



**MINUTES**  
**Board of Water Commissioners**  
**Water Resources Conference Room**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> floor, 619 Garden Street**  
**Monday, March 09, 2015, at 3:00 p.m.**

- COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Russell Ruiz, Megan Birney, James Smith, Mike Kielborn
- COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: Barry Keller
- COUNCIL LIAISON PRESENT: Harwood "Bendy" White
- STAFF PRESENT: Joshua Haggmark, Water Resources Manager; Cathy Taylor, Water System Manager; Chris Toth, Wastewater System Manager; Madeline Ward, Acting Water Conservation Coordinator; Anne Van Belkom, Administrative Assistant
- PUBLIC: Robert Marks, PWR Inc.; Sheila Lodge, Planning Commission Liaison; Brianna Briggs, RDN
1. **CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 3:04 p.m.
  2. **CHANGES TO THE AGENDA:** Agenda item #9 will be postponed until the April meeting in order to include the results from the State Water Resources Control Board's consideration of the new package of proposed Emergency Mandatory Water Use Regulations at their meeting on March 17, 2015.
  3. **COMMENTS BY THE PUBLIC:** None.
  4. **MEETING MINUTES, FEBRUARY 09, 2015:** MOTION (Ruiz, Smith 3-0-0, with Kielborn not yet present): to approve the minutes as submitted.
  5. **APPROVAL OF A LETTER TO THE STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD EXPEDITING GUIDELINES AND REGULATIONS SUPPORTING DIRECT POTABLE REUSE:** After pointing out two minor errors, the Water Commission approved the corrected letter which will be submitted to Mayor Schneider for her signature. MOTION (Ruiz, Birney 3-0-0, with Kielborn not yet present): to approve staff's recommendation.
  6. **CONTRACT AMENDMENT FOR CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT AND INSPECTION SERVICES FOR THE GIBRALTAR CONDUIT ELECTRIC PLANT.** Commissioner Kielborn was present at 3:07 p.m. Ms. Taylor explained why this project needed to be extended by four months. The additional work that needed to be done included the replacement of water valves and weir, the construction of a bulkhead in Mission Tunnel, and the Certification of the Plant by the California Energy Commission. MOTION (Ruiz, Kielborn 4-0-0): to approve staff's recommendation.
  7. **FY 16 PROPOSED WASTEWATER RATES:** Mr. Toth presented the FY16 Wastewater Rates and Revenue Plan that recommended a 5.5% across the board increase for FY16 wastewater rates. This item will be presented to the Finance Committee on March 17<sup>th</sup> in order to get approval to have the public noticed for a Hearing on the rates in June 2015. Staff was requested to modify the Wastewater FY16 Proposed Monthly Rates chart to begin the "y" axis (listing the rate costs) with \$0.00 instead of \$38.00 to give a more accurate representation of the actual rate increases between FY 14 through FY16. Staff also plans to have the Wastewater Industrial Waste Local Limits Study finalized in FY 16 in order to consider updating Commercial rates by determining costs based on flow and strength in FY17. MOTION (Ruiz, Smith 4-0-0): to approve staff's recommendation.
  8. **DROUGHT UPDATE:** Between July 2014 and February 2015, the City of Santa Barbara achieved a 22% reduction in water usage which is outstanding as compared to the 9% reduction achieved by the State of California in its entirety. The two public meetings on the proposed water rates were sparsely attended but did provide good dialogue. The Public Hearing for the proposed water rate increase for FY16 is scheduled for March 10<sup>th</sup> with rate adoption planned for April 7<sup>th</sup>. State Water allocation has been set for 20% with the final allocation to be determined in May 2015. Councilmember White requested information on the total amounts of water that has been used annually since the last Cachuma spill. He also requested further information on the Gibraltar Silt Well. Ms. Ward described the new ad campaigns regarding the benefits of mulch to help retain moisture in the soil. She also informed the Water Commission of the County Transfer Station location where free mulch is available to Santa Barbara citizens.

- 9. POLICY INPUT ON STATE THREE DROUGHT WATER USE REGULATIONS:** Postponed to the April 13, 2015, Water Commission Meeting. Delayed to incorporate State Drought Emergency Regulations coming out March 17.
- 10. WATER RESOURCES MANAGER'S REPORT:** Mr. Haggmark distributed and reviewed the Monthly Water Resources report on water production, rainfall, and wastewater influent. The weather forecast continues to forecast the high probability of continued high temperatures. A ribbon cutting is scheduled for the Hydro Facility on April 9<sup>th</sup> to which the Water Commission is invited. Since the repair to the City Hall well did not show any materials defects, the costs of the repairs will need to be carried by the City. Staff will be making a request of City Council to approve a purchase order for around \$100,000 to cover the repair costs that were not under warranty. Chair Birney informed the Water Commission that she would be attending the annual meeting for Chairs and Co-Chairs of Advisory Groups in March 2015. Mr. Haggmark discussed the upcoming Council and Schools meeting in April. Santa Barbara Schools have come close to meeting the 20% reduction target in water usage, and the City Parks Golf Course has managed to exceed the 20% water reduction goal. Mr. Haggmark will send the Gibraltar Pass-Through Agreement notice that was missing from the Water Commission packets.
- 11. DATE OF NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING:** It was confirmed that the next meeting was scheduled for Monday, April 13, 2015, at 3:00 p.m., in the Water Resources Conference Room located at 619 Garden Street, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:36 p.m.

Approved: March 9, 2015