

Independent Rates Oversight Committee (IROC)
Meeting of September 20, 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:

Members:	Present	Absent
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) and Ray Palmucci (Deputy City Attorney).

2. **Non-Agenda Public Comment** – None.

3. **Approval of Draft Minutes from Meeting of August 16, 2021** – *David Akin, Chair*

ACTION: Chair Akin asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Motion by Vice Chair Mittal to approve. Second by Member Quach. Member Hess abstained. Motion passed with 7-0.

*Note: Member Justus arrived after item 3 was approved.

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

- Reminded members of upcoming selection of new officers and committee members.

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

6. **PUD Updates** – *Shauna Lorange, Director of Public Utilities*

- Provided an update on the COSS going to City Council on September 21, 2021.
- Discussed the division reorganizations (Water Distribution, Water Production, and Water Meter Services).
- Provided an AMI update and mentioned the new firm, HDR, that will develop the RFP.

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7. **Discussion: Wastewater COS Sewer Charges** – *Vice Chair Mittal and Member Hess*

- Member Hess introduced Mr. Bob Campbell. Member Hess recused himself from the discussion because he has worked with Mr. Campbell in the past on many issues and did not want to create the appearance of a conflict of interest.
- Mr. Campbell spoke on behalf of Cal West Apartments. He gave a summary of his credentials and said his analysis indicated the return to sewer factor was closer to 75 percent rather than the 95 percent used in the COSS, thus he felt that multi-family users were being charged for water that does not return to the sewer. He recommended PUD use a winter monitoring period similar to that used for single-family residential.
- Ms. Molly Kirkland, representing the Southern California Rental Housing Association spoke and said they would like the issue studied rather than just using assumptions.
- Chair Akin recommended a COSS analysis based on single-family homes to specifically focus on the 95 percent assumption for return to sewer due to the significant proposed cost increase.
- Vice Chair Mittal recommended continuing to push the Sewer COSS forward and to do a rate review in 12 months for multi-family. She also commented that multi-family should be more in line with single-family based on how the sewer consumption volume metric is calculated.

8. **Presentation: Water conservation Programs** – *Chelsea Klaseus, Program Manager*

9. **Metro/JPA Report Out** – None.

10. **Proposed agenda Items for Upcoming IROC Meetings** – *David Akin, Chair*

- Requests to resume subcommittee meetings in October with an update on community outreach.
- Member Kubota commented on a prior briefing from October 2018 regarding Regional Water Supply Reliability and the Stormwater Program. He asked for a similar item on a future agenda.
- Member Peugh requested an update on the Stormwater Capture Program.
- Finance Subcommittee – Update on the PUD budget and water sales.

11. **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.
- 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:
 - I&O Subcommittee – Member Peugh asked for an update on the level of infrastructure replacement and staffing the COSS is based on for both water and wastewater.

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- Proposed agenda items carried over from the April 2021 minutes:
 - 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 and Office of the City Treasurer collection process.
 - I&O Subcommittee – Member Kubota recommended adding an item on the “Valve Maintenance and Replacement Program in the Potable Water System (including fire hydrants)” to the agenda.
- Proposed agenda items carried over from the June 2021 minutes:
 - Chair Akin would like to invite the Director of the Office of Boards & Commissions to attend a IROC meeting to discuss the new streamlined processes and online portal.
- Proposed agenda items carried over from the July 2021 meeting:
 - Member Kubota would like to have an update on the Climate Action Plan.
 - Member Kubota asked for an update at full IROC and one of the subcommittees on the recent employee settlement (pending CAO approval on sharing this information).
 - Chair Akin and Member Kubota would like to combine the collection process presentation proposed in the April 2021 bullet above with an update on the status/timing on lifting water shutoff restrictions.
- Proposed agenda items carried over from the August 2021 meeting:
 - Full IROC - Pure Water Quarterly Reports, CIP Quarterly Reports, and an update from MEA and Local 127 about employee representation.
 - Finance Subcommittee - A deep dive into PUD delinquent accounts and the Office of the City Treasurer collections process.
 - O&C Subcommittee - Update on the Management/Field Academies and outreach for collections on delinquent accounts.
- IROC asked whether they could make a recommendation regarding the multi-family rates as previously discussed. The City Attorney representative stated there is nothing calendared on today's agenda that the Committee can take action on.

12. Meeting adjourned: 11:10 a.m.

Minutes submitted by Portia Bell