



City of San Diego Water Policy Implementation Task Force
January 29, 2013
2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Metropolitan Operations Center II (MOC) Auditorium
9192 Topaz Way, San Diego, CA 92123

Record of Actions

1. Call to Order – CHAIR CARY LOWE CALLED THE MEETING TO ORDER AT 2:05 P.M.

Members Present:

Corrine A. Brindley
Dawn Guendert
Gordon A. Hess
Cary D. Lowe
Faith Picking
Bruce Rainey
Glen Schmidt

Members Absent:

Julia M. Chunn-Heer
Keith R. Solar

2. Non-Agenda Public Comment

NONE

3. Task Force Member and Staff Comment

Deputy City Attorney Ray Palmucci updated the Task Force on a Council resolution to reconvene the ad hoc committee that would fill the vacant seats. Committee will also be able to amend and pass its own bylaws.

SPECIAL ORDERS OF BUSINESS

4. Approval of the Record of Action from the meeting of December 18, 2012

ACTION: Motion to approve failed as vote at time was 5-0-1 with Task Force member Brindley abstaining due to her absence on December 18, 2012. At the time the vote was taken a seventh member of the Task Force was not yet present.

ADOPTION AGENDA

5. Item-1: Information – Update/Presentation from Staff on City’s current Water Conservation Outreach and Education efforts

ACTION: No action taken. Information only.

Luis Generoso from the Public Utilities Department presented the department’s ongoing conservation outreach and marketing efforts.

The Task Force discussed the following:

1. Task Force member Guendert requested more information pertaining to all of the potential variables being presented. Could variables such as unemployment, water rates, and whether it was a wet or dry year be included? Staff commented these types of factors are a part of their multivariate analysis and could be broken out for future presentations.
2. Chair Lowe requested Public Utilities Department for further report taking into consideration the possible variables.

6. Item-2: Discussion/Action- Water Recycling Group Update and Adoption of Recommendations

ACTION:

Graywater Recommendations

Motion to adopt recommendations passed unanimously.

There was no request from the public to speak to this item.

Task Force member Guendert clarified issues from previous committee meeting about the requirements of permits for water systems and defining simple and complex systems for graywater.

ACTION:

Stormwater Recommendations

Motion to adopt recommendation #2 passed unanimously.

There was no request from the public to speak to this item.

Task Force member Guendert recommended the City look at other programs and evaluate their effectiveness and explore opportunities to develop low impact development demonstration project.

Task Force members Guendert and Schmidt discussed rewording recommendation #1 to include new and existing property owners and incentivizing watershed wide solutions. Ultimately the recommendation was not acted upon and returned to the working group for further review.

ACTION:

Recycled Water- Non Potable Reuse

Motion to adopt revised recommendation for non-potable reuse failed (4-3)

After the failure of the vote to revise this recommendation, the Chair confirmed the prior recommendation would remain in effect.

There was no request from the public to speak to this item.

Task Force member Guendert explained the working group's proposed revision for non-potable reuse to index the pricing to that of potable water. Existing recycled water rates were set at a discounted rate in 2001 with no provision to raise them. City Staff advised a study on recycled water pricing was still ongoing.

Task Force member Picking advised an increase in fees would be unacceptable for many users who were already paying for reclaimed water.

ACTION:

Recycled Water- Potable Reuse

Task Force member Guendert presented the working groups recommendations on potable reuse.

Motion to adopt recommendations as written passed unanimously.

There was no request from the public to speak to this item.

7. Item-3: Discussion/Action – Conservation Working Group Update and Adoption of Recommendations

ACTION:

Motion to adopt recommendations passed unanimously.

There was no request from the public to speak to this item.

Task Force member Schmidt amended recommendation 2 regarding evapotranspiration factors to include sub-item: (c) water budget for special use areas to remain at 1.0 ET adjustment factor.

Task Force member Rainey amended the motion to include that Recommendation 4 be adjusted such that report to the NR&C to be made Semi- Annually (2x/year)

The Task Force discussed unmetered water loss but definitions of unmetered waster loss were not clear. They additionally discussed the idea of residential and/or commercial retrofit requirements but could not agree on a recommendation. Recommendations 5 & 6 were referred back to the working group and the Task Force discussed the possibility of having someone from Water Operations within the Public Utilities Department present on unmetered water loss.

8. Item-4: Discussion- Innovation & Technology Working Group Update

ACTION:

No action taken. Information only.

There was no request from the public to speak to this item.

Task Force member Hess reported on the findings for on-site waste water treatment. He discussed a specific proposal on waste water treatment and re-use which had a lot of interest for new developments. While taking no position on the project until further details are available, it was recommended that the City develop policies for owner or developer driven on-site wastewater treatment policies.

Task Force member Hess also spoke about Advance Meter Infrastructure Technology and the pilot program to convert meters. Possible recommendations may include working with SDG&E to help integrate their technology with the city.

Task Force member Hess then discussed the ongoing leak detection study being performed by IBM and Richard Brady and Assoc. to help with energy saving means. And that a report out to the Task Force once the study was complete may be helpful.

9. Discussion/Action- Goals and Performance Measures

ACTION:

No action taken.

There was no request from the public to speak to this item.

Chair Lowe suggested 5 items to be considered regarding water supply goals and performance measures pertaining to reducing total treated water consumption and purchases by 2020 and 2030. Numbers given were not precise, and intended to stimulate discussion.

City Staff Luis Generoso commented that goal number one was stricter than the goals currently being met and surpassed. He added that recommendation number five was somewhat ongoing currently with turf-replacement programs being funded by grants. He advised the current grant funding levels would not be sufficient for the goal set by that recommendation.

City Staff Marsi Steirer commented on recommendation number two, regarding the reduction of volume of imported water. She indicated the goal was ambitious considering the deals that County Water Authority and Metropolitan have concerning water projects.

Independent Budget Analyst Seth Gates suggested performance measures for each recommendation be included for tracking larger goals of the Task Force. He added that this could be a part of the larger City budget as a Water Policy Implementation performance measure section. These measures would have previous actuals, current numbers, and projections.

Task Force member Schmidt commented that it would be prudent to look at the Long Range Water Resource Plan for goal setting. It includes triggers at specific dates pertaining to IPR and the EPA permit at Pt. Loma. He would like to tie this plan into the Task Force's goals to ensure achievable numbers.

10. Adjournment – CHAIR CARY LOWE ADJOURNED THE MEETING AT APPROXIMATELY 4:40 P.M.

The next Task Force meeting will be held on February 25th at 2:00 pm.

For more information contact Greg Parkington at Council District 1 Office at 619.236.6611 or GParkington@sandiego.gov
Previously approved meeting minutes and the information about the Water Policy Implementation Task Force are now available through the City's website.