



MINUTES
Board of Water Commissioners
Public Works Conference Room
630 Garden Street
September 8, 2008 3:00 p.m.

- COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: James Smith, Barry Keller, Landon Neustadt, Kate Rees, Russell Ruiz
- 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
- PUBLIC: Steve Little, Charles Hamilton (Carpinteria Valley Water District)
1. **CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 3:04 p.m.
 2. **CHANGES TO THE AGENDA:** None.
 3. **COMMENTS BY THE PUBLIC:** Steve Little presented a newspaper article from the Los Angeles Times which indicated that state officials planned to revive a program that will buy water from Sacramento farmers to be available for sale to Southern California agencies.
 4. **MEETING MINUTES, AUGUST 11, 2008:** MOTION (Keller/Neustadt 5-0-0): to approve the minutes as submitted with the following revisions. On Agenda Item 7, Rees and Keller are to review the *proposals* instead of a draft. On Agenda Item 10 – add: *Tom Mosby from the Montecito Water District and Charles Hamilton from the Carpinteria Valley Water District were present and spoke in favor of the proposed desalination study.*
 5. **ASSET MANAGEMENT PROGRAM (PHASE 3):** Mr. Schoof described the contract with Linjer, Inc. that would change the former reactive maintenance approach at El Estero to an asset management approach that would focus on planned preventative maintenance and capital equipment replacement. Staff will present this contract to Council for approval on September 23, 2008. MOTION (Rees/Keller 5-0-0): To recommend that Council approve the contract with Linjer, Inc.
 6. **ZACA FIRE:** Ms. Taylor informed Water Commissioners that staff is continuing to monitor Gibraltar Reservoir and Lake Cachuma for algae blooms. Staff is also continuing to actively pursue state funds via Damage Survey Reports to replace funds expended to remediate the effects of the Zaca Fire. With the purchase of the mixing tank and belt press, the Dewatering System at Cater is ready for operation. Cater has hired a new staff member effective 09/09/08 who will be responsible for the operation of the Dewatering System.
 7. **GREEN GARDENER PROGRAM AWARD:** The Green Gardener Program was awarded the Outstanding Regional Stormwater News, Information, Outreach, and Media Project Award from the California Stormwater Quality Association. Staff from the Santa Clara Valley Urban Runoff Pollution Prevention Program nominated the Green Gardener Training and Outreach Program, which was developed by the City of Santa Barbara, the County of Santa Barbara, and local agencies. Ms. Bjork praised Allison Jordan, Water Conservation Coordinator, for her hard work and key role in developing this program.
 8. **PLAN SANTA BARBARA – WATER SUPPLY SUMMARY:** Ms. Bjork distributed to Commissioners CDs containing the City's Urban Water Management Plan and the Long Term Water Supply Program. She reviewed the memorandum to the Planning Commission regarding preliminary water supply and demand data. Ms. Bjork gave an overview of the current status of Plan Santa Barbara and described the respective roles and the different areas of focus assigned to the Water Commission and to the Planning Commission. Water Commissioners expressed their concern that the respective reviews by the Water Commission and the Planning Commission were occurring simultaneously, and wanted to make sure that caveats be included regarding information about water supply sources that would clarify the need to continue to live within our means. Water Commissioners also asked for a written description in laymen's terms that would clarify the two modes of operation used to determine the amount of water that can be diverted from Gibraltar Reservoir, as well as explain the change from what was done in the past to what is being planned in the future.

9. **WATER RESOURCES MANAGER'S REPORT:** Ms. Bjork distributed and reviewed the Water Resources Manager's report on water production, rainfall, and wastewater influent. Staff will schedule a meeting including Commissioners Rees and Keller to review the proposals for the Water Supply Planning Study. Ms. Rees informed the Water Commission that the Draft EIS for Lake Cachuma has been prepared to describe the potential environmental impacts of the Cachuma Lake Recreation Area Resource Management Plan (RMP). Of concern is that a balance be maintained between natural resources and recreation, and that the water supply not be impacted.
10. **DATE OF NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING:** It was confirmed that the next meeting was scheduled for October 13, 2008, at 3:00 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:02 p.m.

Approved: Monday, October 13, 2008

AVB