



**Water Commission
Minutes
7:00 p.m. – Monday, January 3, 2011
Council Chambers
809 Center Street Santa Cruz**

Minutes of a Water Commission Meeting

Call to Order Chair M. McClellan called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers.

Roll Call

Present: B. Fouse, R. Mazurek, M. McClellan (Chair), G. Mead.
Absent: L. Kasa absent with notice and D. Meyers absent without notice.
Staff: Water Conservation Manager T. Goddard; Principal Management Analyst P. Harmon; Water Director B. Kocher; and Administrative Assistant D. Paul.

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 B. Fouse moved approval of the November 1, 2010 minutes as submitted.
Commissioner R. Mazurek seconded.

VOICE VOTE MOTION CARRIED

AYES: B. Fouse, R. Mazurek, and M. McClellan (Chair).
NOES: None.
ABSENT: L. Kasa and D. Meyers.
ABSTAIN: G. Mead.

Consent Agenda

Commissioner R. Mazurek moved approval of the Consent Agenda as submitted. Commissioner B. Fouse seconded.

VOICE VOTE MOTION CARRIED

AYES: B. Fouse, R. Mazurek, M. McClellan (Chair) and G. Mead.
NOES: None.
ABSENT: L. Kasa and D. Meyers.

Items Removed from the Consent Agenda No items were removed.

General Business

1. Revisions to Sewer System Ordinance to Facilitate Graywater Use

Water Conservation Manager Goddard provided the staff report and noted that this item will be considered by the Transportation and Public Works Committee next week.

Commission Questions/Comments

What are the County's health standards for graywater?

Answer: The County has essentially the same standards as listed in the packet except that they are slightly more liberal when it comes to ground water separation. The language in the plumbing codes states that graywater systems may not be used in areas of high groundwater.

Are there areas in our water system that this maybe a good solution to reduce water use?

Answer: Yes, there are areas that it would be useful and there are areas such as the Westside which has very shallow groundwater.

Concern was expressed that graywater systems may be installed in areas that would be unsuitable by well-intentioned homeowners.

The community has always been supportive of the idea to use graywater and in principal the laundry to landscape is sound idea.

Commissioner B. Fouse moved that the Water Commission recommend that City Council adopt the proposed revisions to the City's sewer system ordinance. Commissioner R. Mazurek seconded.

VOICE VOTE MOTION CARRIED

AYES: B. Fouse, R. Mazurek, M. McClellan (Chair), G. Mead.

NOES: None.

ABSENT: L. Kasa and D. Meyers.

2. Fiscal Year 2010 Report

Principal Management Analyst Harmon reported that the Capital Improvement Program request will be included on the April agenda.

Commission Questions/Comments

Can the bidding process be modified on the Capital Project in order to not have to allocate funds upon signing contracts, since many projects take several years and the money is tied up years before it is spent?

Answer: Design/Build can be done on certain projects which in most cases the contractor finances the project during construction.

What considerations are being made based upon the five-year projections?

Answer: The long-range (10-20 year) Capital Improvement Program will be presented along with a discussion of how it can be funded to the Commission at the April meeting. At that meeting staff will also introduce the need for policy decisions on financial planning that will eventually be presented for consideration to Council. These items will include operating expenses, capital outlay, debt service, along with a very modest rate increase spanning a number of years.

Concern was expressed regarding the funding for the proposed Desalination Plant and that having a strong long-range financial plan for the Water Fund will be beneficial as the project moves forward.

The Commission requested that more detailed information be provided rather than less.

ACTION TAKEN: No action was taken.

3. San Lorenzo River Plan (SLRP)

Director Kocher reported that when the San Lorenzo River Committee was dissolved it was Council's intention that its charge would be continued by the Public Works, Parks & Recreation and Water Commission. Commissioner Meyers requested that this item be included on the agenda in order to determine if any opportunities exist for funding in the Water Department's Capital Improvement Program of projects related to the San Lorenzo River Plan.

ACTION TAKEN: No action was taken.

Subcommittee/Advisory Body Oral Report

1. City of Santa Cruz/Soquel Creek Water District SCWD² Joint Desalination Task Force

The results of the intake studies (Offshore Geophysical, Entrainment and Seawater Intake Effects, and Intake Feasibility) were presented at the October Task Force Meeting. The Geophysical Study was approved at that meeting and the Entrainment Study at the December meeting. The intake alternatives will be further evaluated in the EIR.

The Notice of Preparation/Initial Study for the EIR was issued on November 15, 2010 and scoping ends on January 10, 2011. Two scoping meetings were held on December 8, 2010.

A scope of work for the next phase of the energy plan is being developed. It will include bracketing anticipated energy use for both agencies use of the proposed desalination plant.

The first task of the facility design work is to select a pretreatment technology. The task force approved the staff recommendation to proceed with design of a dissolved air floatation (DAF) + pressurized micro-filtration or ultra-filtration (MR/UF) system. The next task is to develop the reverse osmosis (RO) system configuration.

The November 10, 2010 Community Informational meeting on marine issues related to desalination and the environmental review process was attended by about 80 people.

Oral Comments were made by Steve Pleich.

Director's Oral Report

1. Monthly Status of Water Supply

Director Kocher reported that the Felton diversion dam has been inflated and water is being pumped to the reservoir. The following items were provided at the meeting: the most recent USGS chart on the San Lorenzo River gage at Big Trees; reservoir storage; rainfall data; consumption data; information on damages to the Majors dam and sediment inundation at the Laguna Diversion.

2. Desalination Program

There was nothing further to report.

Items Initiated by Members for Future Agendas

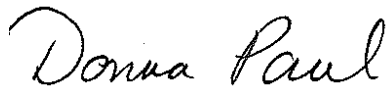
The commission asked that news articles related to the Water Department be included as "informational items" in future Water Commission packets.

Information regarding Habitat Conservation Planning efforts.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:22 p.m. until the next meeting of the Water Commission scheduled for February 7, 2011, at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers.

Respectfully submitted,



Staff