

MINUTES

ENERGY AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

SEPTEMBER 17, 2008

- CALL TO ORDER:** Chairman McNelly called the meeting to order at 7:35 a.m.
- MEMBERS PRESENT:** Committee Members Adamson, Avera, Brassett, Buck, McCormack, McNelly, Mitchell, Roberts, and Twineham
- MEMBERS ABSENT:** Lucero
- PUBLIC PRESENT:** None
- STAFF PRESENT:** Water Systems Manager Schickling; Senior Planner Allen, and Clerical Support Norton

INTRODUCTIONS/ROLL CALL

No guests.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

July 16, 2008 minutes approved as amended to show that Mr. Buck was present at the meeting.

ACTION ITEMS

- a. None

DISCUSSION ITEMS

- b. Drought declaration and impacts to the City of Fullerton

Schickling – On June 5th the Governor of the State of California declared a drought; the first drought since 1991. He reviewed several bills that did not pass, but will likely return in some form next year. They could require a 20% reduction of water usage by 2020, for example.

The Metropolitan Water District is in alert stage; the next stage could be water re-allocation beginning March 2009. If the City's allocation from MWD is reduced, the City would enter Stage 1 of the Emergency Water Supply Shortage Conservation Plan.

The Water Department has started a Water Watchdog Hot Line at (714) 738-6744. The purpose for establishing this hot line is to answer water conservation questions and to report any over-watering. Owners of the property where over-watering is occurring will be contacted and provided information about water conservation. About 10 calls a week have been received so far. The department recently offered a Landscape Workshop which was well attended. A

second workshop is scheduled for Saturday, September 27th from 12-4:30 p.m.

Water usage – July was down 3-1/2% from last year; August was down 8.5% from 07-08; over a 5-year average the City is down 5.8%. These figures are real reductions in water consumption.

Chairman McNelly – stated that the numbers for average daily flow at the Orange County Sanitation District also continue to drop. There are more people using less water.

Avera – mentioned he received a lot of calls from residents about water waste when a fire hydrant was left open for a half hour while the City was working on the road. If the City has to tell people they have to conserve water, the City must also comply.

Schickling – said usually the hydrants are only left on for 15-20 minutes for clean out, he will speak to landscaping and street workers about water conservation.

McCormack – asked about using reclaimed water, and if there was any plans to bolster the infrastructure.

Schickling – the City uses no reclaimed water. The City looked into a few satellite projects but they are still too costly in comparison to potable water. Regional plants are really more effective. Coyote Hills Golf Course which uses a lot of water is ideal.

Roberts – said as water consumption goes down, revenue goes down. Would decreased revenue cause problems elsewhere?

Schickling – advised that he is aware of the utility spiral and he is tracking the revenues so that the City does not get into a situation where people are decreasing water usage but rates are increasing. He advised that there will be one more rate increase in January 2009.

Roberts - in San Francisco they are setting up roof top capture for water. Is that something that would have merit for Fullerton.

Schickling – people can cut down on water usage by doing this, but it is not easy to set up and do the correct way. San Francisco gets a lot more rain than Southern California. Legislation is looking at a dual conveyance system from the Delta which would eventually help supply.

c) Review Green Pages

Allen – reported that this issue of the Green Pages was done in two colors; blue representing water conservation, and green representing recycling. She called attention to the blurb at the bottom of the first page of the publication “Be a Water Watchdog” by reporting water waste in your neighborhoods to the City’s Water Department.

Robert – does the City permit the use of synthetic turf?

Allen – the City does not prohibit its use.

Brassett – asked if the City could participate in a door-to-door delivery of the Green Pages.

Allen – I could look into it. The benefit of having the publication delivered as an insert to the Parks and Recreation catalog is there is no cost for postage. Mailing over 50,000 gets pretty pricey.

McCormack – supports the way in which the publication is now mailed and most people recognize the City brochure as being useful. No matter how the publication is sent out, there will be people who think it is junk mail. It is the most cost effective way to get the information out. Make the publication available at multiple sources.

Mitchell – mentioned that her Green Pages were tucked tightly toward the back of the catalog. She suggested placing the publication in the middle and to make copies available at the library.

Buck – suggested utilizing Channel 3 for public informational spots. He suggested that one recyclable item (such as batteries) be featured each month. Redundancy works!

Roberts – Did not think Committee Member Buck's suggestion would be feasible because of budget and staff time.

McNelly – if the City could get sponsors the idea could be possible quarterly.

Allen – currently all of the City's information is in different places on the website; the person who does the website is interested in doing the environmental page.

McNelly – said it would be nice to have a link to the Green Pages in "What's New" on the home page and to have a printable PDF version.

Allen – identified new information provided in this issue of the Green Pages including the box for batteries and small electronics. No Sharps in the Trash went into effect September 1st. There is now a county-wide program that allows sharps to go to Household Hazardous Waste. The hours of operation have been added to the Redemption Centers for bottles and cans.

Avera – wondered if anyone had talked to battery manufacturers about providing home owners with battery boxes.

Allen – stated she was not aware of anything along that line.

Allen – has prepared a memo that will be distributed to the City Council and Planning Commission along with copies of the Green Pages stating that this program is something that came out of this group.

McNelly – suggested that the Green Pages be distributed at the farmers market. Committee Member Mitchell volunteered to hand them out.

d) Solar legislation

Allen - New AB811 passed and goes into effect immediately. It allows cities to designate all or part of the city as an area in which funds can be provided to property owners, residential, commercial or industrial for energy efficient improvements permanently attached to the building.

It would be a loan program that would be repaid through the property tax bill and funded from General Fund or allow the City to set up some bond financing or other assessment to raise the funds to provide this program. A resident would be loaned the money with low interest by the City and a lien would be put on the house until the loan was paid off. The bill is not specific as to what will qualify. Staff has received e-mails from residents in favor of the program.

Buck – said the LA times mentioned insulation as a qualifier.

McNelly – liked the idea that it would be a cooperative effort between the Committee and the City Council to designate an area.

Roberts – commented that if rebates were offered with the City program he would like to see the rebates go directly to the City reducing the amount added to the property tax.

McNelly – recommended that the Committee read over what the Bill actually says. Highlight those chapters that are specific to funding issues and discuss the findings at next month's meeting.

Adamson – stated he did not think the City has any business going into banking which is essentially what this program would be.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

COMMITTEE/STAFF COMMENTS:

McNelly – advised the committee of other legislation relating to sewer systems and treatment plant performance. In November there are milestones that the Sewer System Management Plan in the City has to meet in relationship to the FOG Program and the Operations and Maintenance Program. In October the Committee would like an update from Bill Roseberry, Sewer Superintendent, on the status of those plans and an update on the wash rack.

Allen – advised that the restaurant owner has been cited, it is not known whether the citation has been paid.

Mitchell – what has happened with the new trash trucks and curb side sorting.

Allen – It is part of the new contract and staff is still working on the terms.

Twineham – Is there a way to obtain more green tags for yard waste?

Allen – the tags may be obtained by calling the City's Environmental Programs; pick them up at the front desk, or Community Development's front counter.

McCormack – last year the Committee talked about making more of an outreach to the schools to make sure the principals of the schools are aware of the Recycling Program. It would be interesting to see if that outreach had any effect, and do it again this year.

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November 15th is National Recycle day. If the Committee can promote something he would be happy to get some information.

Mitchell – About the same time November 10-16 Southern California is doing a mock earthquake to include the universities and preparedness people. If an earthquake of a large magnitude happens, our water, electricity, gas and highways will be interrupted.

Starting in October the California Water Environmental Association along with the California Association of Sanitation will have a big campaign about the “No Drugs Down the Drain.” There will be a public announcement on TV.

Allen – said she spoke with the City Manager on how best to bring the US Mayor’s Climate Protection Agreement to City Council. His thought was to take it first to Planning Commission.

McNelly – said that 146 people, 63 from Fullerton attended the compost workshop. Congratulations to everyone for supporting this program.

ADJOURNMENT:

Next regularly scheduled meeting will be October 15, 2008

With no further business the meeting was ADJOURNED AT: 8:35 a.m.

Beverly Norton, Clerical Support