



**Desalination Task Force Minutes**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**4:00 p.m. – Wednesday, February 20, 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** Director B. Daniels, Vice-Chair called the meeting to order at 4:10 p.m. in the City of Santa Cruz Planning Department Conference Room, 809 Center Street Room 107, Santa Cruz, California.

**Roll Call**

**Present:** Director B. Daniels, Director T. LaHue (Alternate D. Kriege), Councilmember E. Porter and Councilmember M. Rotkin (arrived at 4:20 p.m.), Councilmember C. Mathews (Alternate).

**Absent:** Director D. Kriege.

**Staff:** L. Almond, Deputy Water Director; L. Brown, General Manager (via telephone); M. Schumacher, Public Outreach 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**

Director B. Daniels reported that the Warming up to Water: Climate Change Impacts on Local Water Supplies forum that was held on February 8, 2008 was quite successful. He presented a thank you letter and DVD to the City of Santa Cruz Water Department for its sponsorship and reported that future events of this nature are being planned.

Director B. Daniels announced that SqCWD held a public hearing last night on a proposed water rate increase. As a result of that hearing, he suggests that energy neutrality is an issue that the task force should discuss as a joint project on a future agenda. He provided the Santa Cruz Sentinel article of February 21, 2008.

Director B. Daniels provided an email from Water Desalination International, Inc., regarding new desalination technologies.

Councilmember C. Mathews reported that last week staff from both agencies did a presentation for the Community Affairs Committee of the Santa Cruz Chamber of Commerce that was very enlightening and informative. The committee gained a better understanding of the challenges faced by both water agencies. There is a real value in this kind of front end public outreach.

Councilmember C. Mathew suggested that it may be helpful to write a positive letter that responds to and explains in detail the issues faced by the SqCWD to respond the Coast Lines article in the Sentinel this morning that ended with a negative statement about the desalination project.

### **Approval of Minutes**

Councilmember E. Porter moved to approve the January 16, 2007 Desalination Task Force with amendments to page 5 after last bullet include another bullet-Would the City want to use the desalination plant during the first year of a drought such as last year rather than curtailment; and to page 6 change "For the record, Director B. Daniels provided the following ~~written comments~~ questions to be addressed. Director B. Daniels seconded.

**VOICE VOTE MOTION CARRIED**

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

NOES: None.

### **General Business**

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

#### **1. Draft Operational Plan and Agreement – Soquel Creek Water District Conceptual Plan**

General Manager Brown reported that this memo is in response to the request that both agencies provide information on anticipated operational needs of the full-scale desalination plant. The numbers used are based upon the SqCWD Integrated Resources Plan. These numbers may change as experience is gained on the effectiveness of the restoration efforts and management of the groundwater basin. SqCWD recognizes that the City's water rights may have a determining factor in how water is moved between agencies. SqCWD would like to have a cooperative

groundwater management agreement and mitigation plan that addresses the impacts to the groundwater basin.

#### Task Force Discussion

Councilmember M. Rotkin stated that the management of the shared groundwater basin is of great importance to the City and is currently being worked on cooperatively by both agencies at the staff level. It needs to be an independent process that does not hold up the draft operational plan and agreement. He further stated that Councilmember representatives to this task force have not been directed to work on groundwater management issues.

It was agreed that the management of the shared groundwater basin is an independent issue that need to be addressed at a different forum and should not hold up this process.

The EIR will need to address the issues surrounding changing the City's water rights.

SqCWD is working on determining how to operate its system when it is using the desalination plant, i.e. how water can be distributed and how and when to turn off wells.

The Water Commission will discuss and provide a conceptual plan for City use of the full-scale desalination plant.

A chart that documents issues that arise and the tentative solutions should be developed for reference.

#### **Program Managers' Report**

##### A. Work Schedule

Water Director Kocher reported that the landscaping at the pilot plant was completed today. The pretreatment tanks have been filled and are functional. A kickoff meeting with the Technical Advisor (Kennedy Jenks) was held on February 14, 2008 and work has started. The modeling report which defines the "area of influence" is complete and in peer review. It is an important part of the Watershed Sanitary Survey.

##### B. Upcoming Tasks

Water Director Kocher reported that the entire pilot plant will be operating by the end of February. Upon completion of the peer review, the development of the Watershed Sanitary Survey will begin.

Kennedy Jenks has begun a review of existing beach well studies and the open ocean intake approach. The results will be provided in the form of tech memos. This information will be used for development of the RFP for the Intake Study. An agenda is being prepared for a permitting strategy meeting. They will be developing a web portal for shared use by consultants and staff for technical materials.

The task force commented that the intake study should take into consideration what the regulators will require and the information necessary for the task force recommendations.

C. Additional or Amended Tasks No report.

D. Contacts with Regulatory Agencies/Requests from Regulatory Agencies

Director Kocher reported that currently three existing permits are being amended: 1) City's Wastewater Treatment Plant Permit; 2) the County Hazardous Materials Management Plan; and 3) the UCSC License Agreement.

E. Public Outreach Program

Public Outreach Coordinator Schumacher reported on the activities of the past month.

The task force reviewed and commented on the five display boards that will be hung in the La Feliz Room at the Grand Opening Event and the press release.

The Grand Opening Event will begin with a press conference at 2:00 p.m., the reception at 3:00 p.m. and small group tours of the pilot plant at 4:00 p.m. I.E. Solar will have an outside demonstration of a solar water pump.

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 5:50 p.m. until the next regular meeting of the Desalination Task Force is scheduled for Wednesday, March 19, 2008 at 4:00 p.m. in the Soquel Creek Water District Board Room, 5180 Soquel Drive, Soquel, California.

Respectfully submitted,

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