



Water Commission
7:00 p.m. –April 4, 2016
Council Chambers
809 Center Street, Santa Cruz

Water Department

Minutes of a Water Commission Meeting

Call to Order: Vice Chair L. Wilshusen called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m. in the City Council Chambers.

Roll Call

Present: D. Baskin, D. Engfer, D. Schwarm, D. Stearns, A. Schiffrin, and L. Wilshusen

Absent: W. Wadlow (with notification)

Staff: R. Menard, Water Director; T. Goddard, Administrative Services Manager; D. Culver, Chief Financial Officer; Eileen Cross, Community Relations Specialist; Malissa Kaping, Management Analyst; A. Poncato, Administrative Assistant III

Others: There were approximately 7 members of the public.

Presentation: There were no presentations.

Statement of Disqualification: There were no statements of disqualifications.

Oral Communications: Oral communications made by Bill Malone and Jerry Paul.

Announcements: There were no announcements.

Consent Agenda

1. City Council Actions Affecting Water
2. Approve the March 7, 2016, Water Commission Minutes
3. Municipal Code 16.04 Update
4. Recommendations on Water Conservation Master Plan

Commissioner A. Schiffrin moved the consent agenda as amended by removal of item 2 and 3.

Commissioner D. Baskin seconded.

VOICE VOTE: MOTION CARRIED

AYES: All.

NOES: None

ABSENT: W. Wadlow

Items Removed from the Consent Agenda:

2. Approve the March 7, 2016, Water Commission Minutes

Replace the following sentence on page 5, “We are receiving \$75,000 from a State, \$37,500 from Public Works, and we are covering the rest of the fees.” with, “We are receiving \$75,000 from a State grant, \$37,500 from Public Works, and we are covering the rest of the fees.”

Correct the spelling of S. McGilvary to S. McGilvray in the Presentation portion of the minutes.

Commissioner A. Schiffrin moved to accept the March 7, 2016, Water Commission Minutes as amended. Commissioner D. Baskin seconded.

VOICE VOTE: MOTION CARRIED

AYES: All.

NOES: None

ABSENT: W. Wadlow

3. Municipal Code 16.04 Update

Ms. Kaping provided an oral report from the Municipal Code Subcommittee and responded to Commission questions.

Why is the previous definition of the term 16.00.110 Property vastly different than the new definition?

- It was agreed upon that fewer wording offers a clearer definition.

Are there any implications to the stability of our analytics due to updating the definition of a Single-Family Residential, as indicated in 16.11.020 Account Classification?

- No, it will not affect that. This new description is consistent with the definitions that are in 16.01 for the purpose of water shortage management.

Final Comments and Requests for Follow Up

- Review Municipal Code to ensure that all defined terms are capitalized in the document.

Commissioner A. Schiffrin moved the recommendation. Commissioner D. Baskin seconded.

VOICE VOTE: MOTION CARRIED

AYES: All.

NOES: None

ABSENT: W. Wadlow

General Business

5. Presentation by UCSC Professor Andy Fisher on Managed Aquifer Recharge

Professor Andy Fisher provided the presentation on Managed Aquifer Recharge and responded to Commission questions.

What is being tested with the run-off water collected?

- We are only measuring the amount of water collected and we are not testing the chemical make up.

Is there going to be a crossover use of the GIS surface and subsurface geology data that has been put together for this pilot that will better inform the ASR program we will be piloting?

- This project has patched and reconciled all of the various data sets so that all of the information is available on the same GIS. The intent of the project is to make these data sets so everyone can use them, which will be of benefit to your project.

Will the water you inject be compatible with the water that is already in the system?

- That is not part of our project. None of the models or calculations that are presented here involves water quality and that would need to be investigated carefully site by site.

Are you testing to determine how much water we can get back after injecting water into the aquifer?

- It is extremely difficult to determine where water goes after going into the aquifer and it's doubtful anyone will ever know.

What is the potential benefit to surface water?

- Our location is unique as we switch between semi-tropic and arid weather conditions annually with many of our streams disconnecting and reconnecting throughout the year. If you raise the water table, shallow streams would retain more water and a stream that loses water would be able to gain more water. As the hydrograph drops, the sediment in the river that accumulates can clog the riverbed and reduces the connection causing a disconnection to the underlying aquifer. In the long run, if we bring water levels up throughout a basin then probably some losing streams will lose less water and some will gain, but it depends on the locations, where you add the water, how good the connection is, and what the streambed is made of.

What is the estimated capital cost of the pilot program you're doing right now?

- \$5,000,000.00

6. 2016 Water Supply Outlook - Include Recommendations

Mr. Goddard presented the 2016 Water Supply Outlook and responded to Commission questions.

Has the state reached out to local water districts for recommendations on what their regional levels of conservation should be?

- Yes, all water districts should have received a notice for their statewide workshop in April. They are asking what elements should be modified and how so, how to account for regional differences and to what extent the State Board should consider the reliability of urban supplier portfolios in this emergency regulation.

What data are you using to base whether or not we need to cut back this summer?

- It is based on our model of how we dispatch our water supplies to meet daily demand. First, we use North Coast water, then San Lorenzo River water and if that is not enough to meet daily demand we then turn on the Beltz well, and if that is still not enough we turn to the reservoir. We compare what we think our demand is going to be and what the river is going to be providing on a daily basis

What can the Water Commission do to support the Departments efforts to help the community continue to be conservative in its water use? Do you have all the tools? Can we set monthly targets?

- This evening the Water Commission helped by approving the long term conservation plan. If the department can think of other ways the Water Commission can help, we will ask.

Final Comments and Requests for Follow Up: Additional Comments

- Reporting water production to the state will be ongoing from this point forward.
- A public comment expressed support for keeping excessive use fees so citizens don't use as much water as they'd like.

7. Recommendations FY 2017 Operating Budget and FY 2017 – 2020 Capital Improvement Program

Ms. Kaping provided a summary of the recommendation for the FY 2017 operating budget, the FY 2017-2020 capital improvement program, and responded to Commission questions.

Why haven't we received a breakdown of all the Resources by Fund as referenced on page 133 of the agenda packet?

- That information was presented in detail at the February 1, 2016, Water Commission meeting. The City Council received this information at a study session on February 23, 2016. If necessary, we can bring this information back at the May 2, 2016, Water Commission meeting.

Was the Water Conservation budget reduced in fiscal year 2016?

- The decrease reflects the salary cost savings. The Administrative Service Manager position is allocated in the Administrative budget and both the Conservation Manager, and Environmental Projects Analyst positions have been vacant for the majority of FY 2016.

Final Comments and Requests for Follow Up: Additional Comments

- Call for an informational consent agenda item for the May 2, 2016, Water Commission meeting to include a detailed fund balance.
- Request for a complete income statement and balance sheet.
- Desire for additional information on the timing of how revenue is spent during the course of the year.
- Clearly identify the goal of each capital improvement project.

Commissioner A. Schiffrin moved the staff recommendation on the budget and recommends the operating budget and CIP to the City Council for approval. Commissioner Baskin seconded.

VOICE VOTE: MOTION CARRIED

AYES: All.
NOES: None
ABSENT: W. Wadlow

8. Westside Loch Lomond Recreation

Ms. Menard summarized the recommendation to discontinue pursuing evaluation of the potential for increased recreation on the Westside of the City's land holdings at Loch Lomond and responded to Commission questions.

Final Comments and Requests for Follow Up: Additional Comments

- Ask CAL FIRE to look at the area in question and advise if there is anything that the City can do to reduce the fire danger in that region.
- Requests for a brief update on timber harvesting on a future agenda.

Commissioner A. Schiffrin moved the recommendation with the added direction that staff report on the potential fire danger in the Loch Lomond Watershed due to the lack of timber management and timber harvesting in the past. Commissioner D. Baskin seconded.

VOICE VOTE: MOTION CARRIED

AYES: All.

NOES: None

ABSENT: W. Wadlow

9. Water Commission Role in Administration and Management of the Department's Council Authorized Annual Budget and CIP

Ms. Menard discussed suggested proposed parameters describing the Water Commissions role in matters relating to the Water Department's financial planning, administration, and management and responded to Commission questions.

Commissioner Comments

- The Water Commission is an action orientated body here to make recommendations and the information we ask for is related to recommendations we would like to make. The requests we make to staff should come from the Commission and staff should advise if the request feasible. The process we have now is sufficient and we do not need to take more action.
- The idea of tracking revenues and expenditures on a monthly basis is not part of what the Commission should be doing.
- In the end, the Commission relies upon the Water Director to do a case by case analysis of what items need to be brought to the Commission.

No action was taken on this item.

Subcommittee/Advisory Body Oral Reports

Mr. Goddard gave a brief presentation about the Urban Water Management Plan and answered questions and concerns from Commissioners.

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

- The majority of items on the May Water Commission agenda will be related to water rates and rate structures.


Is staff making a recommendation on what rate structure should be recommended to City Council?

- Staff will provide a presentation but no action will be taken. We will bring a recommendation to the June Water Commission meeting.
- Review and confirm remaining Water Commission meeting dates for calendar year 2016.

Adjournment Meeting adjourned at 9:51 p.m. The next regular meeting of the Water Commission is scheduled for May 2, 2016, at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

Respectfully submitted,

**Amy
Poncato**

 Digitally signed by Amy Poncato
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m, c=US
Date: 2016.05.03 07:40:25 -07'00'

Staff