



Pure Water North City Phase 1 Construction Projects
University City Working Group Meeting #5 Summary

North City Water Reclamation Plant
Wednesday, June 5, 4:30 – 7:30 p.m.

This document is not intended to capture verbatim comments from the meeting or function as meeting minutes. It is a summary of the questions posed by the Working Group members and the answers provided by City staff and consultants. The questions and answers are unattributed.

Working Group Members Present

William “Bill” Beck, Renaissance La Jolla HOA
Barry Bernstein, University City (UC) Community Association
Ruth DeSantis, UC Community Foundation
Jerry Malamud, Resident
Katie Rodolico, Resident

Working Group Members Absent

Brenda Anderson, Resident
Bob Brown, Resident
Andie Hosch, UC Planning Group
Merle Langston, UC Community Association
Rita Lim Wilby, Resident, Chemist, Business Owner
Pia Mantovani-Sud, Resident
Amy Murad, Resident
Tama Snow, Engineer

Project Team Members Present

Chris Bessas, Jacobs
Dylan Grise, Katz & Associates
John Helminski, Public Utilities Department
Stephen Lindsay, Public Works Department
Sean McCarty, Consultant, Public Utilities Department
Natalia Hentschel, Facilitator, Katz & Associates
Tiffany Ngo, Katz & Associates

Other Attendees

Bridger Langfur, Council District 1

Public Members from Sign-in Sheet

Eleanor Beck, Vista La Jolla
Judie Malamud, Vista La Jolla
Chris Nielsen, UC Planning Group

Welcome and Introductions

John Helminski welcomed the University City Working Group (WG) to the fifth meeting and introduced Natalia Hentschel as the new meeting facilitator. N. Hentschel went over the agenda to present topics to be covered in Meeting 5. She informed the WG that Tiffany Ngo would be the new WG community liaison.

WG members received binder materials including an updated community liaison contact sheet, Meeting 4 summary, meeting agenda, PowerPoint presentation, updated matrix of WG recommendations and City responses, and the sections of the Morena Pipelines B3 Alignment construction contract bid specifications that pertain to recommendations previously provided by the WG.

To view project and meeting materials, visit the Pure Water San Diego website at phase1.purewatersd.org.

The following are questions or comments from WG members:

- **WG Member: What will we do for the WG members who are absent from the meeting tonight?**
 - Project Team: We will reach out to the absent members to see if they would like to schedule makeup sessions. We will do our best to fill in any gaps in information for anyone who missed this meeting. If you hear any concerns from members who were not able to make it, please share that and let them know they can ask for the meeting that is shared in this meeting.
 - WG Member: When will the makeup session time be?
 - Project Team: We would work with them to find the time best for them.
- **WG Member: Is there a possibility for Meeting 6 to send a list of dates and times so we can pick what works best for us? We could then meet on the date that works best for the most people.**
 - Project Team: That is a great suggestion and there is no reason we would not be able to do so. Although it is still a matter of response, so we would hope that people would respond with their availability.

Pure Water Program Updates

J. Helminski provided an update on recent Pure Water Program highlights and milestones since the last WG meeting. He informed the WG that the Pure Water Program received a grant from the Bureau of Reclamation and low-interest loans from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) WIFIA Program. The City is also expecting an acceptance letter for the Title 22 Report from the State Water Resources Control Board. The State Water Resources Control Board also identified Pure Water as a program to receive State Revolving Fund (SRF) loans. Finally, the first Notice to Proceed (NTP) for Early Site Work at the North City Water Reclamation Plant and future North City Pure Water Facility site was issued in late May 2019.

The following are questions from WG members by category:

Funding

- **WG Member: Are funding opportunities are guaranteed (i.e. from U.S. EPA and SRF loans). Can the federal and state government change their minds?**
 - Project Team: We have a funding agreement with the EPA, it is a signed document. We have laid out schedule for them what the expenditures will be. We have never experienced money getting pulled.
- **WG Member: There is a \$614 million loan from the EPA and a \$646 million loan from the state, so you are getting \$1.4 billion in loans and \$9 million in grants. Is this all for Phase 1?**
 - Project Team: This is all for Phase 1.
 - WG Member: How much will Phase 1 cost?
 - Project Team: City Council approved \$1.81 billion for Phase 1 back in November and we have \$1.25 billion available to us.
- **WG Member: PUD has a new director coming in from Monterey, has she been down here to do some discussion?**
 - Project Team: She was here for a meet and greet last week. Her name is Shauna Lorange, she will not be starting until Aug. 1.
 - WG Member: I heard City Council in their latest budget approved six positions for Pure Water. Is that technical staff or administrative staff?
 - Project Team: Yes, technical staff. When you get into construction, you want to get key people on board on the operator side on staff as the plant is being built so they understand how the facility is built so they are not coming in at the eleventh hour and trying to figure out how to work. These will be people who have water and wastewater experience on hand to learn how to operate these plants. After July, we will be standing up PUD's Pure Water Operations Division. We also need to do testing at Miramar Reservoir to get a baseline of data so as we introduce Pure Water we can see what the effects are.
- **WG Member: Are you measuring heavy metals in the water?**
 - Project Team: There are no heavy metals in Pure Water. A common practice at water treatment facilities is to backwash from the treatment plant itself. The plant backwashes into the lake and it settles out. They do this in every reservoir in Southern California. We are looking, as a safety precaution, to not allow that to happen anymore.
 - WG Member: Will the sediment be tested?
 - Project Team: Yes, it will be tested and the effects of Pure Water on that sediment as well.

Program Phases

- **WG Member: This is Phase 1; how many phases are there?**
 - Project Team: Originally in January 2015, we were looking at three different phases. We still talk about it in terms of three phases. Originally, it looked like we were going to 15 million gallons per day (mgd) of purified water to Miramar Reservoir. The second phase was going to be 15 mgd at the South Bay Water Reclamation Plant down toward the border. The third phase was going to be the Central Area for the remaining 50 mgd. The City owns old property, the old Navy Training Center near the

airport at the end of Terminal 2 on North Harbor Drive, that's where we plan to build the next phase of the Pure Water Program. It will be another water reclamation plant at that location and Pure Water Facility out toward Mission Valley.

- WG Member: Will Phases 2 and 3 be funded? Or will we have a project where Phase 1 is complete and then what do we do with Phase 2 and Phase 3?
- Project Team: Each of the phases are independent.
- WG Member: You are spending a lot of money to put pipes in but if you don't have those other two phases up and running then to produce the water...
- Project Team: What's being built for Phase 1 of Pure Water is contained within Phase 1. For Phase 2, those would be separate pipelines from Phase 1 in a different area. We found there was more water need in the North City area than the southern part. We are now doing an alternative study for Phase 2. Preliminary design would not begin until 2024.
- WG Member: But your whole goal with Pure Water is three phases.
- Project Team: The goal is to provide one-third of our water from Pure Water. It could be two phases or three. The original plan was to produce 15 mgd at North City but now we are doing 30 mgd. There was more water need in the northern part of the City than the southern part. We envision that there will only be a second phase. We are now conducting what is called an alternative study that includes the actual siting of the plant, what are the effects on the wastewater treatment facility at Point Loma, all of that is ongoing now for Phase 2. Preliminary design would not even begin until 2024.
- WG Member: If I am understanding correctly, all the phases are independent of each other. Is it possible for Phase 1 to be completed and Phases 2 and 3 never comes to fruition?
- Project Team: It is too far off to tell. We have a lot of work to do between now and then.
- **WG Member: Where would the biosolids go for Phase 2? Right now, we are piggybacking off an existing facility. I would assume that you would need to collocate near a biosolids facility otherwise you're running more pipes.**
 - Project Team: In that case, you are diverting more. The reason for putting a plant near the airport is that it's near the last and largest pump station (Pump Station 2). There's two 84-inch force mains and that's where all the wastewater comes together and that gets pumped to the Point Loma Wastewater Treatment Plant (Point Loma). We would be scalping the wastewater from that location and that is where the water reclamation would occur. Currently the Metrobiosolids Center handles all the biosolids and it will continue to do so.
 - WG Member: So, you are going to have a sludge line from the airport up to Miramar?
 - Project Team: No, it would go to Point Loma for processing. The existing sludge line from Point Loma will still be used.
 - WG Member: Is the federal government okay with that? I thought that was one of the reasons this program was born because the government was concerned about the treated wastewater discharge from Point Loma.

Project Team: Yes, that is compliant. Pure Water will offload flows to Point Loma by more than 50 percent of what is going into the ocean. All phases would use 100 mgd of wastewater to produce 83 mgd of potable water which would reduce discharges from Point Loma.

Project Schedule Update

Sean McCarty provided updates on the schedule for the Morena Pipelines segment through University City, including contract release dates, NTP for construction, and construction duration and anticipated completion dates for each project. He explained that the Morena Pipelines will be split up into three construction packages, or segments, each going out to bid separately. The B3 Alignment, located in University City, will be the first to go out to bid.

The following are questions or comments from WG members:

- **WG Member: When will you know when you will be in front of specific areas?**
 - Project Team: In Meeting 6, we hope to have the contractor's schedule. Our scheduling requirement is very robust. We expect to have their plan and anticipated dates. However, schedules can change so we will continue to give you a three week lookahead. It gets updated as we go.

Overview of Constructability Reviews

S. Lindsay introduced Chris Bessa as a member of the Construction Management (CM) team. He explained how the CM team conducted constructability reviews by closely reviewing the design plans. He informed the WG that the project team changed the pipeline material from HDPE to steel following the constructability review to minimize impacts on traffic. S. Lindsay also discussed the development of an Environmental Compliance Plan that gathers all environmental restrictions into one document to ensure all measures are being implemented reported and the reporting requirements are completed on time. Finally, S. McCarty explained a requirement in the bid specifications for the contractor to phase pavement restoration.

The following are questions or comments from WG members organized by category:

Change to Steel Pipe

- **WG Member: Will this be the same material as the 48-inch pipeline?**
 - Project Team: Yes, it's the same exact pipe material but it's a 30-inch diameter. With the 36-inch plastic, there's about three inches of thickness on the outside of a 30-inch diameter so it becomes 36-inch on the outside. With the steel, since it's somewhat stronger, is a lot thinner. We need a 30-inch interior diameter for flow so we just decreased the pipeline by six inches off the overall diameter.
- **WG Member: Was the cost significant in terms of changing over?**
 - Project Team: It was about \$1 million more added up across the whole alignment. The steel is more expensive but time is expensive too.
 - WG Member: If it is true, it is a safer material.
 - Project Team: Yes, will provide a higher factor of safety. They're both safe but steel has a higher level of safety. Another reason steel is more productive is you can fit the pieces together as you go, you can backfill and then you can weld it from the inside of the pipe. This is nice when you go through the intersection.
- **WG Member: How do you weld a 30-inch pipeline from the inside?**
 - Project Team: The pipe is well ventilated, there are robust safety measures we have to follow.

Construction Schedule

- **WG Member: Will see some sort of "breaking ground" on Genesee later this year?**
 - Project Team: =The steel pipe first needs to be fabricated. The contractor will pothole along the alignment and see what they have. They will put together a fabrication plan, send it to the manufacturer, then the manufacturer will start fabricating the pipe. That will take some time. The first thing you will see is potholing and then there may not be any work for a while until the pipe is manufactured.
 - WG Member: When will we see activity near our homes? I told people April 2019 then April came and we did not see anything. I would like to know when I can notify my community about the work schedule.
 - Project Team: You will see some activity before that but it will likely be April 2020 that the contractor will start laying the actual pipe.

Utility Relocation

- **WG Member: You said you have to fabricate pipe because you have to move around SDG&E utilities. I saw there was a dispute over who is paying for utility relocation, is this conflict still going on?**
 - Project Team: SDG&E is designing all the utility relocations and we will be moving forward with the relocations later this fall. The City is paying SDG&E to design and relocate the utilities. We are still reserving the right to recoup the funds.
 - WG Member: The consumer pays no matter if it is the Public Utilities Department or SDG&E.
 - WG Member: SDG&E may start work to relocate the utilities before you. Will they be digging to relocate utilities on our streets before Pure Water work?
 - Project Team: We do not have any conflicts in the B3 alignment (University City area), most of the conflicts are on Morena Blvd near Sherman Street.
 - Project Team: SL: We pushed the alignment where we could to avoid conflicts with SDG&E. We worked to value engineer this. When you get into early design aspects, you start with a list of 700 conflicts along the alignment and we have gotten them down to about 20 conflicts. A couple we have workarounds already. There's 20 conflicts in total and in the case of about eight of them, we just have to be careful digging. SDG&E does not have to relocate but they have to be out there to make sure we do not get too close to their line.
- **WG Member: Since there is a lawsuit, will that impact the start of trenching?**
 - Project Team: We do not anticipate that.
 - WG Member: But you cannot start work until there is a resolution to the lawsuit, is that correct?
 - Project Team: According to the City Attorney's office, we are not impacted on the start date unless there is a judge that issues a court injunction.

Pavement Restoration

- **WG Member: Will this be a complete pavement restoration not just asphalt?**
 - Project Team: Yes, it will be the entire street from curb to curb.
 - WG Member: What if there is a median in the street?

- Project Team: The City's Transportation & Storm Water Department agreed to fund the other side of the street.
- WG Member: And these "extras" are funded?
- Project Team: Yes.

Review of Working Group Matrix and Bid Specification Language

S. McCarty presented the change in percentages of recommendations adopted, evaluated and not able to be adopted as proposed since the WG's previous meeting. N. Hentschel walked the WG through the matrix document to go over each recommendation that had been updated. S. McCarty explained how each adopted recommendation was incorporated into the bid specifications and why the project team was not able to adopt other recommendations.

The following are questions from WG members:

Staging Areas/Parking

- **WG Member: Is there an assumption that the contractor will be working with University City High School to coordinate? The school has a lot of events going on.**
 - Project Team: Yes, this will be part of the Construction Outreach Plan. The intent on avoiding staging is to push them to work during summer vacation.
- **WG Member: Will construction conflict with sports games or other events at University City High School?**
 - Project Team: No, the specifications require that the contractor work around the school.
- **WG Member: Who can we report contractors to if they are in violation of these specifications?**
 - Project Team: You can contact Steve Lindsay or the community liaison. As soon as we hear something about that, we will work to take care of it. This will be a deeper discussion in Meeting 6 once we have the contractor onboard and the Construction Outreach Plan.

Outreach, Communications and Notifications

- **WG Member: Have you looked into adding construction updates into Google Maps?**
 - Project Team: Yes, I have looked into this but have not found a clear answer. We are also researching adding construction updates into Waze.
 - WG Member: Did you reach out to UCSD regarding getting students to develop an app for construction?
 - Project Team: We have not so far. That is one of the things we are working on and evaluating as part of the Construction Outreach Plan.

Working Days and Hours

- **WG Member: For some of these recommendations that were adopted, has it really been adopted if in the bid specifications it is left up to the contractor? What if they want to work just eight hours instead of a longer working day to finish the work more quickly?**

- Project Team: It is up to the contractor on a case by case basis. If they want to work just eight hours, we cannot stop them. Parts of the alignment on Genesee see a real spike in traffic at 5 a.m. so if they want to work until 7 a.m., we cannot let them do that. We are leaving it flexible so if they fall behind, they have got to catch up. It's hard with traffic control at these locations.
- **WG Member: Why was a 30-day break in between work on Nobel and work on Genesee not able to be adopted?**
 - Project Team: When we have talked to contractors, the way they plan to build this is they start at one point and move toward the end. This would require them to jump and then there would be different transitions. A 30-day break would mean that there are 30 days where the contractor is not working. If they were to do that, it would delay our entire construction schedule. We would like to give you a 30-day break but we can give you seven
- **WG Member: What is the possibility of having additional sound walls?**
 - Project Team: There will be sound walls at the Westwood apartments. It is hard to have sound walls along the entire alignment because you are constantly setting up and breaking down the sound walls. We will put sound walls where the tunnel launch shaft is; that is where equipment is the loudest. To be effective, the sound walls need to be thick. They take a long time to put up and take down. We want to move quickly and get through an area as fast as possible.
 - WG Member: Maybe we can table this conversation once we have the contractor.
 - Project Team: Yes, we agree.
- **WG Member: Can we obtain a copy of the traffic study slide?**
 - Project Team: Yes, we will email this slide to you. According to the traffic study, the pattern on Genesee is a morning and lunch traffic spike. Then the contractor is down to a two-hour window during the day that they can work. There is not a large enough window during the day that would be allow for work. Our goal is that when we are not in working hours, the street is back to two lanes in each direction. You will have the same level of traffic as you do now.
 - WG Member: So, you are going to be working at night from 9 p.m. - 5 a.m.?
 - Project Team: Yes. The horizontal line on the slide shows "level of service C." It goes from A to F as a rating. The level C is with the traffic control that we have planned, which is one lane in each direction. During normal working hours, we are at level of service A. With two lanes in each direction, the bar shoots up.
- **WG Member: Will the community be notified if the contractor decides to work longer days?**
 - Project Team: We will work with them to notify the community. There are certain scenarios where they could be in the middle of an operation and must finish. Typically, we would not allow them to start any work that would take longer than eight hours. But if they are running late and need to catch up, we need to have them finish.
 - WG Member: Can we request that we will be notified even if it is at the last minute so that we can notify the rest of the community?

Project Team: We can add that to the Construction Outreach Plan.

Miscellaneous

- **WG Member: If the trees fall, even if you charge \$10,000 - \$30,000 a tree, you cannot replace a tree of that size because one would not be available.**
 - Project Team: We would purchase the largest commercially available tree. We are trying to avoid the need to replace trees with this huge penalty. I met the City forester, Brian Widener, and we walked the alignment. He said he would be out there during construction to monitor. We will saw cut our alignment first, then we peel off the asphalt. We will be looking for major roots.
- **WG Member: So, you're going to do "Mohs surgery," peeling back layer by layer. Can I make a special request? The arborist who handles the trees at Balboa Park, Erich Kast, can we consult with him before this any of this work is done? I think that the more opinions we have would be better for this. He told me he was the City arborist.**
 - Project Team: He is listed as a City horticulturalist. He probably has an arborist license. Perhaps we could invite Brian Widener to Meeting 6 if you have questions? Erich works with Parks and Recreation and that is different from the Streets division where Brian works.
 - WG Member: Yes, but we would also like to invite Erich Kast. Can we do that?
 - Project Team: Yes.

Public Comment

- **Public Member: I have a comment having to do with your contract and road restoration. I think the contractors should provide some sort of longer-term guarantee. There are a lot of streets that have been resurfaced where the restoration does not last. It is a serious concern where the area is being dug up. There should be a mechanism in the contract to recover the costs from the contractors to remediate the roads if they are not restored properly. I would urge you to make sure there is some sort of contract provision so it is possible to recover costs from the contractors, particularly for LLCs that handle large contracts where it is a "one and done" type of company and they disappear along with their liability at the end of their contract period. If the project management would consider, as strong language as possible, to make sure that over a five to ten-year period the restoration jobs are good.**
 - Project Team: Typically, we find that problems will occur because of a construction defect. In California, there is a ten-year limit. You can go up to ten years on construction defects. We have a similar issue near our office building where the contractor did a slurry seal and now it is peeling up after less than a year. Public Works identified a particular mix that a contractor was using (i.e. too much rubber) that did not meet specifications so it is peeling up. The City is going after the contractor and the goal is to recoup the money and repair those streets.
 - Public Member: Maybe a look at the contractor's job history would be a good idea as well. You can look at what they have done.
 - Project Team: In terms of material defects, you would see defects after one year. I anticipate that the paving work here will be done by multiple subcontractors because there is going to be a small business percentage requirement. There are going to be some subcontractor requirements for pipeline jobs. This would not be a small outfit to do the paving because it would be a big job. It would be a local firm who has been around the business for a while. If they have a current license with the state, it is hard not to allow them to work.

- **Public Member: For the traffic study, we live behind UTC mall. There are about 11 homes that would be affected. I would like to know when you are planning to work on those, what time of day, off Town Center Drive.**
 - Project Team: Town Center Drive between Nobel and La Jolla Village Drive is day work from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. There is no night work. Contractors can submit a request to work outside of those hours but we would go to the community to get your feedback and input as part of our evaluation.
 - WG Member: This particular WG will evaluate the request and provide input.
 - Project Team: We would not stretch the work hours that much and would not switch to not work. A change in work hours would consist of maybe starting at 7:30 instead of 8:30 a.m. or ending the day at 4:30 instead of 3:30 p.m.
- **Council District 1 Representative: Councilmember Bry wants to express her gratitude for the residents who show up on their own time to be part of this process. Please know that I, and the rest of her staff, are available to you as well.**

Next Steps

N. Hentschel went over next steps and the next proposed WG meeting. During Meeting 6, WG members will meet the contractor and see the construction schedule and Construction Outreach Plan.

The following are questions from WG members:

- **WG Member: When will Meeting 6 take place?**
 - Project Team: Once we issue the NTP, the contractor needs 30 days to get their schedule together and we need to review the schedule first. With the holidays, it looks like it would more likely be January 2020.
 - WG Member: Can you send out a survey or poll with the dates for members to pick? This way we can have better attendance.
 - Project Team: Yes, we will do that.
 - WG Member: If the meeting is in January, you will let us know when the construction will start in University City?
 - Project Team: Once the contractor is on board and turns in their schedule, they do potholing along the alignment to check for areas of conflict. They come up with a fabrication plan and then the pipe has to be fabricated. Potholing will likely be January through April 2020. We do not yet know in which direction they will start work. Whichever direction they will be starting in is where they will be potholing first.
- **WG Member: One of the issues that was raised in previous meetings was the depth of the pipe at the intersection of Genesee and Governor. We asked for the pipe to be deeper there.**
 - Project Team: Our design consultant, AECOM, prepared a technical memo where they analyzed three different methods: open cut construction, open cut construction with concrete encasement, and tunneling of pipelines within casings. They analyzed the factor of safety and number of working days required. The technical memo was completed when the pipe was still HDPE so the safety factors are even higher now.

We found no significant increase in the factor of safety for the wastewater force main because the governing factor is the pipeline. It also takes longer if we do the tunnel. The current design provides a safety factor more than double the industry standard. At the highest point through the intersection, the pipe is 8 feet deep. It starts sloping down after that.

- WG Member: Is that 8 feet from the top of the pipe?
- Project Team: Yes.
- WG Member: How deep does it go at the lowest point of the intersection?
- Project Team: 11 feet. We are going down the center of the road to be as far away from the gas stations on the corners as possible.