

MEETING REPORT  
WATER COMMITTEE  
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2011  
8:15 A.M.

Directors:      Ralph Retherford  
                    Barbara Balen

Public: Ron Ringen  
           Jim Cherry, Sonora Sunrise Rotary  
           Del Hodges, Sonora Sunrise Rotary  
           Ray Hall, Sonora Sunrise Rotary

Staff:            Pete Kampa  
                    Kelly Klyn  
                    Casey Prunchak

**Review Request to Waive Connection Fees for the Sonora Sunrise Dog Park**

Pete Kampa reported that he received a request from Del Hodges of the Sonora Sunrise Rotary to consider waiving the connection fees for a community dog park currently being built in Sonora.

Kelly Klyn explained that the lot is in an established subdivision, therefore the capital reserve fees are \$985 and \$296 for a ¾" meter set fee, for a total charge of \$1,281 for the dog park.

Jim Cherry reported that several years ago the community was very concerned about the suicide rate in Tuolumne County with our youth and the elderly, and several organizations in the County got together to form a task force to identify areas where the community can make a difference. Mr. Cherry explained that various organizations in Tuolumne County have stepped up to work together and assure that Tuolumne County has safe community gathering places for individuals to get out of their homes, meet and get to know one another.

Del Hodges addressed the Committee members stating that the Sonora Sunrise Rotary is requesting the District consider waiving the water hookup fees for a community park located on Covey Circle in Sonora. Mr. Hodges explained that the community park is being built on property owned by Tuolumne County and will consist of three central sections. Mr. Hodges indicated that about ½ of the property will be dedicated as a dog park for dog owner to have a place to meet while their dogs play; in another section of the property they have built 17 4' x 12' raised beds, surrounded by a 6' chain link fence and includes a 8' x 10' storage shed for gardeners; and they are building a children's play area in another section of the property. Mr. Hodges noted that there will be no restrooms or lawns on the property, and the garden area will be installed with drip irrigation and on a timer. Mr. Hodges indicated that a small fee will be assessed to use the garden area, noting that the Sonora Sunrise Rotary will be paying the monthly water usage fee.

Committee members indicated that this is a wonderful project for the community and very grateful that Sonora Sunrise Rotary are making a difference in our community, however requested that they consider utilizing raw water for the garden area.

Members from the Sonora Sunrise Rotary indicated that they will certainly address methods in order to receive raw water in the future at the community park, and they will work with District staff to ultimately use raw water for the project.

Pete Kampa explained that the Committee members can determine that the findings are specifically for the current usage for the community park, and if in the future, restrooms or a lawn has been installed and a higher demand has been reached the fees will be enforced.

Director Balen recommended that the Board develop a policy to address connection fees for community projects that serves an identified public interest and eligible for property tax use.

***Committee Recommendation: Waive the capital reserve fee of \$985 and place an agreement on the consent calendar for the December 13, 2011 Board meeting for Board review and consideration.***