

# Minutes

## County of Inyo Water Commission

August 20, 2014

The Chairperson called the Water Commission meeting to order at 6:01 p.m. at the Inyo County Water Department conference room, Independence, CA. Water Commissioners in attendance were Mike Prather, Teri Red Owl, Bruce Dishion, Craig Patten, and Jim Stroh. Present from the Water Department were Bob Harrington and Laura Piper.

### **1. Pledge of Allegiance**

Commissioner Prather led the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **2. Public Comment**

Sally Manning – Ms. Manning stated she is displeased that items are happening behind the scenes and then reported out at public meetings, instead of public input being gathered, then recommendations to the Board.

### **3. Approval of minutes from June 18, 2014 meeting**

Moved by Commissioner Patton and seconded by Commissioner Dishion to approve the minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

### **4. Commissioners Report**

Commissioner Patton mentioned at the last Bishop Creek Water Association meeting there was discussion with regard to lining streams and ponds with clay to help solve some problems in west Bishop and there was a comment that So Ca Edison is following the natural flow policy and not meeting the Chandler Decree flows; Commissioner Prather stated he received correspondence from someone in the Bishop Creek area that was concerned with the water quality and discussed a safe haven for pup fish on the reservation and the LORP; Mr. Stroh announced his resignation and that he had comments and created a graph regarding Chandler flows. Commissioner Prather changed the agenda to add item 8 as Chandler Flow's for Mr. Stroh's discussion.

### **5. Water Directors Report**

Dr. Harrington discussed and provided detailed information regarding the Bishop Creek Water Quality with regard to bacteria exceedance; the Water Department field season, the Rapid Assessment Survey (RAS); discussion with LADWP regarding disagreement on the operation and maintenance costs; the July 18, 2014 Standing Committee Meeting; the Tecopa water grant; provided information on the recent LORP Summit, and thanked Jim Stroh for his contributions during his tenure on the Water Commission.

Mr. Mark Drew provided insight and background regarding the Tecopa Water Grant.

Public Comment – Earl Wilson – Mr. Wilson asked Mr. Drew to explain the formula used for the grant funding.

Commissioner Prather recessed the meeting for a break at 6:58pm and reconvened at 7:01pm.

### **6. Film showing – “Living in the Rain Shadow”**

Dr. Harrington provided background on the IRWMP (Integrated Regional Water Management Program) and Mr. Mark Drew provided further information and introduction for the film "Living in the Rain Shadow".

Public Comment - Earl Wilson – Mr. Wilson stated the state has \$100 million available for these projects.

Public Comment – Nancy Masters – Ms. Masters asked Mr. Drew what balance is given to environmentally orientated projects versus community water supply projects. Mr. Drew stated in theory the state does not prioritize between water supply/water quality and environmental stewardship.

## **7. State Water Legislation**

Dr. Harrington presented an informative and detailed PowerPoint presentation regarding groundwater legislation and also provided information as to the activities the Water Department and Board of Supervisors have been involved with in that regard.

Public Comment – Mr. Drew stated he thought that only public agencies with 3,000 hookups were considered to be required to have a groundwater management plan. Dr. Harrington stated any basin is supposed to have a groundwater management plan.

The Commissioners and Dr. Harrington discussed the State Water Legislation in detail and at length.

Public Comment – Earl Wilson – Mr. Wilson stated this will be a way to charge fees for monitoring the larger users for state reporting. Dr. Harrington stated there are a number of reporting requirements.

Public Comment – Sally Manning – Ms. Manning stated what parts of this basin will be leftover that aren't covered by the water agreement. Dr. Harrington stated non LADWP land, mostly state lands, private property, and federal lands.

Public Comments – Mark Drew – Mr. Drew asked if outside the amendment do both LADWP and the County agree and are supporting all other aspects of the amendment. Dr. Harrington stated that LADWP and the County agreed to support the legislation contingent on the inclusion of the amendment.

Public Comment – Nancy Masters – Ms. Masters asked how this new legislation would affect areas of disagreement where there is degradation and Dr. Harrington stated we would still be reliant on the Water Agreement. Ms. Masters asked if the amendment had not gone forward, would that have been advantageous for Inyo County in situations such as Blackrock. Dr. Harrington stated that is doubtful.

Public Comment – Earl Wilson – Mr. Wilson stated the letter of support the Board of Supervisors drafted yesterday for the two bills provides support contingent on the inclusion of the amendment.

Public Comment – Sally Manning – Ms. Manning asked if Dr. Harrington had the County's letter, Dr. Harrington stated not with him. Ms. Manning said this is to prevent the idea that someone from another area can come take the groundwater and export it and there should be more local control. She stated many entities should be involved in making this decision and she stated the public or the Commission don't deserve to be treated in this manner.

Public Comment – Earl Wilson – Mr. Wilson stated the documents in question regarding the water legislation were provided in the Board of Supervisors agenda packet.

## **8. Chandler Flows**

Commissioner Stroh provided detailed graphs and a brief history regarding the Chandler flows. The Commissioners discussed the Chandler Decree and flows in detail and at length. Mr. Stroh stated more water goes out of power plant six than what is mandated by the Chandler Decree.

Public Comment – Deb Murphy – Ms. Murphy stated anything that goes from September to March is coming through plant six but not calculated as mandated by the Chandler Decree.

Public Comment – Sally Manning – Ms. Manning stated 60-80% of the flows through plant six come through April to September.

Public Comment – Nancy Masters – Ms. Masters asked Commissioner Stroh if he had all the data or did Ms. Manning for the additional months. Dr. Harrington stated that data was provided from LADWP, which he provided to Ms. Manning, which Ms. Manning provided to Commissioner Stroh. Commissioner Stroh stated it is all public data.

Public Comment – Sally Manning – Ms. Manning stated the Water Agreement does address changes in surface water management practices.

#### **9. Public Comment**

Earl Wilson – Mr. Wilson stated LADWP wants to do a two year test at the LORP or was agreeable to that but would they be using a temporary pump to perform the test or would they increase the infrastructure that is out there for that test. Commissioner Prather stated it would not be cost effective to change pumps in terms of bringing in power.

#### **10. Schedule next Water Commission Meeting**

The next Water Commission Meeting will be scheduled via email for the week of October 27 as schedules allow.

#### **11. Adjourn**

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 9:11 p.m.