

MINUTES – FEBRUARY 9, 2016
JOINT MEETING OF THE MORRO BAY
CITY COUNCIL AND WATER RECLAMATION FACILITY CITIZEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MORRO BAY VETERAN’S HALL
209 SURF STREET – 4:00 P.M.

PRESENT:	Jamie Irons	Mayor
	Christine Johnson	Councilmember
	John Headding	Councilmember
	Matt Makowetski	Councilmember
	Noah Smukler	Councilmember
	John Diodati	Committee Chair
	Bill Woodson	Committee Member
	Ginny Garelick	Committee Member
	Dale Guerra	Committee Member
	Valerie Levulett	Committee Member
	Barbara Spagnola	Committee Member
	Richard Sadowski	Committee Member
ABSENT:	Steve Shively	Committee Member
	Paul Donnelly	Committee Member
STAFF:	Dave Buckingham	City Manager
	Joe Pannone	City Attorney
	Dana Swanson	City Clerk
	Rob Livick	Public Works Director
CONTRACT		
STAFF:	Michael Nunley	WRF Program Manager (arrived at 4:13pm)
	John Rickenbach	WRF Deputy Program Manager

ESTABLISH QUORUM AND CALL TO ORDER

A quorum was established by the City Council with all members present.

A quorum was established by the Water Reclamation Facility Citizen Advisory Committee (WRFCAC) with all members, but Members Shively and Donnelly, present.

I. WATER RECLAMATION FACILITY (WRF) SITE SELECTION UPDATE AND REVISED REPORT

<https://youtu.be/YFNgQu-07-g?t=2m5s>

WRF Deputy Program Manager Rickenbach provided a summary of the revised site selection report, similar to that presented at the February 2, 2016 WRFCAC meeting.

Since May 2014, the biological resource assessment, cultural resource investigation, hydrogeologic study, and geotechnical investigation have been completed. No fatal flaws have been identified at either the Rancho Colina or Righetti site, however, issues identified present challenges that will affect design.

There have been significant changes involving property ownership. Development on the Rancho Colina site is now limited to an 8-acre portion not previously studied and would be limited to WRF or water-related facilities (no corporation yard, for example). The Righetti property was placed for sale and the City has secured the option to purchase, if that site is chosen.

The February 2016 revised study is limited to three specific sites, one on the Righetti property and two on Rancho Colina. While both sites are suitable, the Righetti site ranks highest with the following key factors: the City can control purchase of the entire site without restriction, the purchase price is offset by the lower cost of pipeline construction, proximity to deeper portion of groundwater basin, less visually prominent (as compared to Rancho Colina's new location), and more area and flexibility to meet other City goals.

Based on the revised report, staff recommended the Council either reaffirm Rancho Colina or select the Righetti property as the preferred WRF site. Once selected, the Facility Master Plan would be completed and CEQA/NEPA review will focus on that preferred site, with the project on track for February 2021 delivery.

PUBLIC COMMENT

<https://youtu.be/YFNgQu-07-g?t=20m1s>

Lynda Merrill, Morro Bay, expressed her appreciation to the Council and staff for helping residents understand the process.

Bill Martony, Morro Bay, suggested the 150-acre Tri-W site is also suitable for the project, has better access and is inside the City limits. He also noted the Cayucos preferred site is on Toro Creek Rd. and recommended Morro Bay and Cayucos work together on a common site.

Marla Jo Bruton-Sadowski, Morro Bay, asked how the cost and varying uses of the 240-acre property will be divided between rate payers and other City services.

Bob Keller, Morro Bay, agreed the Righetti site seems the best alternative and was concerned that moving to another location would put the project behind schedule and increase costs.

Tina Metzger, Morro Bay, expressed concerns about building a sewage treatment plant near her home, including decreased property values, odors, particulate matter, noise, and increased traffic at Hwy 41/Hwy 1.

The Public Comment period was closed.

Mr. Buckingham responded to questions raised during public comment.

The Council and Committee discussed the alternatives and expressed a preference for further public outreach, particularly focused on neighborhoods near the Righetti site, directed staff to bring the report to WRFCAC at the March 1 meeting, then to Council on March 8.

ADJOURNMENT

The joint meeting of the City Council and Water Reclamation Facility Citizen Advisory Committee was adjourned at 5:55 p.m.

Recorded by:

Dana Swanson
City Clerk