



**MINUTES**  
**Board of Water Commissioners**  
**David Gebhard Public Meeting Room**  
**630 Garden Street, Parking Lot Side Entrance**  
**Thursday, March 17, 2016, from 8:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.**

- COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Mike Kielborn, Dave Davis, Michael Jordan, Megan Birney
- COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: Barry Keller
- STAFF PRESENT: Joshua Haggmark, Water Resources Manager; Madeline Ward, Water Conservation Coordinator; Cathy Taylor, Water System Manager; Anne Van Belkom, Administrative Assistant
- PUBLIC: Deborah L. Schwartz, Planning Commission Liaison; Charles Hamilton, Carpinteria Valley Water District; Loy Beardsmore; Nick Turner, Montecito Water District; Pete Dal Bello; Kira Redmond, Channelkeeper
1. **CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 8:00 a.m.
  2. **ROLL CALL** All present except for Chair Keller
  3. **CHANGES TO THE AGENDA:** None
  4. **COMMENTS BY THE PUBLIC:** A. Loy Beardsmore requested that the City not be too optimistic with its planned future water supplies and pay more attention to potential adverse conditions. B. Pete Dal Bello informed the Water Commission of his goals to be selected as a new Councilmember from District 4 in 2017.
  5. **CONSENT ITEMS:**
    - A. **MEETING MINUTES FOR FEBRUARY 18, 2016:** MOTION (Davis/Jordan 4-0-0): to approve the minutes as submitted.
  6. **ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS:**
    - A. **STAGE 3 DROUGHT UPDATE:** Mr. Haggmark gave his monthly report on the status of the Stage 3 Drought and discussed the weather forecast, February rainfall, and water conservation efforts. Videos of the three Council meetings that covered the phased response options to the management of water demand during the drought are available at [www.SantaBarbaraCA.gov/Drought](http://www.SantaBarbaraCA.gov/Drought) (December 16, 2014; April 14, 2015; and May 5, 2015). COMB did approve the relocation of the barge at Lake Cachuma, which is scheduled to be completed by mid-June. The recycled water facility failed its 60-day performance test and the contractor has been put on notice to provide a plan in 7 days to address this issue. The Desalination Plant will undergo testing in August and September 2016, with plans for it to be operational in October. Staff is trying to accelerate the Water Main Rehabilitation program and is looking at various funding options to help pay the costs for this project. The Finance Committee supported the Water Commission's recommendation for the rate notice with a 5.5% FY17 wastewater rate increase. With Council's direction for staff to keep reserves balances at policy levels, Raftelis is developing rates for a 22% FY17 water rate increase. The Water Commission will have the opportunity to review the actual rates at their May meeting. Commissioner Birney requested that the Council Packet for the rate notices be sent to each of the Water Commissioners for their review prior to the May meeting. Ms. Ward described conservation efforts that staff will be promoting as part of the National Fix A Leak week on March 14 – 20<sup>th</sup>. Commissioner Davis requested that staff bring the Drought Phased Response Options to the Commission in April for review and discussion.
    - B. **SUBSURFACE DESALINATION INTAKE AND POTABLE REUSE FEASIBILITY STUDIES STATUS REPORT:** Ms. Taylor summarized the background that led to the City Council direction in 2014 for staff to explore options for converting the existing offshore intake to a subsurface intake for the desalination plant, and to evaluate opportunities for using potable reuse as an alternative to desalination. In developing this work effort, staff received direction from both Council and the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB), which included amending the NPDES permit and submitting a Feasibility Study Work Plan (Work Plan) to the RWQCB

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for approval. The Work Plan was subject to public review, and received RWQCB approval on October 20, 2015. Staff partnered with the National Water Research Institute (NWRI) to assist with carrying out the Work Plan. The NWRI appointed a Technical Advisory Panel (TAP), comprised of six experts in the fields of water treatment, desalination, water reuse, hydrogeology, and CEQA to comment on the Work Plan's findings. A Public Workshop was held on January 27, 2016, at which the initial findings of the Work Plan were presented. The initial findings considered six alternative SSI technologies, and determined that none of the alternatives passed the initial screening criteria as prescribed in the Work Plan. At the Workshop, staff received comments from the public, as well as comments and recommendations from the TAP. Staff has responded to the public comments, and is currently working to respond to the TAP comments and recommendations.

Kira Redmond from Channelkeeper provided copies of correspondence from Channelkeeper to the NWRI and City Council that indicated their disagreement with the initial screening criteria in the approved Work Plan.

7. **WATER RESOURCES MANAGER'S REPORT:** Mr. Haggmark highlighted pertinent data in the report and discussed the problems faced by Santa Barbara and Montecito in trying to utilize their carryover water in Lake Cachuma before it is lost due to evaporation. During the current drought, any water delivered to Lake Cachuma that stays there for more than 30 days is basically lost due to evaporation. Staff will bring the Warren Act Contract back to the Water Commission in April and give an update regarding the issues brought up by Goleta and I.D. #1.
8. **DATE OF NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING:** Thursday, April 21, 2016, David Gebhard Public Meeting Room, 630 Garden Street, Parking Lot Side Entrance.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 a.m.

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