



Independent Rates Oversight Committee (IROC)
October 17, 2016
MINUTES

1. Roll Call

Chairman Hess called to order the full IROC meeting at 9:35 a.m. Monica Foster conducted roll and a quorum was declared. Attendance is reflected below:

Members:	Present	Absent
Gordon Hess, Chair	X	
David Akin	X	
Christopher Dull	X	
Jeff Justus		X
Fred Kosmo	X	
Jack Kubota		X
Tiffany Mittal	X	
Luis Osuna	X	
Jim Peugh	X	
Linh Quach	X	
 <u>Ex-Officio Members:</u>		
Jerry Jones, Metro JPA	X	
Ken Williams, City 10		X

City representatives present at dais: Tom Crane, Public Utilities; Tom Zeleny, Chief Deputy City Attorney

2. Non-Agenda Public Comment

None.

3. Approval of Minutes from Meeting of September 19, 2016

ACTION: Chairman Hess asked for a motion to approve the Draft Minutes of September 19, 2016. Member Peugh moved to approve as submitted, Member Akin seconded. Motion passed 7 (in favor), 0 (oppose), 1 (abstain - Dull)

4. Chair Updates – Chairman Hess

- Chaired the Finance Subcommittee meeting this morning, in Subcommittee Chairman Justus' absence.

5. City Staff Updates – Tom Crane, Volunteer

- Director Razak is not in attendance, she is in Scottsdale, AZ accepting the Sustainable Water Utility Management Award from the Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies. This is a top award given to only 5 agencies in the country, and PUD is very proud. Other awards received were the Gold in 2010, Platinum in 2013, and now this award which acknowledges the achievement of innovative economic, social, and environmental endeavors.
- Last month Director Razak went to New Orleans to accept the Utility of the Future Today award by the National Association of Clean Water Agencies, Water Environmental Federation, Water Environmental and Reuse Federations, Water Reuse Association, and the US EPA for recognition of proven success in innovative and sustainable management practices, and the Department is very proud!

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6. **Mayor and Council Staff Comments**

None.

7. **Presentation: Pure Water Update** – *John Helminski, Assistant Director, Pure Water & Quality Assurance and Brent Eidson, Program Manager of External Affairs*

Mr. Helminski provided an update on the regulations timeline, indicating the Indirect Potable Reuse Draft Regulations were anticipated in September but were delayed until State meetings and reviews conclude near the end of this year; however, the Direct Potable Reuse Feasibility Framework was released as anticipated on September 8, for a 45 day public review/comment period through October 25. This should be final by the end of this year, allowing the State to work on regulations.

He reviewed Phase 1 projects and the Pure Water timelines and program validation, as the process changed over time from late 2014 to the present. He described the decision factors of the determination that Miramar is the superior alternative due to less impacts to habitats and wetlands, less energy requirements and allows a larger amount of GHG emission reductions. The changes also allow greater operational flexibility, less project delivery/schedule challenges, and an estimated 1 million dollars per year operational savings.

Mr. Helminski described the Phase I schedule ranging from October 2016 through end of 2022, which includes the State Water Boards requirement to ramp up to 30 MGD. He noted the Mayor and Council are aware of this with updates given in June, which they expressed appreciation of the acceleration effort.

Ex-Officio Jones expressed concerns he and the Participating Agencies may have related to getting secondary equivalency. Mr Helminski commented staff works very closely with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and they are about to release their final document. They are very excited that Pure Water is included in the Waiver.

Chairman Hess asked Mr. Helminski for, and received clarification on capacity and retention time for the Miramar Plant, as well as San Vicente. He also asked what Council's action included in November 2014. Mr. Helminski indicated it was to move forward with the implementation of the Pure Water Program, including design.

Mr. Helminski described the Landfill Gas, Cogeneration and Biosolids Management Facilities and Services Project. He noted due to the City losing the diversion credits from the landfill in 2020, alternatives to determine how best to process the Biosolids given future regulations are under review along with review of power generation needed for Phase I of Pure Water. He then gave an update on the Point Loma Permit. He indicated the Permit expired on July 31, 2015, the renewal application was submitted to the EPA and the Regional Water Quality Control Board in January 2015, prior to the deadline of February 1, 2015. Staff has been working closely with the EPA and anticipate the draft decision documents will be released in the next 3 weeks. The first public hearing is in December, and the second in the February/March timeframe.

Brent Eidson, Program Manager of External Affairs, shared Quarter 2 outreach metrics. He took pride in noting during this quarter, the 10,000th visitor has toured the Pure Water Facility since it opened, and was recognized. He described the engagement with the USD youth, and the partnership with San Diego Unified School district's media programs.

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Another important opportunity is the multicultural community engagement, with special events and tours so they can understand and continue to support the Program.

He shared the City's excitement of winning the Water Reuse Project of the Year at the 2016 Global Water Awards that were part of the Global Water Summit in Abu Dhabi. He also shared a video of the focusing of community engagement for Phase I. He noted there is an Open House on Saturday, to provide the community information about the Program such as how to treat the water, educational opportunities with different booths, talk about the components of the first Phase, as well as water-wise garden tours. He noted the design is up for an Orchid Award this year and awaiting the results.

8. **Presentation: Water Main Breaks & Sewer Sanitary Overflow Quarterly Report** – *Isam Hireish, Deputy Director, Water Construction & Maintenance and Agnes Generoso, Deputy Director, Wastewater Collection*

Mr. Hireish provided the water main breaks update as follows: For the quarter, July 1 – Sept 30: there were 21 compared to 17 the same time last year; Since January 1 there have been 61 compared to 64 the same time last year. Trends over the years show favorably going from 104 main breaks in 2012 down to 61 this year. He shared diagrams comparing material types of breaks over the past 5 years, with the majority of breaks in the asbestos cement and cast iron pipe materials.

Ms. Generoso provided the sewer spill stats for 2016 as follows: At of the end of September there have been a total of 26 spills compared to 25 the same time last year with 6.6M total volume released to the environment, most from the Tecolote spill in January. There have been 3 public sewer spills thus far this year. She noted the Department remains at less than 1 spill per 100 miles, with the industry norm being 2 spills per 100 miles.

9. **BREAK**

10. **Discussion: Draft FY 2016 IROC Annual Report** – *Chairman Hess*
Subcommittees have gathered comments and reviewed their final drafts. He asked Subcommittee members the get any additional information to their respective Subcommittee Chairs or himself as soon as possible. He is working with staff to finalize the report for accuracy.

11. **Discussion: Creation of Ad Hoc Committees to Draft FY 2016 IROC Annual Report** – *Chairman Hess*

Suggested keeping the same format as the previous years with the Ad Hoc Committee consisting of himself and each Subcommittee Chair from last year. This will include Jim Peugh, Jack Kubota, Jeff Justus, and himself.

ACTION: Chair Hess asked for a motion to include the 4 members mentioned as the Ad Hoc Committee to assemble the final Annual Report bringing it back to the full IROC for approval. Member Dull moved, Member Akin seconded. Motion passed unanimously 8-0-0.

12. **City 10 – County Water Authority Update**

Chairman Hess indicated Ken Williams' term with City 10 has ended and he will no longer be the representative on IROC.

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13. Subcommittee Reports

a. Finance – Gordon Hess, Alternate Chair

- Received the monthly financial update.
- Reviewed the water use figures as they stand today, noting conservation is holding and down slightly, with water sales being up slightly. The State Water Resource Control Board is looking at how the conservation mandates, accomplishments are lower than what they hoped for so changes may come in how to implement future conservation measures.

b. Infrastructure and Operations – Jim Peugh, Chair

- Tecolote Creek pipe break was discussed which was a dramatic event. The pipe was a clay pipe from 1957 buried 12 feet deep. A 1400-foot by-pass pipe was needed to assist. The ground was very unstable which made it difficult to identify and repair.
- Discussed the Annual Report and future agenda items such as the CIP, and a presentation on the impact of water conservation on the sewer system, and the results of the valve study in the spring.

c. Outreach and Communications – Jerry Jones, Chair

- Pure Water presentation that was given today.
- Approved the Annual Report Outreach portion, and thanked the previous and current Chair for assisting.

14. Metro/JPA Report-Out – Ex-Officio Jones

- Pure Water presentation.
- Set a special meeting this month to discuss the Marina Pump Station and Pipeline and North City expansion to 30mgd. The Technical Advisory Committee will hear this tomorrow.

15. Proposed Agenda Items for Upcoming IROC Meetings

- Meetings are scheduled for November and December. He asked for a members their preference of a recess in either month. He noted he is not available for the November meeting however Member Mittal will Chair in his absence. It was decided there will be a recess in November, and the next meeting will be held December 19.
- Items for future meetings include:
 - Departmental briefing
 - Automated Metering Infrastructure (AMI) update
 - Field and Management Academies update
 - Update on restoration in project affecting the Water Shed
 - Approval of the IROC Annual Report

16. IROC Members' Comments

None.

17. Meeting adjourned at 11:20 a.m.

Minutes submitted by: Monica Foster