### **MINUTES**

# **ENERGY AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

## **MARCH 18, 2009**

**CALL TO ORDER:** Chairman McNelly called the meeting to order at 7:30 a.m.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Committee Members Avera, Lucero, McNelly, Otter,

Twineham

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Buck, Adamson, McCormack, Roberts

PUBLIC PRESENT: Brassett

**STAFF PRESENT:** Senior Planner Allen, Water System Manager Schickling and

Clerical Support Norton

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Minutes of February 18, 2009 approved as amended

**CALL TO ORDER** 

# **INTRODUCTIONS/ROLL CALL:**

Chairman McNelly welcomed and updated new member, Jeffrey Otter, on the process for filling Committee Member positions. The Committee can have eleven members with two members at large. Currently we have nine members. Gene Brassett and Elaine Mitchell are under consideration for re-appointment.

#### **ACTION ITEMS**

a) Election of Officers

Committee Member Twineham nominated Patrick McNelly to serve as Chairman for 2009. There were no further nominations.

Committee Member Avera nominated Jeff Twineham to serve as Vice Chair for 2009. There were no further nominations. All members present voted in favor of the nominees.

McNelly re-elected as Chairman Twineham elected as Vice Chairman

## **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

b) Water Conservation and Metropolitan Water District (MWD) Allocation Update

Water System Manager Schickling – talked about the water supply status and its effect on Fullerton. The local water supply is our ground water that is pumped from the City's eleven

active wells, and represents about 2/3 of our water supply. The storage in the underground aquifer is diminishing. That supply is dependent upon purchased water from Metropolitan Water District to replenish the aquifer. Rainfall and snow pack has been close to normal in all of the watershed areas. Weather is not the issue, but more the environmental restrictions on pumping out of the delta. Metropolitan Water District estimates that since May 2007 when the decision was made to restrict the pumping from the Sacramento Delta they have lost approximately 300,000 acre feet to the ocean that could have been pumped and stored in reservoirs.

What Metropolitan staff proposes to do at their April 14<sup>th</sup> meeting is to activate their water allocation plan. If activated, they will go to one of more than 20 stages of cutbacks in water supply. Fullerton will get a water allocation; if the City goes over that allocation, we will be fined severely.

Some background information on Fullerton's arrangement with Metropolitan Water District. Fullerton is one of the original 13 member agencies that were voted into the board. Being a member agency, Metropolitan can only sell water to member agencies. This water is our supplemental supply and in most cases is anywhere from 25% to maybe 40%. Fullerton has one representative on the Metropolitan Board who is appointed by the City Council.

The Orange County Water District was formed in 1933 to manage the Orange County Basin which is fed from the Santa Ana River watershed. This water district is tasked to make sure there is enough water and that the quality is such that can be used by the pumpers of mainly North Orange County. For every acre foot of water pumped out, we pay \$249 an acre. One of their big projects is the ground water replenishment system which uses the out fall from the Sand District and the Orange County Water District to form that project. The out fall from the Sand District is treated to a high level and put back into the ground water.

Metropolitan's reserves are dangerously low and the restricted pumping up north has increased the cost of water. There are three rate increases by option. Fiscal year ending 2010 Option 1 34% increase in January; Option 2 19.5% increase in September 2009, and Option 3 19.5% increase in September 2009. Usually the rate increases are in January but propose this year to start the increase in September. Option 3 seems to be the most likely.

On an average two month water bill usage of 32,000 gallons, the water fee goes up about \$7.26. The sanitation is 25% of the water bill and would go up \$1.82 making a total of \$9.08. The sanitation sewer fee is not impacted by this increase.

Committee Member Otter – said depending on what part of Fullerton you live in your statement indicates you are using all or none of the Metropolitan Water District's water. Does that impact how that consumer is charged?

Water System Manager Schickling – stated that it does not increase the rate for those residents, the rate is blended.

If Metropolitan enterers their allocated plans Phase 1 - Phase IV that would be about an 8% reduction in our total water supply to make sure we are under the Metropolitan use. If we go over that 8% the cost would be about five times the cost of water. Staff will recommend to

Council any where from a 0-10% increase in rates on our water supply. If everyone conserved 10% that would keep us under the penalty

Chairman McNelly – asked if there was a penalty aside from the increases.

Water System Manager Schickling – replied that there would not.

Committee Member Otter – asked how the plan would be implement?

Water System Manager Schickling – Staff would come first to this committee for feedback; then address City Council at the public hearing and recommend which stage and how much of an increase. There are also guidelines in our Ordinance. Prop218 requires a notification on all utility increases. The City holds a public hearing and mails a 45-day notice by post card to all users.

Committee Member Avera – asked if Fullerton has any restriction on artificial turf.

Water System Manager Schickling – said there is a rebate available through Metropolitan Water District for Fullerton residents (35 cents a square foot toward installation); however, there are restrictions against artificial materials in Planning's Ordinance. If a person intents to install artificial turf right now they should talk with Planning.

Senior Planner Allen – stated the landscape requirements are being reviewed and revised.

The City has already done a lot to set an example. The majority of our water usage is at the parks and sports complex. We need to reduce park usage by 10%. City Council has given permission for us to go to the Parks & Recreation Commission to discuss conservation.

Committee Member Otter – asked if there was any outreach programs at the schools.

Schickling Water System Manager – The Municipal Water District of Orange County has an educational program. We budget about \$10-12,000 a year to educate the elementary school children.

Water System Manager Schickling – Staff has fliers and door hangers that the meter readers will leave as they go out on their routes. There is also a water watchdog hotline.

Committee Member Twineham – inquired whether there was anything decided at the last City Council meeting in regards to mandatory water conservation.

Water System Manager Schickling – said there was no information from Metropolitan Water District, the report was only "receive and file."

Chairman McNelly – said please refresh the committee on water loss from leaking pipes, and whether staff tracks the number of people who took advantage of the Low-flow Toilets Rebate Program.

Water System Manager Schickling – stated that leaking pipes is known as unaccountable water. The goal is 6%. We are around 5.4% for the year. The City has 31,000 meters in the City, of those, about 25,000 are single-family residential. If someone had a pinhole leak in their house it gets by the meter as it wears out. Low flow in the meters is where the majority of the losses are.

Water System Manager Schickling – The City has some numbers for how many rebates were given. The rebates are slowing and the market maybe saturated. It has been an effective program.

Chairman McNelly – advocated the 10-gallon a day program with a catchy phrase that may pick up a lot of extra water savings. Another suggestion was to have people think about a garden instead of grass clippings.

Committee Member Otter – does the bill include any comparison with past history? It might be helpful to see that sort of feedback.

Water System Manager Schickling – The bill has last year's use but no graphs of prior years. The City would like to have an automated reading system but it is costly.

Chairman McNelly – asked the City Manager if a level of detail could be placed in the City's Council Briefing on water main breaks.

Chairman McNelly – said how can the City translate the additional increase in cost to someone's budget?

Committee Member Otter – suggested that one interesting fact such as the 2000-year turnaround cycle on infrastructure replacement in comparison to a cup of latte be put in the water bill -- one interesting fact every billing cycle would be a good way to convey that type of information.

Committee Members Lucero and Twineham - noticed two misprints in the Potential Fullerton Drought Action handout. Non re-circulating systems should be changed to re-circulating, and a single-pass cooling system should be changed to a double-pass cooling system.

Chairman McNelly – suggested that Potential Fullerton Drought Action might better be defined as Water Conservation Action or Prohibited Actions.

Vice Chair Twineham – asked for an update on the Hughes contamination plume.

Water System Manager Schickling – replied that when Raytheon was located on the Hughes property they dumped organic compounds into the ground. Those compounds are being tracked by the California Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) who hired an environmental firm to provide a remediation plan to collect this plume of contaminates. There is a collection well behind Target (Amerige Heights) that pumps out the organic compounds. The compounds are then treated and pumped into the sewer system. The plume is constantly tracked. It goes out toward Malvern. Two more monitoring wells are being considered along the railroad tracks. There are monitoring wells all over Amerige Heights; the parking area and down to our airport.

The environmental firm is considering one more well in the Amerige Heights area to continue to pull the contaminants out. The City is also testing several of our own wells for dioxin.

The City receives a quarterly report on the progress and a meeting is held yearly.

Chairman McNelly – asked how many other questionable plumes of contaminated ground water are in the city.

Water System Manager Schickling – stated that the other plume, which is much bigger, comes out of the Fullerton/Anaheim area where Northrop and Aerojet were located just north of Kimberley-Clark. This plume stays shallow. The Orange County District has drilled five collections wells throughout Fullerton. Those collections wells will collect this water, pump it into a pipeline that will go down Orangethorpe to State College and there build a treatment plant to treat that water and dump it into the groundwater aquifer. The treatment plant should be completed within the next year and a half.

## c) Annual Report on Accomplishments

Senior Planner Allen – requested that Item c) be tabled until the next month's meeting. In thinking about what the Committee did above and beyond the normal such as the trash contract and the Mayor's Climate Protection Agreement

Chairman McNelly – mentioned that the Committee is asked, in our charter, to report to Council each year in the form of Receive and File, or by presenting the report during the comments period to City Council... Are we behind schedule in our reporting?

Senior Planner Allen – advised that we typically do this at this time of year by going through the different areas that the Committee looks at such as Water and Energy; reporting on diversion and talking about anything additional that the Committee did throughout the year.

#### d) Priorities for 2009

Pressing issues to look at are:

#### Water issues

Source reduction and recycling element if it has to be revised it opens up additional funding resources

Chairman McNelly - encouraged Committee Members to communicate with Staff regarding anything for future agendas or discuss for the remainder 09. He suggested that Staff send all members copies of our 2009 accomplishments and last year's report before the next meeting.

## **COMMITTEE/STAFF COMMENTS:**

The Mayor's Climate Protection Agreement is scheduled for the City Council's April 21<sup>st</sup> meeting. Senior Planner Allen explained the process the agreement went through from review by the ERMC sub-committee to Planning Commission.

The Planning Commission has directed Staff to develop a program that would make sense for the City. California has its own standards above and beyond the US Mayor's Agreement.

Senior Planner Allen - stated that she attended a League of Cities seminar on AB32 and the companion legislation SB75 on transportation planning as it relates to emission from vehicles and light duty trucks. She asked the question if signing onto the agreement is something cities should do. The representative stated he would rather see the City put something in place and take action as opposed to signing onto the Agreement knowing the target would not be reached by 2012.

Committee Member Avera - said with the economics as they are today, it will be difficult to do some of the things that are talked about doing. Chairman McNelly agreed. Who is guiding the train as it continues to go down a track that may be reaching a dead end as opposed to staying in a sensible program based on our current economic situation? What are the benefits in all of this in the long run?

Senior Planner Allen - the state mandates the things that we need to do. AB32 came out with the next phase the first year (a scoping plan). It went sector by sector with specific reductions that each sector would need to have. The local governments were identified as a sector but were not assigned a specific reduction target. They were given recommended actions as opposed to requirements. Separately, SB375 has come out and superseded SB32. The California Resources Board will be setting regional thresholds for emissions for vehicles and light duty trucks. There will be reductions that we will be working with for the next few years.

Committee Member Avera – said Fullerton has worked hard to already do a lot toward meeting requirements and he supports not signing on to the agreement due to economics.

Senior Planner Allen – stated the City Council is interested in sustainability. When we go back to City Council, hopefully in a study session format, we will give them some areas that would be easy to implement in the building code, propose some phasing, come up with a framework on how to develop programs and policies and then work with this committee and the public on the details.

Chairman McNelly – noted that he would like to thank both Gene and Elaine for their interest in being re-appointed to this committee. The appointments may take place some time in May. He paid tribute to Elaine for the value of the work she has done on the Green Pages and to Gene for his comments and ongoing interest in the work of the Committee.

Chairman McNelly – reported on combined influent (Plant No. 1 and Plant No. 2) at the Orange County Sanitation District. In January, 2009 the average daily flow was 206 million gallons a day (MGD), and the average daily flow from July 2008 through January 2009 was 212 million gallons a day. This is a considerable reduction since FY1990-1991 when the average daily flow was 269 MGD. There has been an increase in population of more than 500,000 people in the Orange County Sanitation District service area since 1989. Water conservation is already having a significant impact on lowering daily wastewater flows in central and north Orange County.

The California Integrated Waste Management Board has developed a model home generator

program for disposing of pharmaceutical wastes — see their web site. http://www.ciwmb.ca.gov/HHW/PharmWaste/

The Water Research Foundation <u>www.WaterResearchFoundation.org</u> published a study that reports that the concentrations of pharmaceutical drugs and endocrine-disrupting compounds found in our public drinking water are likely too low to impact human health. The Water Research Foundation is the nation's leading drinking water research organization.

Committee Member Avera suggested that the City provide a collection center.

Senior Planner Allen – mentioned there is a program for sharps. The County is supposed to be working with pharmacies on a program.

Gene Brassett - commented that he did not realize that water shortage is world wide. There are countries that are buying water. The largest water supplier is in France.

Chairman McNelly – said he was a member of an international group that help provide water awareness and water assistance for countries where there is a need for local water supply.

### **ADJOURNMENT**:

With no further business the meeting was ADJOURNED A	T: 8:55 a.m.

Beverly Norton, Clerical Support