

CITY OF VENTURA

VENTURA WATER COMMISSION MINUTES

Gerhardt Hubner
Commissioner Chair

Robert McCord
Commissioner Vice-Chair

Nova Clite
Commissioner

Suzanne McCombs
Commissioner

Susan Mulligan
Commissioner

William Ackerman
Commissioner

Grant Burton
Commissioner

Susan Rungren, Ventura Water General Manager
Miles Hogan, Assistant City Attorney
Debra Gallegos, Recording Secretary

REGULAR MEETING

TUESDAY, JANUARY 26, 5:30 P.M.

IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CALIFORNIA GOVERNOR'S EXECUTIVE STAY AT HOME ORDER AND THE COUNTY OF VENTURA HEALTH OFFICER DECLARED LOCAL HEALTH EMERGENCY AND BE WELL AT HOME ORDER RESULTING FROM THE NOVEL CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19), CITY HALL IS CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC.

Water Commission conducted this meeting in accordance with California Governor Newsom's Executive Orders N-20-20 and N-35-20 and COVID-19 pandemic protocols.

Commission Chair Burton called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL – WATER COMMISSION

Present: Commissioners Ackerman, Clite, Hubner, McCombs, McCord, Mulligan and Burton. (all via teleconference/video conference)

Absent: None.

WATER COMMISSION ITEMS

1. [ELECT COMMISSION CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR](#)

Staff recommends that the Water Commission:

- a. Elect a Chair for calendar year 2021;
- b. Elect a Vice Chair for calendar year 2021.

Members of the Public: None.

Commissioner McCombs moved to elect Commissioner Hubner as the Chair. Commissioner Clite seconded the motion. The vote was as follows:

AYES: Commissioners Ackerman, Clite, Hubner, McCombs, McCord, Mulligan and Burton.

NOES: None.

Commissioner Chair Burton declared the motion carried, 7-0.

Commissioner Burton moved to elect Commissioner McCord as the Vice Chair. Commissioner Ackerman seconded the motion. The vote was as follows:

AYES: Commissioners Ackerman, Clite, Hubner, McCombs, McCord, Mulligan and Burton.

NOES: None.

Commissioner Chair Burton declared the motion carried, 7-0.

2. MINUTES

Approve the minutes of the December 15, 2020 Regular meeting.

Members of the Public: None.

Commissioner Mulligan moved to approve the December 15, 2020 minutes with the addition to Agenda Item 7 that Commissioner Hubner submitted written comments requesting that prior to the next annual rate review, but no later than a year from now, a VenturaWaterPure project construction and operations staffing and position analysis will be completed and submitted to the Water Commission for review and comment. Staff agreed to the request. Commissioner Clite seconded the motion. The vote was as follows:

AYES: Commissioners Ackerman, Clite, McCombs, Mulligan, Burton, McCord, and Hubner.

NOES: None.

Commissioner Chair Hubner declared the motion carried, 7-0.

3. 2020 WATER SHORTAGE EVENT CONTINGENCY PLAN UPDATE

Staff recommends the Water Commission receive this written report and an oral update on the update of the Water Shortage Event Contingency Plan in conjunction with the development of the 2020 Urban Water Management Plan.

Members of the Public: None.

No Vote.

4. [2020 WATER AND WASTEWATER RATE STUDY – FINAL RATES AND WATER SHORTAGE RATES](#)

It is recommended that the Water Commission:

- a) Receive this written report and oral presentation by Raftelis Financial Consultants Inc.
- b) Review and approve the final water and wastewater base rates.
- c) Review and approve the proposed water shortage rates.
- d) Select a Water Commissioner to participate in the ongoing Outreach efforts for the Water and Wastewater Rate Study and proposed rate increases.

Members of the Public: Joseph Richardson and Burt Handy.

Commissioner Mulligan moved to approve the proposed five-year water and wastewater base rates and water shortage rates as maximum potential increases; rate adjustments beyond Fiscal Year 2021-22 are subject to the annual rate check-in with the Water Commission each spring of the study period to authorize the rate adjustment necessary for the upcoming July. Commissioner McCombs seconded the motion. The vote was as follows:

AYES: Commissioners Ackerman, Clite, McCombs, Mulligan, Burton, McCord, and Hubner.

NOES: None.

Commissioner Chair Hubner declared the motion carried, 7-0.

Commissioner Hubner moved to select Commissioner McCombs to participate in the Outreach efforts for the rate study and proposed rate increases. Commissioner Burton seconded the motion. The vote was as follows:

AYES: Commissioners Ackerman, Clite, Mulligan, Burton, McCord, and Hubner.

NOES: None.

ABSTAIN: Commissioner McCombs.

Commissioner Chair Hubner declared the motion carried, 6-0-1.

5. APPOINTMENT OF VENTURAWATERPURE AD HOC COMMITTEE MEMBER

Appoint a Water Commissioner to the VenturaWaterPure Ad Hoc Committee.

Members of the Public: None.

Commissioner Burton moved to appoint Commissioner Mulligan to the VenturaWaterPure Ad Hoc Committee. Commissioner McCord seconded the motion. The vote was as follows:

AYES: Commissioners Ackerman, Clite, McCombs, Mulligan, Burton, McCord, and Hubner.

NOES: None.

Commissioner Chair Hubner declared the motion carried, 7-0.

6. TENTATIVE WATER COMMISSION SCHEDULE FOR 2021

Staff recommends the Water Commission review and receive the Water Commission Tentative Schedule through December 2021.

Members of the Public: None.

Commissioner Ackerman moved to approve the recommendation. Commissioner Burton seconded the motion. The vote was as follows:

AYES: Commissioners Ackerman, Clite, McCombs, Mulligan, Burton, McCord, and Hubner.

NOES: None.

Commissioner Chair Hubner declared the motion carried, 7-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

COMMISSIONER COMMUNICATIONS:

Commissioner Clite that in her personal capacity she is working with a local advocacy group Climate First Replace Oil and Gas (CFROG) to investigate the potential environmental impacts of cyclic steam extraction of tar sands below the Fox Canyon and Grimes Aquifers in the Oxnard Plain.

Commissioner McCord would like a status on repayment of a WAV loan made in 2010 from the City to the Redevelopment District. It was a \$2,000,000 loan, but to get the \$2,000,000 the City Council and staff moved \$1,000,000 from the Ventura Water Art Fund with a promissory note to repay. The pay off date has been extended 4 times 2012-2016.

He would like to know if it has been collected or if it is still owed and if so it needs to be collected and repaid.

Commissioner Hubner stated that he received communication from someone in the Ojai area that has property and part of the adjudication and inquired the status and information on the upcoming deadline. Staff responded that the deadline for a response to the City's cross complaint is the end of this week and that the deadline had been extended several times. There is information on the website at www.venturariverwatershedadjudication.com. The website shows options for a response and contact information for outside counsel assistance with the filling out and filing the forms.

GENERAL MANAGERS REPORT:

VenturaWaterPure is selected to apply for the EPA's Loan Program, WIFIA, interest rate remains just about 1 percent. \$125,000,000

- Ventura Water's Wastewater Collections Team has been awarded Medium-Sized Collection System of the Year Award by the California Water Environmental Association (CWEA) Tri-Counties Section.

Outreach –

- Staff will be returning to the Community Council Groups in February once we have more details on the Rate Structure decisions established by the Water Commission.
 - February 11, 2021 – Midtown Community Council
 - February 16, 2021 - Pierpont Bay Community Council
 - February 18, 2021 - East Area Community Council
 - February 19, 2021 - Chamber of Commerce
 - February 24, 2021 - College Area Community Council
 - March 9, 2021 - Montalvo Community Council

Staffing Update -

- Biologist started Jan 19th. Sarah Horwath previously worked for an environmental consulting firm, and has a background in scientific/ regulatory writing.
- Program Director for VenturaWaterPure interviews underway.
- Several interviews taking place for various positions.

Past Council Info.

Council Action 1/11/2021 –

Reconfirming the existence of a Local Emergency and extending it until March 12, 2021. This extends our no shut off policy.

Approve the Eastside to Westside Waterline Interconnection Project Final Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration.

Council Action 1/23/2021 – 2021-2022 City Council Goal Setting Session, Formal Goal Setting February 8, 2021

Multiyear goals: Advance VenturaWaterPure
New goals: Implement Water and Wastewater rates
Update Net Zero Fee

Council Action 1/25/2021 –

Approve Amendment to the Ventura Water Billing System Upgrade - Ventura Water utilizes the enQuesta software from System & Software, Inc. for the City's utility billing system. The City is in the process of upgrading enQuesta and have determined that Capricorn, a new enQuesta user interface with new software features, will better meet the needs of Ventura Water and its customers.

Approve Unfreezing Assistant/Associate/Civil Engineer Position.

Approve Unfreezing Utilities Services Leadworker Position.

Utilization of the City's 2021 State Water Project Carryover Water - Authorize sale of 525 acre-feet of the City's 2021 State Water Project Carryover Water to United Water Conservation District in exchange for \$28,072.

Appointment of Ventura Water Pure Ad Hoc Committee Members.

Transmittal of the Proposed 2020-2026 Capital Improvement Plan - (2nd Year) Section 1210 of the City Charter requires staff to prepare and submit annually a Five-Year Capital Improvement Program for City Council approval. The Council must hold a public hearing and adopt the Capital Improvement Program by April 1st of each year. Staff prepares a new comprehensive six-year Capital Improvement Program every two years and makes minor revisions to the plan on the off-years. This proposed program is the off-year revision of the approved Fiscal Year 2020-2026 Capital Improvement Program and covers the five-year period of Fiscal Year 2021-2026.

ADJOURNMENT: 7:34 P.M.