Agenda as submitted. Commissioner S. O'Hara seconded.

**VOICE VOTE MOTION CARRIED**

AYES: B. Fouse, C. Keutmann, S. O'Hara, M. McClellan and H. Whitney

NOES: None.

ABSENT: L. Kasa and A. Schiffrin.

**Items Removed from the Consent Agenda** No items were removed.

**General Business**

## 1. Sphere of Influence Amendment for Provision of Utility Service to the North Campus of the University of California Santa Cruz

Director Kocher provided an oral staff report and answered questions from the commission.

### Public Comments

Bill Malone asked if the proposed desalination plan is for drought protection or will it contribute to growth. He commented that the 300 mgd of available water may be reduced due to global warming.

Councilmember Ryan Coonerty commented that the work done in the draft EIR is a worst case analysis and not the most likely. The City sees the settlement agreement as a big win for the City, the County and CLUE. It means that the university will be treated the same as all other developers. This is the first time that any University of California campus has accepted an agreement such as this.

Ted Benhari commented that the RBDA and CLUE are proud of the accomplishments made in the settlement agreement. LAFCO will review this project to determine if it is beneficial to all concerned. Since the proposed development will not be built anytime soon, the City should not rush the EIR process and include consideration of water supply changes that may be required by regulatory actions.

Rick Longionotti commented that Dr. Robert Curry has said that the University could develop wells on campus that would serve all of its needs and that the draft EIR does not adequately address what is at stake here.

Marty Demare commented that the Water Commission should recommend to Council that the regulatory concerns the City is facing should be addressed before any more water is given away.

Ron Pomerantz commented that the County will be issuing a permit for quarrying operations that may affect Liddell Spring and that LAFCO has requested that additional mitigation measures be explored.

### Commission Discussion

The Commission requested that these documents be included in the agenda packet in order to determine if the commission wanted to comment on the draft EIR.

The Water Department's Demand Study had anticipated a much larger number of students at the University and other growth as well. The draft EIR meets the projections established in that document.

As part of the Settlement Agreement the University will invest \$600,000 in water conservation measures.

The Settlement Agreement is a thorough document and this is a good opportunity for the Commission to hear public is comments on the draft EIR.

The proposed University expansion including current demand is 3-5% of the overall water supply.

NO ACTION WAS TAKEN ON THIS ITEM.

### **Subcommittee/Advisory Body Oral Reports**

1. City of Santa Cruz/Soquel Creek Water District Desalination Task Force.

Commissioner S. O'Hara reported that the December task force meeting was cancelled.

### **Director's Oral Report**

1. Monthly Status of Water Supply

Director Kocher reported that the lake is at 93% capacity, rainfall in the watershed is at 16 inches and streamflows in the San Lorenzo River and North Coast streams are dismal. The restrictions put in place last year have greatly improved this year's supply outlook.

2. Desalination Program

- The report on the Pilot Plant is in final review by staff.
- Staff has begun developing the RFP for design of the full scale plant.
- Offshore Survey will be going to the Technical Review Committee in February.
- Staff will be recommending that URS be hired to perform the CEQA review.
- Development of the work program for the Energy Minimization and Greenhouse Gas Reduction Study is progressing slowly because no standards have been set for this type of work.

**Items Initiated by Members for Future Agendas** No items were initiated.

**Adjournment** The meeting was adjourned at 8:11 p.m. until the next regular meeting of the Water Commission scheduled for February 1, 2010, at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers.