



MINUTES
Board of Water Commissioners
Public Works Conference Room
630 Garden Street
July 14, 2008 3:00 p.m.

- COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: James Smith, Landon Neustadt, Russell Ruiz, Barry Keller (appointed, pending swearing in)
- COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: Kate Rees
- COUNCILMEMBER PRESENT: Iya Falcone
- STAFF PRESENT: Rebecca Bjork, Acting Water Resources Manager; John Schoof, Acting Wastewater System Manager; Cathy Taylor, Water System Manager; Bill Ferguson, Water Resources Supervisor; Anne Van Belkom, Administrative Assistant; Bob Peirson, Finance Director, Manuel Romero, Wastewater Collection System Superintendent
- PUBLIC: Steve Little
1. **CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 3:00 p.m.
 2. **CHANGES TO THE AGENDA:** None.
 3. **COMMENTS BY THE PUBLIC:** Steve Little informed the Water Commission that he received positive feedback from Councilmembers regarding his efforts to save agricultural acreage. He also requested that the minutes of the June 9, 2008 meeting be modified to reflect that he was in attendance.
 4. **MEETING MINUTES, JUNE 9, 2008 MOTION** (Neustadt/Ruiz 3-0-0): to approve the minutes as submitted, with a revision to include Mr. Little as a public attendee.
 5. **INTRODUCTION OF NEW WATER COMMISSIONER – BARRY KELLER:** Ms. Bjork introduced Dr. Keller as the incoming fifth Water Commissioner. Dr. Keller is a professional hydrogeologist with previous experience as a City Water Commissioner. He explained that, pending official swearing in, he would not be participating in Commission votes.
 6. **UTILITY USERS TAX:** Mr. Peirson gave a historical perspective on the Utility Users Tax and the reasons for developing an updated ordinance, and reported that City Council has approved a final action to place this measure on the November 2008 ballot. The revised ordinance would include a decrease in the tax from 6% to 5.75%, to make it revenue-neutral to the City. The revised ordinance will not affect the current water portion of the tax which will remain at 6%.
 7. **PURCHASE OF OFFICE SPACE AT 619 GARDEN STREET:** Ms. Bjork reported on the City's pending purchase of office space at 619 Garden Street for additional staff office space. Plans include a conference room that would better accommodate future Water Commission meetings.
 8. **SEWER SYSTEM SSMP:** Mr. Schoof gave a PowerPoint presentation on the development, objectives, and components of the SSMP. The SSMP has been completed one year ahead of schedule. Staff will present the plan to City Council on August 5, 2008, for approval of the plan and its implementation in order to file a Notice of Completion with the State Water Resources Control Board, as required. **MOTION** (Ruiz/Neustadt 3-0-0): To concur with the staff recommendation as contained in the Draft Council Agenda Report.
 9. **BATHYMETRIC SURVEY:** As discussed previously at the Water Commission, the proposed Bathymetric Survey of Gibraltar Reservoir is necessary to determine the amount of storage capacity lost due to impacts from the Zaca Fire. The survey will be conducted by MNS Engineers, Inc., who has conducted bathymetric surveys at Gibraltar for the last 16 years. Funding of up to 75% of the project's costs is being requested from the Governor's Office of Emergency Services. **MOTION** (Ruiz/Neustadt 3-0-0): To concur with the staff recommendation in the Draft Council Agenda Report.

10. **ZACA FIRE:** Ms. Taylor informed the Water Commission that staff is continuing to work with the State on the Damage Survey Report (DSR) following the Zaca Fire, which burned 60% of the Gibraltar watershed. At this time, the Gap fire has not burned the watershed. Plans are being developed to remove debris from the affected intake gates at Gibraltar that are currently buried by silt.
11. **DESALINATION STUDY:** Mr. Ferguson discussed the history of the City's desalination facility and the need for the Desalination Rehabilitation Planning Study in support of updated water supply analysis for the City's "Plan Santa Barbara" process and water supply plan update. The final report should be completed by November 2008. MOTION (Neustadt/Ruiz 3-0-0): To recommend approval of a contract for the desalination study with the consultant selected by staff at a not to exceed amount of \$125,000.
12. **OUT OF CITY SEWER AGREEMENT:** Mr. Ferguson described the agreement to provide City sewer service to 1960 Sycamore Canyon in place of the septic system on the property. MOTION (Neustadt/Ruiz 3-0-0): To concur with the staff recommendation as contained in the Draft Council Agenda Report.
13. **SCHEDULE SPECIAL MEETING FOR SEPTEMBER 15, 2008 TO GIBRALTAR RESERVOIR:** To better accommodate Commissioners' schedules, the special meeting will be scheduled for September 22, 2008, from 9:00 a.m. until approximately 1:00 p.m.
14. **WATER RESOURCES MANAGER'S REPORT:** Ms. Bjork distributed and reviewed the monthly Water Resources Report on water production, rainfall, and wastewater influent. Water conservation efforts continue to be a priority. The agenda for August 11, 2008, will include an item to request the formation of an ad hoc subcommittee to make recommendations regarding future agricultural water rate increases. Councilmember Falcone invited the Water Commissioners to the next workshop of Plan Santa Barbara to be held in the Faulkner Gallery of the Main Library at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, July 17, 2008.
15. **DATE OF NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING:** It was confirmed that the next meeting is scheduled for Monday, August 11, at 3:00 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:45 p.m.

Approved: Monday, August 11, 2008

AVB