



**MINUTES**  
**Board of Water Commissioners**  
**Public Works Conference Room**  
**630 Garden Street**  
**February 8, 2010 at 3:00 p.m.**

- COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: James Smith, Landon Neustadt, Russell Ruiz, Bill Thomas
- COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: Barry Keller
- STAFF PRESENT: Rebecca Bjork, Water Resources Manager; Cathy Taylor, Water System Manager; Chris Toth, Wastewater System Manager, Manuel Romero, Wastewater Collection System Superintendent, Bill Ferguson, Water Resources Supervisor; Anne Van Belkom, Administrative Assistant;
- PUBLIC: Steve Little; Alex Keuper, Carpinteria Valley Water District
1. **CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 3:04 p.m.
  2. **CHANGES TO THE AGENDA:** None
  3. **COMMENTS BY THE PUBLIC:** None.
  4. **MEETING MINUTES, JANUARY 11, 2010:** MOTION (Smith/Thomas 4-0-0): to approve the minutes as submitted.
  5. **HYDROELECTRIC PLANT STATUS UPDATE:** Ms. Taylor gave an update on the status of the hydroelectric plant that is currently mothballed. She explained that because the facility is currently located on Federal property, it requires expensive and cumbersome Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) licensing, which makes operating financially infeasible. The City is investigating having the USBR grant the property that the Hydroelectric Plant is on to the City.
  6. **GPS PILOT PROJECT:** Mr. Toth described the GPS pilot project that was developed to improve data collection of sewer pipe cleaning, identify training needs and provide training opportunities for Wastewater Collection staff, and develop enhanced quality assurance procedures to reduce sewer spills.
  7. **SEWER LATERAL INSPECTION PROGRAM UPDATE:** Mr. Toth reviewed proposed changes to the SLIP guidelines that would provide a better administrative approach by dealing directly with property owners for lateral repair work, and would provide a regulatory policy for decertification and appeal process for plumbers and inspectors working under the SLIP program. The Water Commission concurred with the City's proposed approach regarding the SLIP guidelines.
  8. **EL ESTERO WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT NPDES PERMIT STATUS UPDATE:** RWQCB has released the draft permit. Comments are due to RWQCB by March 3, 2010. The RWQCB meeting addressing this item is on May 13, 2010. The City has completed its public noticing requirement for stakeholder input.
  9. **WATER SUPPLY PLANNING TIMELINE:** Chair Ruiz informed the Water Commissioners about the General Plan Workshop on Thursday, February 11, 2010. Ms. Bjork distributed an updated schedule on the Plan Santa Barbara/Long Term Water Supply Program process. The estimated release date for Plan Santa Barbara Draft EIR and Draft General Plan Elements is scheduled to be in mid-March 2010, with a 60-day comment period. Ms. Bjork will notify Commissioners when the General Plan EIR is released. Chair Ruiz requested that the Water Commission prepare a consensus letter that summarizes the Water Commission's comments about the DEIR and Draft Elements. The due date for the Urban Water Plan has been pushed back to July 1, 2011.
  10. **CATER AND ORTEGA TREATMENT PLANT PROJECTS – STATUS UPDATE:** Ms. Bjork will give monthly updates on these two projects. The Cater project will need to be considered by Planning Commission and the ABR, and the Ortega project will be reviewed by the Historic Landmarks Committee. The deadline for project design of each project is in June 2010.

11. **COMB SECOND BARREL PROJECT STATUS UPDATE:** Santa Ynez Valley Water Conservation District, Improvement District #1 has stated that they will vote against the issuance of bonds for the Second Barrel project. Since a unanimous vote is needed, this project cannot proceed without their support. At the January 2010 COMB meeting, no vote was taken regarding the Second Barrel Project. Even though \$3.2 M in grant funding is at risk, at this time it is unknown if this project can be saved.
  
12. **WATER RESOURCES MANAGER'S REPORT:** Ms. Bjork distributed and reviewed the Monthly Water Resources report on water production, rainfall, and wastewater influent. Cachuma has risen significantly and is filling but is not yet full. Gibraltar is full, although the water is very turbid. Pumping from the Foothill groundwater basin has been discontinued at this time. In an attempt to increase system maintenance and reduce overflows, Wastewater Collection staff will be using an outside contractor to clean approximately 100 miles combined of sewer pipe in the Downtown area. Councilmember White has been appointed as the new liaison to the Water Commission.
  
13. **DATE OF NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING:** It was confirmed that the next meeting was scheduled for Monday, March 8, 2010, at 3:00 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:59 p.m.

Approved: March 8, 2010

AVB