



MINUTES
Board of Water Commissioners
Public Works Conference Room
630 Garden Street
June 08, 2009 3:00 p.m.

- COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: James Smith, Barry Keller, Landon Neustadt, Russell Ruiz
- COUNCILMEMBER PRESENT: Iya Falcone
- STAFF PRESENT: Rebecca Bjork, Water Resources Manager; John Schoof, Wastewater System Manager; Bill Ferguson, Water Resources Supervisor; Manuel Romero, Wastewater Collection System Superintendent, Anne Van Belkom, Administrative Assistant
- PUBLIC: Steve Little; Kate Rees, General Manager (COMB/CCRB), Janet Gingras, Administrative Manager (COMB).
1. **CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 3:00 p.m.
 2. **CHANGES TO THE AGENDA:** Agenda Item No. 6 was moved before Agenda Item No. 5
 3. **COMMENTS BY THE PUBLIC:** None.
 4. **MEETING MINUTES, APRIL 13, 2009:** MOTION (Keller/Ruiz 4-0-0): to approve the minutes as submitted.
 5. **CACHUMA OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE BOARD (COMB) BOND ISSUANCE:** Ms. Rees and Ms. Gingras gave an overview of the COMB South Coast Conduit Reliability Projects and Funding, describing the large South Coast Conduit Capital Improvement Projects and explaining the funding strategy via the use of a revenue bond. The next step in the bond issuance is a participation agreement that has not yet been finalized. It is scheduled to be presented to Finance Committee and City Council on July 21, 2009.
 6. **MODIFICATION OF ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES FOR THE SEWER LATERAL INSPECTION PROGRAM:** Mr. Schoof gave an update of the status of the SLIP Program and summarized the recommended administrative modifications that will be presented at Council on June 30, 2009. The modifications are designed to increase customer awareness of the requirements of the SLIP program, and to hold plumbers more accountable for their communication with customers, the quality of their work, and to make communications regarding incentive payments be between the customer and the City. MOTION (Ruiz/Keller 4-0-0): to approve the staff recommendation regarding modifications of administrative procedures for the SLIP program.
 7. **PROPOSED WATER AND WASTEWATER RATE INCREASESES:** Mr. Ferguson reviewed the proposed rate modifications for FY2010 water rates, sewer rates, and water and sewer buy in fees. He noted the public hearing on the proposed increases that was to be held on June 9, 2009, in Council Chambers. MOTION (Ruiz/Neustadt 4-0-0): to recommend that Council approve the proposed water and wastewater rate increases
 8. **DRAFT WATER AND WASTEWATER FY 2010 BUDGETS:** Ms. Bjork described the one-year, FY2010 Water and Wastewater budgets, including the rate increases of 3½ % for water and 4% for wastewater that were planned to manage future capital needs without requiring significant rate increases in future years. Commissioner Neustadt requested that in future the draft budget be made available to the Water Commission when it is being presented to Council in order for Water Commissioners to have more time to review the document and prepare their comments. Ms. Bjork discussed the Water Commission's role in long term planning to determine the direction of future water and wastewater projects and their financing strategies. MOTION (Keller/Ruiz 4-0-0): to recommend that Council approve the Water and Wastewater 2010 budgets as presented.
 9. **LONG TERM WATER SUPPLY PLAN AND GENERAL PLAN:** Mr. Ferguson discussed the Draft Estimated Annual Water Supply – Existing Conditions (AF) handout and explained how water supplies were estimated for a typical non-drought year and for a five-year critical drought period. He explained the 10% safety margin reserves that were subtracted from the total water supply prior to determining available water supply. There was substantial discussion of this item, including concern about the reliability of the State Water Project.

10. **WATER DEMAND FACTORS:** Mr. Ferguson gave a brief summary of ongoing and planned work to review and update water demand factors as a part of the development of the Plan Santa Barbara EIR. Staff will return with additional information on this item as it is developed.
11. **STATUS OF GIBRALTAR PASS THROUGH ANALYSIS:** This agenda item was included as part of the discussion of Agenda Item No. 9. Commissioner Ruiz requested to agendaize an additional review of the Pass Through Agreement to ensure that the Water Commission has a very clear understanding of how this agreement works. He also asked that a written report be included describing the components of this agreement and the effects in terms of the distribution of available water. Ms. Bjork indicated that the Commission had been given a presentation on how the pass through agreement is anticipated to work, and there will be no updated information until modeling is completed.
12. **APPLICATION FOR STATE REVOLVING FUND LOAN FOR THE ORTEGA GROUNDWATER TREATMENT PLANT:** Ms. Bjork briefed the Commission on the request to include the Ortega Groundwater Treatment Plan in the application for the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Loan which was approved by Council on June 2, 2009. The Water Fund was identified as the source of funds for repayment of the loan.
13. **REPORT ON JESUSITA FIRE:** Ms. Bjork described the effects of the Jesusita Fire on and around City facilities such as the Cater Plant. Mr. Steve Little requested the City to do an inventory of the remaining avocado growers.
14. **WATER RESOURCES MANAGER'S REPORT:** Ms. Bjork distributed and reviewed the monthly Water Resources Manager's Report on water production, rainfall, and wastewater influent. Current water demand is fairly flat and approaching 14,000 AF. Water will be used from Gibraltar in the coming months to take full advantage of this water supply source. Ms. Bjork informed the Water Commission that a tour of Cater (postponed due to the Jesusita Fire) may be included as part of the next Water Commission meeting.
15. **DATE OF NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING:** It was confirmed that the next meeting was scheduled for Monday, July 13, 2009.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:18 p.m.

AVB