

MINUTES

Regular meeting of the City of Redlands Municipal Utilities/Public Works Commission on October 2, 2023 at 4:00 PM in the Council Chambers at the Civic Center, 35 Cajon Street. The meeting was an in-person meeting.

A. ATTENDANCE & CALL TO ORDER

Present: Adekunle Ojo, Chairperson
Steve Stockton, Vice Chairperson (arrived at 4:05 PM)
David Garcia, Commissioner
Thomas Breitzkreuz, Commissioner
Zachary Travis, Commissioner
Robert Meals, Commissioner

Absent: Chandrasekar 'CV' Venkatraman, Commissioner

City Council
Liaison: Mario Saucedo, City Council Member

Staff: John Harris, Municipal Utilities & Engineering Director; Goutam Dobey, City Engineer; Johana Silva, Commission Liaison/Associate Engineer; Fernando Mata, Wastewater Utility Manager; Jungjoon Park, Joint Utilities Laboratory Manager

Chairman Ojo called the meeting to order at 4:01 PM.

B. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On the motion by Commissioner Garcia, seconded by Commissioner Breitzkreuz, the minutes of the regular meeting of August 7, 2023, were approved.

Vote: 5 – 0 Passed

D. COMMUNICATIONS

a. Director's Report

Director Harris welcomed everyone to the meeting and provided highlights to his Director's Report.

Updates were provided on the following:

Water Meter Replacement Project: MUED applied for a BOR grant to fund the last three (3) project phases which has been consolidated into one (1) phase. BOR approved this request, providing \$2.7M. On September 5, 2023,

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City Council awarded a \$6.7M contract to Ferguson for the consolidated third and final phase, with BOR reimbursing \$2.7M.

WWTP P2 Project Update: MUED applied for a \$45M SRF loan before the December 31, 2022 deadline. Initially not selected for funding, it was later approved in the current SRF cycle.

Mr. Harris reported on Commissioner Garcia's inquiry regarding the water feature near the I-10 interchange, noting that it is owned by Caltrans. Mr. Harris contacted Caltrans and requested more frequent cleaning of the water feature.

A discussion ensued regarding alternative funding avenues for the WWTP P2 project, clarification on the timeline and routes for water meter replacements, the nature of maintenance supported by the Groundwater Council, and clarification regarding the status and extent of the Sidewalk Repair Project.

b. San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District Annual Update

Mr. Harris introduced Heather Dyer, Executive Director of San Bernardino Valley. Ms. Dyer gave an overview of the San Bernardino Valley service area. She emphasized the need for drought preparedness, focusing on planning for the future and maximizing atmospheric rivers and efficient water storage, along with the importance of regional collaboration. Ms. Dyer emphasized the importance of diversity in water supply sources, including demand management, the State Water Project, stormwater capture, and recycled water. She provided insights into the State Water Project (SWP), and the SWP 2023 Plan for San Bernardino Valley.

Direct water deliveries to various entities and efforts related to recharge were discussed, including challenges and opportunities in these areas. She also mentioned the successful finalization of the Upper Santa Ana River Watershed Infrastructure Financing Authority (WIFIA) loan. Regional recycled water initiatives and achievements in expanding recharge infrastructure were noted, along with an overview of ongoing recharge projects. Ms. Dyer discussed the Headwater Resiliency Partnership, highlighting the need to scale up forest management efforts to protect water supply, water quality, infrastructure, and habitats. Lastly, Ms. Dyer expressed her support for SB 366: California Water For All Act.

Dennis Bell, resident, voiced his frustrations regarding approved legislative bills and the perceived lack of action on them.

E. NEW BUSINESS

None.

F. COMMISSIONER ANNOUNCEMENTS, REPORTS ON ACTIVITIES, AND/OR REQUESTS FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Items requested for the next regular Commission meeting agenda were as follows:

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Water Supply Overview – Comprehensive review of City's water supply.

Reservoir Contaminants – Discussion on reservoir contaminants.

WWTP Cogeneration System – Update on the cogeneration system at the wastewater plant.

Caltrans & SBCTA Projects – Upcoming Caltrans & SBCTA projects within the City.

G. ADJOURNMENT – Next regular meeting is December 4, 2023 at 4:00 PM

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 5:26 PM. The next regular meeting of the City of Redlands Municipal Utilities/Public Works Commission is scheduled for December 4, 2023.