

**SANTA ROSA BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES MEETING MINUTES  
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2009  
CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBER, 100 SANTA ROSA AVENUE  
REGULAR MEETING**

1:30 p.m. Mayor's Conference Room

The motion was seconded by Board Member Meechan and carried unanimously. AYES (7) NO (0) ABSENT (0) ABSTAIN (0)

**ROLL CALL**

Present (7) Chairman Dowd, Vice Chair Swinth, Board Members Gale, Galvin, Holt, Lowe and Meechan

STAFF BRIEFINGS - NONE

CONSENT ITEMS - NONE

STATEMENTS OF ABSTENTION BY BOARD MEMBERS - NONE

REPORT ITEMS

**STUDY SESSION**

7.1 WATER EFFICIENT LANDSCAPE ORDINANCE

**3.1 PRIVATE LATERAL STUDY RESULTS AND CITY-WIDE PROGRAM RECOMMENDATION**

David Guhin, Deputy Director Engineering Services discussed the impacts and identified the sources of Inflow and Infiltration (I & I) on the sanitary sewer system. Jim Montenegro, Utility System Superintendent presented an overview of the sewer system maintenance program and regulatory reporting requirements. Mr. Guhin reviewed the existing I & I reduction efforts and analysis information of the Lower Lateral Replacement Program. He then provided updated information on the Parsons Terrace lateral replacement program that had been collected to date. MJ Oliveri, Interim Professional discussed the City-Wide Lateral Program, possible sewer later legislation and options for two private lateral replacement programs. She reviewed the two options in detail including possible funding and financing options and results from the four focus group meetings that occurred. The Board concurred that they needed a cost benefit analysis done prior to implementing a private lateral replacement program and requested a map showing the age of the collection system of the City. Mr. Guhin added that he would include future Capital Improvement Programs projects on the same map.

Daniel Muelrath, Water Conservation Coordinator briefly reviewed the background information for the existing water efficient landscape policy and the process that was used to create the proposed regional landscape ordinance. He explained that the Landscaping Act of 2006 (AB 1881) required the Department of Water Resources to update its model ordinance in accordance with specified requirements. He explained the purpose of the ordinance which included preventing waste and unreasonable use; protection of the local water supply; would create a whole system approach; and be climate appropriate. The new ordinance would become effective January 1, 2010 and discussed how it would be applied. He reviewed the differences between the Regional ordinance and the State ordinance and identified the areas it compliments Green Building and Low Impact Development. Board Member Holt spoke on behalf of the Water Conservation Subcommittee and reported that they unanimously supported the ordinance.

Diane Lesko, Sonoma County Water Agency thanked Santa Rosa for their leadership and Mr. Muelrath for coordinating the stakeholder meetings and getting the group to agree on the ordinance. She added that the Board of Supervisors would be seeing this item in mid December.

Adjourn study session and reconvene to open session in City Council Chamber at approximately 3:04 p.m.

Colleen Fernald, asked the Board to look into an incentive program to encourage more participation.

**MINUTES APPROVAL**

MOTION:

Vice Chair Swinth moved approval of the minutes as corrected for October 15, 2009.

Board Member Gale moved to approve

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Resolution No. 970 entitled "Resolution of the Board of Public Utilities Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance." The motion was seconded by Board Member Holt and carried unanimously. AYES (7) NO (0) ABSENT (0) ABSTAIN (0)

**7.2 WATER SUPPLY UPDATE**

Glen Wright, Deputy Director Water Resources reported that Lake Mendocino is currently at 42,651 acre feet with releases of 153 cubic feet per second. Lake Sonoma is currently at 191,274 acre feet with releases of 112 cubic feet per second. Mr. Wright then reported that as of Wednesday, 1140 Chinook had been counted which is well above last years' final number. He then showed a chart comparing the City's Purchases from the Water Agency vs. the City's monthly Allocation from the Water Agency and added that the City continues to meet our monthly allocation, most recently purchasing 1,221 acre feet for the month of October. He also showed charts identifying water savings for September at 22.29% compared to 2004. Mr. Wright presented a chart showing total water savings per connection and Single-Family Residential water savings per connection. In September 2009, compared to September 2004, total water use per connection was reduced by 26.19 % and Single-Family Residential water use per connection was reduced by 14.54%. He then read the Water Advisory Committees input to the Water Agency's 12 Strategic Strategies.

At 3:36 p.m., Board Member Galvin left the dais for the remainder of the meeting.

**8. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA MATTERS**

Brenda Adelman, Russian River Watershed Protection Committee expressed concern about unregulated chemical products and their effects on the environment, human health and endangered species.

**9. REFERRALS**

**10. WRITTEN COMMUNICATION (And Possible Board Action)**

**11. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS**

Vice Chair Swinth on the recent Budget Subcommittee, Quarterly Budget Report and the \$500,000 budget reduction that has been made by the department.

Board Member Holt reported that the Water Conservation Subcommittee will be meeting on November 10, 2009.

**12. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS**

Vice Chair Swinth asked for cost information comparing the cost of Water Agency potable water vs. recycled vs. ground water. Miles Ferris Director of Utilities stated he would put together a future study session with this information. Chairman Dowd also requested the study session to include other elements of future water supply. Board Member Meechan requested information on the recently passed State law for water bonds. Board Member Gale requested information related to the Biological Opinion alternatives for getting additional water from behind Warm Springs Dam.

**13. DIRECTORS REPORT**

Mr. Ferris reported that the Safe Medicine Disposal Program has collected and disposed of 6,500 lbs. of medicine. He further reported that there were 2 hydrant knocks and 3 water main breaks in 1 week. Mr. Ferris reported that the Utilities Department has been awarded the Platinum Award for Utility Excellence. Linda Reed, Administrative Services Officer explained that this is AMWA's top utility management award honoring public drinking water systems. Only five other systems across the country received the award this year. Santa Rosa was the only California city to receive the honor. The Utilities Department received the AMWA Gold Award in 2006 and since then has continued to strive for excellence. Mr. Ferris then discussed the cost reduction memo that he had prepared that identified city wide cost reductions and added that this is a difficult time for the City and its employees.

Suzanne Rawlings, Assistant City Attorney announced item 14.1 on the closed session

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and added that item 14.2 was not needed.

**14. ANNOUNCEMENT OF CLOSED  
SESSION ITEM(S) AND ADJOURNMENT TO  
CLOSED SESSION(S) (MAYOR'S  
CONFERENCE ROOM – ROOM 10)**

**14.1 CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL  
COUNSEL – EXISTING LITIGATION**

(Subdivision (a) of Section 54956.9) City of  
Santa Rosa v. Sonoma County Water  
Agency, et al., Sonoma County Superior  
Court Case Number SCV – 245844

**14.2 CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL  
COUNSEL – ANTICIPATED LITIGATION**

Significant exposure to litigation pursuant to  
subdivision (b) of Government Code Section  
54956.9: One potential case

**15. RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION**

At approximately 4:45 p.m., the Board  
adjourned and Chairman Dowd announced  
that they had an informational briefing only  
and no action was taken.

**16. ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING**

At 4:47 p.m. the meeting was adjourned. The  
next regular meeting of the Board of Public  
Utilities will be held on Thursday, November  
19, 2009 at approximately 1:30 p.m. in the  
Council Chamber, City Hall, 100 Santa Rosa  
Avenue, Santa Rosa.

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Richard Dowd

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Gina Perez