

CITY OF RIVERSIDE PUBLIC UTILITIES DEPARTMENT

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Minutes of: Agricultural Water Rates Task Force, Meeting #7
Date of meeting: October 25, 2018
Time of meeting: 5:30 pm
Place of meeting: Mayors Ceremonial Room, 7th Floor City Hall
3900 Orange St., Riverside, CA 92501

Meeting was called to order by Vice-chair Wilson

Pledge of allegiance to the flag was given by Ed Adkison

Roll Call

Present: Seth Wilson (Vice Chair)	Steven Robillard	Gilberto Esquivel
Barbara Croonquist	Jason Gless	Darleen De Mason
Ed Adkison	Michele Sheehe	Scott Andrews
Rose Mayes	Sharon Mateja	Tom Evans
Jason Hunter	Dale Sexton	
Gurumantra Khalsa (Alternate for Patricia Lock Dawson)		

1. Citizen Participation

None.

Vice-Chair Wilson mentioned that Chair Andrew Walcker had resigned from the Task Force and that the Board of Public Utilities will discuss and nominate a replacement for Chair Walcker at the November 5, 2018 RPU Board meeting.

2. Approval of meeting minutes for September 27, 2018 meeting

Motion: Evans Second: Andrews

Ayes: All present

Absent: Croonquist, Hunter, Mateja, Gless, Esquivel.

3. Legal Guidance on Proposition 218

Deputy City Attorney Anthony Beaumon presented a synopsis on how rate recommendations can be developed lawfully in consideration of Proposition 218. Numerous questions were posed and answered by Mr. Beaumon.

Motion: Andrews Second: Hunter

Ayes: All present

Absent: Croonquist

4. Open Discussion

Member Evans and Adkison presented the WA-9 agricultural rate proposal they developed together. A number of questions were posed by Task Force members with answers being provided by members Adkison, Evans and RPU staff. Scott Simpson presented the flat rate proposal he developed that would be applicable to all customer classes. Some questions were posed by Task Force members and answered by Mr. Simpson. Scott Andrews presented the Business Improvement District (BID) proposal concept. He also mentioned a handout on a State program that is trying to preserve agricultural lands throughout the state using Cap and Trade proceeds (Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program). Some questions were posed by Task Force members and answered by member Andrews. Receive and file.

Motion: Evans Second: Khalsa

Ayes: All present

Absent: None

Member Evans moved that “the Task Force take the proposed WA-9 rate recommendation and go through the rate proposal in specific detail regarding policy, definitions, details and price in the Nov. 14, 2018 meeting”. Some discussion followed and a request for Title 19 Zoning code was requested by the Task Force. Vice-chair Wilson called for a vote.

Motion: Evans Second: Sexton

Ayes: All present

Absent: None

5. Discuss Schedule of Meetings

Vice-chair Wilson reviewed the current schedule of meetings and topics. A brief discussion took place regarding what the true cost of water service is and how the GFT could be handled. Staff made note of the requested items.

6. Emerging Ideas and Questions and Answers

Vice-chair Wilson reviewed the current set of Emerging Ideas and Questions and Answers posed thus far by the Task Force.

7. Items for Future Consideration

None.

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Adjourn

By: _____



Richard Small, Secretary for Agricultural Water Rates Task Force

Attachments:

Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program handout from Scott Andrews

Reminder that all Ag Task Force meetings are videotaped and available for viewing at:

<https://riversideca.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx>



Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program

Protecting California's agricultural lands from development



The Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program (SALC) utilizes Cap-and-Trade proceeds to protect agricultural lands on the outskirts of cities from development. Urban sprawl not only increases greenhouse gas emissions and air pollution, as people have to drive further to get where they need to go, but also encroaches on agricultural lands that produce healthy food, store carbon and sustain our economy. SALC fights climate change by limiting these expansive, vehicle-dependent forms of development in favor of compact, transit-oriented communities.

“SALC fights climate change by limiting urban sprawl in favor of compact, transit-oriented communities.”



WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO APPLY?

Strategy and Outcome Grants

- » Cities
- » Counties

Agricultural Conservation Easement Grants

- » Cities
- » Counties
- » Nonprofit Organizations
- » Resource Conservation Districts
- » Regional Park or Open-Space Districts or Authorities

WHAT DOES SALC FUND?

SALC funds projects that protect at-risk agricultural lands from conversion to more pollution-heavy land uses such as urban or rural residential development. The program provides two types of awards: Strategy and Outcomes grants and Agricultural Conservation Easement grants.

Strategy and Outcome grants support the development of local and regional land use policies and strategies to protect critical agricultural land.

The program funds the following strategies:

- » Establishing an agricultural land mitigation program
- » Creating an agricultural conservation easement purchasing program
- » Adopting an urban growth boundary
- » Increasing the zoning minimum for strategic agricultural areas
- » Setting in place an agricultural greenbelt

Agricultural Conservation Easement grants are used to permanently protect croplands and rangelands that are at-risk of conversion to sprawl development. Agricultural conservation easements are deed restrictions that landowners voluntarily place on their property to preserve the land's agricultural uses.

HOW ARE OUTCOMES TRACKED AND MONITORED?

Outcomes for each award are monitored through tracking greenhouse gas emissions reductions and identifying co-benefits of funded projects. The greenhouse gas quantification methodology is certified by the California Air Resources Board. Co-benefits include health, environmental and economic features identified by the applicant at the grant's onset.

WHAT DOES SUCCESS LOOK LIKE?

SALC simultaneously supports California's food security while encouraging infill development and clean transportation to curb sprawl. It fights climate change by encouraging compact development, making it easier for Californians to walk, bike and use transit in their daily lives. SALC also has the added benefit of helping retain local jobs and agricultural revenue, improving air and water quality, protecting wildlife habitats and improving human health.

**52 EASEMENTS
PROJECTS**
— TOTALING —
**81,081
ACRES**
— TO BE CONSERVED —

CONTACT

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<http://sgc.ca.gov/programs/salc/>