



**MINUTES**  
**Board of Water Commissioners**  
**Water Resources Conference Room**  
**619 Garden Street, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor**  
**Monday, April 9, 2012, at 3:00 p.m.**

- COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:** James Smith, Barry Keller, Landon Neustadt, Russell Ruiz
- STAFF PRESENT:** Rebecca Bjork, Water Resources Manager; Cathy Taylor, Water System Manager; Chris Toth, Wastewater System Manager; Theresa Lancy, Water Resources Technician; Anne Van Belkom, Administrative Assistant
- PUBLIC:** Sheila Lodge, Planning Commission Liaison; Kate Rees, General Manager, Cachuma Conservation Release Board (CCRB); Charles Hamilton, Carpinteria Valley Water District; Kira Redmond, Santa Barbara Channelkeeper; Steve Little.
- 1. CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 3:00 p.m.
  - 2. CHANGES TO THE AGENDA:** Agenda Item #7 was taken out of order after Agenda Item #4
  - 3. COMMENTS BY THE PUBLIC:** None.
  - 4. MEETING MINUTES, FEBRUARY 13, 2012:** MOTION (Smith/Ruiz 3-0-1, with Neustadt abstaining): with the correction of the spelling of Commissioner Keller's last name, to approve the minutes as corrected.
  - 5. UPDATE ON CATER AND ORTEGA WELL TREATMENT PLANT CONSTRUCTION PROJECT:** Ms. Taylor updated the Water Commission on the status of the construction at Cater which is 40% complete, as well as on the construction at the Ortega Treatment Plant.
  - 6. CHANNELKEEPER CONSENT DECREE:** Ms. Bjork described the main contents of the Channelkeeper Consent Decree and responded to questions from the Water Commission. The City is required to submit an annual report to Channelkeeper on March 31st of each year of the Consent Decree. Staff will also update Council at an annual Council meeting to which the Channelkeeper Board will be invited. Water Commissioners asked Ms. Redmond to supply them with the technical qualifications of the Channelkeeper consulting oversight staff who will be reviewing the City's required submittals to Channelkeeper.
  - 7. CACHUMA WATER RIGHTS DECISION STATUS REPORT:** Ms. Rees updated the Water Commission on the Cachuma Water Rights Decision status. The final EIR has been admitted in the Record of Proceedings by Ms. Tam Doduk. The next step is for the State Board attorney to write a draft Water Rights decision. Once the EIR is certified, a new Water Rights Order can be adopted. Ms. Reed anticipates challenges to the final EIR.
  - 8. BUDGET AND RATES:** Ms. Bjork reviewed the budget and discussed upcoming rate increases. Planned increases are 3½% for Water rates and 10% for Wastewater rates. Of the 10% increase in Wastewater rates, 6% will fund the annual \$900,000 required by Consent Decree provisions and 4% will continue pipeline replacement. Litigation costs will come out of the Wastewater Fund. Extensive rehabilitation work at El Estero is proposed to be funded through a bond issuance.
  - 9. WATER RESOURCES MANAGER'S REPORT:** Ms. Bjork distributed and reviewed the Monthly Water Resources report on water production, rainfall, and wastewater influent. Future agenda items requested by the Water Commission include: Review of Capital Reserves Policy, and Meter Reading.
  - 10. DATE OF NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING:** It was confirmed that the next meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 14, 2012, at 3:00 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:20 p.m.