#### **MINUTES**

# ENERGY AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE AUGUST 15, 2007

**CALL TO ORDER:** Chairman McNelly called the meeting to order at 7:31 a.m.

**MEMBERS PRESENT**: Adamson, Committee Member Avera, Brassett, Lucero,

McCormack, McNelly, Mitchell, Petrella, Roberts, Twineham

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

PUBLIC PRESENT: None

**STAFF PRESENT**: Water System Manager/Assistant City Engineer Dave

Schickling, Acting Senior Planner Allen, City Treasurer Phyllis

Garrova and Secretary Pasillas

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Minutes of June 20, 2007 approved as corrected.

## INTRODUCTIONS/ROLL CALL:

# **ACTION ITEMS**

a. None

# **DISCUSSION ITEMS**:

# Old Business:

# b. <u>Emergency Water Conservation Plan – Review of Update</u>

Chairman McNelly briefed the Committee on the Emergency Water Conservation Plan and report that had been provided to the Members. Water System Manager Schickling explained the background of the plan update, and purpose of the plan update. To get a reduction in water during a time of shortage, the most effective way was to go to the residential users and get them to reduce their usage. This update was to adjust the way the baseline rate is calculated, and to encourage more conservation and decrease the number of appeals that were filed with the City. He described the various ways that could be used to calculate the baseline.

Chairman McNelly stated that 84% of the water customers were residents of single family residential users, as shown in the report on page three.

Committee Member Adamson believed there were problems with using averages because lot size and family size varied from home to home. When he worked in Catalina he had gone through a water shortage they used standards based on the number of bedrooms per house.

Committee Member Avera commented that he did not think using one year for the baseline was long enough and suggested that five years would be better. He also thought it was difficult to convince the citizens that there was a water shortage when it took the City two weeks to fix a water leak that was running 24/7, which just occurred in his neighborhood.

Committee Member Petrella stated that some of the criteria for initiation of a water emergency in the report were unclear. She also questioned that fairness of issuing Notices of Violation and installing water flow meters on those people who used over their allotment, when some people may be willing to pay an increased water bill to keep using the same amount of water. She believed the plan as presented was unclear and too general.

Water System Manager Schickling stated that the purpose of the plan was not to generate revenue, but to drop the demand in a time of shortage.

Chairman McNelly commented that the definition of a water shortage emergency was not clear.

Committee Member Roberts explained that he was on an earlier subcommittee and recalled having a similar discussion. What was intended was to make people understand that if they used more they would pay more, but also that they needed to be a conscientious consumer and try to save water in a time of emergency so there would be enough water for basic needs.

Committee Member Mitchell thought that even though it was difficult to understand that water use was not always going to be fair, it should not be used as an excuse for not taking care of your own behavior.

Committee Member Petrella stated that the City was not in this situation currently, but believed the more information people had the better decisions they would make. Perhaps the City needed to be more proactive and send out information with the water bill, or in the Orange County Register on Wednesday. Water System Manager Schickling explained that information of this type was included in the water bill via the Focus on Fullerton newsletter, and the Orange County Register was available to the City every other Wednesday.

Committee Member Adamson commented that more statistical analysis on the water sales to residential customers was needed to provide input on the direction to take.

Chairman McNelly stated that some cities billed for sewage based on the number of drains, and that may provide a picture of what was available for use within that house. He also thought the number of residents was a good indicator on water usage.

Chairman McNelly asked how difficult it would be to go to the household level rather than use averages. Water System Manager Schickling responded that it would be extremely time consuming. Commercial and industrial usage was fairly average, but residential usage patterns change.

Committee Member Adamson asked how many water customers the City had, and City Treasurer Garrova responded there were 31,000 active water customers. Committee Member Adamson made the point that statistical analysis would provide information to help understand where the problems would be.

Committee Member Roberts did not believe there would be a completely agreeable way to come up with a plan that would work for everyone, but some statistics would help to understand the problem.

Committee Member McCormack believed an analysis would be fairly easy to look at. He believed if the goal was to get people to conserve; having the plan be specific to their water use would be the best way to regulate. There was no perfect way to allocate the baseline, and which ever way was used would have its own set of problems.

Water System Manager Schickling explained that the typical complaint they received was from a person who put in a new sod lawn and wanted a higher allocation. The intent was for everyone to conserve, and indoor usage would be taken care of in the allocation, and outdoors would have to wait.

Committee Member Twineham asked about the tier system, and Water System Manager Schickling explained how it worked. Committee Member Twineham clarified that there would be a distinction made between single family and multi-family, and also those families that that have a separate irrigation meter. Chairman McNelly responded that irrigation meters would be allocated a lot tighter in a time of shortage.

Committee Member Lucero commented that on page one of the report it said that 50% of the residential demand was for outdoor use, and he believed the reduction of use should be on the outdoor use, such as over watering lawns. He believed it would be difficult to regulate indoor usage.

Committee Member Mitchell thought there needed to be more community outreach, and information available on what could be done to conserve water outdoors. She did not believe the information was available from the City of Fullerton.

Water System Manager Schickling explained that a resident could apply for and receive a dedicated landscape meter. Committee Member Petrella asked if they would receive two bills, and City Treasurer Garrova confirmed that one bill would be issued for each meter.

Chairman McNelly asked how much it would cost the average person if they did nothing during an emergency. Water System Manager Schickling responded that it would depend on the tier and the averages.

Water System Manager Schickling commented that if the MWD and OCWD declared a drought, the City of Fullerton's Emergency Water Plan would be implemented. When people know the problem is serious they tend to conserve.

A question was asked as to where the penalty money that was collected went. Water System Manager Schickling explained that the fees would go into a drought fund, which would offset the decrease in income from water usage.

Chairman McNelly commented that he did not like the idea of shutting off a persons water completely, and Water System Manager Schickling explained that similar penalty's occurred even during normal times, i.e. faulty backflow device, or illegal connections. City Treasurer Garrova additionally commented that certain residents were habitually late paying their bills, and it did not matter that they incurred a penalty; they were not going to change.

Chairman McNelly asked how the City responded to a complaint about an increase in water charges, and City Treasurer Garrova explained that the City would do a check read, and also help the resident look for ways to decrease their water usage.

Committee Member McCormack believed that if 84% of the people used 50% of the water, then 50% of the water was still being used by commercial and industrial uses. Efforts should be placed on this 50% as well.

Committee Member McCormack left the meeting at 8:35 a.m.

The Committee Members decided to form a subcommittee to further study this plan and come back to the ERMC with their recommendations. The subcommittee members would be: Committee Member Twineham, Committee Member Adamson, Chairman McNelly, Committee Member Petrella, and Committee Member Avera. They would work with Water System Manager Schickling sometime during the next month and report back to the ERMC.

#### c. Green Building

Item was continued to allow time for discussion on the upcoming E-Waste event.

# **New Business**

# d. E-Waste Update

City Treasurer Garrova told the Committee Members that an E-Waste collection event would occur on September 21 and 22 at City Hall. The First Church of Religious Science was holding the event as a fundraiser, and had filed a Special Event application with the City, which had been approved. The City would get credit toward the 50% or greater diversion mandate.

Chairman McNelly clarified that it was a private event on public property, and City

Energy and Resource Management Committee August 15, 2007

Treasurer Garrova confirmed it was. The event would be marketed by the applicant.

Committee Member Twineham asked if there was a limit to the amount of e-waste a person could bring, and City Treasurer Garrova responded there was not a limit, to her knowledge, but the event was for Fullerton residents only, and only for e-waste.

Committee Member Roberts asked how secure it was to bring an old computer that may have information left on the hard drive. City Treasurer Garrova suggested removing and destroying the drive prior to dropping it off.

Chairman McNelly asked if the First Church of Religious Science would be receiving money from this event, and City Treasurer Garrova responded that the church had partnered with ARC International to hold this event as a fundraiser for the church.

Committee Member Petrella commented that she believed there could be repercussions from allowing the church to hold a private event on City property. Acting Senior Planner Allen explained that the event was allowed and the church had gone through the Special Event process and paid all fees. She further explained that the church would be billed for any required inspections or traffic control, if it was needed.

Committee Member Petrella asked why a middleman was needed and City Treasurer Garrova explained that the City was in the process of trying to partner with M-G Disposal and revising their contract to handle e-waste. As a courtesy, M-G will pick up large electronic items that are left out for the trash and take them to an E-Waste processor nearby.

Chairman McNelly would like the City to bring any revisions to the M-G contract before this Committee for their review and comments.

Committee Member Mitchell thought the City should be more proactive with this type of event, rather than waiting for some other group to approach them.

Committee Member Roberts believed it would be a good idea to let this event take place as planned, see what type of response was received, then use City resources to continue the program. Committee Member Brassett agreed with this suggestion.

Several Committee Members asked why M-G Disposal was not required to take care of this type of waste. City Treasurer Garrova explained that it was not included in the current contract the City had with M-G, but the City was working to renegotiate with M-G and somehow partner with them to hold this type of event in the future.

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**:

None

# **COMMITTEE/STAFF COMMENTS:**

Energy and Resource Management Committee August 15, 2007

Committee Member Roberts asked Acting Senior Planner Allen if there were any grants available for water conservation. Acting Senior Planner Allen responded that she was not aware of any, and deferred to Water System Manager Schickling. Water System Manager Schickling explained that the City had teamed with the MODOC and they were constantly looking for available grants.

Chairman McNelly asked when the ribbon cutting ceremony would be and Waster System Manager Schickling responded it would be held September 18, 2007 before the City Council meeting. The ERMC members would be receiving an invitation.

Committee Member Petrella had a "Recycle Fullerton" newsletter and commented that it had been translated into Spanish, but not Korean. She believed it was important to also have a Korean translation due to the large Korean population in the City.

Chairman McNelly stated that the next composting workshop would be held September 8, 2007 at the Fullerton Arboretum. He asked Acting Senior Planner Allen to contact ACE Hardware and let them know. He also thought it would be a good idea to acknowledge and thank ACE Hardware for their participation, and Acting Senior Planner Allen suggested doing it during Composting Week next year.

Acting Senior Planner Allen handed out Committee Member Handbooks from the City Clerk's office to those Members who did not have one.

# **ADJOURNMENT**:

With no further business the meeting was ADJOURNED AT: 9:03 a.m.