

# UTILITY UPDATE

RIVERSIDE PUBLIC UTILITIES

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## Board Update Meeting Summary | Thursday June 4, 2015

*This summary may not include all agenda items and is not considered minutes of the meeting. For complete meeting agenda, click [here](#).*

### Employee Recognition:

Deputy General Manager Kevin Milligan welcomed Principal Legislative Analyst, Rita Medina to RPU. She will be the legislative liaison for our organization and provide assistance with identifying issues and advocating on our behalf to state and federal legislative entities.

### Public Hearing:

The board adopted the 2015 Upper Santa Ana River Watershed Integrated Water Management Plan, and recommended that the City Council adopt the plan. Deputy General Manager Kevin Milligan explained the importance of these regional plans for their value in receiving grants from the State as well as working with other agencies towards common goals for water management in the region.

### Board of Public Utilities approves Consent Calendar Items without comment as listed below:

- The agreement for weed abatement maintenance services for Public Utilities' properties for \$119,770 to Scott Tractor Services of Bloomington, and authorized the City Manager to execute three additional one year extensions.
- The Board approved a work order for \$53,665 to include city-provided construction services associated with the expansion of the Wal-Mart Store located on Van Buren Boulevard.
- The Board recommended that the City Council approve the Power Supply Integrated Resource Plan.

### Board received and filed Riverside Box Art Pilot Project

Riverside Art Museum Director, Drew Oberjuerge gave a presentation explaining a public art project that will be done over the summer to beautify several pad-mounted utility boxes in the downtown area. The Leadership Riverside, Class of 2015 has raised money to provide artwork to wrap several boxes in the downtown area with historic imagery from the Riverside Public Library's collection of historical resources. The boxes are sponsored with outside funding and utility staff has been asked for technical assistance to assure safety, and electrical standards are being followed. They have created a template for the project to be continued city-wide by other groups and will also engage the community to use the boxes for educational purposes about Riverside History.

### Board approves extended maintenance period of the Ivy Street Temporary Booster Station

Deputy General Manager Kevin Milligan provided background and timeline for this project explaining that a temporary booster station was constructed to provide fire protection and flow to neighborhoods that would be cut off because of pipeline demolished in the Ivy Street bridge demolition that is part of the SR91 HOV lane project. There have been delays that have caused construction costs to rise above the \$500,000 contractor's panel cap. The board approved \$117,000 change order to provide maintenance costs until the bridge will be completed and adopted a resolution to waive the formal bidding process to continue this work with the same contractor. All costs for this project that supports the highway construction project will be reimbursed by the Riverside County Transportation Commission through Cal Trans.

### Board authorizes the City Manager to execute documents to accept \$1 million grant from the State for recycled water project

Deputy General Manager Kevin Milligan gave a brief overview of the project that will be funded by the grant through the Proposition 84 Integrated Regional Water Management Round 2 Implementation Grant. The project chosen to receive the \$1 million grant is the Jackson Street Project which will involve construction of approximately 30,650 linear feet of recycled water pipeline and a booster pump station, and will provide up to 8,600 acre-feet per year of new water supply to the region, for use as landscape irrigation, groundwater recharge and supply of irrigation water and groundwater recharge to Western Municipal Water District.

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3750 University Ave., 3rd Floor • Riverside, CA 92501 • 951.826.5485 • fax 951.826.2074 • [RiversidePublicUtilities.com](http://RiversidePublicUtilities.com)

### **Board authorizes RPU staff to revise the proposed ordinance to comply with the mandatory emergency drought regulations from the State Water Resources Control Board**

Deputy General Manager Kevin Milligan gave a presentation with statistics and visual presentations of the current state of the water supply, due to drought. He stated that Riverside's water use reduction target is actually 24% and other agencies and areas have larger conservation targets and some smaller which collectively will meet the 25% listed in the Governor's Executive Order. To achieve these goals, we asked board to recommend that the City Council adopt an ordinance that will enact a Stage 3 Water Emergency which will:

- Prohibit certain water uses;
- Limits outdoor irrigation to three days per week (April through August), two days per week (September through March) from 6 p.m. to 10 a.m.
- Specifies watering days based on odd (Mon., Thurs., Sat.) and even (Sun. Weds., Fri) addresses for enforcement purposes.
- Exempts watering limits to those systems that use drip or micro spray watering methods.
- Suspends enforcement of landscape maintenance (dead lawns) through code enforcement
- Implements enforcement procedures including fines up to \$500 per infraction after three warning citations.

Assistant General Manager Mike Bacich provided an overview of the communication methods employed to assist customers in working together with us to meet the water conservation target.

### **Board received and filed the Biennial Customer Relations/Marketing Update**

Assistant General Manager Mike Bacich gave a dynamic presentation explaining the reasons why RPU markets to the community and the methods employed to reach the customer. He explained the unique challenge of utilizing \$475,000 annually which is less than 1% of the entire department's budget to reach a customer that lives in the Los Angeles area media market. As a service provider we need to communicate with our customers, and we also need to have methods to build relationships with the customer as well as cultivate potential customers that can provide positive economic impact to the community. He also discussed the Utility of the Future and how communication and marketing needs will evolve based on demographic, technology and customer expectation changes.

### **General Manager's Report**

General Manager Girish Balachandran announced that:

- Todd Jorgenson has been appointed as the Interim Assistant General Manager, Water, and that recruitment for the permanent position should be under way within the next few months.
- Organizational chart changes have been made in the Water Division to help increase efficiencies with plan review and to better align the staff for Utility 2.0. Planning and Resources have been combined and will now be managed by Arshad Syed and Development is now managed by Eric Escobar.

### **Next Strategic Planning Meetings:**

Board-only Workshop - July 13 – next steps for Utility 2.0 - The Road Maps – 8 am to noon (location to be determined)

Board-only workshop - Late July/early August – to be determined

August 28 – next Joint City Council/Board Meeting – 8 am – 12 noon (Mayor's Ceremonial Room – City Hall)