

Independent Rates Oversight Committee (IROC)
Meeting of April 19, 2021



1. **Roll Call**

Chair David Akin called the full IROC meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. Roll call was conducted and a quorum was declared. Attendance is reflected below:

<u>Members:</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Absent</u>
David Akin, Chair	X	
Tiffany Mittal, Vice Chair	X	
Christopher Dull		X
Gordon Hess	X	
Jeff Justus	X	
Jack Kubota	X	
Luis Osuna	X	
Jim Peugh	X	
Linh Quach	X	
<u>Ex-Officio Members:</u>		
Jerry Jones, Metro JPA	X	
Jim Peasley, Metro JPA Alt.		X

Some of the City representatives present included: Shauna Lorange (Director of Public Utilities), Lisa Celaya (Assistant Director), and Christine Leone (Chief Deputy City Attorney).

2. **Non-Agenda Public Comment** – *Members of the Public*

- A member of the public asked if PUD plans to hold public forums to present the proposed wastewater rate increase. PUD plans to reach out to the Council Members to discuss ways to partner with each Council District for effective public outreach efforts.

3. **Approval of Draft Minutes from Meeting of March 15, 2021** – *David Akin, Chair*

ACTION: Chair Akin asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Motion by Member Peugh. Second by member Osuna. Motion passed 8-0.

4. **Chair Updates** – *David Akin, Chair*

- Chair Akin asked Member Hess to update staff about the COSS Ad Hoc Committee meetings.
- Member Hess updated the IROC members on the two (2) COSS Ad Hoc Committee meetings held to date, informed them of the proposed rate increases and costs allocated to single families, multi-families, and commercial industrial users.

5. **Mayor and Council Staff Comments** – None.

Independent Rates Oversight Committee (IROC)
Meeting of April 19, 2021

6. **PUD Updates** – *Shauna Lorance, Director of Public Utilities*
 - The Mayor’s Budget was released and is scheduled for Public input on May 17th.
 - The COSS for water will be presented later due to pending litigation.

7. **Presentation: Delinquencies Update** – *Katie Keach, Deputy Director*

8. **Presentation: Wastewater Cost of Service and Water Pass Through** – *Lisa Celaya, Assistant Director*

9. **Discussion: Adopt Cover Letter for FY20 IROC Annual Report and Recommendations** – *David Akin, Chair*
ACTION: Chair Akin asked for a motion to approve with minor edits. Motion by Vice Chair Mittal. Second by Member Peugh. Motion passed 8-0.
 - Member Peugh recommended making an edit from “Pipeline and Facility Condition Assessments”, to just “Pipeline and Facility Condition”, dropping assessments.
 - Member Peugh suggested, adding an additional item such as hiring/retention – impact of wages and benefits on staffing.
 - Chair Akin stated IROC’s biographical information would be added to the FY19 Annual Report.
 - Member Kubota suggested adding Resilience, Innovation, and Technology to the cover letter.

10. **Metro JPA Report Out** – *Jerry Jones, Metro JPA Representative*
 - Jerry Jones was re-elected as Chair and Jim Peasley as Vice Chair.
 - Discussed the PUD 5-year Financial Outlook, Industrial Discharge Permit Program and Final Preliminary Analysis and Refinement on Pure Water, Phase II.

11. **Proposed Agenda Items for Upcoming IROC Meetings** – *David Akin, Chair*
 - Member Hess would like to have more information regarding the Pure Water, Phase II option mentioned in Member Jones’ Metro JPA Report Out.
 - Chair Akin would like to have a presentation on the Customer Support Division/Office of the City Treasurer Collection Process.
 - Member Kubota recommended adding an item on the “Valve Maintenance and Replacement Program in the Potable Water System” to the Infrastructure & Operations Subcommittee.

12. **IROC Members’ Comments** – *IROC Members*
 - Proposed agenda items carried over from the August 2020 minutes:
 - Lake Hodges Condition Assessment Update.
 - Chollas Operations Center Update.
 - Chollas Operations Center Tour.
 - Customer Support Division Call Center Update.
 - Proposed agenda items carried over from the October 2020 minutes:
 - COSS – Rate Structures.
 - Update on Outstanding Performance Audits (dashboard to track status of each audit).
 - Members are interest in having subcommittee meetings to address the Work Plan items.

Independent Rates Oversight Committee (IROC)
Meeting of April 19, 2021

- Proposed agenda items carried over from the November 2020 minutes:
 - Vice Chair Mittal would like for the COSS item to be added to the next agenda.
- Proposed agenda items carried over from the March 2021 minutes:
 - Chair Akin asked for an update on the Water Conservation Plan.
 - Infrastructure & Operations Subcommittee – Member Peugh asked for an updated on the level of infrastructure replacement and staffing the COSS is based on for both water and wastewater.

13. Meeting adjourned: 11:01 a.m.

Minutes submitted by Portia Bell