



MINUTES
Board of Water Commissioners
Public Works Conference Room
630 Garden Street
October 13, 2008 3:00 p.m.

- COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: James Smith, Barry Keller, Landon Neustadt, Russell Ruiz
- COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: Kate Rees
- COUNCILMEMBER PRESENT: Dale Francisco
- STAFF PRESENT: Rebecca Bjork, Water Resources Manager; Cathy Taylor, Water System Manager; Bill Ferguson, Water Resources Supervisor; Anne Van Belkom, Administrative Assistant
- PUBLIC: Addison Thompson (Planning Commission); Charles Hamilton (Carpinteria Valley Water District); Steve Little
1. **CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 3:01 p.m.
 2. **CHANGES TO THE AGENDA:** None
 3. **COMMENTS BY THE PUBLIC:** Steve Little distributed copies of the Southern California AgWater News (Vol. 6, No. 1, October 2008) which described the future outlook for the Metropolitan Water District's agricultural water rates in Southern California.
 4. **MEETING MINUTES, SEPTEMBER 8, 2008:** MOTION (Ruiz/Keller 4-0-0): to approve the minutes as submitted.
 5. **ZACA FIRE WATER QUALITY:** Ms. Taylor informed the Water Commission that a memo was sent to Council advising that Gibraltar Reservoir lost 21% of capacity to hold water as a result of the Zaca Fire. Ms. Bjork announced that, on the basis of this reduction, the City has elected to commence "pass-through" operations as provided in the 1989 Upper Santa Ynez Operations Agreement (commonly called the Pass-Through Agreement), and that a notice of this action has been sent to the signatories to the Pass-Through Agreement. Water Commissioners Smith and Keller requested a copy of the September 2008 report on the Bathymetric Study from MNS Engineers, Inc. Commissioner Keller shared a geologic map of the Gibraltar Reservoir area.
 6. **HYDROELECTRIC PLANT FEASIBILITY ANALYSIS:** Ms. Taylor reported that the firm, Brown and Caldwell, is in the process of preparing the Hydroelectric Plant Feasibility Analysis, which should be completed by the end of this year. Staff was asked about the potential for transferring the electric power directly to Cater.
 7. **CONTRACT FOR WATER SUPPLY PLANNING STUDY:** Mr. Ferguson described the objectives that would be included in the Water Supply Planning Study, and explained why Carollo Engineers was chosen to conduct the study. Mr. Ferguson also clarified that while Carollo Engineers would do the study, the actual planning will be done in-house by City staff. If the draft of the study is ready before Christmas, as anticipated, it will be presented to the Water Commission in January 2009. MOTION (Keller/Ruiz 4-0-0): to recommend that Council approve the Contract for Water Supply Planning Study with Carollo Engineers.
 8. **BILLING SYSTEM UPDATE:** Mr. Ferguson updated the Water Commission on the implementation of the new billing system which began processing the City's utility bills on September 3, 2008. The information on the utility bills has been simplified and re-grouped in order to improve readability and comprehension.
 9. **HISTORIC DROUGHT INFORMATION:** Commissioner Keller described the Palmer Drought Severity Index and gave a brief analysis of the historical data for point 48 (Santa Barbara area).
 10. **WATER RESOURCES MANAGER'S REPORT:** Ms. Bjork distributed and reviewed the Monthly Water Resources report on water production, rainfall, and wastewater influent. There will be 2840 Acre-Feet of Cachuma carryover into the new water year. Commissioner Neustadt asked for an update regarding the City's investment of funds in terms of how prepared the City is to weather the recent changes in the market.

11. **DATE OF NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING:** It was confirmed that the next meeting was scheduled for November 10, 2008, at 3:00 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:25 p.m.

AVB