



MINUTES

SPECIAL WATER COMMISSION MEETING JOINT WORK SESSION WITH CITY COUNCIL Thursday, April 7, 2011 at 3:30 p.m. Chase Palm Park Center, 236 E. Cabrillo Boulevard

COUNCILMEMBERS PRESENT: Helene Schneider, Grant House, Harwood (Bendy) White, Dale Francisco, Frank Hotchkiss, Michael Self, Randy Rowse

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: James Smith, Landon Neustadt, Russell Ruiz, Bill Thomas

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: Barry Keller

STAFF PRESENT: Jim Armstrong, City Administrator; Rebecca Bjork, Water Resources Manager; Cathy Taylor, Water System Manager; Bill Ferguson, Water Resources Supervisor; Sarah Knecht, Assistant City Attorney; Barbara Shelton, Project Planner; Alison Jordan, Water Conservation Coordinator; Theresa Lancy, Water Resources Technician; Anne Van Belkom, Administrative Assistant

1. CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 3:33 p.m. Councilmember Francisco came in at 3:35 p.m.

2. CHANGES TO THE AGENDA: None

3. COMMENTS BY PUBLIC: Jim Smallwood provided comment

4. WORK SESSION: JOINT CITY COUNCIL AND WATER COMMISSION WORK SESSION - LONG TERM WATER SUPPLY PLAN UPDATE: Ms. Bjork presented historical background and described available water supplies, planning concepts, and key policy issues requiring consideration in order to update the Water Supply Plan and prepare the state-mandated Urban Water Management Plan. Councilmembers and Water Commissioners asked Ms. Bjork for additional clarification before giving their feedback and comments. Mayor Schneider summarized the key points presented by various Councilmembers and Water Commissioners:

- a. The use of a six-year drought period for planning purposes, instead of a five-year drought, is appropriate.
- b. Addition of water banking and purchased water should be pursued as drought supplies where feasible to help meet the goal of deferring use of the desalination facility until year six of a drought.
- c. A 10% safety margin is prudent given the uncertainty of water supplies in California.
- d. The expansion of recycled water connections should continue, where cost effective and to the extent capacity is available.
- e. Elimination of blending of recycled water with potable water is a good goal, subject to identifying cost effective means of doing so, including potential grant funding,
- f. Sedimentation management at Gibraltar, including vegetation management through controlled burns, is worth investigating even with the Pass Through Agreement. The multi-agency effort to manage sedimentation at Cachuma should include recognition of the benefit of allowing sediment to continue down the river to nourish beaches.
- g. A policy about maintaining the reliability of the water delivery infrastructure should be included in the plan.
- h. An ongoing conservation program will be needed to maintain reductions achieved to date and achieve further reductions.
- i. Extraordinary demand reductions of up to 15% during an occasional severe drought seem reasonable; remembering that citizens will respond effectively during a drought period to help meet the goal.

5. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 5:25 p.m.

Approved: May 9, 2011