



MINUTES
Board of Water Commissioners
Public Works Conference Room
630 Garden Street
May 12, 2008 3:00 p.m.

- COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Kate Rees, James Smith, Landon Neustadt, Russell Ruiz
- STAFF PRESENT: Paul Casey, Acting Public Works Director; Rebecca Bjork, Acting Water Resources Manager; John Schoof, Acting Wastewater System Manager; Bill Ferguson, Water Resources Supervisor; Anne Van Belkom, Administrative Assistant; John Ledbetter, Principal Planner (Community Development).
- PUBLIC: Brett Gray, Operations Supervisor (COMB); Janet Gingras, Administrative Manager (COMB); Steve Little
1. **CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 3:01p.m.
 2. **CHANGES TO THE AGENDA:** Ms. Bjork informed the Water Commission that Agenda Item 8 (Ozone Design) might be a discussion instead of a recommendation.
 3. **COMMENTS BY THE PUBLIC:** None.
 4. **MEETING MINUTES, APRIL 14, 2008:** MOTION (Neustadt/Ruiz) 4-0-0): to approve the minutes as submitted. Mr. Neustadt requested a correction to his mailing address from Apt. 8 to Apt. B.
 5. **CACHUMA OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE BOARD CAPITAL PLAN:** Mr. Gray described the South Coast Conduit Reliability Projects and their proposed funding sources. These projects and their priority ratings will be discussed with the COMB Board of Directors on May 19, 2008, in order to obtain their approval.
 6. **GENERAL PLAN AND LONG TERM WATER SUPPLY SCHEDULES:** Mr. Ledbetter reviewed the timeline for Plan Santa Barbara noting that the Development Trends Workshops have recently been completed, to be followed by workshops on Draft Policy Preference. The EIR phase of the project (Phase III) is scheduled to begin in spring of 2009. Mr. Ferguson reviewed an outline of technical studies that Water Resources Division is planning in support of the EIR phase of Plan SB.
 7. **PASS THROUGH AGREEMENT:** Mr. Ferguson gave a brief summary of the Pass-Through Agreement that was originally signed in 1989, which allowed the City to stabilize yield from Gibraltar in lieu of increasing the reservoir's storage capacity by raising the dam. Mr. Ferguson described the differences between the two modes of operation (Mitigation and Pass-Through) used to determine the amount of water that can be diverted. The results of an upcoming bathymetric study will be used to assess a potential change to the "Pass-Through" mode of operation.
 8. **OZONE DESIGN:** Ms. Bjork informed the Water Commission that new information has been received indicating significant changes in the components of the water flowing into Cater following the emergency water treatments (addition of Powdered Activated Carbon) at Gibraltar Reservoir and Lake Cachuma. Additional studies may be needed to confirm that the Ozone project is still the correct project to handle the water quality issue at Cater Treatment Plant. Carollo Engineers will pursue these studies as part of their contract. MOTION (Neustadt/Ruiz 4-0-0): To concur with the staff recommendation in the Draft Council Agenda Report.
 9. **LEGAL ADVOCACY AGREEMENT FOR CACHUMA WATER RIGHTS:** Ms. Bjork described the Conflict of Interest and Waiver Agreement which continues the existing status quo of joint legal representation by the law firm of Best, Best, and Krieger with respect to the Cachuma Project water rights hearings. This allows for continued cooperation with other Cachuma partners for representation on Cachuma water rights issue. MOTION (Ruiz/Smith 4-0-0): To recommend execution of the Conflict of Interest Disclosure and Waiver Agreement dated April 9, 2008.

10. **BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS MEETING:** Ms. Bjork discussed the handout from the City of Santa Barbara Advisory Workshop on April 30, 2008. She clarified the term "conflict of interest" under the Brown Act noting that a public official must have a financial interest that would be affected by the matter at hand in order to have a conflict. Commissioners were briefed on the City's duty to indemnify and protect individuals serving on boards and commissions.
11. **ZACA FIRE UPDATE:** Ms. Bjork reported that water quality is a continuing problem and testing is ongoing. Requests are being made to OES to refund the additional monies that have been spent to treat the water following the Zaca fire. Thus far, OES has tentatively agreed that they will pay for the post-fire bathymetric survey. OES has requested that the City retain an outside engineering firm to make an independent determination as to whether the current water quality is a direct result of the Zaca fire.
12. **WATER RESOURCES MANAGER'S REPORT:** Ms. Bjork distributed and reviewed the Water Resources Manager's report on water production, rainfall, and wastewater influent, noting unseasonably dry weather and a corresponding increase in demand. She reported that public information campaigns on water conservation have just begun. Commissioner Smith requested that staff consider adding data on the number of water meters or population as a part of the monthly water production graph. Ms. Bjork informed the Water Commission that external legal counsel is being retained for assistance related to water rights at Gibraltar Reservoir. Mr. Ferguson invited all Water Commissioners to the High School Video Awards ceremony to be held on Thursday, May 22, 2008. Ms. Bjork informed the Commission that since both Gibraltar Reservoir and Cachuma Lake are full, there is a planned one-time sale of State Water to La Cumbre Mutual Water Company (468 acre feet) and to Montecito Water District (200 acre feet). There are no plans to sell any other water at this time.
13. **DATE OF NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING:** It was confirmed that the next meeting was scheduled for June 9, 2008, at 3:00 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:34 p.m.

AVB Approved: June 9, 2008