



**Subregional Wastewater Technical  
Advisory Committee  
Meeting Minutes - Final**

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Thursday, March 10, 2022

8:00 AM

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**1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

Jennifer Burke, Chair, called the meeting to order at 8:01 a.m.

Present: (5) Jennifer Burke, Craig Scott, Mary Grace Pawson, Ryan Crawford and Michael Thompson

Absent: (0)

City Staff Present:

Nick Harvey

Peter Martin

Sean McNeil

Joe Schiavone

John Stinson

Emma Walton

Kimberly Zunino

Roberta Atha

Public Present:

Eydie Tacata

**2. ADOPT RESOLUTION FINDING PROCLAIMED STATE OF EMERGENCY AND THAT MEETING IN PERSON WOULD PRESENT IMMINENT RISKS TO THE HEALTH OR SAFETY OF ATTENDEES AND AUTHORIZING MEETINGS BY TELECONFERENCE OF LEGISLATIVE BODIES**

- 2.1** PRESENTATION - RESOLUTION OF THE SUBREGIONAL TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE FINDING PROCLAIMED STATE OF EMERGENCY AND THAT MEETING IN PERSON WOULD PRESENT IMMINENT RISKS TO THE HEALTH OR SAFETY OF ATTENDEES, AND AUTHORIZING MEETINGS BY TELECONFERENCE OF LEGISLATIVE BODIES

Moved by City of Rohnert Park (Pawson), seconded by City of Cotati (Scott). Approved by City of Santa Rosa, City of Cotati, City of Rohnert Park, City of Sebastopol and Sonoma Water.

**3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**3.1** February 10, 2022 - Regular Meeting Minutes.

The minutes for February 10, 2022, were accepted as submitted.

**4. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None.

**5. NEW BUSINESS**

**5.1** PRESENTATION - FY 2022/23 REGIONAL CIP PROJECT FUNDING

Emma Walton, Deputy Director - Water Reuse, provided an overview of Regional CIP projects that are underway or in design and highlighted the status and projected construction timeline for several CIP projects within the Treatment Plant and other locations within the Regional system. Deputy Director Walton gave further details on two projects. The Electrical Infrastructure Replacement project includes \$20 million worth of improvements that are recommended within the next five years with additional mid- and long-term needs. The Aeration Basin Assessment and Rehabilitation project was recently approved by the Board of Public Utilities and includes installation of a bypass pumping system to dewater, clean and inspect the channels with construction anticipated in 2025.

**5.2** PRESENTATION - REVIEW OF PRELIMINARY FY 2022/23 OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE, DEBT SERVICE AND CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT BUDGETS AND ALLOCATIONS

Nick Harvey, Administrative Analyst, presented the proposed Regional O&M and CIP budget and Regional partner allocations for FY 2022/23. Significant increases in the budget include salaries and benefits, professional services and O&M projects. Miscellaneous Revenues are up due in part to increases in high strength tipping charges. Mr. Harvey reviewed the Regional Fund Summary and the Refund Reserve Summary. The proposed total allocations assume applied fund balance to reduce the increase to approximately 6% for each of the Regional partners.

Craig Scott, City of Cotati, and Mary Grace Pawson, City of Rohnert

Park, asked staff to provide a long-term financial model to assist with future planning for allocations, budgeting and utilization of refund reserves.

Jennifer Burke, City of Santa Rosa, stated the partners have the option to adjust the application of the refund reserve for its allocation. Kimberly Zunino, Deputy Director - Administration, will send the most recent water and wastewater rate study along with the allocation calculation to the partners. A final decision on the application of refund reserve by each partner is needed by March 28, 2022.

**5.3** PRESENTATION - REGIONAL OPERATIONS DIVISION UPDATE

Emma Walton, Deputy Director - Water Reuse, provided an update for the Regional Operations Division. Recycled water production has dropped to summertime flows and is lower than last year at this time. Recycled water storage is higher than last year at this time and allocations totaling 900 million gallons were sent to recycled water users in January. The October 2021 storms increased flows to 92 million gallons/day to the Plant and under-treated, non-spec water needed to be diverted to storage ponds. The process to return the water (300 million gallons) to the Plant for re-treatment was completed on February 22. Deputy Director Walton gave an update on the Belt Press Rehabilitation project and provided information on the upcoming Geysers annual maintenance shutdown which is anticipated to last four weeks.

**5.4** PRESENTATION - ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES DIVISION UPDATE

Sean McNeil, Deputy Director - Environmental Services, provided information regarding COVID-19 monitoring in wastewater. The virus does not survive in sewer, but dead viruses leave RNA traces that can be detected and analyzed. The Plant participated in a previous study that saw a large increase in replicants per liter during a 10-week timeframe due to the Delta variant. The Plant is part of a new study and sends samples to two companies for analysis. A dramatic decrease occurred in March 2022. Sonoma County Public Health is interested in collaborating with the Plant to monitor

wastewater as it can be a more effective method than COVID testing services.

## **6. ADJOURNMENT**