

AGENDA ITEM: A-1

DATE: December 12, 2013

ACTION: APPROVED

**JOINT MEETING
CITY OF MORRO BAY AND CAYUCOS SANITARY DISTRICT
WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT
(UNDER JOINT POWERS AGREEMENT)**

MINUTES

**CAYUCOS SANITARY DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS:**

Robert Enns, President
Dan Chivens, Vice-President
Michael Foster, Director
Shirley Lyon, Director
Dan Lloyd, Director

**CITY OF MORRO BAY CITY COUNCIL
MEMBERS:**

Jamie Irons, Mayor
George Leage, Vice-Mayor
Christine Johnson, Councilmember
Nancy Johnson, Councilmember
Noah Smukler, Councilmember

MEETING DATE:

6:00 p.m., Thursday, September 12, 2013

HOSTED BY:

City of Morro Bay

MEETING PLACE:

Multi-Purpose Room
Community Center
1001 Kennedy Way
Morro Bay, CA 93442

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Mayor Irons called the meeting to order at 6:01 pm and asked the record to show all Councilmembers were present except for Councilmember Nancy Johnson. All Cayucos Sanitary District Boardmembers were present.

Morro Bay staff members present were Bruce Keogh, Rob Livick, and Katie Mineo.

Cayucos staff members present were District Manager Rick Koon and District Counsel Tim Carmel.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Members of the audience wishing to address the governing bodies on Morro Bay-Cayucos Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) business matters may do so at this time. By the conditions of the Brown Act, the governing bodies may not discuss issues not on the agenda, but may set items for future agendas. When recognized by the Chair, please come forward to the podium and state your name and address for the record. Comments should be limited to three minutes.

Mayor Irons opened Public Comment period, and, seeing none, closed Public Comment period.

A. CONSENT CALENDAR

Mayor Irons opened Public Comment period for the Consent Calendar, and seeing none, closed Public Comment period.

Councilmember Smukler asked Keogh to report on the status of the operations of the WWTP. Keogh stated there is nothing new to report for the WWTP operations. He also stated the NPDES renewal packet was submitted to the Regional

Water Quality Control Board on August 22, 2013. The Regional Board now has 30 days to respond to the applicant. Staff will update the Council and Board on this issue as more information becomes available.

A-1 MINUTES OF JUNE 13, 2013 JPA MEETING

Recommendation: Approve as submitted

A-2 WWTP OPERATIONS REPORT THROUGH JULY, 2013

Recommendation: Receive and file

A-3 STATUS REPORT ON THE NPDES PERMIT RENEWAL PROCESS

Recommendation: Receive and file

CAYUCOS MOTION: Director Lyon moved to approve the Consent Calendar. Vice-President Chivens seconded and the motion passed unanimously. (5-0).

MORRO BAY MOTION: Councilmember Smukler moved to approve the Consent Calendar. Councilmember Christine Johnson seconded and the motion passed unanimously. (4-0).

B. OLD BUSINESS

B-1 STATUS REPORT OF THE MAJOR REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE PLAN (MMRP) FOR THE WWTP

Recommendation: Receive and file

Keogh stated President Enns, Councilmember Smukler, and Director Lloyd met with WWTP staff to tour the plant and learn about WWTP processes. After the tour, WWTP staff was asked to create a short informational video to educate the Council, the Board, and the public on the importance of influent screening and of removing certain material from the system before it affects downstream treatment processes.

The first part of the video explained that “rags” are made up of inorganic matter including plastics, needles, and woven materials, and it explained how they cause ongoing issues at the WWTP. The video then illustrated the following WWTP processes and projects:

1. Cleaning the Headworks Channel Grinder
2. Removing Digester Rags in Piping – rags are taken directly to landfill for disposal
3. Rags in Scum Pump – pumps cleaned every seven to ten days to remove inorganic material
4. Corroded Secondary Piping – old piping was replaced with new piping
5. Finished Repair Sleeve
6. WAS Pipe Repairs and Raising out of Floodplain
7. Finished WAS Piping
8. Corroded Waste Gas Burner – corroded piping replaced with new equipment
9. Finished New Burner

The next video will illustrate the cleaning of the digester.

Councilmember Smukler asked staff if the video could be used for public education purposes in order to help prevent rag buildup. Keogh stated that is a possibility. Keogh also stated the City releases newsletters twice yearly that stress the toilet is *not* designed to handle inorganic materials such as paint, plastics, and pesticides.

Director Lloyd asked staff if other cultures are aware of the rag issue and if they handle it differently. In particular, he asked if Eastern Europe utilizes certain technologies to manage the problem. Keogh stated Eastern Europe probably offers more public education and awareness on the issue. Additionally, because many sewer-related products are engineered in Germany, there is much more social awareness about recycling.

Keogh presented the staff report.

Director Lloyd stated the tour of the WWTP was extremely informative and stated he was impressed by the quality of work done at the plant.

Director Foster asked staff if it would be more efficient to remove the rags from the piping twice per week rather than once per week. Keogh stated he and the WWTP have explored this issue and tried to remove the rags more frequently during the week, but determined that it makes the most sense logistically to only remove the rags once per week.

Mayor Irons opened Public Comment period.

Marla Jo Bruton, resident of Morro Bay, asked staff to confirm that Mike Nunley's roles and responsibilities associated with the WWTP project are separate from those associated with the WRF project. Keogh stated that Nunley's contract for the MMRP is with the City *and* the CSD, while the scope of work for the WRF is a City-only contract.

Bruton asked how the rags affect the collections system. Keogh stated the rags can potentially cause blockage in the sewer lines. With the new Sewer System Master Plan that the State has implemented, the City is now more proactive to remove the rags from the system.

Rob Livick, Morro Bay Public Services Director, stated the public should be cautious of what goes into the sewer system and should be aware of whether or not certain items are truly flushable.

Mayor Irons closed Public Comment period.

MORRO BAY MOTION: Councilmember Smukler moved to approve Item B-1.

President Enns confirmed with Council that Item B-1 was only to be received and filed, and did not need a motion. The motion made by Councilmember Smukler was withdrawn.

C. NEW BUSINESS

C-1 VERBAL REPORT BY THE CITY AND DISTRICT ON THE PROGRESS OF THE FUTURE WWTP

Director Llyod presented the report. He stated WSC has completed an analysis for CSD regarding sewer treatment options. The sewer treatment option at CMC appears to be the most economically viable. Going forward, the Board is looking forward to hearing from Morro Bay regarding developing a facility closer to the City, which may be less expensive and more viable. The issue of expanding the sewer treatment plant at the CMC involves some variables that cannot be quantified, such as an easement for transmission, bringing the water back to Morro Bay, and how to handle the salts. He stated regionalization would be beneficial for all parties because it would reduce costs, especially labor costs associated with running one facility rather than multiple facilities.

Mayor Irons stated the City is working through the process as well and it will be helpful to evaluate the different data from both reports. Irons announced a Biosolids workshop will be held on September 16, 2013.

Livick stated the first workshop was very successful, with lots of public participation. There was much interest amongst the community in developing the CMC site. The upcoming workshop will be more technical, where the consultant, Mike Nunley, will educate the public on basics of wastewater treatment. Another community workshop will be held in October to present to the public all of the information collected at that point and to correct course as needed. Following that

workshop, the information will be presented to the Council for their input and recommendations. Livick stated he is looking forward to bringing this process to conclusion by the end of the year.

Director Lyon asked when this information would be presented at a JPA meeting. Livick stated it would come back to JPA after it is presented to Council, which would be sometime in January 2014.

Councilmember Smukler asked staff about the range of information that would be presented at the workshop. Livick confirmed a wide range of information would be presented so that the City can truly evaluate where the benefits lie for the City.

Councilmember Smukler asked staff when the City will start the process of touring potential sites for the new facility. Livick stated the City has contacted the business manager at the CMC and intends to meet with CMC staff soon, after which time, the subcommittee will be given a tour of the facility.

Mayor Irons opened Public Comment period.

Richard Sadowski, resident of Morro Bay, asked if there is another Cayucos report (in addition to the WSC report) that explains that CMC is the preferable site for Cayucos. Sadowski also stated he would like clarification from the Board and Council regarding how the outfall pipes and brine discharge would be managed if the CMC site is selected.

Marla Jo Bruton, resident of Morro Bay, would like clarification regarding the financial responsibilities of each the City of Morro Bay and the Cayucos Sanitary District in the processes. She stated she is concerned about the NPDES permit that the CSD would need to acquire if they decide to separate from Morro Bay. Bruton also stated she is concerned about the possibility of a pipe transmitting brine from the CMC to the ocean outfall. The community does not want waste material brought into the area to be dumped.

Mayor Irons closed Public Comment period.

Director Lloyd responded to Sadowski's comment and explained there was not a second report. When all costs are considered, the numbers show the CMC is the most economically favorable option. Lloyd then addressed the brine discharge issue and stated the CMC plant does require brine discharge, and by adding twice the treatment capacity to the plant, using the existing outfall for brine discharge would be an economically superior and environmentally satisfactory way to deal with brine.

President Enns asked CSD staff to clarify what is currently done with brine at the CMC plant. Koon stated the plant does not currently produce brine. If the CMC site is selected, though, a reverse osmosis system would need to be installed in order to handle the dissolved solids, and brine is a byproduct of the reverse osmosis process.

President Enns stated the WSC report suggested installing a reverse osmosis system which would improve the quality of the discharge that goes directly into the creek.

Director Lloyd stated the City of Morro Bay would benefit from the discharge into the creek because it would help recharge the aquifer.

Councilmember Smukler acknowledged the concern that some people in the community have regarding whether or not the City will continue operations at the current plant and how the WSC report suggests the CSD should move forward.

President Enns stated the CSD is hoping the City will come forward with a project or concept that would be cheaper than staying at the existing plant.

Councilmember Smukler stated the Council and Board should be aware of the potential impacts of the brine discharge to Morro Bay, and stated the impacts be avoided as the project moves forward.

Councilmember Christine Johnson asked staff to clarify whether there is enough study being done to know if there is a certain and direct link from the creek discharge at the CMC and recharging the wells in the Chorro Valley. Livick stated

this is a viable method of water reuse and the City could make beneficial use of this water downstream. It allows for a natural treatment process. The creek will need to be hydrogeologically examined, though, to ensure that discharge locations will benefit downstream well fields. He also stated there will be a brine byproduct if a reverse osmosis process is used for advanced treatment, but the City will assess different options and weigh the costs and environmental benefits of how to best discharge the brine.

Livick announced the following meeting dates:

October 15, 2013 – Community Workshop #2

October 22, 2013 – Presentation of the Options Report to the City Council

Councilmember Christine Johnson asked staff if the City of Morro Bay would work with other municipalities to ensure that the water is Morro Bay's water if it is possible to discharge. Livick stated City would be working with the State Water Resources Control Board, the Department of Water Resources, and the Department of Fish and Game. Livick also stated the water rights issue would need to be discussed in more detail.

Director Lloyd stated any solution brought forward will need to be analyzed thoroughly from an environmental perspective. There will be a rigorous review process.

C-2 SCHEDULE NEXT JOINT MEETING AND AGENDA ITEMS

The next JPA meeting is scheduled for October 10, 2013 and will be hosted by Cayucos.

Councilmember Smukler announced December 12, 2013 will be the next meeting date if the October meeting is canceled.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Irons adjourned the meeting at 6:57 pm.

Minutes Recorded by:

Katie Mineo, Morro Bay Public Services Department