

CSA7 Customer Advisory Committee

June 11, 2022, 51st meeting

By videoconference

Meeting called to order at 11:03 am

Attendees:

Committee: Cyrus Yocum, Eric Black, Eva Knodt, Heather McAvoy, Joanne Lehner, Patricia O'Neal, Terry Adams

Department of Public Works: Alan Velasquez, Ann Stillman

Supervisor Horsley's office: Lena Silberman

Public: Kim Borick, Lynnette Vega

Announcements: Heartfelt thanks to Fred Deubert for hosting Committee meetings for the last two years; Eric Black has volunteered to host the meetings going forward.

1) March Minutes, Operational By-laws

Cyrus moved to approve, seconded by Joanne. All approved.

Heather moved to readopt the by-laws; Eric seconded. All approved.

2) February, March, April Budgets

Old Business (December meeting):

- a. Mark confirmed DPW staff costs appear under budget on the reports but they do not accurately reflect the amount of work performed by staff.
- b. Mark asked for clarification of which project the Committee is requesting a copy of the 100% construction documents. Terry responded the request is for the distribution system once the level of detail includes private meter connections.

Old Business (March meeting):

- c. Mark confirmed that county staff time spent communicating with contractors regarding CSA7 is paid for by CSA7.
- d. Mark reports that delinquent accounts do not show up on the CSA7 budget reports. Any resources recovered from delinquent accounts will show up in accounts 2643 or 2647 as revenues.
- e. Mark advised that updating the existing system maps with the engineering plans for the distribution system improvements would require additional staff or consultant time and funding.

Ann reviewed some general guidelines for understanding the budget sub accounts.

Terry asked for a verbal summary of the budget with an emphasis on anything we need to be concerned about. Ann responded that budgeted income and expenses are generally as expected.

Ann confirmed that the 5456 account is a multi-year contract, so can be confusing. It shows a large deficit because it accounts for the full multiyear commitment.

Alan confirmed that the 5861 subaccount does not include charges by consultants.

Third Quarter Capital Improvement Expense Report

No change in this report since the last meeting.

County Funded Capital Expense Report

No surprises on this document. Most of the additional expenses are for the acquisition of an additional source of raw water.

3) Capital Improvements, Improvement Schedule, Compliance

Mark confirmed that fire hydrants or standpipes for fire suppression are not included in the current plans. There was a detailed discussion of the many issues involved in changing the plans to include these. No conclusion was reached; DPW staff will discuss this concern and advise the Committee at a later date.

The driller's schedule has moved back to September or October due to delays in the permit process.

The California Rural Water Association (CRWA) offers a free leak detection survey and Mark has said that we may take advantage of this, though assistance of Bracewell or County staff required for testing or repairs may involve expense for CSA7.

Patricia spoke with the Watermaster about the drought. At this time, second priority users may be notified to limit pumping later this year. Alan confirms that we do have a contingency agreement with Cal Water to haul water if necessary. Ann says that the County has a task force for water emergency.

4) Rural Community Assistance Corporation (RCAC)

The RCAC, founded in 1978, is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that provides training, technical and financial resources and advocacy so rural communities can achieve their goals and visions. Ann and Alan meet with them regularly and CSA7 has submitted an

application to them. The possibility of getting funding from the US EPA for drought mitigation may be included in a future application. Funding is a complicated process since all sources of funds need to be coordinated to avoid overlap. There is an approved plan to have a survey of CSA7 customers to establish if we are a disadvantaged community, with an estimated cost of \$19,867. County intends to use the County funds already allocated for the CIP projects to pay for this cost and request reimbursement from the State if CSA7 is determined as a disadvantaged community. Currently RCAC is not applying for funding of the alternative water source because a successful well has not yet been drilled. Alan confirms that we are seeking funding for "everything we can". If we waited for funding of the test well, it would delay the well drilling even more.

5) Electronic Billing

Ann reports that the County is evaluating the possibility of updating all County billing processes.

6) Low Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP)

Mark has applied for this but there are some details to be worked out. This is for low-income customers who are in arrears on their payments. A flier will be included in the billing and there will be a posting on the website.

7) Website

Appreciation was expressed for Eric's efforts to build the website. Eric reports that you can get automatic notification of new content by signing up at watchthatpage.com

8) Public Comment

Patricia advised that the leak detection and County contact info, requested by Lynnette at the prior meeting, has been prepared and posted on our website.

Heather moved to adjourn the meeting. Joanne seconded. Meeting adjourned 1:46 pm.

Minutes by Cyrus Yocum, Secretary