



Water Commission
7:00 p.m. – Monday, August 1, 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 7:02 p.m. in the City Council Chambers.

Roll Call

Present: L. Wilshusen (Vice-Chair), D. Baskin, D. Engfer, D. Schwarm, D. Stearns
Absent: W. Wadlow (Chair), A. Schiffrin (both with notification)

Staff Present: R. Menard, Water Director; H. Luckenbach, Deputy Director/Engineering Manager; T. Goddard, Administrative Service Manager; K. Moore, Associate Planner II; A. Poncato, Administrative Assistant III.

Others: 4 members of the public.

Presentation: Presentation by J. Paul and S. McGilvray.

Statements of Disqualification: There were no statements of disqualification.

Oral Communications: There were no oral communications.

Announcements: There were no announcements.

Consent Agenda

1. City Council Actions Affecting Water
2. Approve the June 6, 2016, Water Commission Minutes

Commissioner Schwarm moved item 1. City Council Actions Affecting Water of the Consent Agenda. Commissioner Baskin seconded.

VOICE VOTE: MOTION CARRIED

AYES: All.

NOES: None.

ABSENT: W. Wadlow, A. Schiffrin

Commissioner Schwarm moved approval of the June 6, 2016, Water Commission Minutes. Commissioner Stearns seconded.

VOICE VOTE: MOTION CARRIED

AYES: All.

NOES: None.
ABSTAIN: D. Baskin due to absence from the June 6, 2016, Water Commission meeting
ABSENT: W. Wadlow, A. Schiffrin

Items Removed from the Consent Agenda

No items removed from the Consent Agenda.

General Business

3. Urban Water Management Plan

Mr. Goddard and Ms. Moore presented an overview of the draft 2015 Urban Water Management Plan and responded to Commissioners questions on this item.

Why was a three drought sequence chosen for this analysis rather than the longer “design” drought that was analyzed during the WSAC process?

- The drought scenario used in WSAC ranged from 1976 - 1977 and 1987 – 1992. The Department of Water Resources specifically requires suppliers to address a three year drought sequence and historically we have used the 1976, 1977 sequence because it represents the worst case given our historical record.

Regarding the follow-on work that will occur to review and revise if/as needed the City’s General Plan’s section on Water Policies, will the Water Commission be a part of Water Department policy review process?

- Yes, the Water Commission will play a role in this effort.

On page 7-5 it states that the Water Department is not going to change the place of use when part of our strategy is to change the place of use. Can you please elaborate on this?

This statement is a result of an internal miscommunication. The City does plan to ask the State Board (Board) to change the places of use for all of its San Lorenzo River water rights to make it available for use in mid and northern Santa Cruz County when it asks the Board to take action on the other three elements of the Water Rights Conformance Project (i.e., direct diversion from Felton, direct diversion from Newell Creek, and an extension of time to fully utilize the Felton Permit Water.

Is there any scope for us to expand the rights that we have?

We have water right allocations, particularly at the Felton Diversion that we have not fully utilized. If we can prove that we have the ability to fully utilize what we currently have and continue to meet fish flow commitments, if we need more water in the future, the chances of being successful in obtaining that water is likely to be higher than it is now.

Please provide insight as to why we do not satisfy the California Urban Water Conservation Council’s standard for conservation pricing for sewer service.

- We have a low volume sewer rate but most pay the regular flat monthly rate because the low volume sewer rate is set so low that it is difficult for a household of one or two people to qualify for it. The Public Works Department has never expressed much interest in a more progressive rate structure because they have a lot of revenue stability and they aren't very excited about the prospect of introducing uncertainty into their revenue stream.

In regards to climate change, why is there no mention of the sea level rise issue?

- Climate change is an optional section to the Urban Water Management Plan. When the plan was submitted five years ago, we dedicated an entire chapter to climate change and highlighted the negative impacts of sea level rise to a coastal community. This year we have been asked to address climate change in the Service Area, Climate, Supply, and Demand portions of the Urban Water Management Plan, so it may seem as though the Plan hasn't addressed Climate Change because the discussion is spread out rather than covered all in one place.

In regards to the potential for receiving state funding (grants or loans), are there any items in this Urban Water Management Plan that could limit our ability to access state or federal funding that may be available?

- There is nothing in this plan that will limit our ability to access state or federal grant or loan funding in the future.

Final Comments and Requests for Follow Up

- Update the language in table 6-10 to reflect that the 100 million gallons are not necessarily a limit out to 2035, rather a near-term goal.
- Correct the section on page 7-12 that refers to increasing water storage by 1.2 billion gallons. The agreed upon need for approximately 2.4 billion gallons of accessible water in storage can provide for the 1.2 billion to be delivered in a worst case hydrological year.
- Include the Cooperative Water Transfer Pilot Project for Groundwater Recharge and Water Resource Management agreement between the City of Santa Cruz and Soquel Creek Water District in this Urban Water Management Plan.
- Include Appendix 8 from the WSAC report into this Urban Water Management Plan.
- Add a narrative about customer classifications applying to both inside/outside customer's service charges as well as any cost differential between inside and outside customers.

Commissioner Baskin moved that the Commission instruct staff to consider the Commissioner's comments on the draft 2015 Urban Water Management Plan and that the Commission recommend that City Council pass a resolution to adopt the plan and to authorize the Water Department to file a copy with the California Department of Water Resources. Commissioner Stearns seconded.

VOICE VOTE: MOTION CARRIED

AYES: All.

NOES: None.
ABSENT: W. Wadlow, A. Schiffrin

Subcommittee/Advisory Body Oral Reports No items.

Director's Oral Report No action shall be taken on this item.

- We have been operating solely off of the San Lorenzo river supply. Demand is currently at 8.5mgd.
- The next Water Commission meeting is slated for September 12, 2016. Due to scheduling conflicts we are unable to use the City Council Chambers and will hold the Water Commission meeting in the second floor conference room of the Santa Cruz Public Library.
- Since the Director will not be present at the September 12, 2016, Water Commission meeting, the Public Health Goals Report will be presented at the October 3, 2016, Water Commission meeting.
- A CEC report will be sent to the Commissioners soon and will be released to interested parties in the next week. We are working to create and distribute a Water Quality report geared toward the public and the CEC report will be integrated into this publication.
- September Water Commission meeting agenda items will include the WSAC update and the water loss report.

Adjournment Meeting adjourned at 8:36p.m. The next meeting of the Water Commission is scheduled for September 12, 2016, at 7:00 p.m. in the second floor conference room of the Downtown Branch of the Santa Cruz Public Library.

Respectfully submitted,

Amy
Poncato

Digitally signed by Amy Poncato
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Date: 2016.09.13 09:38:38 -07'00'

Staff