



## UTILITIES TASK FORCE REGULAR MEETING MINUTES Thursday, November 17, 2011

- A Roll Call. Chair Thomas Holden called the meeting to order at approximately 11:40 a.m.

Task Force Members Present.

Thomas Holden, Chair, Mayor, City of Oxnard  
Bryan MacDonald, Task Force Member; Councilman, City of Oxnard

Task Force Members Absent.

None

Others Present.

Karen Burnham, Assistant City Manager, City of Oxnard  
Grace Magistrale-Hoffman, Deputy City Manager, City of Oxnard  
Alan Holmberg, City Attorney, City of Oxnard  
Rob Roshanian, Interim Public Works Director, City of Oxnard  
Martin Erickson, Legislative Analyst, City of Oxnard  
Christina Aerenlund, Public Information Officer, City of Oxnard  
Jim Cameron, Chief Financial Officer, City of Oxnard  
Eden Alomeri, Assistant City Treasurer, City of Oxnard  
Lou Balderrama, City Engineer, City of Oxnard  
Anthony Emmert, Water Resources Manager, City of Oxnard  
Phillip Gregoire, Streets Manager, City of Oxnard  
Eric Okada, Acting Environmental Resources Manager  
Mark Pumford, Technical Services Manager, City of Oxnard  
Terry Kirsch, Project Manager, City of Oxnard  
Grant Dunne, Management Analyst III, city of Oxnard  
Janis Synnes, Administrative Technician, City of Oxnard  
Bruce Dandy, United Board Member  
Barbara Wulf, Recycling Specialist, City of Oxnard  
Doris O'Connell, Saviers Road Design Team  
Nancy Pederson, Saviers Road Design Team  
Bill Scarpino, Channel Islands Waterfront Homeowners Association  
Bob Freeland, Channel Islands Waterfront Homeowners Association  
Gretchen Wenner, Ventura County Star  
MaryAnn Larrieu  
Chris Williamson, Planning, City of Oxnard  
Steve Nash  
Gus Sanchez, Republic Services  
Pat Reeves, Penfield/Smith

- B. Approval of Minutes. The Task Force approved the minutes from the February 17, 2011 Utilities Task Force regular meeting.
- C. Public Comments. None.

D. Managers Reports.

1. GREAT Program Recycled Water Projects Update.

- a. Advanced Water Purification Facility Construction Update. Anthony Emmert, Water Resources Manager, provided a status report on the construction of the Advanced Water Purification Facility. He reported that the construction is approximately 90% complete, and that the contractor is currently performing functional testing of the treatment equipment. Mr. Emmert reported that the original project construction bid amount was \$52,572,000, and that \$2,396,439 in change orders had been approved, bringing the total construction cost to \$54,968,439, still within the original construction budget. He stated that the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation had approved a schedule extension to June 30, 2012. Mr. Emmert stated that design should commence on the related Secondary Effluent and Reverse Osmosis Concentrate Blending and Sampling Facility within the next two months, and that construction must be completed by December 2012.
- b. Recycled Water Distribution Projects Update. Mr. Emmert provided a status report on the construction of the Recycled Water Backbone and Ventura Road Projects. He reported that the Ventura Road Utilities Improvement Project is completed, and that the Recycled Water Backbone Project construction will be completed within the next few weeks. Mr. Emmert stated that the original construction bid amount was \$13,193,225, and that \$647,119 in credit change orders had been approved, bringing the total construction cost to \$12,546,106. He stated that the City had also avoided an approximately \$800,000 fees expenditure to the City of Port Hueneme by rerouting the pipeline out of that city' roadways.
- c. Recycled Water Retrofits Project Design Update. Mr. Emmert provided a status report on the Recycled Water Retrofits Project. He stated that coordination with recycled water users was ongoing, including evaluating their usage and sites for potential retrofits, negotiating user agreements, and designing on-site retrofits. He stated that the first phase of retrofits should be completed by late 2012.

E. New Business

1. Comprehensive Utilities Rate Model Update. Rob Roshanian, Interim Public Works Director, and Mr. Emmert provided a status report on the update of the City's Comprehensive Utilities Rate Model, and proposed increases to the solid waste & recycling services rates and the wastewater services rates. Mr. Roshanian stated that the primary driver for the needed revenue increase for the Environmental Resources Division was to fund the fleet replacement program. He stated that the primary drivers for the needed revenue increase for the Water Resources Division Wastewater Section were to meet operating expenditures, meet debt service coverage requirements, and replace aging infrastructure at the Wastewater Treatment Plant and in the collection system. Mr. Roshanian stated that the proposed 5% overall revenue increase would result in an approximately 3.2% increase to the average single family residential customer. Mr. Emmert reported that staff and consultants are proposing the following to fine-tune equity issues that have come to light: 1) create a separate wastewater rate category for single family larger lots, and utilize a lower return flow factor; 2) allowing customers to request a wastewater rate credit when filling swimming pools, a rare condition, as the Code already prohibits pool draining and filling; and 3) executing the final rate step increase for regional wastewater partners to cover the full amount of associated treatment costs, and modifying the regional partners' agreements to cover the full amount of associated conveyance costs. He stated that staff is continuing to work with industrial wastewater customers to maximize the effectiveness of their pretreatment, minimize monthly rate spikes from effluent quality changes, and minimize their overall costs. The Task Force directed staff to consider ways to improve communication with utility customers regarding rate increases, including the pass-through rate increases driven by increases in the rates of the wholesale water agencies that supply water to the City. The Task Force supported staff's efforts to work with the industrial wastewater customers to

explore opportunities to reduce their costs. The Task Force directed staff to prepare a survey of rates being charged in neighboring cities and in areas with similar food processing industrial wastewater customers. The Task Force authorized staff to bring the proposal to the City Council.

2. **Urban Water Management Plan Update.** Mr. Emmert provided a status report on the update of the City's Urban Water Management Plan. He stated that this plan is complimentary to the City's General Plan, is updated at least every five years, and analyzes planned demands, water conservation measures, and water supplies, including associated risks, quality, and the potential impacts of climate change and drought. He reported on the status of the City's Water Conservation Program performance, Fox Canyon Groundwater Management Agency efforts to manage regional groundwater basins, and strategies the City is employing to reduce risk. He reported that staff has met with regulatory agencies and stakeholders, and is currently reviewing draft chapters of the plan. He said that staff plans to bring the Plan to the City Council in January 2012.
  3. **Proposition 84 Integrated Regional Water Management Plan Implementation Grant Update.** Mr. Emmert provided a status report on the Watersheds Coalition of Ventura County's Proposition 84-funded Integrated Regional Water Management Plan Implementation grant, including a total of eight complimentary projects. He stated that the City's project involves five other agencies jointly implementing a regional landscape efficiency project. Mr. Emmert reported that the California Department of Water Resources expects to have a grant agreement completed by early 2012.
  - 4, **Mandalay Bay Seawalls.** Lou Balderrama, Design & Construction Services Manager, provided a status report on the engineering evaluation of the condition of the seawalls within the Mandalay Bay area. He reported on the findings of Phase A of the investigation, including evidence that a few of the walls require immediate attention to preclude catastrophic failure. Mr. Balderrama recommended moving forward with Phase B of the investigation to obtain a more representative sampling of wall conditions. Phase B provides three options, ranging from a fixed-fee option with limited sampling and focusing on the highest risk areas, to a full investigation option that samples all walls. The Task Force directed staff to move forward with the mid-range strategic option that analyzes all anticipated wall conditions and includes geotechnical investigation and wall stability analysis, at a cost of approximately \$355,000, and uses the same funding formula used for Phase A of the investigation. The Task force directed staff to bring this proposal to the City Council.
  5. **Mandalay Bay Water & Sediment Sampling Program.** Mark Pumford, Technical Services Manager, provided a report on the current water quality sampling program for the Seabridge Project, which includes taking samples from the water column and from sediment in the new harbor areas to compare against samples taken in the original Channel Islands Harbor. He stated that Mandalay Bay area homeowners expressed interest in expanding the monitoring program to include their area of the harbor. The Task Force directed staff to take the proposal to the next Stormwater Quality Group meeting.
- F. Old Business. None
- G. Adjournment. Chair Holden adjourned the meeting at approximately 12:50 p.m.