

MEETING REPORT
WATER COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 26, 2009
2:15 P.M.

Directors: Ralph Retherford
 Delbert Rotelli

Public: Ron Ringen
 Dave Holton

Staff: Pete Kampa
 Tom Scesa
 Erik Johnson
 Casey Prunchak

 John Barnhart
 Ted Allen
 Kelly Klyn

Discussion of Proposed Water Master Plan Strategy and Schedule

Director Retherford requested a clarification on why the District needs a Water Master Plan (WMP) and what would happen to the District without a WMP in place, noting that he believes that District staff is already doing the job. Director Retherford expressed his concern with the expense of the proposed WMP, stating that he does not want this document to just sit on the bookshelf.

Tom Scesa responded that a WMP would give the District clear direction on what improvements are needed or not necessary at this time, and where to expend the funds. Mr. Scesa explained that District staff wants to be proactive on anticipated plans and projects instead of reacting at the last minutes and piecemeal projects. Mr. Scesa indicated that an element in the Strategic Plan is to plan, build and maintain a reliable utility infrastructure for current and future customers.

Tom Scesa stated that population and growth projections are a component of the WMP, noting that that District staff will look at the projections in order to make the necessary changes in the capital improvement programs, noting that the District must be aware of the needs of the community.

Tom Scesa reported that the only WMP which the District has was completed by a consultant in 1996, explaining that the WMP was not adopted by the Board. Mr. Scesa indicated that the WMP has been used over the years by the District staff as a working guide for possible projects; however it has not been fully implemented. Mr. Scesa explained that a new WMP is item 2.2 in the 2007 Strategic Plan, stating that the goal of the new WMP, as stated in the Strategic Plan, is "to facilitate long term, knowledge based and priority driven decision-making in order to provide high quality water services to the community."

Tom Scesa indicated that the engineering staff is recommending a change from what was done in the past, rather than hire a consultant to do the WMP entirely; staff is recommending that the WMP be a combined effort of District staff and a consultant. This will be a more economical for the District and will utilize the talents of each group to a greater extent, and will engage District staff on various levels which will increase WMP accuracy and staff buy in.

Review Proposed Revisions to the Water Rules and Regulations

Committee members, District staff and members of the public reviewed the recommended revisions to the Water Rules and Regulations.

It was determined that the Board meeting on September 8, 2009, District staff will call for a public hearing for October 13, 2009 at 7:00 p.m.

Committee recommendation: District staff to move forward on the adoption of the proposed revisions to the Water Rules and Regulations.

Discussion of the Development of Water Resource Policy Principles

District staff, Committee members, and members of the public reviewed the draft policy: Water Resources and Systems and recommended revisions.

Pete Kampa reported that the proposed policy principles are the result of meetings with Supervisor Teri Murrison, County Assistant Administrator, and John Mills, noting that the principles are in response to a Forest Service land management policy that was being developed.

Pete Kampa explained that water legislation and regulations are constantly being developed by the state and federal governments, typically, these policies take several months or years to develop. There are several opportunities for public input including submitting comment letters, testifying at hearings, lobbying our elected officials, unfortunately, due to the sheer number of these policies developed and the effort required to understand and develop responses, it is difficult to attempt Committee or Board review of each issue.

Pete Kampa reported that a Board approved “water policy principles” should be developed to ensure that District staff has a clear understanding of the Board’s visions and position on water resources protection and enhancement, for efficiency in response to regulations and policy proposals, as well as public and legislator education.

Pete Kampa distributed and reviewed draft policy principles prepared by Mountain Counties Water Resources Association (MCWRA) relating to Sacramento/San Joaquin Bay-Delta 2009 legislative water package preprint bills. Mr. Kampa explained that the threat to water rights, as well as the potential for huge fees, regulatory and environmental costs as a result of currently proposed state legislation, prompts MCWRA to adopt a framework of water resources policy principles.

Update on Capital Improvement Projects

Pete Kampa reported that during the budget approval process, the Board directed District staff to present an update on the capital improvement projects during Committee meetings, noting that updates will also be presented to the Board on periodic bases.

Committee members, District staff and members of the public reviewed a summary of major capital projects and engineering studies for FY 2009-2010.

Tom Scesa reported that the summary outlines a list of the major capital projects over \$50,000; the budgeted cost; grant, developer, or TUD funded; funds expended to date; project status; and why the project is needed.

Tom Scesa reviewed the following items:

- West Big Hill Water Distribution Project is out to bid - bids are due on September 15th.
- Ditch Parshall flumes are in final design – will go to the state for review shortly.
- South Fork Stanislaus Reliability Project – Task One is in final draft, Board workshop has been scheduled for Wednesday, September 30, 2009 @ 9:00 a.m.

Committee members thanked Tom Scesa for the summary report on the capital improvement projects.