

Board Update Meeting Summary | Thursday, March 5, 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 Presentation

General Manager Girish Balachandran recognized Development Services Representative III, Sundra Hannah for exhibiting WOW! Customer Service skills and going above and beyond to help customers at the Customer Engineering counter. He also recognized Utilities Generation Test Technician Paulino Aguilar for his diligence in providing mutual aid through SCPPA to the City of Pasadena by lending his expertise on their generation equipment. In addition, he has developed efficiency processes at RERC that have saved the ratepayers \$150,000.

Board Welcomes New Board member Jennifer O'Farrell

General Manager Girish Balachandran introduced new board member Jennifer O'Farrell. She is a 24 year resident of Riverside and Executive Director of Big Brothers, Big Sisters Inland Empire. She has also served on the Green Accountability Performance Committee for the City of Riverside.

Board votes on Chair and Co-Chair

The Board of Public Utilities voted for Susan Cash to serve as Board Chair and for David Austin to serve as Vice-Chair over the next year.

Board Actions:

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

- Approval was given for the capital expenditure of \$115,000 for the installation of underground electrical distribution facilities at Fourteenth and Brockton Avenue for the Riverside Community Hospital Expansion Project.

Board approves acquisition expenditures for the Riverside Transmission Reliability Project

Assistant General Manager Pat Hohl clarified the purpose of acquiring land for easements for this project, in particular parcels on Indiana Avenue. When voltage is elevated to the 69kV level, there is a legal requirement to have an easement below the lines to protect nearby residents. The board voted to approve expenditures for two easements; \$71,500 for APN 155-290-061 and \$176,165 for APN 234-160-061.

Board approves increased funding to work order for Harvey Lynn Substation Work Order

Assistant General Manager Pat Hohl gave a presentation and shared the progress made on the Harvey Lynn Substation Restoration after a catastrophic fire on March 1, 2014. The board approved a \$350,000 increase to the work order to complete the work with total costs at \$3,050,000. The extra funding was needed due to additional scopes of work identified during the restoration process that relate to old equipment and new compliance requirements. The substation is scheduled to be on line by the first week of June (weather permitting).

Board receives and files an update on the City of Riverside State and Federal Legislative Platform

Deputy General Manager Kevin Milligan outlined the main legislative issues and initiatives in the year's legislative cycle at both state and federal levels. He indicated that RPU is active in response and advocacy through SCPPA, CMUA and APPA.

- State energy issues are protecting local control, environment and public health (creating sustainable communities incentives) and 2030 Climate Change issues also known as Governor Brown's 50-50-50 plan (SB350), which encompasses increasing renewable power to 50% of the portfolio, doubling efficiency of existing buildings and reducing gas power transportation consumption up to 50%. California Water Bond (Prop. 1) will have regulations forthcoming by mid-2016.

- Federal issues are protecting local control, modernizing the endangered species act with methods that balance development and environmental protection, incentive to assist with creating more sustainable communities.

Other issues that will be mentioned in the context of a Congressional visit next week facilitated through APPA will be support of the Cybersecurity Information Sharing Act, support of the EPA's Clean Power Plan which relates to mitigating impacts of climate change, preserving municipal bonding authority as to not eliminate tax exempt financing, and legislation that will help administer/manage spent nuclear fuel.

Board receives and files an update on conservation efforts related to the California Drought

Deputy General Manager Kevin Milligan updated the Board on the timeline relating to Drought Emergency Regulations. He stated that although the current State Water Resources Control Board regulations expire on April 25, they are either expected to renew or refine the current emergency regulations by March 17. He shared graphics illustrating the drought conditions year over year, including reservoir levels. Our customers are making efforts to save water based on year over year data. Assistant Manager Michael Bacich showed the progression of turf removal funding expended in response to the drought regulations. The annual budget of \$250,000 in April 2014 was increased over time to \$5.35 million in February 2015 in response to raised customer awareness of the drought. Customer communication efforts were also increased, there were 20 million impressions from all media outlets combined and that has produced nearly 2,500 phone calls. To date 400,000 square feet of turf has been removed at local homes and an additional 890,000 square feet will be removed on commercial properties. He showed examples of current projects happening as a result of the increased funding incentives, most notably a 146,000 square feet project at Bourns Engineering.

General Manager's Report:

General Manager Girish Balachandran:

- Reported that the new City Manager, John Russo was hired and will begin in May. He worked with Mr. Russo at City of Alameda prior to coming to Riverside.
- Announced the RPU will now report that Al Zelinka, the new Assistant City Manager.
- Invited Interim City Manager Steve Badgett to address the board on matters relating to transparency. Mr. Badgett stated that the City Manager's office is committed to transparency and that he felt it was important to clarify to the board that when past comments were made related to personal expense statements of a staff member he felt compelled to verify that these expenses called into question were verified as appropriate.

Board requests for future updates:

RTRP – Jurupa Valley Lawsuit

Water use efficiency data to be included in board report packets with monthly reporting.