

CSA7 Customer Advisory Committee
Sept. 30, 2023, 56th Meeting
By videoconference

Meeting called to order at 11:01 am

Attendees:

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

Department of Public Works: Mark Chow

Public: Kim Borick, Lynnette Vega

1) June quarterly meeting minutes

Minutes were reviewed. Joanne moved to approve; Heather seconded. All in favor.

2) May, June, and July budgets, 4th quarter capital improvement expense report,
county funded capital expense report

- a. Mark Chow joined the meeting at 11:20 by phone due to traffic delays. He answered questions about the budget. On category 2438: we did not meet budget because some properties were closed for a few months, reducing water sales. On categories 6322 and 6332: we paid off some debt and there was a lot of accumulated interest, so these numbers went up. Also interest rates have gone up. Accounting is in charge of handling the debt. There was a question about what the total debt is. Mark will get the total debt figure from accounting and forward it to Patricia. The public works budget was increased to better align with last year's expenditures. The budget item titled "contract services" is for outside contractors who are hired for temporary projects. Electrical and gas utilities rates have gone up so that is reflected in the budget. There was a question about whether we are splitting costs with the County. In category 5631, Utilities, the County was previously paying the full amount of the electricity costs for the treatment plant, but now CSA7 will be paying 50%. PG&E did not charge us for the temporary generator at the intake during the power outage in 2021. The permanent generator is on site at the water treatment plant and ready to be installed. We are over budget as a whole, but the plan was to increase rates gradually and we have more increases scheduled for the future. We have a 3-year contract for water engineering services and there will be bidding on a new 3-year contract soon.
- b. There were no new capital improvements expenses.
- c. There is about \$517,000 left from County measure K. When the generator and pump are installed, we will have exhausted this source of funds. Also, the new electrical panel has been installed and the cost of this needs to be recorded in

this document. The cost of the sand media filter has increased because it included the cost of the generator.

3) Capital improvements, improvement schedule, compliance

- a. Mark says that they are not considering installing a water clarifier and are leaning towards replacing the existing redwood tank with a new steel raw water tank (or multiple smaller tanks) to help with pumping turbid water when flow in the creek is high. The truck pump connection and generator connection are in progress. The water will have to be turned off briefly when the new electrical connections are made. A concrete pad has been poured.
- b. The water main work and accessing a new source of raw water are both on hold until funding is found.

4) Median Household Income Survey

- a. The state median yearly income is \$84,097. To be a low-income district we need to be at 80% of this, which is \$67,278. We came in well over this number. RCAC is mandated to use this data for determining low income.
- b. Other funding sources are grants and loans. RCAC is reportedly looking for other sources.

5) Announcements

- a. Mark reports that the state has extended the Low Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP) into next year, for those customers who qualify.
- b. Also, the on-line payment system is in place and being used by some customers.

6) Public comment: None

Motion to adjourn by Cyrus, Eva seconded. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 1:32 pm.

Note that Lynnette left at 12:58, Heather left at 1:17, Joanne left at 1:28.

Minutes by Cyrus Yocum