



**City of San Diego Water Policy Implementation Task Force
March 26, 2013
2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.**

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

1. Call to Order- CHAIR CARY LOWE CALLED THE MEETING TO ORDER AT 2:04 P.M.

Members Present:

Julia M. Chunn-Heer
Dawn Guendert
Corrine A. Brindley
Gordon A. Hess
Cary D. Lowe
Keith R. Solar

Members Absent:

Faith Picking
Glen Schmidt
Bruce Rainey

2. Non- Agenda Public Comment

William Schwarz of Niagra Conservation introduced their water conservation program the “Green City Program.”

Chair Lowe suggested Mr. Schwarz meet with a Task Force working group, and from there it would be up to the working group to make a recommendation.

Patrick Crais of the CLCA spoke on behalf of the contractors to offer their support for the Task Force.

3. Task Force Member and Staff Comment

Chair Lowe asked to move next meeting to April 29th due to a scheduling conflict. This was acceptable and agreed to by those present.

SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS

4. Approval of the Record of Action Items from February 25, 2013

ACTION: Record of Action items approved 5-0-1.

AGENDA

5. Information Item – “Water & Energy Nexus” Presentation by Soma Bhadra, CEO Proteus Consulting.

ACTION: No action taken. Information only.

Soma Bhadra of Proteus Consulting discussed the connection between water and energy issues, noting that separate regulation structures make it difficult to reduce costs. Ms. Bhadra introduced ideas and concepts that would provide a synergy between the two.

Chair Lowe suggested Ms. Bhadra to send specific recommendations to the Task Force for possible consideration at a future meeting.

6. Discussion & Action Item – Water Recycling Workgroup Update and Recommendations

Task Force member Guendert introduced a recommendation to get non-potable recycled water to an economically sustainable position, noting that currently potable water ratepayers subsidize the costs of non-potable ratepayers. The Working Group proposed separating the production of waste water from the retail and distribution side.

Task Force member Solar questioned how distribution would be set up through the public/private partnership. Task Force member Guendert advised that there are many options for distribution, but none are identified by the recommendation.

Task Force member Brindley questioned if changing the rates for non-potable water put an end to the project all together. Public Utilities Staff Mr. Eidson noted that the city is currently looking at recycled water pricing.

ACTION- Motion to amend previously passed recommendation regarding non-potable water, which read:

Existing recycled water rates were set at a discounted rate in 2001 and no provision was made for increasing them. No adjustment to the discounted rate has been made since 2001. Revisit rate structure for new users of non-potable recycled water and adjust to recover cost of service or at least index them to keep up with increases in other water rates. The City should revisit the rate structure for non-potable recycled water users per the completion of the Recycled Pricing Study in 2013.

To read instead as follows:

Existing recycled water rates were set at a discounted rate in 2001 and no provision was made for increasing them. No adjustment to the discounted rate has been made since 2001. The recommendation is that the City re-visit rate structure for existing and new users of non-potable recycled water and institute a discounted rate that is indexed to other potable water rate, to the extent that it does not exceed the cost of service.

Motion passed 5-1.

7. Discussion and Action Item – Task Force Goals and Performance Measures

Chair Lowe re-visited his goals and performances from previous meetings. The determination was made to discuss each goal independently.

Goal 1- Based on the average treated water consumption between 1995 and 2005 of 166 gallons per capita per day, reduce that 30% (to 116 gallons per capita per day) by 2025 and 40% (to 100 gallons per capita per day) by 2035, not including use of recycled water.

[Note: Water purification is expected to steadily increase in the coming years, regardless of how successful conservation is, so either recycled water should not be credited toward reduction in consumption or the reduction targets should be raised]

Task Force members wanted to emphasize their agreement to “not including use of recycled water”

Deputy Director, Marsi Steirer asked the task force to use the same methodology the City Council adopted in 2011 which, for the time being, would allow the use of recycled water to be counted towards the goals.

Motion to accept the goal failed 3-2.

Goal 2- Based on anticipated delivery of approximately 200,000 acre feet of imported water from the County Water Authority in 2015, reduce the volume of purchases of water originating outside the County 12% by 2020 and 35% by 2035.

The Chair corrected year 2020, it should have been 2025.

Motion to accept the goal with revision passed 5-0.

Goal 3- Increase production of recycled water, from indirect potable reuse and/or other sources, to 10% of total treated water delivered within the City by 2025 and 35% of total by 2035. Adjust these goals upward if indirect potable reuse is increased at a greater rate than currently anticipated and/or if direct potable reuse is instituted.

Task Force member Guendhert suggested striking “indirect” from the recommendation noting the uncertain direction of the City’s advanced water recycling project. Goal 3 was revised to read:

Increase production of recycled water, from potable reuse and/or other sources, to 10% of total treated water delivered within the City by 2025 and 35% of total by 2035. Adjust these goals upward if potable reuse is increased at a greater rate than currently anticipated.

Motion to accept the revised goal passed 5-0

Goal 4- Establish a program for treatment and recycling of storm water, based on a collaborative study between the Public Utilities Department and the Transportation & Storm Water Department, with a goal of commencing implementation of such a program by 2020.

Motion to accept the goal passed 5-0

Goal 5- Expand the program for conversion of landscaping to drought-tolerant planting, to include an annual minimum of 1,000 residential lots and 200 commercial sites, based on a rebate of up to \$3,000 per single-family residential lot and up to \$9,000 per commercial site.

[Note: This is a substantial increase from the program's current activity level but only a slight increase in the City's financial commitment.]

After Task Force discussion on the inability to determine if there will be enough money available for the rebates, Goal 5 was revised to read:

Expand the program for conversion of landscaping to drought-tolerant planting, to include an annual minimum of 1,000 residential lots and 200 commercial sites, based on availability of a rebate of up to \$3,000 per single-family residential lot and up to \$9,000 per commercial site.

Motion to accept the revised goal passed 5-0

8. ADJOURNMENT-

CHAIR CARY LOWE ADJOURNED THE MEETING AT APPROXIMATELY 4:15 P.M.

The next Task Force meeting will be held on Monday, April 29th at 2:00 P.M.