

**CITY OF RIVERSIDE
PUBLIC UTILITIES DEPARTMENT**

1 of 2

Minutes of: Agricultural Water Rates Task Force, Meeting #2
Date of meeting: May 24, 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 Chair Walcker

Pledge of allegiance to the flag was given by Steven Robillard

Roll Call

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

Absent: Patricia Lock-Dawson

1. Citizen Participation

Carl Pongs
Rick Moslenko
David Villarino-Gonzalez (Farmworker Institute of Education & Leadership Development)
Scott Tenney (Raincross Farms)
Letter from Margaret Lamar Coon, submitted by member Adkison (attached)

2. Individual Task Force Member Water Rate Class Disclosure

Member Hunter introduced and explained item, followed by Task Force discussion.
Motion: Mayes Second: Mateja
Ayes: Hunter, Andrews, Sheehe, Mateja, Walcker, Wilson, De Mason, Mayes
Noes: Adkison, Evans, Sexton, Robillard, Esquivel
Abstain: Gless

3. **WA-3, WA-9 and WA-8 water rate classes**

Staff presentation; receive and file.

Motion: De-mason Second: Andrews

Ayes: All present

4. **Arlington Heights Greenbelt history**

Staff presentation; receive and file.

Perspective from former City of Riverside Mayor Ron Loveridge

Motion: Sexton Second: Mayes

Ayes: All present

5. **GrowRIVERSIDE initiative**

Staff presentation; receive and file.

Motion: Sexton Second: Gless

Ayes: All present

Absent: Adkison

6. **Discuss Schedule Of Meetings**

Staff presentation - June 28 meeting sneak peek; receive and file.

Review schedule of meetings and topics.

Motion: Robillard Second: Andrews

Ayes: All present

Absent: Adkison

7. **Items for Future Consideration**

Have more time blocked for discussion.

Ensure all ideas are captured.

Ensure all questions are tracked and answered.

Adjourn

By: 

Richard Small, Secretary for Agricultural Water Rates Task Force

Reminder that all Ag Task Force meetings are videotaped and available for viewing at:
<https://riversideca.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx>

Dear Gentleman of the Riverside City Council,

November 18, 2017

This concerns parcel # _____, 2732 Mary Street, Riverside, Ca. 92506.

Established 2/14/1898

My brother, Thomas Edward Lamar, and I, Margaret Lamar Coon, inherited the family home and orange grove. We no longer have agriculture based water rate for the grove as we are the children, not the spouse.

We will be selling the house and orange grove March 2019. Our wish is for the citrus Heritage of the orange grove and home to continue.

Our concern is that new owners will not wish to, or have the ability to, maintain the grove into the future. The Lamar family has professionally maintained the property since 1936, (Lamar Brothers Citrus Pest Control).

There are multiple options. One being to annex the grove to Washington Park or Arlington Heights Green Belt. In this case, it would be properly maintained and residents and visitors can enjoy the citrus heritage for decades to come.

Our immediate request is to revert back to agriculture based water rates while we professionally maintain the grove.

Please help us save the grove and also be able to sell the house without the encumbrance of the orange grove.

Sincerely,

Margaret Lamar Coon and Thomas Edward Lamar

Letter 1

Mayor Rusty Bailey and Riverside City Council,

May 3, 2018

WATER RATE INCREASE PERTAINING TO PROPERTY AT 2732 MARY ST., RIVERSIDE, CA, 92506

Enclosed is a letter I read and handed out to the city council on November 28, 2017 referring to the plight my brother and I have with selling our late parents home.

The house and orange grove are on the same water meter. The property, grove and house, border Victoria Ave. and Washington Park. Because the property is one block short of the Green Belt we pay Riverside residential water rates for the grove.

Kevin Milligan, Deputy General Manager with Riverside Public Utilities, suggested we have a water usage analysis done for the grove. Jose Iniguez, Resource Conservationist with Riverside-Corona Resource Conservation District gave us an excellent report. We have applied the suggestions noted in the report. Even so, the grove does not yield enough to pay for a year's water cost even without the water rate increase.

You will remember the grove that used to be on the corner of Victoria Ave. and Central Ave. It has been an empty dirt lot for how many years now, maybe 30.

Does the City of Riverside wish to keep the corner of Victoria Ave and Mary St. beautiful with a healthy green orange grove? If so, it is not fair for one home owner to support the grove so everyone else can enjoy it.

Please! What will the city do for the groves not in the Green Belt and not connected to the Gage Canal so Victoria Ave. stays green and doesn't turn into a bare dirt lot.

Sincerely,

Margaret Lamar Coon and Thomas Edward Lamar

951-251-8190

Letter 2