



**MINUTES**  
**Board of Water Commissioners**  
**El Estero Conference Room**  
**520 E. Yanonali Street**  
**Monday, January 10, 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; Chris Toth, Wastewater System Manager; Manuel Romero, Wastewater Collection System Superintendent; Bill Ferguson, Water Resources Supervisor; Alelia Parenteau, Energy Analyst; Anne Van Belkom, Administrative Assistant.
- PUBLIC: Sheila Lodge, Planning Commission Liaison; Bob Niehaus and Ichiko Kido, RDN; Mike Asner, Water Efficiency Magazine; Charles Hamilton, Carpinteria Valley Water District; Steve Little.
1. **CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 3:01p.m.
  2. **CHANGES TO THE AGENDA:** **None.** Since Commissioner Keller was unable to attend today's meeting, Ms. Bjork relayed his emailed comments to the Commission.
  3. **COMMENTS BY THE PUBLIC:** Mr. Little distributed copies of several articles indicating that voter approval is required for agricultural water rate increases. He asked for this topic to be included in a future agenda. Mr. Little urged Commissioners to attend the Goleta Water District Board's January 25<sup>th</sup> workshop regarding a proposal to increase their water rates.
  4. **MEETING MINUTES, DECEMBER 13, 2010:** MOTION (Smith/Thomas 3-0-1, with Ruiz abstaining): to approve the minutes as submitted.
  5. **POWER PURCHASE AGREEMENT FOR COGENERATION AT EL ESTERO WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT:** Ms. Parenteau reviewed the reasons for replacing the fuel cell technology with an internal combustion engine that can produce 750 kW. Council will be asked to approve a contract with California Power Partners on January 25, 2011. The six-month construction period is planned to begin in March 2011. MOTION (Thomas/Smith 4-0-0): to support's Staff's recommendation to Council.
  6. **COLLECTION SYSTEM STATUS REPORT:** Mr. Toth gave an update on the improvements that have been made to the operations and maintenance of the sewer system which have resulted in a reduction in the number of SSO's during the last 6 months. Plans are to clean the entire sewer system every five years. Last year, one million feet of pipe was cleaned.
  7. **LONG TERM WATER SUPPLY PLAN:** There was extended discussion of the Long Term Water Supply Plan (LTWSP) Issues. Staff indicated that they can schedule additional special meetings to discuss the LTWSP, but are anxious to try to stay with a June deadline to finalize the document. Water Commissioners' areas of interest for further analysis and discussion include modeling of Gibraltar yield under the pass-through mode, achievability of increased recycled water connections, and costs for increased utilization of the recycled water system.
  8. **619 GARDEN STREET UPDATE:** Ms. Bjork updated the Water Commission on the 619 Garden Street condo property and answered Commissioner Thomas's emailed questions.
  9. **FISCAL YEAR 2011 WORK PLAN:** Ms. Bjork reviewed the significant items in the Water Resources Work Plan for January – June 2011. The date scheduled for the Award of Contract for Water Distribution Asset Management has been changed from March 2011 to Fiscal Year 2012. A special joint meeting of the Water Commission and Council is being planned in March or April to allow discussion of the LTWSP.

**10. CACHUMA CONSERVATION RELEASE BOARD/CACHUMA OPERATION MAINTENANCE BOARD UPDATE:**

Ms. Bjork updated the Water Commission on recent activities related to the two Joint Powers Agencies.

**11. WATER RESOURCES MANAGER'S REPORT:** Ms. Bjork distributed and reviewed the Monthly Water Resources report on water production, rainfall, and wastewater influent. Gibraltar is spilling and Cachuma is at 91% of capacity. Although it was a very wet December, there were no collection system spills, and the El Estero Plant experienced no problems handling the high flows. The wells have been taken off-line to allow groundwater basins to recover.

**12. DATE OF NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING:** It was confirmed that the next meeting was scheduled for Monday, February 14, 2010, at 3:00 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:40 p.m.

Approved: February 14, 2011