

# MINUTES

Regular meeting of the City of Redlands Municipal Utilities/Public Works Commission on August 7, 2023 at 4:00 PM in the Council Chambers at the Civic Center, 35 Cajon Street. The meeting was an in-person meeting.

## **A. ATTENDANCE & CALL TO ORDER**

Present: Adekunle Ojo, Chairperson  
Steve Stockton, Vice Chairperson  
David Garcia, Commissioner  
Chandrasekar 'CV' Venkatraman, Commissioner  
Thomas Breitzkreuz, Commissioner  
Robert Meals, Commissioner

Absent: Zachary Travis, Commissioner

City Council  
Liaison: Mario Saucedo, City Council Member

Staff: John Harris, Municipal Utilities & Engineering Director; Goutam Dobey, City Engineer; Johana Silva, Commission Liaison/Associate Engineer; Fernando Mata, Wastewater Utility Manager; Jungjoon Park, Joint Utilities Laboratory Manager

Chairman Ojo called the meeting to order at 4:01 PM.

## **B. PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

## **C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Commissioner Garcia commented on corrections within the minutes. On the motion by Commissioner Stockton, seconded by Commissioner CV, the minutes of the regular meeting of June 5, 2023, were approved.

**Vote:** 6 – 0 Passed

## **D. COMMUNICATIONS**

### **a. Director's Report**

Director Harris welcomed everyone to the meeting and provided highlights to his Director's Report.

Updates were provided on the following:

*City Groves Irrigation Conversion:* The Palmetto Groves on the east and west sides of the City landfill are now using recycled water. MUED has secured a \$100,000 award from the SBV Water Conservation Program to extend

# MINUTES

the recycled water distribution system piping south on California Street to convert the California Grove and West Redlands Gateway Grove from potable water irrigation to recycled water irrigation.

*WWTP P2 Project Update:* SCE recently approved the project electrical supply design and Parsons is finalizing the design.

*Water Meter Replacement Project:* MUED staff has submitted a BOR grant application aimed at securing partial funding for the three remaining project phases. It is anticipated that BOR will grant approval for this funding request, resulting in an allocation of around \$2.7M to bring the project to completion. MUED staff and Ferguson are working to consolidate the three (3) remaining project phases into a single phase.

*PMP Update:* Redland Boulevard from Citrus Street to Texas Street will be milled and overlaid next week.

A conversation followed about the type of repairs conducted in well rehabilitation, Edison's efficiency testing for wells, addressing perchlorate remediation, and current PFAS levels in the City's wells. Inquiries were raised regarding whether the Tate influent line design will be above or below ground.

## **b. San Bernardino Valley Water Conservation District Annual Update**

Mr. Harris introduced Betsy Miller, General Manager of the San Bernardino Valley Water Conservation District (SBVWCD). Ms. Miller discussed updates related to the SBVWCD and its significance for the local water supply. The presentation emphasized the district's role in groundwater recharge, historical background, fiscal responsibility, and collaborations with various entities. Notable achievements and ongoing projects were highlighted, including the Plunge Creek Project which recharges groundwater and increases habitat for native species. The presenter underlined the collaborative approach with cities, water districts, and local tribes to balance diverse needs.

## **c. Schedule for the Commission's Annual Report to City Council**

Mr. Harris stated that a schedule was developed for commission/board/committee annual report presentations to City Council. The MUPWC is scheduled to present the annual report on the first meeting of the March.

## **E. NEW BUSINESS**

None.

## **F. COMMISSIONER ANNOUNCEMENTS, REPORTS ON ACTIVITIES, AND/OR REQUESTS FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

Items requested for the next regular Commission meeting agenda were as follows:

Meter Replacement Program – Performance metrics for the meter replacement program.

# MINUTES

Lead and Copper Rule – Impacts on the community and the actions taken by the City in response to the Lead and Copper Rule.

Wastewater Treatment Plant Update – Comprehensive update on the wastewater treatment plant upgrade and funding.

Groundwater Council – Provide an update on the City's position within the groundwater council prior to the expiration of the one-year extension.

Commissioner Garcia mentioned the presence of a pond with a waterfall located on the western offramp of Alabama Street. The waterfall is currently non-functional, and the pond is experiencing an issue with algae accumulation, which could potentially lead to an infestation of insects.

## **G. ADJOURNMENT – Next regular meeting is October 2, 2023 at 4:00 PM**

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 5:01 PM. The next regular meeting of the City of Redlands Municipal Utilities/Public Works Commission is scheduled for October 2, 2023.