Desalination Task Force
Minutes
4:00 p.m. – Wednesday, June 16, 2010
City of Santa Cruz Water Department Conference Room
212 Locust St, Suite A, Santa Cruz California

Call to Order Mayor M. Rotkin called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

Roll Call
Present: Director B. Jaffe, Councilmember D. Lane and Mayor M. Rotkin (Chair).
Staff: General Manager L. Brown and Water Director B. Kocher.

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 D. Lane moved approval of the March 17, 2010 Desalination Task Force meeting minutes as submitted. Mayor M. Rotkin seconded.

VOICE VOTE MOTION CARRIED
AYES: D. Lane and M. Rotkin.
NOES: None.
ABSTAIN: B. Jaffe.

General Business

1. Post Pilot Facility Site Modifications–Ratification of Contract Change Orders No. 2, 3 and 4.

Water Director Kocher provided the staff report on this item.

Councilmember D. Lane moved ratification of Change Orders No. 2, 3 and 4 for BCI Builders (BCI) in the amount of $30,067 for the Post Pilot Facility Site Modifications at Long Marine Lab. Mayor M. Rotkin seconded.

VOICE VOTE MOTION CARRIED
AYES: B. Jaffe, D. Lane and M. Rotkin.
NOES: None.

2. Public Opinion and Marketing Research Services

Water Director Kocher reported that the desalination program has been receiving a great deal of media attention opposing the project. Staff is concerned that the negative attention may have a lasting impact and has contacted Gene Bregman and Associates to discuss a public opinion survey.

Task Force Comments

Mayor Rotkin reported that the City has used this consultant several times and has been very pleased with his work.

Director Jaffe reported that SqCWD has also used this consultant with good results. He is interested in how the information will be used. Questions should be included asking SqCWD customers how they would vote if the desalination project went to a vote and to gage community response to ideas from the March 18, 2010 forum.

Mayor Rotkin reported that he has spoken with the City Attorney and that it is his opinion that this project may not be something that can be brought to a vote.

Councilmember Lane stated that it would make sense to ask the question for both the City and the District: "If this was put to a vote, how would you vote? He also opined that the survey should be 15 minutes.

Councilmember Lane moved that the scwd^2 Desalination Task Force recommend approval of the preliminary scope of work, schedule, and budget with Gene Bregman & Associates for Public Opinion and Marketing Research Services. It was further moved that staff ask the following questions of the consultant: 1) Is a 20-minute survey too long? 2) Would it compromise the validity of the survey if Ecology Action and Transition Santa Cruz were to be asked for input?; 3) Can the cross section being polled be broader than just frequent voters?; and 4) Can a question be included in the survey regarding how respondents would vote if the desalination project were put to a vote? Mayor Rotkin seconded.

VOICE VOTE MOTION CARRIED
AYES: B. Jaffe, D. Lane and M. Rotkin.
NOES: None.

Program Managers' Report

A. Work Schedule

- There is nothing new to report on the work schedule.

B. Upcoming Tasks

- The offshore geophysical report is complete and staff has received the draft intake feasibility study report.

- Five proposals were received for facility design.

C. Additional or Amended Tasks

- Staff is wrapping up work with CH2MHill on the Energy Study and is developing a revised scope of work. Solicitation for a new consultant will commence next month.

D. Contacts with Regulatory Agencies/Requests from Regulatory Agencies

- Staff met with CA Department of Public Health (DPH) to review findings of Watershed Sanitary Survey and the Pilot Study Report.

E. Contracts

- There was nothing further to report.

F. Public Outreach Program

- The first in a series of public workshop was held, the subject was water conservation efforts by both agencies. Questions were submitted in writing, and all questions and answers will soon be posted on the website.
- Several new Fact Sheets have been posted on the website: Water Conservation, Outdoor Water Use and Graywater.
- White Paper on Energy Use nearing completion.
- Upcoming Public Workshop: July 28th History of Water Planning at the Santa Cruz Police Community Room.

G. Budget

- There was no report.

H. Report of Findings

- Watershed Sanitary Survey sampling results indicate that the minimum DPH log removal/inactivation requirements will be applicable: 2-log for Cryptosporidium, 3-log for Giardia, and 4-log virus. All treatment trains at the pilot plant met/exceeded these requirements. An additional 0.5 log inactivation of Giardia from disinfection is also required to comply with DPH "multiple barrier" approach. However, because SWRO desalination is a relatively new source of supply, additional coordination with DPH is needed to finalize these requirements.

Public Outreach No action was taken on this item.

Items Initiated by Members for Future Agendas

Information and timeline on permitting path (what permits are required including the level of difficulty in obtaining).

Director Jaffe asked that the public opinion survey consultant consider asking a question to ascertain whether people would prefer drastic, mandatory conservation over a desalination plant.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m. until the next regular meeting of the Desalination Task Force scheduled for Wednesday, July 21, 2010 at 4:00 p.m. in the Soquel Creek Water District Board Room, 5180 Soquel Drive. Soquel, California.

Respectfully submitted,

ss/Donna Paul
Staff