



## Desalination Task Force Minutes

Wednesday, June 17, 2009

City of Santa Cruz Water Department Conference Room  
212 Locust St, Suite A, Santa Cruz California

*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** Chair B. Daniels called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m. in the City of Santa Cruz Water Department Conference Room.

### Roll Call

Present: Councilmember R. Coonerty, Director B. Daniels, Director D. Kriege, and Councilmember M. Rotkin.

Staff: General Manager L. Brown, Water Director B. Kocher, Desalination Program Coordinator H. Luckenbach and Public Outreach Coordinator M. Schumacher.

Others: Brent Haddad, Project Agreement Facilitator.

**Presentation** There were no presentations.

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

**Oral Communications** There were no oral communications.

**Announcements** The location for the July 15, 2009 was incorrectly listed on the agenda. The meeting will be held at the Soquel Creek Water District Offices.

**Approval of Minutes**

**Councilmember M. Rotkin moved approval of the minutes of the May 20, 2009 Desalination Task Force meeting as submitted. Councilmember R. Coonerty seconded.**

**VOICE VOTE: MOTION CARRIED**

**AYES: R. Coonerty, B. Daniels, D. Kriege and M. Rotkin.**

**NOES: None.**

### **General Business**

1. Draft Request for Proposals: CEQA/NEPA Support Services for the scwd<sup>2</sup> Desalination Program

Desalination Program Coordinator Luckenbach reported that other agencies in California that are building desalination plants are addressing NEPA requirements by including it as a task within the Environmental Impact Report (EIR).

**Councilmember M. Rotkin moved to approve the Draft Request for Proposals for CEQA/NEPA Support Services for the scwd<sup>2</sup> Desalination Program with amendments that may be made during the discussion led by the Project Agreement Facilitator in the second General Business item. Director D. Kriege seconded.**

**VOICE VOTE: MOTION CARRIED**

**AYES: R. Coonerty, B. Daniels, D. Kriege and M. Rotkin.**

**NOES: None.**

2. Draft Project Plan & Agreement – Issues Settled/Issues to be Settled

*The Draft Project Plan & Agreement is an ongoing work product and standing agenda item.*

Project Agreement Facilitator Haddad reported on different approaches for determining the Lead Agency for the preparation of an EIR.

The task force discussed at length benefits and shortcomings of having SqCWD and the SCWD be Co-lead Agencies.

If co-lead agencies is selected, the task force discussed whether the Project Plan and Agreement could be drafted to have the final adoption of the EIR be a joint meeting of both agencies and include a public hearing and separate actions by both agencies adopting all of the associated documents.

**Councilmember M. Rotkin moved that at this time the preference of the Task Force is SqCWD and the SCWD be Co-lead Agencies for the scwd<sup>2</sup> Desalination Program EIR and requested that a legal opinion be provided on all aspects of the Co-lead Agency proposal for further discussion prior to a Task Force decision. Director D. Kriege seconded.**

**VOICE VOTE: MOTION CARRIED**

**AYES: R. Coonerty, B. Daniels, D. Kriege and M. Rotkin.**  
**NOES: None.**

## Governance

Project Agreement Facilitator Haddad reported that an expanded list of Governance Issues is provided for task force review.

## Discussion

The following is a list of item for inclusion is future discussion:

Development of Performance Standards  
Ownership  
Employee status  
Funding (bonding) for construction of the plant

Concern was expressed regarding the permits to operate the facility being issued in the City's name, joint agency is the preference.

A Joint Powers Agency or Authority like the Library may be a good idea and address many of the governance issues.

The task force requested that the two different approaches to governance continue to be explored and discussed at future meetings: JPA and non-JPA contracting. Potential benefits and problems with both approaches will be presented.

## **Program Managers' Report**

### A. Work Schedule

- The Watershed Sanitary Survey is delayed 1-2 months due to getting sampling data back from various labs as well as receiving CDMs final report.
- The kick-off meeting for the Energy Minimization and Greenhouse Gas Reduction Study was held on June 1, 2009.

### B. Upcoming Tasks

- The final report on the Pilot Study is expected in August.
- Staff participated in the Entrainment Study sampling on June 16, 2009.
- The Offshore Geophysical study is scheduled to begin in July pending a USACE permit being issued and completion of the consultation with NMFS.

C. Additional or Amended Tasks

- No report

D. Contacts with Regulatory Agencies/Requests from Regulatory Agencies

- A meeting is scheduled with Coastal Commission staff on July 1, 2009 to discuss the Energy Minimization and Greenhouse Gas Reduction Study and the Intake Study.

E. Contracts

- The CEQA/NEPA Support Services RFP goes public June 22, 2009.
- A Marine Mammal Monitor is being required by several regulatory agencies for the Offshore Geophysical Study. Kinnetics has been hired and will be finalizing the Marine Wildlife Contingency Plan.

F. Public Outreach Program

- An additional informational meeting is being scheduled for September at a mid-county location.

G. Budget

- Grants: funds from the Prop 40 and 50 bond sales for were released for payment, but payment has not been received.

H. Report of Findings

- Staff visited the Monterey Bay Aquarium and met with staff to discuss its open ocean intake.

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

**Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:52 p.m. until the next regular meeting of the Desalination Task Force is scheduled for Wednesday, July 15, 2009 at 4:00 p.m. in the Soquel Creek Water District Board Room, 5180 Soquel Drive, Soquel, California.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Paul  
Staff