



**MINUTES**  
**Board of Water Commissioners**  
**Public Works Conference Room**  
**630 Garden Street**  
**January 11, 2010 at 3:00 p.m.**

- COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:** James Smith, Landon Neustadt, Russell Ruiz, Bill Thomas
- COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:** Barry Keller
- STAFF PRESENT:** Rebecca Bjork, Water Resources Manager; Cathy Taylor, Water System Manager; Chris Toth, Wastewater System Manager; Bill Ferguson, Water Resources Supervisor; Jon Peebles, Water Distribution Superintendent; Eric Just, GIS Coordinator; Alelia Parenteau, Administrative Analyst; James Winslow, Project Engineer; Autumn Smith, Project Engineer; and Anne Van Belkom, Administrative Assistant.
- PUBLIC:** Anthony Borgatello, Marborg Inc; Charles Hamilton, Carpinteria Valley Water District; Mike Hackett, AECOM; Steve Little.
1. **CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 3:02 p.m.
  2. **CHANGES TO THE AGENDA:** Agenda Item #8 was presented before Agenda Item #7.
  3. **COMMENTS BY THE PUBLIC:** Mr. Little distributed an article indicating that Peru had received final approval to once again be able to import avocados into the U.S. Mr. Little was concerned that this would negatively impact California avocado growers and asked that the Water Commission take another look at the agricultural water rates in order to make them more beneficial to avocado growers.
  4. **MEETING MINUTES, DECEMBER 14, 2009:** MOTION (Smith/Neustadt 4-0-0): to approve the minutes as submitted.
  5. **CATER AND OGWTP PROJECT STATUS AND ORTEGA GROUNDWATER TREATMENT PLANT (OGTP) TOUR:** Ms. Taylor provided a status update for the Cater Ozone Project, stating that it was in the review process with Community Development, and will be presented to the Planning Commission in March or April. Ms. Taylor provided background for the OGTP and described the estimated \$9.92 M project to refurbish the plant. The Ozone and OGTP were approved for SRF funding from the same loan, for an estimated \$29.92 M. Design completion for both projects is scheduled for June 30, 2010. Ms Taylor led the Water Commissioners on a walking tour to the OGTP where Water Treatment Plant Operator, Al Espinoza, and Project Engineer, James Winslow gave a brief tour of the OGTP along with an overview of the proposed process changes necessary to make the OGTP operational once again.
  6. **GIS UPDATE:** Mr. Just gave an overview of the latest update of the GIS system. The City is currently implementing a new web-based mapping application that will utilize the full functionality and real-time connectivity of the centralized GIS (MAPS) along with the established functionality of the current Geospatial Data Browser.
  7. **METRON METER REPORT:** Mr. Peebles described the improved ability of the single jet velocity type Metron meter to also monitor low flows that were incapable of being captured with conventional meters. Water Resources has changed all 1-inch and larger meters to Metron meters (approximately 5,000 meters). Mr. Peebles provided data to demonstrate that even though Metron meters are more expensive up front, considering their extended life, easy installation, low maintenance, and an ability to measure very low flows makes Metron meters the superior choice for water meters.
  8. **GREASE TO GAS:** Mr. Toth gave an update of El Estero's proposed two-year Grease to Gas pilot project, in which the City would design and construct a FOG (Fats Oils and Grease) Liquid Delivery Holding Facility and related Digester Injection System at El Estero and authorize Marborg Industries to become the local hauler to collect, screen, and deliver FOG liquids to EL Estero. The project would increase production of methane gas which could be converted to electricity by the Fuel Cells; thus, reduce hauling costs and greenhouse gas emissions. MOTION (Thomas/Neustadt 4-0-0): to authorize the Public Works Director to negotiate an agreement with Marborg Industries for off-site pretreatment processing and delivery of FOG liquids to El Estero during the pilot project, and to recommend approval

of a Professional Services Contract with AECOM for engineering and design services related to the pilot FOG delivery and digester injection system at El Estero.

9. **CCWA RE-ACQUISITION OF SANTA BARBARA SUSPENDED TABLE A WATER RIGHTS:** Full details on this item have not yet been finalized but a decision will need to be made in the next few months as to whether to accept or decline the Table A water rights. Ms. Bjork noted that this item needs careful analysis. While this would be an alternate water supply source other than desalination, there is the question of how much would actually be available long term, and what the cost would be compared to buying water on the open market. Once the details have been put into place, this item will be brought back to the Water Commission for review and recommendation.
10. **WATER RESOURCES MANAGER'S REPORT:** Ms. Bjork distributed and reviewed the Monthly Water Resources report on water production, rainfall, and wastewater influent. Water demand is slightly down and some of the wells have been taken offline due to the low demand. Ms. Bjork updated the Water Commission on the Carpinteria Valley Water District's decision to opt out of the CCRB. In response to her request for two volunteers, Commissioner Neustadt expressed interest in the one-day screening workshop regarding water conservation and cost in early March, and Commissioners Thomas and Smith (as backup or co-participant) would review the proposals for SCADA consultants.
11. **DATE OF NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING:** It was confirmed that the next meeting was scheduled for Monday, February 8, 2010, at 3:00 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:25 p.m.