



Water Department

**Water Commission**  
**7:00 p.m. – Monday, February 3, 2014**  
**Council Chambers**  
**809 Center Street, Santa Cruz**

### **Minutes of a Water Commission Meeting**

**Call to Order** – Chair A. Schiffrin called the meeting to order at 7:01p.m. in the City Council Chambers.

#### **Roll Call**

**Present:** D. Baskin, G. Mead, A. Schiffrin (Chair), D. Schwarm, D. Stearns, W. Wadlow, and L. Wilshusen.

**Absent:** None.

**Staff:** R. Menard, Water Director; L. Almond, Interim Water Director; T. Goddard, Administrative Services Manager; N. Dennis Principal Management Analyst; G. Rudometkin, Administrative Assistant III, C. Berry, Watershed Compliance Manager.

**Others:** Approximately 52 members of the public.

**Presentation** There were no presentations.

**Statements of Disqualification** There were no statements of disqualification.

#### **Oral Communications**

Oral written and communications were made by R. Longinotti, P. Gratz and G. Pepping. Oral communications were made by R. Baker and F. Geiger.

**Announcements** – A. Schiffrin welcomed new Water Commissioner Douglas Schwarm. L. Almond, Interim Water Director introduced new Water Director Rosemary Menard.

#### **Approval of Minutes**

Commissioner L. Wilshusen would like to add the following five words “in light of its mission” on page 6, bullet point 7 at the end of the sentence.

Commissioner W. Wadlow moved approval of January 3, 2013 Water Commission minutes. Commissioner G. Mead seconded.

VOICE VOTE:MOTION CARRIED

**AYES:** D. Baskin, G. Mead, A. Schiffrin, D. Stearns, W. Wadlow, and L. Wilshusen.

**NOES:** None.

**ABSTAINED:** D. Schwarm, due to absence from the January 6th meeting.

## **Consent Agenda**

1. Three-month Calendar
2. City Council Items Affecting Water
3. Loch Lomond West Side Feasibility Analysis – Feasibility Criteria
4. Correspondence from R. Longinotti dated 1/7/2014
5. Correspondence from P. Gratz dated 1/27/2014

Commissioner G. Mead pulled Item 1 - Three-month Calendar. Commissioner A. Schiffrin pulled Item 4 - Correspondence from R. Longinotti dated 1/7/2014.

Commissioner D. Baskin moved the Consent Agenda. Commissioner L. Wilshusen seconded.

VOICE VOTE: MOTION CARRIED

AYES: D. Baskin, G. Mead, A. Schiffrin, D. Schwarm, D. Stearns, W. Wadlow,  
and L. Wilshusen.

NOES: None

ABSTAINED: None

## **Items Removed from the Consent Agenda**

Item 1 - Three-month Calendar

Interim Water Director, L. Almond and Principal Management Analyst, N. Dennis responded to Commission questions.

Oral comments made by S. McGilvray.

Commissioner D. Baskin moved the Consent Agenda. Commissioner G. Mead seconded.

VOICE VOTE: MOTION CARRIED

AYES: D. Baskin, G. Mead, A. Schiffrin, D. Schwarm, D. Stearns, W. Wadlow,  
and L. Wilshusen.

NOES: None

ABSTAINED: None

Item 2 - Correspondence from R. Longinotti dated 1/7/2014

A. Schiffrin orally responded to the letter.

Oral communications made by R. Longinotti.

Commissioner W. Wadlow moved the Consent Agenda. Commissioner D. Baskin seconded.

VOICE VOTE: MOTION CARRIED

AYES: D. Baskin, G. Mead, A. Schiffrin, D. Schwarm, D. Stearns, W. Wadlow,  
and L. Wilshusen.

NOES: None

ABSTAINED: None

## **General Business**

### **1. Initial Water Supply Outlook**

R. Menard, Water Director introduced the presentation. T. Goddard, Administrative Services Manager provided the report and responded to commission questions.

#### Public Comments:

Oral communications made by R. Longinotti, B. Malone, S. Mcgilvray, L. Blanchard, D. Bolger, E. Silver and C. Scott.

#### Summary of Commission Questions:

- Clarification asked regarding Stage 1, if indeed the goal was to reduce consumption is 5% and at Stage 2 the goal is to reduce consumption is 15%?
- Questioned if a Stage ordinance can be initiated by the Water Director alone.
- Inquiry made that if there has been sufficient data based on low rainfall and the low levels in the streams warrants the need for the Stage 2 ordinance.
- Concern expressed on why the Water Department does not go further than the Stage 2 ordinance and go directly into Stage 3.
- Concern expressed over the confusion that may arise due to the City Council asking for 20% voluntary conservation and the measures associated with Stage 2 measure asking for 5-15% conservation.
- Inquiry was made as to if the Water Department will address the difference between what it has requested and what would come about as a result of the mandate?
- Inquiry was made, if the stabilization fund is 2.4 million how far that will take us in regards to the various stage levels?
- Concern was expressed, in light of how dire things are and potentially could be, if we were ready to go to stage 3, when and who will issue recommendation.
- Question was asked that if there isn't any more rain or limited rain, do we know what the reservoir will look like at the end of the year?
- Concern expressed over the staffing needs of Stage 2.
- Question was asked due to results in 1977 when the stream flow in the San Lorenzo river was below 12 CFFs pumping had to be scaled back to avoid damaging the pumps, has this issue been resolved?
- Comment was made that the critical issue from the staff report is that the Water Department is at a point when we can no longer take water from flowing sources and has to start to pulling water from the lake.

- Comment was made that the Water Commission should recommend to City Council that at the earliest possible time they approve a Stage 3 water shortage decision to go into effect no later than April 1<sup>st</sup> with the understanding that if the weather conditions change the matter would be brought back to the Commission or to the City Council for the deliberation.
- Comment was made if it is possible for the City Council to approve Stage 3 with the directions that the public carry it out but with the understanding that staff is not going to be able to enforce it effectively it until May 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Comment was made that the key thing of Stage 3 is when water rationing begins, so there would be designated amounts of water that could be used without financial penalty.
- Inquiry was made as to whether it would be possible to present to our community what their ration would look like prior to May 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Concern over the Commission being the bottleneck that prevents for more stringent measures to be implemented and the need of a resolution that carries a recommendation to City Council that essentially gives the Water Director the authority to do what is necessary as the water information develops.
- Concern over creating a sense of urgency and also the sense of flexibility in terms of the power of the Water Director, with a recommendation that allows the Water Director to go forward to do what is both necessary and feasible.
- Comment was made that Water Commission would like to see a more aggressive approach and back off, rather than see an approach that comes in late.
- Concern expressed over including a public education aspect such as mailer information, how to read a water bill, etc.
- Comment was made that the Chair should attend the Feb 11<sup>th</sup> meeting of the City Council to present the Water Commission perspective of the Initial Water Supply outlook.
- Concern expressed that a future study should be conducted to generate new sources of water such as installing new ground water wells, examining water recycling, potential cutbacks in stream flow under HCP process, the importance of completing the EIR for the Desal project because that gives us a potential avenue to go down should we choose to do so and even exploring a temporary Desal plan as some communities have done.

The Water Commission recommends to the City Council that they approve Stage 3: Water Shortage Emergency as early as legally possible and determine those pieces which can be implemented immediately and do so; including implementing water rationing as soon as feasible by an average of 20%; Direct the Water Department and the Water Commission to return to the City Council with amended recommendations either to modify stages as the water conditions merit; and, The Water Department and City staff engage in a consistent and coordinated messaging and public education campaign with the public. The Commission acknowledges the City Council and Department's need to be responsive to a changing drought picture. The Commission encourages quick action be taken to address these needs even though this may require action ahead of the Water Commission's next scheduled meeting.

Commissioner Stearns moved the motion. Commissioner Wilshusen seconded.

VOICE VOTE: MOTION CARRIED

AYES: D. Baskin, G. Mead, A. Schiffrin, D. Schwarm, D. Stearns, W. Wadlow,  
and L. Wilshusen.

NOES: None

ABSTAINED: None

## **2. Water Supply Community Engagement**

Oral report provided by T. Schull.

- First, discussed comments made by the Commission about the interplay between the Water Commission and the Water Supply Advisory Committee.
- Second, update on the Committee, the application period closed on January 15<sup>th</sup>, received 61 applications. The nominating committee from the City Council is composed of Mayor Robinson, Vice Mayor Lane, and council member Posner now has a preliminary list of members.
- Third discussed the facilitator, which is an important piece of the Committee process, making sure that the team is sophisticated enough in terms of group dynamics, setting a reasonable work plan and having enough technical information to access to experts that really can be used, infused with the appropriate level of expertise in response to our RFP, 7 proposals were received and narrowed down to two very strong candidates.

## **2. Habitat Conservation Plan Negotiations Update**

Introduction provided by R. Menard, Water Director and staff report provided by C. Berry, Watershed Compliance Manager.

Oral communications made by R. Longinotti, P. Gratz, C. Scott and S. Mcgilvray.

Summary of Commission Comments/Question:

- Comment was made; Laguna Creek does not have sufficient flow to provide for any level of diversion and also meet our current flow goals downstream to provide to any level of diversion.
- Question was asked, is this another year where we are not going to be able to take out water of Laguna Creek?
- Requested an updated HCP presentation so that the numbers and tier system reflect the current issues and what is currently the proposed conservation strategy.
- Comment was made that we are going to have to make some judgment calls on how much we can actually conserve for the streams and how much we are willing to pay overtime.
- Requested that in a future presentation it would be helpful if it could be quantified as to how much is being cut back from the streams and the San Lorenzo River, in other words water that we could be using for drinking as opposed to saving for the fish.

- Questioned was asked if we are leaving less water or more water for the fish at this point?
- Comment was made in regards that the HCP is in progress but not yet available.
- Question was made if the state is expecting a NCCP (Natural Community Conservation Planning). There is a California comparable document, the NCCP and sometimes you use the federal HCP of section 10, sometimes you use the State, the reason for this question is because it influences process, duration, engagement, of the California resources agencies as well as Federal.

#### **4. Water Conservation Master Plan - Evaluation of Measures**

T. Goddard, Administrative Services Manager, Consultants Lisa Maddaus and Bill Maddaus of Maddaus Water Management Inc. provided the staff report and responded to Commission questions.

Oral communications provided by B. Van Allen, R. Pommerantz, D. Speke, S. Holt.  
Oral and written communication provided by R. Longinotti and S. McGilvray.

Summary of Commission Questions/Comments:

- Commissioner D. Baskin moved that due to the late hour that the discussion be tabled to a later meeting so that Water Commission can have a more extensive discussion and consider if there should be any kind of public workshop in the interim and also discuss how this is going to be integrated with the Water Supply Advisory Committee and the timing of how we are going to be moving forward. Seconded by W. Wadlow.
- Concern expressed that the formation of the Water Supply Advisory Committee (WSAC) is precisely what this Water Conservation Plan is all about and WSAC should see this in terms of feedback.
- Concern expressed that the public isn't engaged in the details of the Water Conservation Master Plan due to the remaining 5 people present in the audience
- Requested to submit written questions to consultants.
- Discussed holding a special meeting for this topic.

Commissioner A. Schiffrin invited a motion to continue the discussion to the March 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting, Water Commissioners are to submit there comments/questions to staff within the next two weeks and a decision will be made at the next meeting whether to continue the discussion further or hold a special meeting.

Commissioner L. Wilshusen moved the motion. Commissioner W. Wadlow seconded.

AYES: D. Baskin, G. Mead, A. Schiffrin, D. Schwarm, D. Stearns, W. Wadlow, and L. Wilshusen.

NOES: None

ABSTAINED: None

## 5. Election of Officers

Chair A. Schiffrin opened the floor for nominations for Chair.

Commissioner W. Wadlow nominated D. Baskin.

Commissioner L. Wilshusen moved close nominations and by acclamation elect Commissioner D. Baskin as Water Commission Chair for 2014. Commissioner G. Mead seconded.

VOICE VOTE: MOTION CARRIED

AYES: D. Baskin, G. Mead, A. Schiffrin, D. Schwarm, D. Stearns, W. Wadlow, and L. Wilshusen.

NOES: None

ABSTAINED: None

At this point Commissioner D. Baskin took over duties of the chair.

Commissioner D. Baskin opened the floor for nominations for Water Commission Vice-chair.

Commissioner A. Schiffrin nominated W. Wadlow for Vice-Chair. Commissioner A. Schiffrin moved to close nominations and by acclamation elect Commissioner W. Wadlow as Water Commission Vice-chair for 2014. Commissioner L. Wilshusen seconded.

VOICE VOTE: MOTION CARRIED

AYES: D. Baskin, G. Mead, A. Schiffrin, D. Schwarm, D. Stearns, W. Wadlow, and L. Wilshusen.

NOES: None.

ABSTAINED: None

**Subcommittee/Advisory Body Oral Reports** No items.

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

1. Oral report on the status of existing contracts related to the Commission's work program.
- R. Menard, Water Director suggested emailing the status of the work plan in light of the late hour and offered that Water Commissioners can call her if questions should arise.

**Information Item** (Pages 114-135) No action shall be taken on this item.

1. Water Resources Report ☆ (Pages 114-134) (be on next Agenda)
2. Water Shortage Contingency Plan ☆ (Pages 135 -See Attached Report: Water Shortage Contingency Plan)

## Media Articles

1. News Article – Santa Cruz Sentinel 12-29-13 ☆ (Pages 136-138)
2. News Article – Santa Cruz Sentinel 1-03-14 ☆ (Page 139-141)
3. News Article – Santa Cruz Sentinel 1-06-14 ☆ (Pages 142-143)
4. News Article – Santa Cruz Sentinel 1-10-14 ☆ (Pages 144-146)
5. News Article – Santa Cruz.com 1-14-14 ☆ (Pages 147-148)
6. News Article – Santa Cruz Sentinel 1-14-14 ☆ (Pages 149-150)
7. News Article – Good Times 1-15-14 ☆ (Pages 151-153)
8. News Article – Santa Cruz Sentinel 1-16-14 ☆ (Pages 154-155)
9. News Article – Santa Cruz Sentinel 1-17-14 ☆ (Pages 156-157)
10. News Article – Santa Cruz Sentinel 1-26-14 ☆ (Pages 158-160)
11. News Article – Santa Cruz Sentinel 1-28-14 ☆ (Pages 161-162)

**Documents for Future Meetings** No action shall be taken on this item.

1. None

## Items Initiated by Members for Future Agendas

- Commissioner G. Mead requested to see an update on the status of the recycled water transfer with Scotts Valley and the Pasatiempo Golf Course at a future meeting
- Commissioner A. Schiffrin requested that the Information item - Water Resources Report be on the next agenda and that a presentation is made by John Ricker at a future meeting.

**Adjournment** Meeting adjourned at **11:02pm**, the next meeting of the Water Commission is scheduled for March 3, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers.

Respectfully submitted,

Gloria  
Rudometkin

Digitally signed by Gloria Rudometkin  
DN: cn=Gloria Rudometkin, o=City of  
Santa Cruz, ou=Water,  
email=grudometkin@cityofsantacruz.  
com, c=US  
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Staff