



Water Commission
7:00 p.m. –August 7, 2017
Council Chambers
809 Center Street, Santa Cruz

Water Department

Minutes of a Water Commission Meeting

Call to Order Chair Wilshusen called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. in the City Council Chambers.

Roll Call

Present: L. Wilshusen (Chair), D. Engfer (Vice-Chair), D. Baskin, J. Mekis, D. Schwarm, W. Wadlow
Absent: A. Schiffrin, with notification
Staff Present: R. Menard, Water Director; K. Crossley, Senior Professional Engineer; D. Valby, Associate Professional Engineer; D. Kehn, Assistant Engineer II; A. Poncato, Administrative Assistant III.

Others: 1 member of the public.

Announcements: There were no announcements.

Statements of Disqualification: There were no statements of disqualification.

Oral Communications: There were no oral communications.

Consent Agenda

1. Accept the City Council actions affecting the Water Department.
3. Update Water Commission Calendar.

Commissioner Baskin moved the Consent Agenda. Commissioner Mekis seconded.

VOICE VOTE: MOTION CARRIED

AYES: All.
NOES: None.
ABSENT: A. Schiffrin.

Items Removed from the Consent Agenda

2. Approve the June 5, 2017, Water Commission Minutes.

Commissioner Baskin moved the Consent Agenda. Commissioner Mekis seconded.

VOICE VOTE: MOTION CARRIED

AYES: All.

NOES: None.
ABSENT: A. Schiffrin.
ABSTAIN: Walt Wadlow was not present at the June 5, 2017, Water Commission meeting.

General Business

4. Water Supply Augmentation Strategy Recycled Water

Ms. Menard introduced Mr. Kehn who provided an overview of the Water Supply Feasibility Planning Study.

Would the bulk water station that is included in the two non-potable reuse options that were presented be available for use by members of the public?

- There is an option for that, but we only planned a bulk water station for contractors to use at this time.

Are the rates for irrigation the same as the rates for agriculture?

- No, agriculture irrigation rates are lower because the agricultural irrigation customers are taking untreated water directly from the North Coast pipeline. In this situation, very little of the water system's infrastructure is used to provide this service and, as a result, the cost of service basis results in a lower cost per volume.

When do we circle back to the longer-term projects, such as indirect potable reuse, that were discussed during the WSAC process?

- In addition to wrapping up the Recycled Wastewater Feasibility Planning Study this calendar year, staff is working with DUDEK to complete the Desalination Feasibility Update. In the next few months (currently scheduled for November and January) staff will begin to discuss with the Water Commission approaches to comparing project options for addressing water supply shortages. Additional information from the pilot ASR study and groundwater modeling scenarios is needed to begin to evaluate which project or potentially portfolio of projects, would meet the needs of the City Water Department. As an example, a water supply portfolio may include non-potable or indirect potable projects in addition to ASR.

Are the near term recommended projects consistent with work that was completed by the Water Supply Advisory Committee (WSAC)?

- The consistencies with the WSAC work has been our public outreach to help community members understand recycled water, the regulatory framework, and determining how recycled water can be used. The proposed projects, however do not substantially contribute to meeting the water supply gap.

Has there been any public participation process associated with this phase?

- The work we've been doing has been focused on technical feasibility of a very wide range of options. Before proceeding to further develop any potential project

recommendations, a significant public outreach and engagement effort would occur.

Does anyone on the project team have the expertise in chemicals of emerging concern (CECs) and understand the concerns of the community?

- We would rely on Trussell Technologies, Inc, the environmental and engineering firm sub consultant for expertise on water quality.

Have we done any water quality characterization of our wastewater in Santa Cruz as part of any work we have done on the recycled water feasibility work?

- We do not have that documentation here at the Water Department, but Akin Babatola, who is the Laboratory Environmental Compliance Manager at the Wastewater Treatment Facility, probably has this information. We'll do some research and see what is available that would make sense to share.

Who determines what regulations are in place in order to be Title 22 compliant?

- The State Water Resources Control Board is responsible for setting regulations that govern the production and distribution of Title 22 compliant recycled water. There are many steps that we would have to take in order to construct and operate a project that is Title 22 compliant. We would need to establish and maintain the necessary treatment processes and environmental barriers and our staff would require extensive training in order to be certified to operate the project. The project would require an operating permit issued by the State Board and that permit would include any t specific rules and criteria to that would apply to our situation and project.

Wouldn't we save money by collaborating with Soquel Creek Water District (SqCWD) for the groundwater recharge in the midterm?

- There could be some financial benefit if we were to collaborate with SqCWD on their project, but we obviously need to produce more water. Therefore, we would need to build a bigger treatment plant and treatment facility. There could be savings in sharing some pipeline facilities, but treatment facility would need to be scaled up to be substantially larger. So, the typical economy of scale concept doesn't necessarily apply in a linear way, particularly given the site constraints at the Wastewater Treatment plan.

Final Comments and Requests for Follow Up

- Continue to explore whether or not the BayCycle Project would provide irrigation water for University of California, Santa Cruz (UCSC) farm and garden.
- Use gallons as the unit of measure in all future reports.
- Include total construction costs in future tabular presentations.

5. Gravity Trunk Main Pipeline Condition Assessment

Ms. Menard introduced Mr. Valby who provided an overview of the Gravity Trunk Main Pipeline Condition Assessment.

What kind of inspection process did you have or do you have now that would have helped you figure out that the valves were inoperable sooner?

- We do have a valve exercising program which usually goes along with our flushing program. This pipe cannot be flushed like our distribution mains, which is why the problem did not get discovered until 2012. An ongoing valve exercising/valve maintenance program, typically using the valve machine enables us to test the operability of these large diameter valves, which were not able to be operated by hand.

Will the new valves be more resistant to the kinds of failure we've experienced with older valves?

- The new valves are of a modern design with a resilient wedge, do not require maintenance lubrication, have a much larger diameter than the old plug valves, and has an overall better design. The larger diameter opening means less friction losses at higher flow rates and less obstructed passage of inspection tools.

6. Program Management

Ms. Menard introduced Mr. Crossley who provided an overview of the solicitation for Program Management Consulting Services.

Have you received a lot of interest so far?

- Yes, we've completed informal interviews with four firms so far and we received statements of interest from about seven firms.

Do we do a lot of claims management?

- We try not to. Typically we try to handle them at the staff level but, if we don't feel comfortable we reach out to the City of Santa Cruz attorney.

Outsourcing for Project Managers is fine, but shouldn't the Program Manager be a city employee?

- Yes, the program managers we have spoken to have suggested that the head of the entire program should be a city employee. A city employee should always be at the highest level.

Which projects would this program manager be managing?

- The North Coast project, the Newell Creek Pipeline project and, all raw water projects, along with water treatment and eventually the supply augmentation project(s).

Subcommittee/Advisory Body Oral Reports No action shall be taken on this item.

7. Santa Cruz Mid-County Groundwater Agency

- The agency is forming an Advisory Committee to work with the consultants on drafting the groundwater sustainability plan. The Committee will have 13 members and will include one representative of each of the major agencies, one

member to represent the well owners, plus eight additional people who represent a diverse range of interest. Engaging broader interests in the sustainability planning process is dictated by the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act and the regulations that the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) have created for the implementation of the planning process.

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

- The Sentinel reported last week that water levels at Loch Lomond were down 15 feet when in fact water levels are only down 1.5 feet.
- We projected that we would have to go to the lake for water by August, but we have good flows and predict that we will not need to take water from the lake anytime soon.

Adjournment Meeting adjourned at 9:08 p.m. The next meeting of the Water Commission is scheduled for September 11, 2017, at 7:00 p.m. at a location to be determined.

Respectfully submitted,
Amy
Poncato
Staff

Digitally signed by Amy Poncato
DN: cn=Amy Poncato, o=Water
Department, ou=Administration,
email=aponcato@cityofsantacruz.
com, c=US
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