



Water Department

Water Commission
DRAFT
7:00 p.m. –October 5, 2015
Council Chambers
809 Center Street, Santa Cruz

Minutes of a Water Commission Meeting

Call to Order: Chair D. Baskin called the meeting to order at 7:01p.m. in the City Council Chambers.

Roll Call

Present: D. Baskin, G. Mead, D. Schwarm, A. Schiffrin, D. Stearns, W. Wadlow, and L. Wilshusen.

Absent: None.

Staff: R. Menard, Water Director; H. Luckenbach, Deputy Director/Engineering Manager; T. Goddard Multi-Disciplinary Project Manager; N. Dennis Principal Management Analyst; C. Berry, Watershed Compliance Manager; G. Eidam, Chief Ranger; M. Kaping, Management Analyst; A. Poncato, Administrative Assistant III.

Others: 1 member of the public.

Presentation: There were no presentations.

Statement of Disqualification: There were no statements of disqualification.

Oral Communications: Oral communications provided by P. Pethoe.

Announcements: There were no announcements.

1. WSAC Update (Oral Report)

- The WSAC recommendation that will go to City Council will focus on aquifer recovery and in lieu storage as our primary strategies and one of the drought proof alternatives as a backup strategy.
- There will be a joint study session during the evening session of the November 10, 2015 City Council meeting with the City Council and the Water Commission at 7:00 p.m.
- City Council would like to act on this recommendation at the November 24, 2015 City Council meeting.
- Commissioner A. Schiffrin requests that the WSAC recommendation report be added to the November Water Commission agenda so that the Commission has a chance to discuss the recommendations prior to the joint study session. Commissioner A. Schiffrin also

requests that Commissioners receive a copy of the report prior to the November Water Commission meeting.

- When this topic is on future agendas, Commissioner A. Schiffrin would like staff members to come back either orally or with something in writing from the city attorney about the CEQA issues with the council consideration of the advisory committee's recommendations as it is unclear what actions they may take and how those actions might result in requirements under the California Environmental Quality Act.

Public Comment: Public comments made by P. Pethoe.

Consent Agenda

1. City Council Items Affecting Water
 2. Approve August 24, 2015 Water Commission Minutes
- Chair D. Baskin and Commissioner A. Schiffrin made edits to the language of the minutes.
 - Commissioners would like to discuss the staff minutes format in the near future.
 - Commissioners would like to know how the City Council handles written material provided by the public to the City Council.

Public Comment: Public comments made by P. Pethoe.

Commissioner Schiffrin moves to review the August 24, 2015 Water Commission minutes at the next Water Commission meeting after the proper corrections have been made. Commissioner Wadlow seconded.

VOICE VOTE: MOTION CARRIED

AYES: All.

NOES: None

Items Removed from Consent Agenda

General Business

1. Revision of Santa Cruz Municipal Code Chapter 16.04, Water Services and Charges (WT):

Commission Questions/Comments

- Chair D. Baskin suggests forming a municipal code subcommittee of three (3) Commissioners to further discuss the details of the Municipal Code revisions.
- Commissioners W. Wadlow and D. Schwarm volunteer for subcommittee.
- The duration of this subcommittee should be limited to less than six months.
- Chair D. Baskin welcomes comments and concerns about the Municipal Code update from other Commissioners and the public. Comments and concerns are as follows:
 - Page 37, Item F multiple units, suggests language should be "OR sold separately, not AND sold separately".
 - Page 39, Item F multiple units, suggests language should be "OR sold separately, not AND sold separately".

- Page 37, Main Replacement 16.04.051A, “the city will pay....” changed to “the city may pay...” Why does the city pay for main replacements? The developer should be paying for those fees. Will the city be reimbursed?
- Page 40, General Water Use, B the language should be revised to include the ability to have HOA’s to sub meter individual units. What is significant use of water?
- Page 47, System Extension Zones, bottom of page: It should be clear that this is only in the service area.

Public Comment: There was no public comment.

Commissioner A. Schiffrin moved to continue this item to a future date and establish a subcommittee, set up by the Chair, to work on reviewing and formulating suggestions to the revision of the municipal code. The subcommittee members are D. Baskin, W. Wadlow and D. Schwarm. Commissioner D. Sterns seconded.

VOICE VOTE: MOTION CARRIED

AYES: All.

NOES: None

2. Loch Lomond Master Plan (WT):

R. Menard, Water Director, C. Berry, Watershed Compliance Manager and M. Kaping, Management Analyst, provided the presentation and responded to Commission questions.

Commission Questions/Comments

- What does the master plan being suspended mean? Answer: Staffing is low. We can finish smaller projects and that’s where our energy is focused.
- Is this being suspended forever? Answer: The drought has taken priority over the past two years and it will not be suspended forever.
- What water level does Loch Lomond have to be to open it up to the public? Answer: 564’ is the elevation level that was set to reopen Loch Lomond.
- Have any of the ADA improvements started? Answer: Yes
- What is the timeframe for the ADA project to be completed? Answer: Hopefully by next season. Re-paving parking lots and ADA parking spot striping is almost complete. A deck has been started near the lake that is ADA compliant. 3 ADA compliant restrooms will be put in place and purchased by the city. These restrooms may be Porta-Potties.
- Changes to fees are good but let’s make sure these are sufficient so we don’t have to go to the City Council every year to adjust the prices.
- Staff is recommending a limited pilot program for online reservations for group picnic sites and boat rentals at Loch Lomond. We will be using the same online reservation system as our Parks and Recreation Department.
- Future agenda item: Do we have a plan to keep the brush down and, if possible, can we create a fire break to protect the reservoir at the Loch Lomond Recreation Area. Answer: While the park has been closed the last two seasons, staff has worked on cleaning brush and improving fire breaks; including reviewing access areas with CAL FIRE.
- Future agenda item: Sharing our disaster contingency plans for the water supply during an emergency like an earthquake, forest fire or any other little thing that can have an impact on how our system operates.

Public Comment: Public comment provided by P. Pethoe.

Commissioner A. Schiffrin moved that the Water Commission recommend to the City Council that they adopt a resolution rescinding resolution number NS-28,156 in its entirety and establish new fees for the Loch Lomond Recreation Area and approve the phased approach improvements proposed by staff. Commissioner L. Wilshusen seconded.

VOICE VOTE: MOTION CARRIED

AYES: All.

NOES: None

3. Financial Impact of the Drought (WT):

R. Menard, Water Director and N. Dennis, Principal Management Analyst, gave a presentation and responded to Commission questions about the chart.

Commission Questions/Comments

- The chart includes the money we received from volumetric revenue, fixed revenue, elevation zone revenue and drought cost recovery fees.
- We are in a positive fiscal position because of the drought cost recovery fees as well as the rate increases. Without the drought cost recovery fees, we would be in a negative fiscal situation.
- DCRF was a two year fee, correct? Answer: Yes, the drought cost recovery fee ends at the end of fiscal year 2016.
- Is there an ability to add the fee on in the future should the drought continue? Answer: Yes, the amount of the fee is tied to the drought stage that gets declared.
- What's the timing of the rate study? Answer: the goal is to have the new rates in place in July, 2016, so we bring it to the council by the end of the first quarter.
- It would be helpful to the Commission to have a spreadsheet of Water Department expenditures and how this affects the rate increases. Staff agrees to return at mid-year to update the commission on the financial status of the utilities.

Commissioner A. Schiffrin moves to accept the report. Commissioner W. Wadlow seconded.

VOICE VOTE: MOTION CARRIED

AYES: All.

NOES: None

Subcommittee/Advisory Body Oral Reports

General Comments

Directors Oral Report No action shall be taken on this item.

- Loch Lomond is at 72% full.
- Going to City Council to pull back the penalties off of the voluntary restrictions we did last year so the penalty process will all come off.
- Plan on cleaning up the way the rate resolution is articulated.
- The lagoon breach has been postponed.

Adjournment Meeting adjourned at 8:24p.m. The next regular meeting of the Water Commission is scheduled for November 2, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

Respectfully submitted,

Staff