



**City of San Diego Water Policy Implementation Task Force
June 24, 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:

Corrine A. Brindley
Julia M. Chunn-Heer
Konstantine P. Georgakakos
Dawn Guendert
Gordon A. Hess
Cary D. Lowe
Faith Picking
Bruce Rainey
Glen Schmidt
Keith R. Solar
Robert Thiele

Members Absent:

NONE

2. Non- Agenda Public Comment

None.

3. Task Force Member and Staff Comment

Chair Lowe introduced new Task Force members Konstantine P. Georgakakos and Robert Theile.

Chair Lowe mentioned Orange County's expanding waste water program (by 40% in the next two years) as a potential model for the City of San Diego and other jurisdictions.

Chair Lowe mentioned reading an article about how Milwaukee has gained an identity as a water innovations center for their promotion of companies prominent in water-related research and production. He suggested that this could be replicated in San Diego.

SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS

4. Approval of the Record of Action Items from May 21, 2013

ACTION: Record of Action items approved (8-0-2). Task Force member Picking not yet present.

AGENDA

5. Discussion & Action Item – Innovation & Technology Working Group Update and Recommendations

Task Force member Hess introduced a recommendation to change the wording of Recommendations IT8 and IT9. These would direct the city to conduct an open stakeholder process to create guidelines for on-site wastewater treatment projects and to provide direction for proposed projects meeting certain criteria.

Task Force member Guendert requested that the strikeout in IT9 be reinserted in the modified version, with the support of the Working Group.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

ACTION: Motion to amend Recommendations IT8 and IT9, with Task Force member Guendert's request to reinsert the struck-out text in IT9. Motion passed 11-0.

6. Discussion & Action Item – Conservation Working Group Update, Recommendations and Goal

Task Force member Schmidt introduced a recommendation to change the wording of Recommendation C6 to emphasize not only trees, but also other groundcover species. He recommended adding new Recommendation C11, to emphasize the environmental and social benefits of low and moderate water use species, thereby protecting them from impacts of water conservation efforts.

Task Force member Chunn-Heer explained that trees often are impacted by water conservation, so their benefits should be specifically mentioned.

Task Force member Georgakakos questioned how the level of water conservation is determined. Task Force member Schmidt advised that documentation widely used in the field of landscape architecture distinguishes levels of water use of various plant and tree species.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Tershia D'Elgin from the Community Forest Advisory Board informed the Task Force that the city no longer has an urban forest program or an Urban Forester. Therefore, Ms. D'Elgin recommended an action item to reestablish /fund the Advisory Board and Urban Forester.

ACTION: Motion to approve C6 as presented. Motion passed 11-0.

ACTION: Motion to approve C11 as presented with substitutes to ground cover species, along with the accompanying Performance Standard and Timing. Motion passed 9-2.

Task Force member Schmidt described the Working Group's efforts to draft a conservation goal relating to overall reduction in water consumption in the City, and presented a proposed new Goal.

Chair Lowe explained that there had been much concern expressed at the previous meeting regarding how this would apply to commercial and industrial users, and also regarding whether recycled water should be categorized as conservation.

Task Force member Hess introduced a different version of this goal.

The Task Force debated the issue of crediting recycled water in toward conservation efforts. The point was raised that potable reuse alone could achieve a near 35% reduction in gpcd per Mr. Hess's proposal. However, the State and region already allows for recycled water to count toward achieving the existing conservation goals.

ACTION: Motion to adopt the following goal as introduced by Task Force member Hess:

The Task Force acknowledges the substantial progress the residents and businesses of San Diego have made in meeting the state-mandated goal of reducing per capita water consumption by 20 percent by 2020. With implementation of the recommendations made by the Task Force, including the proposed potable reuse project, the Task Force believes that it is possible to expand this goal and achieve a 35 percent reduction in calculated per capita water usage by the year 2035.

Motion passed 7-3-1.

ACTION: Motion by Task Force member Chunn-Heer to adopt the conservation goal as proposed by the Conservation Working Group. Motion failed 4-6-1.

Chair Lowe asked Task Force member Chunn-Heer to introduce a new potential goal that would best capture the Task Force's thoughts on environmental benefits and consequences of water projects. Task Force member Chunn-Heer presented several options to the group which sought to acknowledge the environmental issues inherent in water policy decisions and the opportunities to achieve multiple benefits in the course of water management.

ACTION: Motion to adopt the following goal as introduced:

Consider the tradeoffs between expanding multiple benefits and potential environmental consequences in water management.

Motion passed 10-0-1.

7. Discussion and Action Item – Final Task Force Compilation of Recommendations

a. Performance Measures, Timelines, and Headings

Chair Lowe presented the final Task Force Compilation of Recommendations. The Compilation of Recommendations included proposed performance measures, timelines and headings, intended to

help the staff and City Council identify actions they will need to take to implement the Task Force's recommendations.

Chair Lowe advised that whether the City Council will take any of the proposed actions or how soon the Council may take such actions will be at their discretion. He further noted that some recommendations require allocation of departmental resources and/or appropriations of funds by the Council, and that any such appropriations would have to wait until the next city budget cycle.

Task Force member Picking asked that the Task Force revisit Recommendation WR5. She advised that the City already is dealing with the storm water management programs in accordance with the new Regional Water Quality Control Board permit requirements. Consequently, she suggested that the Task Force should not recommend funding of certain programs, but rather should propose investigating them first.

Seth Gates from the Office of the Independent Budget Analyst informed the Task Force that his office is planning to make a presentation on the new storm water permit to the Natural Resources & Culture Committee.

ACTION: Motion to use the word 'investigate' rather than the word 'develop' in WR5.
Motion passed 10-0-1.

Task Force member Thiele suggested editing Goal 2 by deleting the phrase "from potable reuse and/or other sources".

ACTION: Motion to amend Goal 2 with Mr. Thiele's corrections. Motion passed 11-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

ACTION: Motion to adopt Compilation of Goals and Recommendations document in entirety.
Motion passed 11-0.

8. Discussion and Action Item – Transmittal Letter

a. Working Group Reports as Appendices

Chair Lowe presented a draft letter for transmittal of the Task Force final report to the City Council, and asked for any comments or suggestions, which he would incorporate into the final version of the letter.

The Task Force discussed minor editing changes and areas for emphasis in the transmittal letter. Chair Lowe asked them to submit any additional comments by email.

Chair Lowe reported that Councilwoman Lightner had suggested attaching all of the Task Force's Records of Actions to the final report, and asked for Task Force comments. There were no objections, and Chair Lowe's indicated his intention to follow the suggestion.

Chair Lowe indicated that the final report will be presented to IROC at their next meeting on July 15, 2013. They will be asked review it and prepare any comments they wish to submit to the City Council, and transmit those comments to the Task Force at the earliest possible time. The goal is to

transmit the final report and associated documents to the City Council in time to have it reviewed by the Natural Resources and Culture Committee at their September meeting. In the event IROC has comments that require the Task Force to reconvene, notices will be sent to all Task Force members. A meeting would then be scheduled, with the hope that at least a majority can attend, so that actions can be taken.

Chair Lowe thanked all the Task Force members, and especially the Task Force officers and Working Group Chairs, for their service. He also thanked Task Force staff, other city staff, representatives of other public agencies and members of the public, who assisted the Task Force and/or made information presentations to the Task Force. Task Force member Schmidt thanked Chair Lowe for his service.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

Chair Lowe explained that, since the Task Force may not meet again, the City Attorney had advised that the recording of this meeting should be adopted as the official Record of Action.

ACTION: Motion to adopt the recorded version of the meeting as the Record of Action, and authorize staff to prepare their usual written summary, subject to Chair Lowe's review, to be included in the Task Force's records. Motion passed 11-0.

9. ADJOURNMENT-

CHAIR CARY LOWE ADJOURNED THE MEETING AT APPROXIMATELY 4:04 P.M.

This is currently the last Task Force meeting, unless suggestions made by the Independent Rates Oversight Committee necessitate an additional meeting.