



CITY OF SANTA BARBARA CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

SPECIAL MEETING April 7, 2011 CHASE PALM PARK RECREATION CENTER 236 EAST CABRILLO BOULEVARD

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Helene Schneider called the meeting to order at 3:33 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Councilmembers present: Dale Francisco (3:35 p.m.), Frank Hotchkiss, Grant House, Randy Rowse, Michael Self, Bendy White, Mayor Schneider.

Councilmembers absent: None.

Staff present: City Administrator James L. Armstrong, Assistant City Attorney Sarah Knecht.

The Water Commission meeting was called to order, and the meeting continued in joint session.

Water Commissioners present: Russell Ruiz, James Smith, William Thomas, Chair Landon Neustadt.

Water Commissioners absent: Vice Chair Barry Keller.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No one wished to speak.

NOTICES

The City Clerk has on Tuesday, April 5, 2011, posted this agenda in the Office of the City Clerk, on the City Hall Public Notice Board on the outside balcony of City Hall, and on the Internet.

WORK SESSIONS

Subject: Joint City Council And Water Commission Work Session: Water Supply Plan Update (540.08)

Recommendation: That Council conduct a joint work session with the Water Commission to discuss and provide input regarding the proposed update to the City's Long-Term Water Supply Plan (LTWSP) and Urban Water Management Plan.

Documents:

- April 7, 2011, report from the Public Works Director.
- April 7, 2011, Draft City of Santa Barbara Long-Term Water Supply Plan prepared by Staff.
- April 7, 2011, PowerPoint presentation prepared and made by Staff.

Speakers:

- Staff: Water Resources Manager Rebecca Bjork.
- Member of the Public: James Smallwood.

Discussion:

Water Resources Manager Rebecca Bjork presented historical background of the City's Long-Term Water Supply Program. She also described available water supplies, planning concepts, and key policy issues requiring consideration in order to update the Long-Term Water Supply Plan and prepare the state-mandated Urban Water Management Plan. Staff responded to questions from the Councilmembers and Water Commissioners asked for additional clarification before providing their feedback and comments.

Mayor Schneider summarized the key points presented by the Councilmembers and Water Commissioners:

- The use of a six-year drought period for planning purposes, instead of a five-year drought, is appropriate.
- Addition of water banking and purchased water should be pursued as drought supplies where feasible to help meet the goal of deferring use of the desalination facility until year six of a drought.
- A 10% safety margin is prudent given the uncertainty of water supplies in California.
- The expansion of recycled water connections should continue, where cost-effective and to the extent capacity is available.
- Elimination of blending of recycled water with potable water is a good goal, subject to identifying cost-effective means of doing so, including potential grant funding.

(Cont'd)

Joint City Council And Water Commission Work Session: Water Supply Plan Update (Cont'd)

Discussion (Cont'd):

- Sedimentation management at Gibraltar, including vegetation management through controlled burns, is worth investigating even with the Pass Through Agreement. The multi-agency effort to manage sedimentation at Cachuma should include recognition of the benefit of allowing sediment to continue down the river to nourish beaches.
- A policy about maintaining the reliability of the water delivery infrastructure should be included in the plan.
- An ongoing conservation program will be needed to maintain reductions achieved to date and achieve further reductions.
- Extraordinary demand reductions of up to 15% during an occasional severe drought seem reasonable, remembering that citizens will respond effectively during a drought period to help meet the goal.

The Water Commission meeting was adjourned at 5:35 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Schneider adjourned the meeting at 5:35 p.m.

SANTA BARBARA CITY COUNCIL

SANTA BARBARA
CITY CLERK'S OFFICE



HELENE SCHNEIDER
MAYOR

ATTEST:



BRENDA ALCAZAR, CMC
DEPUTY CITY CLERK