



MINUTES
Board of Water Commissioners
Public Works Conference Room
630 Garden Street
October 12, 2009 3:00 p.m.

- COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Russell Ruiz, James Smith, Landon Neustadt, Bill Thomas, Barry Keller
- STAFF PRESENT: Rebecca Bjork, Water Resources Manager; Cathy Taylor, Water System Manager; Bill Ferguson, Water Resources Supervisor; Alison Jordan, Water Conservation Coordinator; Autumn Smith, Project Engineer II; Misty Millward, Administrative Specialist.
- PUBLIC: Charles Hamilton, Carpinteria Valley Water District
1. **CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 3:03 p.m.
 2. **CHANGES TO THE AGENDA:** None
 3. **COMMENTS BY THE PUBLIC:** None
 4. **MEETING MINUTES, SEPTEMBER, 14, 2009:** MOTION (Keller/Thomas 3-0-1), with Smith not yet present, to approve the minutes as submitted. (Smith arrived at 3:12 p.m.)
 5. **WATER CONSERVATION TECHNICAL/ECONOMIC ANALYSIS:** Ms. Jordan explained that staff is interested in conducting a quantitative technical cost/benefit evaluation of future opportunities for the Water Conservation program as part of the Long Term Water Supply Plan. MOTION (Keller/Thomas 5-0-0): To concur with the recommendation that Council approve the contract with Maddaus Water Management as recommended in the draft Council Agenda Report.
 6. **ANNUAL COLLECTION SYSTEM FLOW MONITORING:** Ms. Smith described the proposal for a program of annual Collection System Flow Monitoring in basins with high levels of inflow and infiltration (I&I). The flow monitoring studies will assist staff in determining where I&I are entering the system. MOTION: (Thomas/ Keller, 5-0-0) To concur with the staff recommendation.
 7. **STATE REVOLVING FUND LOAN FUNDING:** Ms. Taylor reported on the status of the City's application for a loan under the State Revolving Fund Loan Program for the Advanced Treatment Project at Cater. She noted that the State has approved an increase in the loan amount to \$29,920,000 @ 2.5017% interest which would now include the Ortega Groundwater Treatment Plant rehabilitation project. The application must be approved by City Council and returned to the State by November 29, 2009.
 8. **DEWATERING EQUIPMENT AT CATER:** Ms. Taylor described the dewatering process at Cater Treatment Plant and explained that the authorized rental period for the dewatering equipment is about to conclude. Staff analyzed costs and determined that it would be more cost effective to purchase a used dewatering belt press and rent a mixing tank. MOTION (Keller/Smith 5-5-0 **5-0-0**): To concur with the recommended approach.
 9. **AD-HOC BUDGET COMMITTEE:** Commissioners Neustadt and Smith were appointed to the Ad-Hoc Budget Committee.
 10. **WATER SUPPLY PLANNING STUDY:** Ms. Bjork explained that the goal of the discussion was to determine the best way to summarize and convey to the Planning Division staff the information in the Water Supply Planning Study, for use in preparing the Plan Santa Barbara EIR. Concerns were raised regarding the difficulty that non-technical readers might have in comprehending the staff summary and that readers of this summary may not be aware that the opinions stated in the document are Carollo's opinions, which may not necessarily reflect City policy or the opinions of staff or the Water Commission. Staff suggested that a preamble in a cover memo accompanying the summary would be the way to convey this message. Commissioner Thomas noted that the importance of resolving turbidity problems and the related need for blending were not discussed in detail. He voiced his concern that all of the issues were given the same emphasis, with no indications as to which were the more pressing issues. He commented that the more critical issues should receive additional focus in this study. Staff agreed to finalize the summary and transmit it to the Planning Division staff with a cover memo as discussed.

- 11. USGS GROUNDWATER STUDY PROPOSAL- OPTIMAL GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY:** Mr. Ferguson described the work proposed under a joint cooperation agreement with USGS for an update of the City's groundwater modeling and Multiple Objective Optimization Model, reflecting the importance of the City's groundwater resources in terms of drought water supply, emergency local supplies during catastrophic interruptions of other water supplies, and leveraging groundwater to help offset the high cost of operating the water system. Total project cost is expected to be \$516,400, with \$171,000 funded by USGS and \$345,000 funded by the City. MOTION (Thomas/Keller 5-0-0): To recommend approval of the USGS contract for the Optimal Groundwater Sustainability Project.
- 12. CONSIDERATION OF COMMISSIONERS' AREA OF FOCUS:** After discussion, Water Commissioners agreed on specific focus areas for each commissioner: Ruiz (Plan Santa Barbara EIR); Keller (Groundwater); Thomas (Wastewater and Recycled Water); Neustadt (State Water); and Smith (Water Metering).
- 13. SAN FRANCISCO ESTUARY CONFERENCE:** Commissioner Keller reported on the San Francisco Estuary Conference. He informed the Water Commission that as of Friday, October 9, 2009, the Green Sturgeon had been placed on the endangered species list and he reported that fire retardant, silver, and other emerging contaminants are getting increasing attention in water quality standards. Commissioner Keller also recommended the book "State of the Bay-Delta Science, 2008" which is available on-line.
- 14. WATER RESOURCES MANAGERS REPORT:** Ms. Bjork distributed and reviewed the Monthly Water Resources report on water production, rainfall, and wastewater influent. Water demand (as measured by system water production, including potable and recycled water) for the water year ending September 30, 2009 was 13,791 AF. She reported that City Council will be reviewing a proposed housing contract with the Dam Keeper at Gibraltar Dam. She announced a planned October 23, 2009 staff presentation to the RWQCB regarding spills from the City's collection system. She reported that Councilmember Falcone will be stepping down as representative to the CCWA, but will continue as the Water Commission liaison until the end of the year when her term expires. She noted that approval of documents related to issuance of COMB bonds would be considered by City Council the following day.
- 15. DATE OF NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING:** It was confirmed that the next meeting was scheduled for Monday, November 9, 2009, at 3:00 p.m. Commissioner Keller noted that he would be absent for meetings from November through February.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:43 p.m.

Approved with revision: November 9, 2009

AVB