

Agenda
Regular Meeting of the Sierra Madre City Council,
Successor Agency and Public Finance Authority
Tuesday, March 22, 2016
Closed Session: 6:00 p.m.; Open Session: 6:30 p.m.
City Hall Council Chambers, 232 W. Sierra Madre Blvd.

Mayor, John Capoccia, opened the Regular Meeting of the Sierra Madre City Council, Successor Agency and Public Finance Authority at 6:00 p.m. The Mayor asked for public comment and there was none, so the Mayor immediately adjourned to the Closed Session. The City Council returned from Closed Session at 6:35 p.m. and the Mayor opened the Open Session at 6:37 p.m. City Clerk, Nancy Sue Shollenberger, read the Roll, noting that all City Council Members were present except Council Member, Denise Delmar, who has been excused.

CALL OR ORDER/ROLL CALL MEMBERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL:

Present: John Capoccia, Mayor; Gene Goss, Mayor Pro Tem, Council Members
Rachelle Arizmendi, and John Harabedian

Absent: Council Member, Denise Delmar (Excused)

Also Present: Elaine Aguilar, City Manager
Teresa Highsmith, City Attorney
Bruce Inman, Director of Public Works
Vincent Gonzalez, Director of Planning and Community Preservation
Elisa Cox, Assistant City Manager
James Carlson, Management Analyst
Steve Heydorff, Fire Chief
Larry Giannone, Safety Director and Police Chief
Joe Ortiz, Captain, Sierra Madre Police Department
Nancy Sue Shollenberger, City Clerk

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND INVOCATION/INSPIRATION:

Council Member, Rachelle Arizmendi, led the Pledge of Allegiance and followed with:

A few weeks ago, and in celebration of Women's History Month (March), I was humbled to stand amongst a group of amazing women that were honored for their contributions in advocating for the lives and well-being of women through strong collaboration, education, and empowerment. The purpose of Women's History Month is to increase consciousness and knowledge of women's history; to take one month of the year to remember the contributions of notable and ordinary women, in hopes that the day will soon come when it's impossible to teach or learn history without remembering these contributions. Tonight, we will be recognizing one of our local Women of Distinction, Kristine Lowe for her contributions to the community. Coincidentally, we will also be recognizing Kim Steffens for her 15 years of service to the City, as well as the welcoming of our new Police Dispatchers, Sandra Jimenez, Laura Hodge and Jazmin Farfan. Also, this is the last Regular City Council Meeting for Nancy Shollenberger, who is retiring after 32 years as City Clerk. To all the women that make a difference to our local community, and to society at large – I salute you!

REPORT OUT FROM CLOSED SESSION:

Teresa Highsmith, City Attorney, reported that the City Council met in Closed Session this evening to discuss the following:

Conference with Labor Negotiator. Pursuant to Calif. Government code Section 54957.6.
City Negotiators: City Manager, Elaine Aguilar and Assistant city Manager, Elisa Cox.
Employee Organization: Police Association

City Attorney Highsmith, reported that the City Council, with labor negotiator was updated, direction was given, but no action was taken.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Council Member, Rachele Arizmendi moved and it was seconded by Council Member, John Harabedian for approval of the Agenda as presented by staff. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MARCH 8, 2016:

Mayor Pro Tem, Gene Goss, made the following change to the Minutes:

Page 1 under Mayor and City Council Reports:

Item 2). Mayor Pro Tem, Gene Goss, announced that he was honored to MC the City of the Mayor address.

Changed to: Mayor Pro Tem, Gene Goss, announced that he was honored to MC the State of the City Address given by Mayor Capoccia.

Council Member, John Harabedian moved and it was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem, Gene Goss, for approval of the Minutes of March 8, 2016 with the change made by Mayor Pro Tem Gene Goss. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL REPORTS:

- 1) Council Member, John Harabedian, did not have a report.
- 2) Mayor Pro Tem, Gene Goss, wished Council Member, Denise Delmar, a speedy recovery.
- 3) Council Member, Rachele Arizmendi, remarked about the beautiful day the City had for the Wistaria Festival. There was around 8,000 who attended this annual event. What a great turnout. Thanks to all the volunteers who make this possible. Attended the Public Safety Committee meeting – the committee is prioritizing items at this time.
- 4) Mayor, John Capoccia, attended the San Gabriel Valley Council of Govt. meeting. Senators Hernandez and Huff were present. Storm Water permits were discussed – it is one of the biggest threats we are facing. It is over \$20M for the City of Sierra Madre. It is a good thing Senators Hernandez and Huff took this item to heart and are interested in helping the City of Sierra Madre. This is ridiculous beyond belief. It is not rational. I am optimistic that ultimately we will do right by the citizens. Mr. Carlson will be reporting tonight too.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Robert Spears, Member of Library Board of Trustees

Mr. Spears was present to bring everyone up-to-date on the activities at the Library:

- National Library Week – April 11-18 (Call the Library for all the details, many activities will be held that week.
- This Saturday, Open House – 10:00-Noon. Write and Publish at 11:00 a.m. There will be authors attending. There will be interesting activities, please plan to attend. It will be a very interesting week.

Sonya Stephens, 20-year resident

Ladies and Gentlemen of the City Council, and members of our community, my name is Sonya Stephens and my husband, Dr. Fred Stephens and I have lived in Sierra Madre since the early 90's. Thank you for allowing me to speak tonight. I am here to speak about the utility users tax. First of all, I say NO to an increase in our Utility taxes. In 2008, when the utility tax was first implemented it was passed as a temporary tax, which would end in July of this year. Since then, we have voted two more times against another increase. When it was passed in 2008 the citizens thought that the city was in dire straits financially. But, apparently that wasn't true. There was a surplus of over a million dollars, and if you want to get technical \$1,036,795. So we were duped into thinking we were saving the police department, paramedics and library.

So now that you've spent that money and more on huge salaries and benefits for some city employees, you want more of our money!?

You say our property tax isn't covering enough expenses. According to the Los Angeles Times, Sierra Madre is rated at 25th highest property tax in CA. That's higher than Pasadena who is 29th. San Marino with a population of 13,415 not too much more than Sierra Madre, is 52nd. The City of Bell, who I'm sure all of you heard about that scandal, was 2nd. If you aren't getting enough money in sales tax, try to bring in more businesses that actually sell things! We have two liquor stores. For a small city like ours that's pretty unusual. Liquor has a higher sales tax than other products. We already pay 9% in sales tax. We don't need any more taxes.

Instead of looking for ways to take more of our hard-earned money, you should be looking for more ways to save money! For instance, the vote for this measure along with our city council members, is due to take place on April the 12th. We have the CA primary that will be held on June 7th! Why are you wasting money putting together these pamphlets and setting up voting booths for an election that could be held two months later along with our primary! So, the City Council members will have to stay in their seats two months longer! Big deal! Most run for re-election anyway. Change the voting dates so that from now on they will coincide with our state and federal elections. This would save some money and probably would result in a higher voter turnout! I don't profess to know how much these city elections cost us taxpayers, but I can tell you it can't be cheap if the government is doing it!

Now let's take a look at employee compensations and pensions. Please forgive all of the numbers, and I hope you can understand what I am attempting to say. According to Transparent California in 2014, we had a population of approximately 11,000. Total number of city employees 112, total city employee compensation of approximately \$7.4M, this includes full and part-time employees. The total city employee compensation per resident was \$668! Temple City in contrast has a population of approximately 36,000, roughly three times more than Sierra Madre, 131 city employees, for a total of \$5.2M for employee compensation, and the city employee compensation per resident is \$145. How is it that a larger city can have a smaller city budget in comparison with Sierra Madre? Perhaps because they contract with the L. A. Sheriff's Department!

In 2014, Sierra Madre's financial data revealed that overall employee compensation went up 3%. That is more than the national GDP, which was 2.4%! Two people saw even more increase in their base pay, City Manager and Chief of Police, they got a pay increase by about 9 and 13 percent respectively. Who in here has even gotten a 1% raise in the past 4-7 years? In contrast to Temple City their City Manager made \$166,303 including benefits. Sierra Madre's City Manager made \$227,780 including benefits. I know some doctors who don't make that much! Now to the reason you are trying to raise our taxes, to save the Police Department. Why is it that our government continually tries to use scare tactics to take more of our hard earned money?

In 2014, the Police Department had 20 full time officers, and 4 dispatchers, and several other part-time officers, and volunteers. The three most expensive officers besides the Chief of Police, are three Sergeants, each making approximately \$175,000/yr including overtime and benefits. Combined overtime for just these three officers was \$66,065 for 2014. Every one of the officers, with the exception of one honest officer clocked in overtime ranging from the lowest at \$911 to the highest at \$32,145. The overall overtime pay for the SMPD for 2014 was a whopping \$228,552!! What is so important that it can't wait until the next day to finish? It's not like we have crime running amuck in our sleepy little town. If you see a police officer now, he is either sitting in wait at stop signs, or sitting under a shaded tree with his laser gun hoping to catch a speeder.

According to the Sierra Madre Tattler the sierra Madre's 2015-2016 general fund revenues are budgeted at \$8.9M. Sierra Madre spends \$3.9M of that amount on police services. That means the City spends .43 cents of every dollar it takes in on police services. That is almost half of the City's budget.

The proposal I am about to read was obviously left out of the pamphlets that were sent out. The Sheriff's 20/20 Proposal provides increased patrol hours and reduced costs.

In May 2015, the Sheriff presented Sierra Madre with a Municipal Law Enforcement Services Proposal – the "20/20 Proposal."

Sheriff's 20/20 Proposal:

The Sheriff will provide 19,679 patrol hours annually as compared to 16,101 provided by SMPD. The Sheriff will provide 22% more actual patrol hours than SMPD. The Sheriff will "deploy out of the Sierra Madre police station on a 24/7 basis, which allows for fast response times and high visibility, supporting the mission of discouraging criminal behavior. The Sheriff will keep the current police station open for walk-in service from 6:00 A.M.-10:00 P.M. DAILY. The Sheriff will provide these services for \$3,092,402 annually, as compared to the budgeted SMPD annual cost of \$3,897,798 – a net savings of \$795,396. The Sheriff will provide more police services for 20% less money.

I think it's time that we move away from the hope of keeping our own small town Police Department. We threw that chance away years ago when we stopped employing and promoting the Police from within Sierra Madre. Bringing in outsiders who don't know how to work within a small town atmosphere only wrought descension within the department. We have friends who were once Sierra Madre police officers who resigned for the reason that their shifts were being taken over by LAPD officers, they would bring in on a part-time basis. This, in my opinion, was not only unfair but, a poor decision and possibly reckless. The SMPD deserves to be in the position they are in. You don't deserve any more of our money!

I'll end with this, we don't appreciate being called anti-government political militants! We are citizens that have a right to voice our opinion and keep more of our hard earned money for our own pensions! Whether it is funding a police department that has seen its best days gone by, or funding a dying Library when there is a huge public Library in Arcadia, just 32.5 miles down Santa Anita! We just want to hold you responsible for the way you use the money that you take from us in taxes, and start looking where you can cut the fat out of this bloated city government!

Pat Alcorn, E. Grand View Avenue

Mr. Mayor, and Council Members:

The NO on the UUT want you to believe that if the Council votes in the next two or three months to continue talks to contract out the police to the Sheriff's Department, that on July 1st when the UUT rate is due to sunset to 6%, the City budget will be balanced, and there will be enough surplus to start much needed maintenance. They say a UUT increase can be addressed later for infrastructure improvements. I've watched as the Municipal pool was contracted out to a private business, I have seen countless cuts in the Library staff, and I've seen the takeover of our entire recreation center including our teen program that is now more expensive than many Sierra Madre families can afford. Look around our City, we have many maintenance issues that need to be addressed, including street repair and water main repair. This can't possibly be done if Opponents of Measure UUT want to wait another two years to pass an increased UUT measure. And, don't forget, there will be a measure on the ballot in two years calling for the cancellation of all Utility Taxes. I say Measure UUT is not about the police vs. the Sheriff. This measure is about having enough revenue to balance the city budget for at least the next two years. It is about being able to plan ahead far enough to make a wise decision regarding financial stability, whether it be a police change, a property assessment for library and/or police, or some other alternative. Your Council Members have a great working relationship. They have been working the past two years to address the financial issues. It behooves us to give them the opportunity to continue that path. I say, vote for our two incumbents John Harabedian and John Capoccia and Yes on Measure UUT to maintain the continuity of our city government.

Vern Hensel, Hermosa Avenue

City Manager, City Council Members.

I would like to address you regarding the UUT tax on ballot.

We have received numerous mailings recently regarding the UUT tax on the upcoming ballot. All of those mailings emphasize the need for a 10% UUT, but mention nothing about the "Franchise Fees" are currently being charged and collected by "utility" service providers and passed on to the City, as a revenue source. Those "Franchise Fees" now being collected on our "utilities" and passed onto the city can go as high as 15%, so in essence we are being asked to vote for a 10% UUT, on top of up to 15% in franchise Fees, for a total of up to 25% in total add on fees to our "utility" bills. The "Franchise Fees" are also not itemized on all of our "UTILITY" BILLS, so most residents are unaware of them. Therefore, because of this lack of total disclosure regarding charges made on "utility" bills that are forwarded to the City, I am requesting that you do not ask us to vote on the UUT until after the city has informed the residents about the "franchise fees" being charged and make this issue clear, disclosing any and all charges being collected on our "utility" bills that the city receives as revenue. Otherwise, residents would be voting blind, and they should have that information before they vote. That may or may not affect the way residents vote but it is only fair to give residents total disclosure.

PRESENTATIONS:

Mayor, John Capoccia, presented a "Certificate of Recognition" to Assembly District 41 Woman of Distinction, Kristine Lowe.

Mayor, John Capoccia, presented a "Certificate of Recognition" to City employee, Kim Steffens, for 15 Years of serving the City of Sierra Madre.

Larry Giannone, Police Chief, introduced Sandra Jimenez, Laura Hodge and Jazmin Farfan, the new Sierra Madre Police Dispatchers.

Police Chief Giannone, gave brief backgrounds on each new Police Dispatcher.

ACTION ITEMS:

1) CONSENT CALENDAR

Elaine Aguilar, City Manager, gave the following report under the Consent Calendar:

1a). WARRANTS

Staff recommends approval of Resolution No. 16-17 "A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SIERRA MADRE APPROVING CERTAIN DEMANDS" and approval of payment of City Warrants in the aggregate amount of \$353,177.96; Sierra Madre Library Warrants in aggregate amount of \$1,712.31 and Payroll Transfer in the aggregate amount of \$304,365.05 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2016.

1b). FY 2015-16 INVESTMENT POLICY

The City's Investment Policy is reviewed on an annual basis. There are no changes to the Investment Policy since it was updated and approved by the City Council on March 24, 2015. Staff recommends adoption of Resolution No. 16-16 "A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF SIERRA MADRE APPROVING THE STATEMENT OF INVESTMENT POLICY FOR FISCAL YEAR 2015-2016".

1c). REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR A NEW TELECOMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM

The objective of the request for proposals is to acquire proposals for a new telecommunications system to serve the citizens and administrative operations of the City. Staff is seeking the City Council's direction to proceed with the request for proposals (RFP) to solicit bids for a new telecommunications system. A draft RFP will be provided before the meeting.

The City's current telecommunications system is obsolete. The system itself has not been supported for over 10 years, the voice mail system is running on Windows 3.1, and replacement parts can only (sometimes) be found on eBay. The replacement of the system has been identified as a capital project for at least five fiscal years, but due to varying financial and personnel constraints, the project has been carried over a number of times. Staff is now concerned that a small incident such as a power outage could render the existing telecommunications system inoperable and leave the city without working phones.

The City Council has budgeted \$50,000 for the replacement of the City's antiquated telecommunications system in the Information Technology Internal Services Fund.

Staff recommends the City Council direct staff to proceed with the RFP to solicit proposals for a new telecommunications system.

Mayor Capoccia opened for community input and there was none.

Council Member, John Harabedian moved and it was seconded by Council Member, Rachelle Arizmendi for approval of the Consent Calendar as presented by staff. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

2) UPDATE ON THE MS4 PERMIT (STORMWATER)

James Carlson, Management Analyst, gave the staff report.

Staff is providing an update on the City of Sierra Madre's current efforts to address the requirements of the 2012 MS4 Stormwater Permit. Staff recommends that the City Council receive and file this update.

Mr. Carlson presented a slide presentation on the MS4 Permit. It is available at City Hall for all who wish to review it.

Mr. Carlson reviewed the MS4 – Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System and why we need a permit. It is defined as a conveyance or system of conveyances (including roads with drainage systems, municipal street, catch basins, curbs, gutters, ditches, man-made channels, or storm drains)...owned or operated by a city having jurisdiction over disposal of storm water.

Mr. Carlson presented a 15-page slide presentation, which covered the following headlines:

- How is Sierra Madre Complying with the MS4 Permit?
- What is an EWMP?
- What is required for Sierra Madre in the EWMP?
- Sierra Madre Projects.
- RH/SGR OG Regional Projects.
- What is the Sierra Vista Park Regional Project?
- What are the pollutants we need to remove?
- How much do our EWMP Projects Cost?
- Wait....Do we have \$1.4 Billion?
- How much would this cost our residents?
- How did this happen?
- Do we really have to comply?
- Why haven't we heard of these issues before now?
- What should our approach to this issue be?
- Public Education
- Advocate for policy changes
- Working Towards Compliance
- Special Notes – Prop 218 Implications and Prop 1 Grants
- Next Steps.

Mayor Capoccia questioned why we chose EWMP as our method of compliance with the MS4 permit?

City Attorney, Teresa Highsmith, stated that her recollection is that when the Council first considered this it was early in the process and it appeared that it would cost the City very little to do an EWMP with the City of Monrovia because Monrovia already had a project in place which complied with the requirements and which was paid for, plus we would get an additional year to comply by doing an EWMP with other cities and agencies. But at the time the EWMP was selected, little or no monitoring had been done to determine what TMDL's (Total Maximum Daily Load of pollutants) exist in the City's receiving waters so the consultants who developed the EWMP's assumed a worst case scenario when they designed projects for the EWMP to meet the "Reasonable Assurance Analysis" required to capture and reduce all TMDL's to acceptable levels. As a result, everyone has these projects designed to capture TMDL's which may or may not exist. The City should engage in monitoring the water sources to determine if our TMDL's are lesser and if a smaller and less expensive project would work. Every jurisdiction that did an EWMP or a WMP is in the same position with outrageous prices.

Council Member Arizmendi questioned what our approach should be – education, compliance, we are trying to do the right thing.

Mayor Capoccia feels it will be impossible to implement.

Council Member Harabedian stated that with respect to Sierra Madre, we have been on top of this. A presentation was given to COG. We are well positioned. Everything considered, we are in a good spot in the watershed regarding receiving waters. But no one has the funds to pay for these projects. How will Prop 218 impact creation of a separate stormwater fee – is it a majority protest procedure or vote of the people?

City Attorney Highsmith stated yes, Prop 218 would apply to a stormwater fee to pay for these projects and it would require a majority vote of the people if it is a general tax or a 2/3 vote if a special tax for such projects. Perhaps a legislative fix is required here.

Council Member Harabedian asked if the Sanitation District could help?

Mr. Carlson stated that he will look into every opportunity to work with them.

Council Member Harabedian remarked that we have been talking about this for years.

Regarding the EWMP implementation, Mr. Carlson noted that \$3.1M is needed to develop plans and monitoring.

Mayor Capoccia opened for public input.

Robert Spears questioned the construction of a storm water capture basin on Fane?

Mr. Carlson noted that a resident on Ramona received positive feedback.

Mr. Spears asked how much it cost?

Mr. Carlson stated \$5,000.

Mr. Spears noted that if someone wanted to put one on their property could they do so?

Pat Alcorn asked if any money was need upfront?

Mayor Capoccia noted that Carolyn Dasher built a capture system on her property. We all could do that.

Mayor Pro Tem, Gene Goss remarked that what Council Member Arizmendi said – we are trying to clean up the water. We are on board with this. There is a lack of rationality. I hope the decision makers will make changes. The cost is scary.

Council Member Harabedian remarked that this is a real cost to be borne by cities. We need to continue to be proactive

Mayor Capoccia remarked about the 218 process. We have two choices – majority vote or 2/3 vote. There is no way to get out of spending. This is a receive and file agenda item.

3) MARCH WATER CONSERVATION UPDATE AND CONSIDERATION OF ADDITIONAL CITY WATER CONSERVATION ACTIONS

Bruce Inman, Director of Public Works, gave the staff report.

This report combines the monthly water conservation update with a discussion of potential next steps in improving the City's overall water conservation. Staff recommends that the City Council provide direction regarding the implementation of additional conservation measures. Staff's recommendations are included in the staff report.

In spite of good news from Northern California regarding snowpack and reservoir levels the drought is not over. The State has not cancelled the local agency conservation mandates. Sierra Madre must still reduce its consumption by 32 % compared to 2013 water use. Because of Sierra Madre continuing to fall short of the State conservation target, the SWRCB recently requested a teleconference. As staff spoke with the chief of the SWRCB Special Investigations Unit last week about the City's conservation efforts,

we received no indication that the conservation requirement is being relaxed or that the City would not have to comply with the existing requirement. Some agencies have been assessed fines for failing to meet their conservation goals. (As the council is aware, this is not the first time the City has been contacted by the State).

Mr. Inman reviewed the cumulative conservation rate, Sierra Madre Water Customers, Number of Accounts per Units Billed, Potential Measures to Reduce Water Consumption/Increase Conservation, Reduction of Water Conservation Goals, Implementation of Water Budgets, Change Method of Multi-Family goal Setting, Increase Over-Use Penalties, Contact with Top Water Users, Flow Restrictors, and Renewed Water Conservation campaign.

Alternatives:

- 1). The City Council may direct staff to implement increased penalties, renew the water conservation campaign, and to contact (via correspondence) the top 200 water customers.
- 2). The City Council may direct staff to implement any of the other alternatives in the report.
- 3). The City Council may provide direction to staff to return with additional information.
- 4). The City Council may elect to provide no direction to staff at this time to alter the current City ordinances and policies regarding water conservation.

This report combines the monthly water conservation update with a discussion of potential next steps in improving the City's overall water conservation. Staff recommends that the City Council direct staff to contact the top water users; to renew the water conservation public education; to return with a report and ordinance to implement increased penalties for exceeding water conservation targets; and to direct that the next water rate study be based upon water budgets.

This was a much larger report than is in the Agenda. Please call Bruce Inman or City Clerk if you would like a copy of the Agenda report.

Elaine Aguilar, City Manager, announced that a bi-monthly billing is aendized in May. It is very extensive – we are not ignoring this. Staff report provides information on customers' use. We have nine months of information. On average, most are meeting targets. 35% exceed targets. 79-90% use 49 units or less. 13-30% use 50 or 200 units. The west side is doing better. The east side of town, some customers are using 200 units, out of 161-single family homes, 85 use 46%. They are larger parcels. We discussed if there could be targets that are too high. It is not recommended to go through all targets for a couple of months – don't adjust now. When we adjust service fees we can do water budgets at the same time and adjust all. Staff does recommend start moving toward reviewing water rates. Do a water rate study, lots of education, process to start immediately,. Refresh that City Council on water rates. Look at multi-family units – 12 water units per dwelling for multi-family. Don't see benefit to change.

Increasing over-use penalties – 17% of accounts had three penalties or more. Staff recommends 3 x tier one rate as penalties. City Council has authority to set by Resolution. We are continuing to contact the top 100 water users. We send friendly letters, and end with a little bit of stick. We do with each billing cycle. Use of flow restrictors – we will return with a policy. Renewed water conservation campaign – renew banners, direct mailers.

Council Member, Rachelle Arizmendi, thanked staff or the report. We have gone through 9 cycles.

City Manager stated, Yes, since State mandate.

Council Member, John Harabedian, asked if we have given thought about legislative amount of lawn people can have? Increase fines and fees? We have to adjust – head-on – no big green lawns.

City Clerk asked if the City is going to have a “turf rebate program again”?

Mayor Capoccia remarked that we will discuss.

City Manager said that the City is suggesting a gradual change – regular turf on new construction. Existing lawns hasn’t been decided. There is no credit for turf. I don’t see a problem with legislating smaller lawns.

City Manager noted that the first thing that should be done is: 1) what water budgets are?; 2). Public education campaign and 3) Time necessary for notifying resident son water budgets.

The Mayor opened for public input.

Emmett Maguire

My wife is a professional gardener. I understand how you can use a lot of water. You need to make a judgement. It has been my observation that people no not understand the problem. The City could do more – information workshop on low water use plants. There are plants imports that use less water. Rancho Santa Ana is beautifuly. There are information workshops if the carrot fails.

Barry Gold, Ramona Avenue, Write-In Candidate for City Council

Good evening Mayor Capoccia and Council Members.
We know from the staff report that most people are at or below their water target. And even though some people are considerably under target that does not make up for those who are over target in trying to comply with the State requirement 32 % reduction. A few people are over their targets by more than 100 units. It makes you wonder what their target is. But that is a question for another time. If the average of about 400 people who are over their target would cut back to their target levels the city would be in compliance. So it seems logical to get these people to cut back. If it takes higher penalties (an increase in the cost of the units used over target), then that is what should be done. The staff report lists other ways to comply with the state requirement, but they would affect those who are already at or under their target. We should concentrate on the abusers, before we ask those who are already doing a good job conserving to do more. Thank you for your time.

The Mayor closed public input.

Council Member, John Harabedian, stated that many residents aren't paying attention, while many others are dedicated. I agree with staff to increase penalties 3 x tier one rate.

Mayor Capoccia feels we have done a lot in outreach. I am not sure we should do more.

Council Member, John Harabedian, stated that he is not suggesting more contact. Flow Restrictors are good - less optimistic to residents' intentions. Water rate study would solve problems. Delayed penalties – I am average user, I water two days. I still have a lawn. I could do more.

Council Member, Rachelle Arizmendi, noted that she has a concern on penalties and restrictions. Let's continue outreach. I am at point of increasing targets – 3 x Tier one is fine. We have to consider water rate study. Staff can provide.

Mayor Pro Tem, Gene Goss, noted that he has not been using as much water as he would like. I feel resentment to hear water budgets. Go after top water users. Flow restrictors for severe users – 50 units above target. Choices are limited. Contact the 100 users over allotment and make them more aware.

Mayor Capoccia stated that we need to get their attention. 25% are not with the program. We are at risk. They are driving up costs. I am in favor of increasing penalties to 2 x Tier 4. Anchor off of Tier 4. All City Council Members agreed. Hold off on flow restrictors. Let staff come back.

The City Manager will bring back increasing fines, notifying public of fines and timing.

Council Member Harabedian would like this to be done before Summer. Do outreach and education.

Council Member Arizmendi feels ongoing regular reminders are good. Contact high users.

Mayor Capoccia asked staff to send letters to top 100 who exceeded by volume.

Council Member Harabedian asked that staff arrange for a tour of City Hall – it is beautiful.

Mr. Inman stated that the EENR is working on a tour.

Elisa Cox, Assistant City Manager. Noted that adding signs on plants could help. Put instructions on website.

Mayor Pro Tem, Gene Goss, stated that we don't want to re-generate the City – most people have lawns. Give people a choice.

Mayor Capoccia stated that he is in favor of water budgets. We need education to lead up to it.

Council Member Arizmendi asked how many cities have been fined?

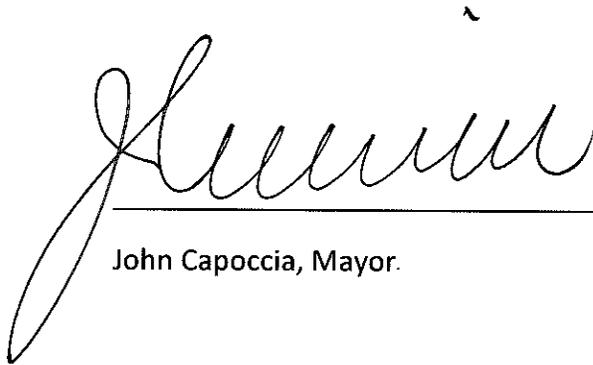
Mr. Inman stated, "Only a handful have been fined". We are only city not issued "compliance Order".

Mayor Capoccia asked that staff start on implementing higher penalties – 2 x Tier 4!

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS: None

ADJOURNMENT:

Council Member, John Harabedian moved and it was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem, Gene Goss, for approval of adjournment at 9:00 p.m. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote.



John Capoccia, Mayor.

Minutes taken and typed by:

Nancy Sue Shollenberger
City Clerk