

MEETING REPORT
DITCH COMMITTEE
TUESDAY, APRIL 21, 2009
1:00 P.M.

Directors: Ralph Retherford Public: Jim Todd
 Barbara Balen Bob Hackmack
 Sasha Farkas

Staff: Pete Kampa
 Tom Scesa
 Jerry Whitehead

Review Agreement and CEQA Notice of Determination Regarding Relocation of a Section of the Phoenix Ditch and Construction and Transfer of Water and Sewer Mains to Serve the Tractor Supply Company at Standard Center – Standard Center LLC

Director Balen expressed her concern with the developer proposing to pipe and relocate 400' of the Phoenix Ditch as part of the grading for the development, noting that the ditch as a utility was not addressed in the environmental documents. Director Balen explained that this section of the Phoenix Ditch has historical value and biological value, questioning the mitigation of the value. Director Balen inquired if District staff reviewed alternatives to incorporate the historic and agricultural feature in to the proposed design.

Jim Todd indicated that he has been working on this project with District staff for a long time, noting that a cultural resource study was performed that addressed the historical aspect of the ditch which indicated that the section of Phoenix Ditch was not deemed historic. Mr. Todd noted that a biological consultant also studied this section of the Phoenix Ditch to determine if any sensitive species were located, indicating that nothing was found.

Jim Todd reported that he is proposing to construct water and sewer mains to serve four proposed commercial buildings, noting the water main will be 8" diameter and approximately 1,200' in length and the sewer main will be 6" diameter and 1,780' in length. Mr. Todd explained that they are also proposing to relocate 400' of the Phoenix Ditch, noting that the developers met with the Army Corps of Engineers and determined that they have met all the regulations and requirements in order to move forward.

District staff and Jim Todd responded to questions from the Committee members.

Staff recommendation: Approve Agreement.

Committee recommendation: Approval of the Agreement and CEQA Notice of Determination Regarding Relocation of a Section of the Phoenix Ditch and Construction and Transfer of Water and Sewer Mains to Serve the Tractor Supply Company at Standard Center and place on the consent calendar for Board review and consideration at a future Board meeting.

Review Proposed Revisions to the Application and Annual Agreement for Supplemental Water Service

Kelly Klyn reported that the Application and Annual Agreement does not specify pre-payment of any water service rates at the time of application, noting the District's existing Water Rules and Regulations state that pre-payment for supplemental water service for the entire irrigation season is required. Mr. Klyn explained that the purpose of the pre-payment is to provide a deposit to facilitate balancing service accounts, however, pre-payment for the entire irrigation season would impose a burden on applicants. Staff is proposing a partial pre-payment. Mr. Klyn indicated that another proposed revision to the Agreement also deletes language regarding billing for the service at the end of the year, since the current billing practice is monthly (the same as all other raw water contract accounts).

The Application and Annual Agreement for Supplemental Water Service was reviewed and several revisions were suggested. It was determined to include in the Agreement that District staff would send a letter notifying existing customers at the end of the spill of the existing probability of purchasing supplemental water from PG&E.

It was suggested that District staff schedule a meeting with the Algerine Ditch users to determine if they are still interested in a one inch raw water service contract, and notify them that District staff needs their cooperation prior to turning the Algerine Ditch on.

Staff recommendation: Approve the Agreement.

Committee recommendation: Approve the Application and Annual Agreement for Supplemental Water Service and place on the consent calendar for Board review and consideration at a future Board meeting.