

PLANNING COMMISSION MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 24, 2008**Update of the Water Resource Sub-element JC**

James Craig, Superintendent of Field Services for the Department of Public Works, introduced Val Conzet, Water Operations Manager for the City. Mr. Craig presented the staff report. Mr. Craig said that he will update the list of Planning Commissioners prior to the presentation of this item to City Council. He said there was an item handed out at the recent Study Session, Metering of Water Utilities for Residential Customers, which he said would not be included in the Sub-element as the item is more of a standalone policy. He said there have been some changes to the Draft Sub-element since the Commission looked at the document several weeks ago. He said they have added information about legislation from 2001 that requires that agencies make findings of sufficiency of water supply prior to approval of large developments and that there have been two findings with which the Planning Commission has been involved. He said staff also added a reference to the Ahwahnee Water Principles developed by the Local Government Commission. He said these principles are supported by the Water Resources Control Board, the League of California Cities and have been accepted by the Sunnyvale City Council. He said they have added appendices to the Sub-element. He discussed fluoridation, and said this is really not dealt with sufficiently in the Sub-element and that they will add some paragraphs regarding fluoridation policy. He explained that in 2000, 65% of the voters said they would accept fluoridated water when it was available to us. He said the State has approved fluoridated water for all communities, but have identified that until the State provides financing that the communities do not have to provide fluoridation. He said Sunnyvale has waited until our suppliers, who supply 90% of our water, present us with fluoridation. He said San Francisco provides about 45% of our water, and began fluoridating their water in November 2005. He said the Santa Clara Valley Water District does not fluoridate their water. He said Sunnyvale does not want to mix the waters as we do not want to dilute the benefit of the fluoridated water. He said the fluoridated water is provided mostly to the northern part of the City with the southern part of the City mostly not fluoridated. He said he and Mr. Conzet are available to answer questions.

Comm. Sulser said the report indicates that Cal Water wants to sell some of their wells and may get out of providing water to Sunnyvale, asking staff to comment. Mr. Craig said he would have to check that reference as Cal Water does provide water to about 1000 customers in the City and he does not know of any plans for them to divest at this time.

Chair Rowe opened the public hearing.

There were no public comments.

Chair Rowe closed the public hearing.

Comm. McKenna moved for staff recommendation, to recommend to City Council to adopt by resolution the updated Water Resources Sub-element to the Environmental Management Element of the Sunnyvale General Plan. Comm. Hungerford seconded.

Comm. McKenna commented that staff provided an excellent report and said that this was a very enjoyable report to read. Comm. McKenna quipped and asked Mr. Craig what was the name of the goalie for the 1980 Olympic U.S. Hockey Team. Mr. Craig said his name was Jim Craig.

Comm. Hungerford agreed that this was a well written report and very interesting and informative. He said it was interesting to read about where our water comes from and said there are issues with our supply of water, especially in the event of an earthquake and that much of our water has to travel from the Hetch Hetchy Reservoir. He said he wanted to point out several items that really caught his attention. He said that recycled water now represents a larger proportion of the City's total water supply than production from ground water wells. He said another interesting fact was that ongoing water conservation efforts have reduced potable water consumption from 161 gallons per person per day in 2000 to 139 gallons per person per day in 2006 so the per capita consumption of water is going down. He said another interesting item was that the Community's water demand reached its peak in 1987 so we have had a good history of reducing our water demands even though our population has increased. Comm. Hungerford commended Sunnyvale for everyone's water conservation efforts as this is important for our future.

Comm. Sulser said he would be supporting the motion. He said he agrees that this is a well written report. He commented that Comm. Hungerford pointed out some odd issues with our water. He said the City seems to be doing a good job in managing our water resources, but our water does come from some interesting sources. He said the water from Hetch Hetchy has to come hundreds of miles across multiple earthquake faults. He said some of our other water comes from an eco-system that has endangered fish species. He said in the future he would like to see more water conservation and water recycling.

Chair Rowe said she agrees that this is a good report and very informative. She said she likes that the appendices include a list of definitions of the acronyms, and a list of the web-site links for the Water Sub-element.

ACTION: Comm. McKenna made a motion on the Update of the Water Resource Sub-element to recommend to City Council to adopt by resolution the updated Water Resources Sub-element to the Environmental Management Element of the Sunnyvale General Plan. Comm. Hungerford seconded. Motion carried unanimously, 7-0.

APPEAL OPTIONS: This recommendation will be forwarded to City Council for consideration at the December 16, 2008 City Council meeting.