

**PINOLE / HERCULES
Wastewater Subcommittee**

**Minutes prepared by: Anita Tucci-Smith
August 6, 2015
8:30 A.M.**

The regular meeting was hosted by the City of Hercules in the Council Chambers of City Hall.

1. CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Sherry McCoy, Hercules Mayor serving as Chair, called the meeting to order at 8:32 A.M.

Debbie Long, Councilmember, City of Pinole, led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. ROLL CALL

Subcommittee Members Present:

Sherry McCoy, Mayor, City of Hercules
Bill Kelly, Councilmember, City of Hercules
Tim Banuelos, Councilmember, City of Pinole
Debbie Long, Councilmember, City of Pinole

Subcommittee Members Absent:

None

Staff Present:

David Biggs, City Manager, Hercules
Mike Roberts, Public Works Director/City Engineer, Hercules
Dean Allison, Public Works Director/City Engineer, Pinole
Ron Tobey, Plant Operations Manager, Pinole

Members of the Public:

Anthony Gutierrez, Pinole
James Tillman, Wastewater Advocate, Pinole

3. INTRODUCTIONS

4. APPROVAL OF DRAFT MINUTES FROM JUNE 4, 2015 MEETING

Action: Motion by Pinole Councilmember Long, seconded by Pinole Councilmember Banuelos to approve the minutes of the June 4, 2015 meeting, as submitted, carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Banuelos, Kelly, Long, McCoy
Noes: None
Abstain: None
Absent: None

5. CITIZENS TO BE HEARD – FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

Jim Tillman, Pinole, spoke to the benefits of water recycling and urged the Wastewater Subcommittee to negotiate with West County to provide gray water for use by Hercules and Pinole citizens for outside watering. He also asked about Pinole's collection system, the repair of that system, and the operational costs; the status of East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD) infiltration into the Wastewater Treatment Plant; the long-term cost to the ratepayer and whether those rates would be reviewed; and that the specifications for the Water Treatment Plant be placed on the website in a pdf file to allow citizens to review the specs.

In response, **Dean Allison, Public Works Director/City Engineer, Pinole**, advised that the specs could be placed on line. He stated that he would meet with Mr. Tillman to address his other questions but noted that rates were reviewed annually.

6. PROJECT UPDATE

Dean Allison, Public Works Director/City Engineer, Pinole, reported that the City had received final 100 percent plans and specifications signed by HDR, Inc., which plans had been extensively reviewed by the legal team and the Construction Manager, and which were expected to be advertised in late September 2015. He expected an extensive bid review process, stated that bids would be opened around December 2015, anticipated an award of contract in February 2016, and advised that the project would be underway by March 2016.

Mr. Allison also reported that through the pre-qualification process, eleven contractors had expressed interest in the project, and ten had been found to be qualified; all had been notified. He responded to questions and advised that the project was on schedule, he did not expect any slippage with the schedule, and when the bids were opened they would then be sent to the State Revolving Loan Fund.

When asked, **Mike Warner, Construction Manager**, advised that RGW Construction did not meet the requirements in the pre-qualification documents because it was not a general contractor of a water treatment plant of at least \$30 million.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Anthony Gutierrez, Pinole, asked the status of the Project Labor Agreement (PLA), reported by **Mr. Allison** that the PLA should be completed in late August or early September since it was part of the packet to bidders, and once available it would be posted on the website.

The Wastewater Subcommittee received the verbal update on the project schedule, status of the plans and specifications, and the loan application at the State Water Resources Control Board.

7. OPERATIONAL REPORT

Mr. Allison reminded everyone that there was a good, capable, and technically sound operational group at the Water Treatment Plant. He highlighted the focus on operations, opportunities for cost savings, opportunities for regional collaboration, and opportunity for enterprise activities.

Ron Tobey, Plant Operations Manager, Pinole, reported that the community was significantly conserving water due to the drought which had reduced flows at the plant, and for the plant to do its part, staff had analyzed the use of potable water and had identified areas where meaningful conservation could occur. To that end, filters had been installed to filter water to use in the plant itself which should reduce potable water use by 30 to 40 percent. With respect to recycled water, he noted that some had approached the plant to check on the availability of recycled water although he explained that the plant only treated the water to a secondary level. Recycled water could be considered in the future after the upgrades had been completed.

Mr. Tobey also explained that plant staff had looked into the processing of food waste and noted that while there were some challenges, there might be some opportunities to consider processing food waste in the future. He added that the plant produced 500 to 600 dry tons a year of bio solids that was then sent off to land application at an annual cost of \$100,000. He noted there were some options to consider with respect to bio solids and suggested the solids to energy program was the most attractive alternative currently available. The City was looking for a consultant to realize some of those opportunities, and continued to take advantage of opportunities when they revealed themselves to save money as well as make money.

When asked if water conservation measures required modifications to the operation of the plant, **Mr. Tobey** affirmed that the plant had been dealing with that issue for the last couple of months and had to adjust its operations as a result.

Jim Tillman, Pinole, wanted to eventually see the wastewater system be a

closed system with nothing going into the Bay. He asked if the Wastewater Subcommittee could consider a study of some of the conservation alternatives.

Mr. Allison advised that there was currently a co-generation system at the plant, which had been in place for ten years, and which generated quite a bit of electricity.

The Wastewater Subcommittee received the verbal update from the Plant Manager on water recycling, long term solids handling issues, and the potential for processing food waste.

8. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at approximately 9:30 A.M. *in memory of Pinole City Treasurer Judy Lee*, to a regular meeting scheduled for Thursday, November 5, 2015 at 8:30 A.M. in the City of Pinole.