



MINUTES
Board of Water Commissioners
Public Works Conference Room
630 Garden Street
Monday, March 8, 2010 at 3:00 p.m.

- COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: James Smith, Barry Keller, Landon Neustadt, Russell Ruiz, Bill Thomas
- COUNCILMEMBER PRESENT: Harwood (Bendy) White
- STAFF PRESENT: Cathy Taylor, Water System Manager; Bill Ferguson, Water Resources Supervisor; Loree Cole, Supervising Engineer; Anne Van Belkom, Administrative Assistant
- PUBLIC: Sheila Lodge, Planning Commission; Charles Hamilton, Carpinteria Valley Water District; Ryan Gallagher; Steve Little
1. **CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 3:04 p.m.
 2. **CHANGES TO THE AGENDA:** **None.** Bendy White was welcomed as the Council Liaison to the Water Commission, and Sheila Lodge was introduced as the alternate Water Commission liaison from the Planning Commission. Ms. Bjork was absent because she was attending a COMB meeting.
 3. **COMMENTS BY THE PUBLIC:** Mr. Little distributed a handout and stated that he would be commenting on Agenda Item # 10.
 4. **MEETING MINUTES, FEBRUARY 8, 2010:** MOTION (Smith/Neustadt 4-0-1, with Keller abstaining): to approve the minutes as submitted.
 5. **SCADA PROJECT UPDATE:** Seven firms submitted Requests for Proposals (RFPs) and all seven will be listed as pre-approved service providers. Although AIA Automotion has proposed to only complete the work item and not provide for 24-hour follow-up services, they were added to the list since they are a primary service provider for the El Estero's SCADA system, and the Water Laboratory's LIMS program.
 6. **APPOINTMENT OF WATER COMMISSIONER TO SERVE ON THE CONSULTANT SELECTION COMMITTEE FOR THE EL ESTERO AERATION SYSTEM STUDY:** Mr. Thomas recused himself to avoid any possible conflict of interest, and Mr. Keller was appointed to serve on the selection committee. Three firms have been solicited for the El Estero aeration system study.
 7. **SOUTH COAST CONDUIT SECOND PIPELINE PROJECT UPDATE:** Discussions are underway at today's COMB meeting to determine how to respond to the latest changes regarding the South Coast Conduit Second Pipeline Project. There will be a COMB meeting on March 22nd to vote on this project. Tom Evans (DUDEK) will determine what needs to be completed in order to stay in compliance with the grant monies, and review overall project costs and schedules.
 8. **WITHDRAWAL OF CARPINTERIA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT & MONTECITO WATER DISTRICT FROM THE CACHUMA CONSERVATION RELEASE BOARD:** The joint powers agency needs to determine how it can transition to a new group. In addition, other questions that need to be answered include how Greg Wilkinson (CCRB Special Council on Water Rights) will continue to be paid for the vital representation services he has been providing, and how cost sharing will be handled for the Cachuma Project. Commissioner White asked staff to give a presentation to Council to educate Councilmembers on these vital water issues, especially since new Councilmembers may not be up to date on the latest developments.
 9. **PLAN SANTA BARBARA PROCESS AND SUBCOMMITTEE APPOINTMENT:** Mr Ruiz informed the Water Commission that the General Plan documents and the EIR will be released on March 18th. Staff will send an email to Water Commissioners when the documents are released. There will be a 60 day review period. An Open House will be held at the Faulkner Gallery on March 18th from 10 AM – 7 PM where CDs will be made available of the documents. Chair Ruiz asked Water Commissioners to carefully read the documents and to be prepared to discuss

them in detail at the May meeting. Neustadt and Ruiz were appointed to the ad-hoc subcommittee to review the General Plan and the EIR.

10. **CITY FY 2011 BUDGET AND RATE RESOLUTION PROCESS:** The FY2011 budget will be presented to Council on April 20th, and is not available for review prior to that date. Plans are to discuss this item at the May meeting. There will be a rate hearing on June 15th with the resolution to adopt the budget and rates scheduled for June 22nd or 29th. Mr. Little again asked that agricultural water rates for growers be reduced. Commissioner Keller suggested that Mr. Little solicit help from the Fire Department since the Water Commission is not the entity to determine policy regarding the increase of avocado orchards to help fight fires.
11. **WATER RESOURCES MANAGER'S REPORT:** Ms. Taylor thanked Commissioner Neustadt for attending the Water Conservation Workshop. She also informed the Water Commission about the USGS kickoff, which is a three year plan to update basin modeling. The Ortega Treatment Plant project has received preliminary approval from HLC. The Cater project will be reviewed at Planning Commission on April 15th. Biddable plans are due by the end of this fiscal year. Susan Thomson, Water Treatment Superintendent, will be retiring at the end of the month. Ms. Taylor handed out the Water Resources Manager's Report which indicated that we have had 40% above average rainfall with water demand being on target. Cachuma is about five feet below spilling and any surcharge will be used for fish releases. A new recurring item in the report is the four-year graph of sewer spills. Mr. Toth's goal is to take immediate steps to try to reduce the yearly spill totals. Commissioner Smith asked that the loss of storage capacity at Gibraltar and the consideration of water meter reading alternatives be agendaized on a future agenda.
12. **DATE OF NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING:** It was confirmed that the next meeting was scheduled for Monday, April 12, 2010 3:00 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:08 p.m.