

**SANTA ROSA BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES MEETING MINUTES  
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2008  
CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBER, 100 SANTA ROSA AVENUE  
REGULAR MEETING**

1:35 p.m. City Council Chamber

the success of the division.

**ROLL CALL**

At 4:41 p.m., Board Member Downey arrived for the remainder of the meeting.

Present (7) Chairman Dowd, Vice Chairman Lowe, Board Members Downey (arrived at 4:41 p.m.), Galvin, Holt, Lindsay and Swinth

**CONSENT ITEMS – NONE**

**STATEMENTS OF ABSTENTION BY BOARD MEMBERS - NONE**

**7.2 WATER SUPPLY UPDATE**

Adjourn regular meeting and reconvene to tour at Laguna Treatment Plant at approximately 1:45 pm.

Glen Wright, Deputy Director Water Resources reported that Lake Sonoma was 85.4% full and the flow is 94cfs. Lake Mendocino is 49.2% full and the flow is 153cfs which is statistically the same as this time last year. He then showed a video of Chinook passing through the fish ladder at Wohler and noted that 80 had passed through so far this year. The Final Biological Opinion (B.O.) for Sonoma County Water Agency water supply and flood control operations in the Russian River watershed was released on September 16, 2008 and copies of the executive summary were distributed to the Board. He also discussed the 8 Reasonable and Prudent Alternatives identified in the Biological Opinion.

**3.1 TOUR – LAGUNA TREATMENT PLANT AND SURROUNDING PROPERTIES**

Staff provided a guided tour of recently completed projects including the Headworks screens; potential locations for flood control berms; Biosolids Dewatering Facility and the Aquatic Biomass to Fuel Project. Staff also toured several recently purchased properties surrounding the Plant and other neighboring sites that may become available in the future.

Adjourn tour and reconvene to open session in City Council Chamber at approximately 4:34 p.m.

**13. DIRECTORS REPORT**

**MINUTES APPROVAL**

Vice Chairman Lowe moved approval of the minutes of September 18, 2008. The motion was seconded by Board Member Galvin and carried unanimously. AYES (6) NO (0) ABSENT (1) Downey ABSTAIN (0)

Miles Ferris, Utilities Director announced that David Guhin was selected for the position of Deputy Director for Engineering Planning and Technology and Colleen Ferguson was selected for the position of Deputy Director for the Capital Improvement Program. Mr. Ferris also reported on the high number of metal thefts that are occurring in the City and staff is looking into security measures to protect City assets. The Laguna Laboratory scored a 98%+ success rate in testing and analysis and this is above any of the requirements that are in place to be a certified testing facility.

**STAFF BRIEFINGS**

**5.1 ENGINEERING DEVELOPMENT SERVICES**

Tony Cabrera, Deputy Director Engineering Development Services gave the staff briefing. He explained the work that had been completed to date through the engineering reorganization for the Engineering Development Services division. He identified the challenges the group faces and solutions that had been developed. The goals have been discussed and agreed to by the group and steps have been initiated to assist with

**11. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS - NONE**

**12. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS - NONE**

**REPORT ITEMS**

**7.1 REPORT – INCREMENTAL RECYCLED WATER PROGRAM (IRWP) DISCHARGE COMPLIANCE PROJECT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT (EIR) CERTIFICATION**

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Chairman Dowd stated that the purpose of this item was to consider certification of the IRWP Discharge Compliance Project (DCP) Final Environmental Impact Report and whether it adequately discloses the environmental effects of the subjects evaluated in the document. He explained that the meeting was not to discuss the relative merits of the alternatives evaluated in the EIR, and was not to deliberate over which of the alternatives might be identified for implementation.

Greg Scoles, Deputy City Manager gave a brief introduction and explained the proposed agenda for the presentation. Dr. Dave Smith, Merritt Smith Consulting continued the presentation by briefly explaining the Program EIR and subsequent Project-level environmental review documents. He then discussed the components available to address the DCP project drivers. Craig Lichty, Kennedy/Jenks Consultants presented the process used to identify the candidate sites included in the EIR. Pat Collins, Winzler & Kelly explained the Draft EIR comment period and certification process. She reviewed the Final EIR document availability and provided a summary of the comments on the Draft EIR. The most common concerns included the relation of the DCP to the IRWP Master Plan; impacts on drinking water wells; cumulative impacts on groundwater; non-regulated constituents; and D1 impacts at Steelhead Beach Regional Park. The Final EIR identified the Environmentally Superior Alternative as discharge at the Laguna site. Ms. Collins then discussed the developments and comments received since the publication of the Final EIR and stated that these issues have been addressed in the EIR or are not related to the adequacy of the EIR.

Chairman Dowd opened the item to public comment.

Michelle Julene, Sonoma County Regional Parks read a letter into the record submitted by Mary E. Burns, Director of So. Co. Regional Parks.

Vesta Copestakes, West County Gazette expressed concern about changes to the

Steelhead Beach site and requested an extension to review the Final EIR.

Laurie Ross, expressed concern about the changes to the D1 site and the impacts of construction on River Rd., to children's beach, vandalism and fishing.

Fred Corson, Clean Water Coalition of Northern Sonoma County congratulated staff on an excellent Final EIR. He commented on the conclusion in the DCP FEIR that the DCP, Alternative 2-D3, plus cumulative projects will not degrade groundwater quality at existing or future wells, resulting in a public health hazard. An independent analysis of the water quality impacts of NSCARP in the Alexander Valley completed by Nicholas Johnson identified different results and was submitted for the record.

Brenda Adelman, Russian River Watershed Protection Committee showed pictures of River Rd. and discussed the significant changes to the D1 site. She expressed concern about road construction, the lack of a shoulder at the River Rd. site, the removal of existing redwood trees, flood plain, and stated the public has the right to review the changes.

Jane Nielson, Sebastopol Water Information Group waived comment and concurred with Ms. Adelman's comments.

Don McEnhill, Russian Riverkeeper expressed concern that the D1 site would be placed on the remaining 10% of the riparian forest, the bioassays performed to expose fish to only a single generation and asked if an overriding mitigation has been adopted for this site.

Sean Kallaway, Friends of Steelhead Beach stated that 1000 people are opposed to the D1 site and weren't able to attend. He read the vision statement from the So. Co. Regional Parks, he spoke about non-regulated constituents and the inability to measure their impacts, and the conflict of interest with Department of Fish and Game and So. Co. Regional Parks.

Gary Bodwin, stated that he has been gathering signatures opposing the D1 site and

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expressed concern about the site's proximity to Children's Beach.

Joy Derry, expressed concern that the City of Santa Rosa wants to discharge their tertiary treated effluent in Forestville and not Santa Rosa.

At 6:20 p.m., seeing no additional members of the public wishing to speak, Chairman Dowd closed the public comment period and recessed for 15 minutes to allow consultants the opportunity to evaluate the comments received from the public.

At 6:40 p.m., the meeting was reconvened and Dr. Smith began his response to comments. He stated that the FEIR evaluated the relocation of a pipeline to a stretch of River Rd. and does acknowledge that construction at the site would be difficult and impacts would be significant and are disclosed in the EIR. He then responded that overriding considerations and mitigation monitoring is not required for the D1 site until such time that project were selected. He indicated that the mitigation that is proposed in the FEIR would mitigate the impacts to the riparian forest at the D1 site. He responded that staff acknowledges that the prospect of a discharge location at the D1 site is upsetting to many people and everyone working on the project appreciates those impacts. Dr. Smith then responded that staff has been in communication with Mr. Corson and indicated that they respectfully disagree with his assumptions. He then responded that the Department of Fish and Game has been fully included in the review process and that 3 copies of the documents were distributed to 3 different addresses.

Whit Manley, City CEQA attorney, spoke about the concerns brought up about the D1 site, specifically those made by So. Co. Regional Parks regarding the impacts on Steelhead Beach Park. He explained that the task of an EIR is to identify significant impacts and to identify ways to mitigate those impacts. The FEIR identifies the impacts associated with the D1 site, and all of that information will be available at the time the Board will need to make a decision about which discharge alternative to select.

Board Member Galvin expressed concern about the comment in the letter submitted by the So. Co. Regional Parks that states that no response was received from the City to their request to meet in September 2006. Dr. Smith responded that the Project team had multiple contacts with Regional Park staff to discuss this matter and Regional Park staff had ample opportunity to provide input, which they provided in the form of scoping comments, Draft EIR comments and Final EIR comments. Board Member Holt asked if Trenton Rd. paralleled River Rd. at the proposed site for the take off road, with Dr. Smith responding not at that point on River Rd. Board Member Lindsay asked why So. Co. Regional Parks submitted their comment letter today with Ms. Julene responding that they only had a few days to get a letter together with all of the technical information needed. Dr. Smith explained that the primary opportunity for comment on an EIR is during the Draft EIR comment period which was a 65 day period of time. So. Co. Regional Parks did submit a detailed letter during that comment period, and a detailed response was prepared during that time.

Board Member Holt proposed language to page 3-20 of the DCP Draft EIR in the event that the D1 site is ever selected. The language adds the following:

- At Site D1, during construction within Steelhead Beach Regional Park, Osprey Trail and Willow Trail shall remain open for recreational use as much as feasible, while still maintaining safety for park users.
- At Site D1, when engineering design is being conducted for pipeline installation between River Road and the discharge facility, pipeline tunneling options shall be investigated and implemented if biological impacts are less than with open trenching techniques.
- At Site D1, the access road through Steelhead Beach Regional Park shall be surfaced with concrete pavers so that grass can grow between and/or on top of the pavers.

Board Member Holt indicated that he had phone conversations with Dr. Smith, Ms. Collins and Chairman Dowd to assist in

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creating the proposed additional language to address his concerns. A discussion ensued regarding Board Member Holt's additions and the Board concurred with his suggestions, which were adopted in the resolution certifying the EIR.

**MOTION:**

Vice Chairman Lowe moved to approve Resolution No. 935 entitled "Resolution of the Board of Public Utilities Certifying the Final Environmental Impact Report for the Discharge Compliance Project under the Incremental Recycled Water Program with the addition of Exhibit A." The motion was seconded by Board Member Galvin and carried unanimously. AYES (7) NO (0) ABSENT (0) ABSTAIN (0)

**8. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA MATTERS - NONE**

**9. REFERRALS**

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

10.1 October 1, 2008 – Memorandum from Miles Ferris, Director of Utilities re: Final Biological Opinion for Sonoma County Water Agency water supply and flood control operations in the Russian River watershed; distributed at the meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING**

At 7:11 p.m. the meeting was adjourned. The next regular meeting of the Board of Public Utilities will be held on Thursday, October 16, 2008 at approximately 4:30 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