



**WATER DEPARTMENT
MEMORANDUM**

DATE: October 1, 2012
TO: Water Commission
FROM: Water Director
SUBJECT: Water Supply Project – Role of the Water Commission

Recommendation: That the Water Commission 1) Receive information on the development of the work plan and 2) Concur with staff's recommendation to further develop an effective education and communication plan.

Background: At its regular meeting of August 27, 2012, the Water Commission received an item concerning the role of the Water Commission with regards to the Water Supply Project. This item paid particular attention to a request made by the Mayor to the Water Commission where he stressed the importance of assembling and sharing all the information the community needs in order to make an informed decision on the Water Supply Project. He suggested eight things that should be in place in order for an intelligent and informed decision to be made with regards to the City's water system. These eight items offered by the Mayor were combined with items provided by both the Water Commission as well as Santa Cruz Desal Alternatives. This combined list was discussed at the Commission's August meeting. The Commission also formed an Ad Hoc Committee for the purpose of assisting staff to better define the elements of the Water Commission's work plan, including the approach towards engaging, educating and communicating with the public.

Discussion: In recognition of the breadth and depth of the Water Departments work efforts, staff requested that it be provided the opportunity to consider each of the various items and contemplate how they could or should each be integrated into the work plan. Staff took guidance from the discussion held at the Water Commission meeting and also met with the Ad Hoc Commission committee. The attached schedule lays out all of the items embodied in the August meeting and begins the process of scheduling them. Several overarching themes help shape the plan

- There is a lot of significant work occurring in the Water Department that weighs heavily on supply and demand.
- All of the components are interrelated in some fashion.
- This work needs to be communicated effectively to the Commission, the Council and the community.

The plan is broken up into areas of discussion. The overarching discussion is that of the Integrated Water Plan. This Plan (the IWP) culminated in 2005 and established the framework for demand management through both conservation and curtailment as well as supply augmentation. Within this theme and of similar importance is a discussion to be had on the continued validity of the various planning documents. The IWP, the General Plan 2030 and the Urban Water Management Plan are all interrelated. However, because they all serve their unique purpose and therefore contain information expressed in different ways, and they are on their own timeline, interpreting their relevance and significance can be difficult. Staff's job will be to ensure that each of the documents continues to provide the proper planning framework for the water department. The IWP discussion can also elaborate on new/renewed water supply alternatives, social and financial impacts to the community.

The four other areas currently in the plan will focus on various areas within the department: Conservation, Water Resources, Engineering and Administration. For example, a discussion will be had on the development of the HCP and, as said by the Mayor, "...reasonable estimates of the needed allocation of Water for the Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP)..." Similarly, from an administrative standpoint, there will be discussions on the fiscal policy of the department, as well as implications to rates by the implementation of the Capital Improvement Program.

One item in particular requiring further attention is the very important and complicated approach to sharing this information with the community. With the decision on the water supply project approaching, Staff and the Ad Hoc Commission committee have begun to contemplate and plan an effective way of educating and communicating with the community. This effort is not yet complete and will likely return to the Commission in November.

As requested by the Commission, staff has drafted a letter to Council summarizing the recommendations by the Commission on the combined list of items described above. This letter will be signed by the Water Commission Chair and forwarded to the City Council in October.

Attachments

Water Commission Work Plan Related to Water Supply

Preliminary Draft Water Commission Work Plan

Last Revised 9/25/12

Note: Dates and durations are approximate and may be changed due to public and agency input.

	2012				2013				2014				Future Months			
	Jan-Mar	Apr-June	July-Sept	Oct-Dec	Jan-Mar	Apr-June	July-Sept	Oct-Dec	Jan-Mar	Apr-June	July-Sept	Oct-Dec				
Integrated Water Planning - Overarching Topics																
Includes broader discussions on water supply, conservation, curtailment. Provides umbrella to subsequent topics and may include the following.																
Triple Bottom Line Analysis	The TBL could begin at any time. Results would be used to inform on social and financial impacts as well as curtailment impacts by customer class.															
Public Education and Communication	Recommendation on this topic is being developed. Will need to include discussion on the impacts to the City if the District does not obtain an additional water supply.															
Affirmation of IWP, GP and UWMP as appropriate planning docs	Ongoing as water supply alternatives develop and new information becomes available.															
Water Supply Alternatives: desalination, water transfers, water recycling																
Conservation-related Topics																
Baseline Conservation Study	[Bar]															
Long Term Water Conservation Plan, 2012 - 2030	[Bar]															
Water Resources Topics																
Habitat Conservation Plan																
scwd2 Desalination Program Topics																
Environmental Impact Report																
Long Term Operational Agreement																
Costs/Fiscal Impact	Describe fiscal impacts of project to customers. Also discuss benefits of the shared/Regional project.															
Administrative Topics																
Fiscal Policy																
Rates																
Capital Improvement Program																
Santa Cruz Water Commission Agenda Items (draft)				Role of WC, HCP Update ○	Public Mtg on dEIR ○	Public Mtg on fEIR ○	○									