



City of Arts & Innovation

Utility Services/Land Use/Energy Development Committee

TO: UTILITY SERVICES/LAND USE/ENERGY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEMBERS **DATE: APRIL 8, 2019**

FROM: AGRICULTURAL WATER RATE TASK FORCE **WARDS: ALL**

SUBJECT: AGRICULTURAL WATER RATES TASK FORCE 3rd QUARTERLY UPDATE

ISSUE:

Receive and file the Third quarterly update on the Agricultural Water Rates Task Force activities and progress.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Utility Services/Land Use/Energy Development Committee receive and file the Third quarterly update on the Agricultural Water Rates Task Force activities and progress.

BACKGROUND:

On November 28, 2017, City Council recommended the establishment of an Agricultural Water Rates Task Force (Task Force), subject to the Brown Act, for one year while freezing WA-3 and WA-9 agricultural water rates. The intention being for the Task Force, composed of community members and stakeholders, to work with Riverside Public Utilities (RPU) staff to develop rate alternative recommendations for the Board of Public Utilities (Board) and City Council that address proposed WA-3 and WA-9 rate revisions. Chairman Seth Wilson and Vice-chair David Crohn currently lead the Task Force. City Council requested that quarterly updates be provided to the City Council Utility Services/Land Use/Energy Development Committee (Land Use Committee) on Task Force activities.

DISCUSSION:

Composition of the Task Force

On March 29, 2018 the Board established the Agricultural Water Rates Task Force composed of 16 community members and stakeholders. The members are currently working with RPU staff to develop WA-3 and WA-9 rate recommendations for Board and City Council approval. Ward 2 representative Patricia Lock-Dawson submitted a letter of resignation on 1/4/19. The Board appointed Gururmantra Khalsa of the Riverside Food Systems Alliance to fill the vacant seat for Ward 2. The current list of Task Force members is attached.

Meetings

At the publishing of this report, there have been eleven Task Force meetings conducted with the twelfth meeting scheduled for Thursday March 28, 2019. Since the last update on December 10, 2018, there have been three (3) formal rate proposals considered by the Task Force. At the February 21, 2019 meeting, the Task Force voted to adopt the WA-Hybrid v2.11 rate proposal concept approach with the details of the proposal to be worked out at the March 28, 2019 meeting.

The meetings continue to be well attended, there has been public input, the members are highly engaged, and open discussions continue. The approved meeting minutes from meetings 7 through 10 are included as attachments. Some great ideas continue to emerge from the Task Force and many questions have been posed. Staff continues to capture all ideas and questions and is working to produce answers. The Emerging Ideas, and Questions and Answers, are also attached.

Topics Covered to Date

The primary topics covered since the 2nd quarterly update provided to the Land Use Committee include the systematic review of the WA-Ag v17 rate proposal, the WA-Hybrid v2.11 rate proposal, the Flat Rate proposal, the Rate Proposal Matrix and the final report framework.

Upcoming Meetings

The goal of the March 28, 2019 meeting will be to make final determinations of the WA-Hybrid rate proposal terms and conditions, water allocation methods, actual water rate, and to achieve a 90% proposal product. The Task Force is on track to achieve this goal.

During the last two (2) meetings of the Task Force, the details of the WA-Hybrid proposal will be finalized, the final report will be developed and approved, and any other recommendations or considerations the Task Force feels are of importance to the Board, Land Use Committee, or City Council will be discussed and developed.

The schedule of meeting dates and topics is included as an attachment. The Task Force regularly meets in the Mayor's Ceremonial Room on the 7th floor of City Hall at 5:30 pm. All meetings have been recorded and are available on the City's website.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact associated with this item.

Prepared by: Todd M. Corbin, Utilities General Manager
Approved by: Al Zelinka, FAICP, City Manager
Approved as to form: Gary G. Geuss, City Attorney

Attachments:

1. Emerging Ideas updated 11/26/18
2. Questions & Answers updated 3/15/19
3. Approved Minutes of Meeting #7

4. Approved Minutes of Meeting #8
5. Approved Minutes of Meeting #9
6. Approved Minutes of Meeting #10
7. Schedule of Topics updated 3/11/19
8. Current Task Force Member List
9. Presentation