



**MINUTES**  
**Board of Water Commissioners**  
 Council Chambers  
 735 Anacapa Street  
**Monday, August 11, 2014, at 3:00 p.m.**

- COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Megan Birney, Barry Keller, James Smith, Mike Kielborn (arrived 3:07 p.m.), Russell Ruiz
- COUNCIL LIAISON ABSENT: Harwood "Bendy" White
- STAFF PRESENT: Rebecca Bjork, Public Works Director; Cathy Taylor, Water System Manager; Kelley Dyer, Water Resources Supervisor; Lisa Arroyo, Supervising Civil Engineer; Madeline Ward, Acting Water Conservation Coordinator; Robert Samario, Finance Director; Bill Ferguson, Project Manager; Paul Casey, Assistant City Administrator; Anne Van Belkom, Administrative Assistant; Jessica Hogue, Administrative Specialist.
- PUBLIC: Deborah L. Schwartz, Planning Commission; Phil Walker; Dave Wesolowski, Sprinkler King, Inc.; Brad Smith, Barbara Wishingrad and Anthony Astelo, Sweetwater Collaborative; and Juan Ayala.
1. **CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 3:02 p.m.
  2. **CHANGES TO THE AGENDA:** None
  3. **COMMENTS BY THE PUBLIC:** Phil Walker stated his concerns about the negative impact of the drought on employment opportunities in our area.
  4. **MEETING MINUTES, JULY 14, 2014:** MOTION (Keller/Smith 4-0-0, with Kielborn not yet present): to approve the minutes as submitted.
  5. **DROUGHT UPDATE:** Ms. Taylor and Ms. Dyer gave a PowerPoint presentation that encompassed the water supply outlook, supplemental water supplies, and drought response capital projects. Monthly demand has decreased by 18% and water supplies are tracking as planned. Ms. Dyer also stated that without any State water, there would be a projected 40% shortfall next year. Ms. Taylor reviewed the upcoming Desal Project milestones. On September 23, 2014, Council will be asked to approve staff's recommendation following the presentation summary of the preliminary design findings. The Vera Cruz groundwater pump had an electric failure and the City Hall pump has a pump failure. Repairs on both wells are anticipated to be completed in September. Chair Birney requested staff for specific data on the level of conservation being observed among the different classes of water users and throughout the various tier levels. During public comment, Mr. Walker addressed the Commission to inform them that continued dry weather is being forecast and that, in addition to the weather, Commissioners should also be concerned about seismic responsibility.
  6. **WATER CONSERVATION OUTREACH – "What Customers and Businesses can do to Conserve":** Under public comment, the following persons commented: 1) Dave Wesolowski suggested that the Water Commission and staff review the successful water program at Arroyo Grande, 2) Brad Smith spoke about ongoing programs with the Sweetwater Collaborative such as the Youth Drought Taskforce and collaborative drought forums, 3) Barbara Wishingrad promoted partnerships that would assist high water users with positive ideas instead of punishments, 4) Anthony Astelo described Agua Nuestra which assists the Spanish community with public outreach on water conservation, and 5) Juan Ayala suggested City rebates for new toilets, Green Ribbon Program in schools, and collaboration among a number of agencies to host an Eco City Summit in Santa Barbara. Ms. Ward explained the various water conservation measures that include water use regulations, indoor and outdoor conservation, commercial rebates, and additional City programs offering conservation assistance. Out of all of the various water usage categories, the landscaping category has the largest water usage.
  7. **INPUT ON WATER RATES TO SUPPORT REACTIVATION OF THE CITY'S DESALINATION PLANT:** Ms. Dyer informed the Water Commission that the proposed new rates would be in preparation for continued dry conditions and that these rates would incorporate the cost of reactivating the desalination plant. She requested feedback from the

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Water Commission on the length of the loan payback period and on the time assumption of running the desalination plant at full production. Commissioners were in agreement to pursue a ten-year rather than a 20-year repayment period which would save a significant amount of interest, and they agreed to assume that the desalination plant would run for a year at full production. Next year, expenditures and water rates will be re-assessed in a subsequent rate study that reflects drought conditions at that time. In response to questions from the Water Commission about considering special low income water rates, Ms. Bjork informed the Commission that Prop 218 makes it difficult to set up special water rates for low income customers; however, the City's water rates are designed with an inclined block structure that minimize financial impacts to lower water users.

- 8. SECONDARY PROCESS IMPROVEMENTS PRELIMINARY DESIGN CONTRACT:** Ms. Arroyo described the contract with Brown and Caldwell for secondary process improvements at the El Estero Wastewater Treatment Plant, which is planned to be funded with a SRF loan. In order to continue with design ahead of the anticipated SRF loan, staff will request Council on September 9, 2014, to approve current funding for the preliminary design prior to returning to Council after the SRF financing agreement is executed, which will fund the final design contract. MOTION (Keller/Ruiz 5-0-0): to approve staff's recommendation.
- 9. APPROVE VENDOR FOR THE MAINTENANCE, REPAIR, UPGRADES AND NEW INSTALLATION OF CATERPILLAR GENERATION SYSTEMS:** Ms. Taylor presented a report recommending approval of Quinn Corporation, Inc. (Quinn) as the single source vendor for the Caterpillar generators for the next five-years, as Quinn is currently the only locally certified dealer and has an excellent service history with the City's Water Resources Caterpillar generators. MOTION (Kielborn/Keller 5-0-0): to approve staff's recommendation.
- 10. WATER RESOURCES MANAGER'S REPORT:** Ms. Taylor distributed and reviewed the Monthly Water Resources report on water production, rainfall, and wastewater influent. Total water and recycled water usage are trending down. The temperature outlook for the next three months continues to be above normal. Commissioner Birney asked to have the El Estero Annual Flow Comparison graph revised so that the MGD measurement on the Y axis begins at zero MGD's instead of at 5,800 MGD's. As of the end of July, 13 sanitary sewer overflow (SSO) spills have occurred, which is one more over the set annual goal for SSOs. Staff will inform the Water Commission of any repercussions this may have on the outstanding consent decree. Commissioner Ruiz requested staff presentations on the CCWA order process, and on the calculations being used to determine how the remaining amount of water in Lake Cachuma is to be distributed to the various water stakeholders.
- 11. DATE OF NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING:** It was confirmed that the next meeting was scheduled for Monday, September 8, 2014, at 3:00 p.m. in the **Water Resources Conference Room** at 619 Garden Street, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:34 p.m.