



Water Commission Minutes

7:00 p.m. – Monday, April 6, 2009
Council Chambers
809 Center Street Santa Cruz

Minutes of a Water Commission meeting.

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

Roll Call

PRESENT: B. Fouse, L. Kasa, C. Keutmann (7:10 p.m.), M. McClellan, S. O'Hara, A. Schiffrin (7:07 p.m.) and H. Whitney, Chair.

ABSENT: None.

STAFF: T. Goddard, Water Conservation Manager; B. Kocher, Water Director; A. Martin, Water Conservation Representative; and D. Paul, Administrative Assistant.

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 S. O'Hara moved to approve the March 2, 2009 Water Commission minutes as submitted. Commissioner M. McClellan seconded.

VOICE VOTE MOTION CARRIED

AYES: M. McClellan, S. O'Hara and H. Whitney.

NOES: None.

ABSENT: C. Keutmann and A. Schiffrin

ABSTAIN: B. Fouse and L. Kasa.

Consent Agenda

Item 5 - City of Santa Cruz/Soquel Creek Water District Desalination Task Force – Draft Operational Plan & Agreement materials January, February & March 2009 was pulled from the Consent Agenda for discussion.

Commissioner L. Kasa moved to approve the Consent Agenda as amended. Commissioner B. Fouse seconded.

AYES: B. Fouse, L. Kasa, M. McClellan, S. O'Hara and H. Whitney.
NOES: None.
ABSENT: C. Keutmann and A. Schiffrin

Items Removed from the Consent Agenda

5. City of Santa Cruz/Soquel Creek Water District (SqCWD) Desalination Task Force – Draft Operational Plan & Agreement materials January, February & March 2009

The commission expressed concern about the Capital Cost share ratio that is based upon a priority of use system in which the City pays 59% City and 41% for SqCWD. The cost share ratio seems inequitable since the SqCWD's need for desalinated water is greater than the City's in most years and it would be nearly impossible for SqCWD to go out and build its own plant.

Commissioner L. Kasa moved to request that Commissioner A. Schiffrin (Water Commission representative to the Desalination Task Force) schedule a meeting with Desalination Task Force Member (Councilmember M. Rotkin) in order to present the Water Commission concerns regarding the Capital Cost Share allocation of 59% City and 41% Soquel Creek Water District and report back at the next meeting. Commissioner C. Keutmann seconded.

VOICE VOTE MOTION CARRIED

AYES: B. Fouse, L. Kasa, C. Keutmann M. McClellan, S. O'Hara A. Schiffrin and H. Whitney.
NOES: None.
ABSENT: None.

General Business

1. Water Shortage Ordinance and Declaration of Water Shortage for 2009

Water Conservation Manager Goddard provided the staff report on this item and answered questions from the public and the commission.

Public Comments

John Bergwall provided comments requesting that consideration be given to pressure washing for construction projects such as sealing concrete and that flexibility be given to watering or misting container plants every other day.

General Commission Comments

Concern was expressed about how this year's shortage is being publicized. The Integrated Water Plan includes use a planned curtailment of 15% in a worst case scenario such as the 1976-77 drought and was deemed an acceptable shortage amount.

It was discussed whether separate actions should be taken to 1) declare the Stage 2 Water Shortage and the corresponding action related to the declaration; and 2) to adopt the Water Shortage Ordinance as a separate action that would be included in the Municipal Code.

Specific Comments on the Draft Water Shortage Ordinance

Page 56 - Include a brief definition of dry and critically dry in the second whereas.

Page 58- Section 1, identify the conditions that constitute a water shortage

Page 60 - Letter C. Change 24 hours to one working day.

Page 63 – Number 3 include sealing of concrete; and Number 7. add at the end of last sentence with a shut off nozzle; and Number 8. Include a provision to define hand watering and a discussion of old style sprinklers attached to hoses.

Page 65 - Number 7 change the ____'s to specific

Page 68 – Number 7 change the ____'s to specific

Page 74 – Include information on how the appeal board is appointed and a nominal appeal fee.

Page 76- Letter C. Add the fee for disconnect

Commissioner A. Schiffrin moved to recommend Council adoption of the Water Shortage Ordinance as amended by the Commission comments noted and return it in November for further review. Commissioner B. Fouse seconded

VOICE VOTE MOTION CARRIED

AYES: B. Fouse, L. Kasa, C. Keutmann M. McClellan, S. O'Hara A. Schiffrin and H. Whitney.

NOES: None.

ABSENT: None.

Commissioner C. Keutmann proposed an amendment to the above motion to include the time of day and day of week restriction for washing vehicles at private residences. Commissioner L. Kasa seconded.

VOICE VOTE AMENDMENT TO THE MOTION FAILED

AYES: L. Kasa, C. Keutmann and S. O'Hara.

NOES: B. Fouse, M. McClellan, A. Schiffrin and H. Whitney.

ABSENT: None.

Commissioner A. Schiffrin moved to recommend that City Council formally declare a Stage 2 water shortage and adopt corresponding water shortage regulations and restrictions to conserve the City's water supply for the greatest public benefit with particular regard for domestic use, sanitation, and fire protection. Commissioner S. O'Hara seconded.

VOICE VOTE MOTION CARRIED

AYES: B. Fouse, L. Kasa, C. Keutmann M. McClellan, S. O'Hara A. Schiffrin and H. Whitney.

NOES: None.

ABSENT: None.

Subcommittee/Advisory Body Oral Reports

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

There was nothing further to report.

Director's Oral Report.

1. Monthly Status of Water Supply

There was nothing further to report.

2. Desalination Program

Director Kocher reported that CH₂MHill has been selected to do the Energy Reduction and Greenhouse Gas Study and Brown & Caldwell will be conducting the Dilution Study. The Entrainment Study has begun. The Subsurface Study has been delayed due to several permitting issues. The Technical Advisor has started preliminary work on the request for proposals (RFP) for the full-scale environmental impact report (EIR).

The commission requested that it be provided the RFP.

Items Initiated by Members for Future Agendas

No items were initiated.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:56 p.m. until the next meeting of the Water Commission scheduled for June 1, 2009, at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers.

Respectfully submitted,

ss/Donna Paul

Staff