



MINUTES
Board of Water Commissioners
Public Works Conference Room
630 Garden Street
March 9, 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; Cathy Taylor, Water System Manager; Bill Ferguson, Water Resources Supervisor; Anne Van Belkom, Administrative Assistant
- PUBLIC: Charles Hamilton, Carpinteria Valley Water District; 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:** None.
 4. **MEETING MINUTES, FEBRUARY 9, 2009:** MOTION (Ruiz, Keller 4-0-0): to approve the minutes as modified to reflect Commissioner Keller's request that the title of "Dr." either be included for all applicable references, or not used.
 5. **WATER PROJECTS SUBMITTED FOR THE ECONOMICS STIMULUS:** Ms. Taylor reviewed the list of Drinking Water SRF projects that were applied for on February 27, 2009. The California Department of Public Health will administer the Federal Stimulus Plan funds for these types of projects. Mr. Schoof reviewed the two Clean Water SRF projects due by March 17, 2008, and which will require submission of complete loan applications.
 6. **AUTHORIZATION TO SUBMIT AN APPLICATION FOR GRANT FUNDING FOR TWO WASTEWATER PROJECTS:** MOTION: (Keller, Neustadt 4-0-0): to approve authorization of the application for grant funding for the two wastewater projects.
 7. **STATUS REPORT ON TECHNICAL WATER SUPPLY STUDIES INCLUDING DESALINATION, CONSERVATION AND RECYCLED WATER:** Mr. Ferguson presented a status report on the current technical water supply studies and gave tentative dates for the completion of each report. He also stated that the desalination study should be completed by April 2009.
 8. **STATUS REPORT ON GENERAL PLAN EIR:** Mr. Ferguson reported that the draft EIR should be ready in September 2009 and the final EIR is anticipated in March or April 2010. Water Commissioners can check the Plan Santa Barbara website for further information or call Bettie Weiss if they have any questions. Commissioner Ruiz noted that the Planning Commission was meeting jointly with the Transportation Circulation Committee with the EIR consultant to discuss the baseline for traffic. Commissioner Ruiz asked if the same approach could be used for Water Commission.
 9. **GIBRALTAR UPDATE:** Mr. Ferguson reported that staff is working with Reclamation to prepare an environmental assessment for adoption of a Warren Act contract to implement the Pass Through Agreement. Commissioner Smith inquired about the status of long range planning for retaining and/or regaining storage capacity at Gibraltar.
 10. **UPDATE OF AGRICULTURAL RATES:** The ad-hoc subcommittee (Ruiz and Neustadt) proposed decreasing the agricultural rate from \$1.51 to \$1.45 – this is the average of agricultural rates on the South Coast. Mr. Little informed the Water Commission that 14 groves of avocados were lost in the Tea Fire, and that he appreciated the subcommittee's recommendation.

11. **WATER RESOURCES MANAGER'S REPORT:** Ms. Bjork distributed and reviewed the Monthly Water Resources report on water production, rainfall, and wastewater influent, and noted recent rainfall brought the total closer to average for the year to date. Potable water total is currently at 86% of the projected demand. Commissioner Keller stated that he would not be able to attend the next Water Commission meeting.

12. **DATE OF NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING:** It was confirmed that the next meeting was scheduled for April 13, 2009, at 3:00 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:20 p.m.

Approved: Monday, April 13, 2009

AVB