



DRAFT

City of Newport Beach

Coastal/Bay Water Quality Citizens Advisory Committee Minutes

DATE: 9/10/09 **TIME:** 3:00 P.M. **LOCATION:** Fire Conference Room

1. Welcome/Self Introductions

Committee Members:

Chairwoman/Council Member Nancy Gardner
Dennis Baker
George Drayton
Tom Houston
Jim Miller
Janet Rappaport

Guests:

Eric Chevalier, ZeroTrash.org
Kevin Hunt, General Manager, Metropolitan Water District of Orange County (MWDOC)
Chip McDermott, ZeroTrash.org
Monica Mazur
Scott Maloni, Poseidon Resources
Karl Seckel, Assistant General Manager, MWDOC
Jack & Nancy Skinner

City or County Staff:

Dave Kiff, Assistant City Manager
George Murdoch, Utilities Director
Shirley Oborny, Administrative Assistant

2. Approval of Previous Meeting's Minutes

The minutes from the July 9, 2009, meeting were approved.

3. Old Business

(a) Bay and Ocean Bacteriological Test Results

Ms. Mazur reviewed the latest bacti reports.

4. New Business

(a) Zero Trash Laguna

Mr. McDermott explained he was invited by John Kappeler to speak at this meeting to see if Newport Beach would be interested in his program. He presented a PowerPoint (attached). Mr. Hunt asked him why he thinks people don't consider throwing cigarette butts littering. Mr. McDermott said a *New York Times* study said a lot of people believe the filter is biodegradable. In addition to laziness, a study showed that 23% discarded

their butts on the ground because there were no ashtrays available.

Mr. McDermott said when he started his program he noticed there weren't enough trash bins in Laguna Beach on Coast Highway. When more trash cans are available and placed in a systematic way, people will use them. Mr. Chevalier talked about how he has helped the program grow by getting the message out using the Internet. He explained the importance of involving local businesses.

Discussion ensued regarding Newport Beach's past experiences with trash cleanups. Ms. Rappaport suggested Corona del Mar be included in the program if the City decides to participate. In response to Mr. Houston, Mr. McDermott said the City of Laguna Beach received grant money to buy more trash cans with attached ash urns.

Chairwoman Gardner said she would follow up with Mr. McDermott and the City's General Services division.

(b) Poseidon Desalination Project

Mr. Murdoch reminded the committee that he last updated them a few months ago about the water conservation ordinance. Southern California's water supply is still being challenged by issues with the Delta Smelt and other northern California issues. He explained that many agencies and cities have shown interest in purchasing water from Poseidon Resources. The City has not made a commitment either way and he feels a presentation to this committee is a good place to start.

Mr. Hunt discussed a number of water supply issues. In response to Mr. Miller, Mr. Hunt said a peripheral canal could be built around the Delta Smelt; however, the issue is one of politics and trust. In addition to resolving the Delta issue, using water conservation, recycling, etc., he said MWDOC is also looking at ocean desalination. He presented a detailed PowerPoint (attached). Discussion ensued on ocean desalination projects, purchase agreements, local voter perceptions and next steps.

Chairwoman Gardner asked what other things the City can do to conserve water. He explained that half of the northern part of Orange County is the groundwater basin. Half of the basin going north is permeable but going south it's underlain by a clay layer that doesn't percolate the water very easily. As such, he said encouraging more permeable pavement in north Orange County would help.

Mr. Murdoch said as more time passes without rain; the City becomes more dependent on its imported sources. He thinks this project is worth looking into as an alternate supply because at this time there is no commitment and later it could be much more expensive, if it's available. It could also be a source for emergency water. Mr. Maloni agreed that it's better to get in line. The agencies on the list have signed a memorandum of understanding that sets up the terms for negotiating. It basically gives Poseidon Resources a sense of what the demand is. In the end if they want to back out, they can, but at least they're in line.

In response to Ms. Mazur, Mr. Maloni said the site could physically be expanded to

enlarge the project in the future, but he's not sure about environmentally.

The committee agreed the City could benefit from joining the other agencies already signed up to negotiate with Poseidon Resources and they recommend the issue to the City Council for further consideration.

In response to a discussion between Mr. Skinner and Mr. Murdoch regarding the issue surrounding the City of Irvine expressing an interest in tapping into the main line of water to supply the area near the Dyer Well Road Field Project, Chairwoman Gardner asked Mr. Murdoch to follow up on Mr. Skinner's concerns.

5. Public Comments on Non-Agenda Items

Mr. Skinner mentioned two important meetings coming up that affect the City related to the TMDL. One is the renewal of the selenium permit. Chairwoman Gardner and Mr. Kiff agreed to meet and come up with a strategy and position on that issue. Mr. Skinner said the second meeting is on September 30 and has to do with the levels of DDT found in mullets and anchovies.

6. Topics for Future Agendas

- (a) DWR Model Landscape and Irrigation Ordinance
- (b) NOAA Grant Update
- (c) Update on Integrated Watershed Planning Efforts
- (d) NPDES Annual Water Quality Report
- (e) Bacteriological Dry-Weather Runoff Gutter Study
- (f) Greywater Recycling

7. Set Next Meeting Date

The next meeting was set for October 8, 2009.

8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:58 p.m.