



Desalination Task Force Minutes 4:00 p.m. - Wednesday, January 16, 2008

The Desalination Task Force consists of two members of the Soquel Creek Water District Board and two members of the City of Santa Cruz City Council.

For the purpose of preparation of the minutes the following terms will be used throughout the current and all future minutes. The City of Santa Cruz/Soquel Creek Water District Desalination Task Force will be referred to as the "Task Force." The City of Santa Cruz will be referred to as the "City" and the City of Santa Cruz Water Department will be referred to as the "SCWD." The Soquel Creek Water District will be referred to as "SqCWD." A member of the Soquel Creek Water District Board of Directors will be referred to as "Director" and the Soquel Creek Water District General Manager will be referred to as "General Manager." A member of the Santa Cruz City Council will be referred to as "Councilmember" and the Director of the City of Santa Cruz Water Department will be referred to as "Water Director."

Call to Order Vice-Chair B. Daniels called the meeting to order in the Soquel Creek Water District Board Room, 5180 Soquel Drive, Soquel, California.

Roll Call

Present: Director B. Daniels (Chair), Director T. LaHue (Alternate D. Kriege), Councilmember E. Porter and Councilmember C. Mathews (Alternate M. Rotkin).
Absent: Director D. Kriege and Councilmember M. Rotkin.
Staff: L. Almond, Deputy Water Director; L. Brown, General Manager; M. Schumacher, Public Outreach Coordinator; H. Luckenbach, Desalination Program Coordinator; B. Kocher, Water Director; and D. Paul, Administrative Assistant.

Presentation There were no presentations.

Statements of Disqualification There were no statements of disqualification.

Oral Communications There were no oral communications.

Announcements There were no announcements.

Approval of Minutes

Councilmember C. Mathews moved to approve the December 19, 2007 Desalination Task Force minutes with an amendment to Page 3 Roll Call showing Councilmember M. Rotkin as absent. Councilmember E. Porter seconded.

VOICE VOTE MOTION CARRIED

AYES: B. Daniels, C. Mathews and E. Porter.

NOES: None.

ABSTAIN: T. LaHue.

Informational Items No action was taken on this item.

General Business

1. Independent Technical Advisor

Water Director B. Kocher reported that Kennedy Jenks Consultant (KJ) had the best overall proposal and the individuals that will be performing the work have experience at the state and international level.

Task Force Comments

1. We are fortunate that such an experienced firm proposed for this phase of the project.
2. The task force should be provided a report of what work is being requested and accomplished on a regular basis.
3. A schedule should be provided for each task as it is initiated.
4. The task force should not hold up the work of the consultant.
5. A final copy of the agreement should be provided for Task Force binders.

Councilmember C. Mathews moved that the Desalination Task Force recommend approval of the attached scope of work and budget with Kennedy/Jenks Consultants for Independent Technical Advisor Services for the scwd2 Seawater Desalination Program. It was further moved that staff incorporate comments No. 2, 3, and 5 into the work plan. Director T. LaHue seconded.

VOICE VOTE MOTION CARRIED

AYES: B. Daniels, T LaHue, and C. Mathews and E. Porter

NOES: None.

2. Draft Operational Plan and Agreement – Continued Discussion of the Elements and Issues to be considered

The Draft Operational Plan and Agreement is an ongoing work product and is a standing agenda item.

Chair B. Daniels determined that the seven questions posed would be discussed in order and that each task force member would have an opportunity to comment.

1. What is your understanding of the general location of the full scale plant?
 - It will be fairly close to the Waste Water Treatment Plant.
 - The further east it can be would be better for SqCWD.

- Anywhere between the seawater intake and Neary Lagoon,
 - It may be more important to determine exactly where it can be located, i.e. available land.
 - The far west side of Santa Cruz may be the most feasible.
2. What is your understanding of how the desalinated water will enter each agency's water distribution system for use?
- This is a technical issue and a discussion of it may be premature at this time.
 - It is an important issue for several reasons; blending, pipelines and costs.
 - Blending is a very complicated and expensive issue and should be addressed right away since each agency uses a different method to treat its water.
 - It is important to determine what will meet both agencies' needs.
 - Is this work included in the KJ scope of services?
 - Do other agencies have experience or information?
 - Whether SqCWD wants pure desalinated water or will connect at some other point, needs to be determined before the design of the full scale plant can begin.
 - The SCWD water rights may be a determining factor.

The Task Force requested comments from the Program Managers:

Water Director Kocher reported that two different options have been discussed: 1) That desalinated water could be treated to a level where it could go directly into the distribution system; or 2) that the water could be treated to a lower level and be piped in a dedicated pipeline to the Bay Street tanks and then blended. With the second option, SqCWD would get its water from a pipeline somewhere in the Ocean Street corridor.

General Manager Brown reported that this issue will be studied extensively in the project level EIR.

3. How many months/days in a year do you understand each agency will take water from the desalination plant?
4. Do you anticipate that each system's use of the plant will be at a uniform rate or do you anticipate each agency's use of the plant to vary annually, seasonally, daily, hourly, etc.?
5. If you anticipate water demands varying, what do you see as the factors that would drive each agency's needs?
6. If you anticipate each agency's desalinated water demands being relatively constant, what do you understand is the basic need of each agency? Does that change in the future?

Comments from Question 3, 4, 5 and 6 were combined into one discussion.

- SqCWD will be using the desalination plant fairly regularly until such time as the groundwater basin has been stabilized.
- SqCWD may want to use the plant more than currently stated to accelerate groundwater recovery.
- SqCWD is currently working to determine target groundwater levels at the monitoring wells that will then be used to determine which production wells are rested and how much desalination water to use.
- Would the City want to use the desalination plant during the first year of a drought such a last year rather than curtailment.

- SCWD will not need all of the capacity of the plant during off-peak periods of drought years.
- Future weather will determine how the plant capacity will be allocated.
- Is any modeling available?
- Instead of adding future increments to the desalination plant, could excess water be banked in the groundwater basin for future use during droughts?
- It is important to reduce issues and focus on keeping the process moving to get the plant built.
- As part of the SCWD IWP process, a lot of time was spent on how SCWD uses its current sources.
- It may be useful for the task force to see a presentation of the SCWD system model.
- Each agency needs to determine what its own operational needs for the desalination plant are including its expectations and then the task force can determine how the plant will be operated.
- The City Water Commission should be requested to make a recommendation for SCWD.
- It is important that this issue not slow down the entire process.

Councilmember E. Porter moved to request that both agencies provide information to the Task Force on what its operational needs of the full scale desalination plant are envisioned to be at an upcoming meeting. This information should include what is deemed necessary, desirable and what concessions it would be willing to make. Director T. LaHue seconded.

VOICE VOTE MOTION CARRIED

AYES: B. Daniels, T. LaHue, and C. Mathews and E. Porter

NOES: None.

7. Given your answers to the above questions, what technical information do you believe is still needed to assure the plan as you understand it will work?
- A study of co-mingling water between agencies
 - Information on entrainment, global warming and energy issues.

For the record, Director B. Daniels provided the following questions to be addressed.

- Who owns the desalination facility?
- Who gets the permits?
- Who does the EIR?
- Who operates, manages and controls it?
- Who pays for the EIR, permitting, design, construction, maintenance and operations?
- Who gets water and when and under what conditions?
- Is there a maximum or a minimum?
- Who pays for it?
- What is the management Chain of Command?
- Who and when can any of the above be waived or changed?
- What is the form of the agreement/contract/etc. for this?
- How does it get amended?
- Can either party withdraw?
- Any sublicense rights or substitution capability.
- Who carries legal responsibility, risk, etc?

Program Managers' Report

A. Work Schedule

Program Coordinator Luckenbach reported that paving at the Pilot Plant was completed today. The pretreatment process will begin by the end of the month and the reverse osmosis in March. Data from the January 4th storm event was captured as part of the Watershed Sanitary Survey monitoring efforts.

B. Upcoming Tasks

Program Coordinator Luckenbach reported that she will be working on the full scale Desalination Plant budget for the long-term Capital Improvement Program.

C. Additional or Amended Tasks **No Report**

D. Contacts with Regulatory Agencies/Requests from Regulatory Agencies **No Report**

E. Public Outreach Program

Public Outreach Coordinator Schumacher reported that design of the outdoor sign for the pilot plant is complete and the five display boards will be brought to the Task Force in February. She will be meeting with Seymour Center staff on pilot plant tour issues and the training for docents will be conducted in March. Go to <http://www.scwd2desal.org/index-new.html> to view the website.

The task force requested that a “feedback card” be developed to use in soliciting comments from anyone taking a tour of the pilot plant.

F. Report of Findings **No Report.**

Public Outreach No action was taken on this item.

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

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:15 p.m. until the next regular meeting of the Desalination Task Force scheduled for Wednesday, February 20, 2008 at 4:00 p.m. in the City of Santa Cruz Planning Conference, 809 Center Street, Santa Cruz California.

Respectfully submitted,

s/Donna Paul
Staff