Water Commission
Minutes
7:00 p.m. – Monday, November 4, 2013
Council Chambers
809 Center Street Santa Cruz

Minutes of the November 4, 2013 Water Commission Meeting

Call to Order Chair A. Schiffrin called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers.

Roll Call

Present: D. Baskin, G. Mead, A. Schiffrin (Chair), D. Stearns, W. Wadlow and L. Wilshusen (arrived at 7:05pm).

Absent: D. Meyers, absent with notice.

Staff: L. Almond, Interim Water Director; T. Goddard, Water Conservation Manager; N. Dennis, Principal Management Analyst; T. Praxel, Acting Principal Management Analyst; G. A. Martin, Environmental Projects Analyst; E. Cross, Communications Specialist; G. Rudometkin, Administrative Assistant III; R. Coletta, Administrative Assistant II.

Others: 7 members of the public.

Presentation There were no presentations.

Statements of Disqualification There were no statements of disqualification.

Oral Communications

Oral communications were made by G. Pepping, P. Pethoe, S. Holt and S. McGilvray. Holt and McGilvray presented written materials to the Commission.

Announcements

L. Almond, Interim Water Director, thanked T. Praxel, Acting Principal Management Analyst for her work and introduced new staff members G. Rudometkin, Administrative Assistant III and N. Dennis, Principal Management Analyst.

Approval of Minutes

Commissioner D. Stearns noted that the minutes incorrectly say he abstained from voting on the August 26th minutes due to his absence from that meeting which is not correct. (Staff note: it should have been G. Mead that abstained due to absence). Commissioner W. Wadlow moved approval of the August 26th minutes with the corrections noted. Commissioner G. Mead seconded.

VOICE VOTE: MOTION CARRIED

AYES: D. Baskin, G. Mead, A. Schiffrin (Chair), D. Stearns, and W. Wadlow .

NOES: None.
ABSTAINED: A. Schiffrin and L. Wilshusen.

Consent Agenda

Commissioner G. Mead pulled Item 2 - City Council Items Affecting Water from discussion.

Item 1 Three-month Calendar

Commissioner D. Baskin moved approval of this remaining consent agenda item. Commissioner L. Wilshusen seconded.

VOICE VOTE: MOTION CARRIED
AYES: D. Baskin, G. Mead, A. Schiffrin (Chair), D. Stearns, W. Wadlow and L. Wilshusen.
NOES: None.

Items Removed from Consent Agenda

Item 2 - City Council Items Affecting Water

Commissioner G. Mead asked L. Almond, Interim Water Director to provide additional information on the Council's discussion of water supply for drought. L. Almond presented and reviewed councilmember Lane's letter to Council. She reported that staff is meeting to define the public process as well as the timeline and costs for other work plan tasks, and will likely bring those back to council at their 11/26 meeting.

L. Almond, Interim Water Director responded to commission questions.

Commissioner G. Mead moved for approval of Item 2. Commissioner D. Stearns seconded.

VOICE VOTE: MOTION CARRIED
AYES: D. Baskin, G. Mead, A. Schiffrin (Chair), D. Stearns, W. Wadlow and L. Wilshusen.
NOES: None.

General Business

1. Large Landscape Water Budget Program Presentation

T. Goddard, Water Conservation Manager, provided a presentation on the Department's program that sets advisory water budget for large landscaped areas and tracks account holder actual water use against those guidelines. The program is advisory only and not yet linked to actual rates.

Oral Communications were made by S. McGilvray and P. Pethoe.

Summary of public comments:

- This Large Landscape Water Budget Program is an excellent program.

- The higher water uses included in this group have bulk rates. Changing them to tiered rates would provide greater economic incentives.
- Need to look at utilizing reclaimed water for golf courses.

T. Goddard, Water Conservation Manager acknowledged and thanked Aerin Martin, Environmental Project Analyst for coordination of this program.

Commission Discussion/Comments

- Commissioner Schiffrin asked for net cost per gallon saved by the program. T. Goddard stated that this information will be brought back to the commission at a future meeting.
- Staff offered that the gross cost of the program was approximately $50.00 per customer, per year.
- Commissioner Baskin asked if water budgets create incentives for the public to use plants that are more drought tolerant. T. Goddard said it would if and when water budgets are linked to rates.

T. Goddard, Water Conservation Manager discussed monthly status of water supply passed written material will be included in the original papers.

Director's Oral Report No action shall be taken on this item.

1. Monthly Status of Water Supply

Oral and written communications were made by T. Goddard, Water Conservation Manager regarding the monthly status of the water supply.

Staff noted that Loch Lomond is at 69.5%, the lowest since 1997. This is due to two factors: 1.) We are leaving more water in the streams to support fisheries and 2.) dry weather.

2. Water Supply Project Update. No discussion.

Documents for Future Meetings There were no documents for future meetings

Media Articles (Pages 13-30) No action shall be taken on this item.

1. News Article – Santa Cruz Sentinel 10-6-13 ☆ (Page 13)
2. News Article – Santa Cruz Sentinel 10-8-13 ☆ (Pages 14-15)
3. News Article – Santa Cruz Sentinel 10-9-13☆ (Pages 16)
4. News Article – Santa Cruz Sentinel 10-10-13☆ (Pages 17)
5. News Article – Santa Cruz Sentinel 10-12-13☆ (Pages 18-19)
6. News Article – Santa Cruz Weekly 10-15-13☆ (Pages 20)
7. News Article – Santa Cruz Sentinel 10-15-13☆ (Pages 21-22)
8. News Article – Santa Cruz Sentinel 10-19-13☆ (Pages 23-24)
9. News Article – Santa Cruz Sentinel 10-21-13☆ (Pages 25)
10. News Article – Good Times 10-23-13☆ (Pages 26-30)

Items Initiated by Members for Future Agendas No items we initiated.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by the chair at 8:02 p.m. until the next meeting of the Water Commission scheduled for December 2, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers.

Respectfully submitted,

Gloria Rudometkin

Digitally signed by Gloria Rudometkin
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Staff