

Meeting Minutes



RWQCP – Mountain View – Moffett Field Area Water Reuse Project

Subject: Public Meeting
Date/Time: September 24, from 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm
Location: Palo Alto – Mitchell Community Center
Prepared for: Daisy Stark, RWQCP
Prepared by: Emily Silverman (ESA) and Kate Streams (RMC)

Attendees	Organization	E-mail Address
Bobel, Phil	Palo Alto Regional Water Quality Control Plant	phil_bobel@city.palo-alto.ca.us
Gioumousis, Ellie	Resident	elliegms@uf.znet.com
Gioumousis, George	Resident	
Gordon, Tom	Resident	tgordon@luster.com
Kiner, Rochelle	City of Mountain View	Rochelle.kiner@ci.mtnview.ca.us
Kubler, Helene	Raines, Melton and Carella, Inc. (RMC)	hkubler@rmcengr.com
Lucas, Libby	Resident	Jlucas1099@aol.com
Miks, Bill	City of Palo Alto	
Morrissey, Trish	NASA	trish.morrissey@nasa.gov
Moulton, Leslie	Environmental Science Associates (ESA)	lmoulton@esassoc.com
Mulvey, Trish	Clean South Bay	mulvey@ix.netcom.com
O'Brien, James	Santa Clara Valley Water District	jobrien@valleywater.org
Richardson, Melanie	Santa Clara Valley Water District	mrichardson@scvwd.org
Serge, Dave	City of Mountain View	dave.serge@ci.mtnview.ca.us
Silverman, Emily	ESA	esilverman@esassoc.com
Stark, Daisy	Palo Alto Regional Water Quality Control Plant	daisy_stark@city.palo-alto.ca.us
Streams, Kate	RMC	kstreams@rmcengr.com
Young, Beth	City of Palo Alto	Beth.young@city.palo-alto.ca.us

Agenda

I. The agenda of the workshop was as follows:

Topic	Facilitator	Timing
Welcome / Introduction <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting Overview • Meeting Agenda 	Daisy Stark (PARWQCP)	5 minutes
Proposed Project	Helene Kubler (RMC)	15 minutes
Environmental Process	Leslie Moulton (ESA)	15 minutes
Public Comment	Phil Bobel (PARWQCP)	60 minutes

II. The following documents were distributed and discussed during the meeting. Additional information is available from the RWQCP website (<http://www.city.palo-alto.ca.us/waterreuse/index.html>).

- a. RWQCP Water Reuse Program Brochure
- b. SCVWD Water Reuse Program Newsletter

Copies of the PowerPoint presentation are available upon request. Please contact Daisy Stark at 650-329-2287.

Discussion

I. Introduction

- a. Daisy Stark presented a brief overview of the project and discussed the need to replace the deteriorated pipeline and at the same time expand recycled water service to the City of Palo Alto and the City of Mountain View.
- b. Daisy introduced the project team (Palo Alto Regional Water Quality Control Plant (PARWQCP), State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB), City of Palo Alto, RMC (engineering consultant for the city), and ESA (environmental consultant for the city) and described the role of each in the project.

II. Proposed Project

- a. Helene Kubler presented a brief overview of water reuse in the area and the connection between the Long-term Goals for the RWQCP and the project.
- b. The need for the project was discussed, including potential users of recycled water (i.e., the Shoreline Golf Course, Moffett Field, and city maintained parks).
- c. A general presentation was given of the existing facilities at the RWQCP producing the recycled water and proposed new pipeline alignments.
- d. The schedule including planning, environmental documentation, design and construction was outlined.

III. Environmental Review

- a. Leslie Moulton gave a brief overview of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) process and discussed how the CEQA Initial Study is based on the 1995 Program Environmental Impact Report (EIR).

- b. The key environmental issues were identified as mostly construction related, short term impacts. Traffic disruption, biological resource disruption, noise and dust were further detailed and selected mitigation measures were discussed.
- c. Leslie briefly discussed the high standards of recycled water quality and mentioned that the Regional Plant's recycled water is designated as suitable for non-potable uses in areas such as public parks.
- d. Leslie outlined the review schedule of the CEQA document. Review by necessary agencies and by the public will be conducted in late October to November, 2003. Palo Alto will then consider adopting the CEQA documents and project in January or February 2004.

IV. Public Comment

- a. Phil Bobel opened up the remaining portion of the meeting to the public for both technical questions and comments regarding the project. Comments/questions were recorded and will be addressed in the draft Mitigated Negative Declaration. Some of the questions were addressed during the meeting. The questions/comments were more specifically as follows:
 - i. Comment: Concerns were raised on the proposed pipeline alignment along the landfill and Matadero Creek. Libby Lucas requested maps showing the locations of the proposed alignments.

A: Details of the construction method to be used at the Matadero Creek crossing are currently being evaluated. The recommended construction method for creek crossings in the study area (i.e., trenchless technology or hanging from the bridge) will be based on factors such as the risk of disrupting sensitive species and the size of the pipe. Maps of the proposed pipeline alignments can be obtained by calling Daisy Stark (650-329-2287).
 - ii. Comment: Concerns on other potential creek crossings, including Steven's Creek, were expressed. Libby Lucas pointed out the risk of encountering contaminated groundwater using trenchless technology under Steven's Creek Trail.

A: As discussed with regards to Matadero Creek, details of the construction methods to be used at each potential creek crossing will be separately evaluated and based on many factors including, but not limited to the possibility of encountering soil and groundwater contamination, disrupting sensitive species and the size of the pipe.
 - iii. Q: Libby Lucas wanted clarification on impacts to the saltwater harvest mouse habitat in the Emily Renzel marsh.

A: The CEQA document will analyze the necessary timing of construction through sensitive biological areas in order to avoid disruption of sensitive species including the saltwater harvest mouse. In addition, the pipeline alignment will be built in an existing raised levee, which will not directly impact the surrounding wetlands. Furthermore, an alignment along Embarcadero Road is being considered as an alternative to the alignment along the levee.
 - iv. Comment: Trish Morrissey, on behalf of NASA, expressed NASA's support of the project. Trish indicated that the recycled water pipeline would aid in the irrigation of both new landscaping of native plants and the irrigation of historic plants in the future development areas.
 - v. Q: Ellie Gioumousis asked what kind of landscaping would take place at the Moffett Field area.

A. Trish Morrissey answered that a mixture of California natives would be planted throughout the newer areas, except in historic areas where some non-native species already exist.

- vi. Comment: Trish Mulvey, speaking for CLEAN South Bay, indicated that the use of recycled water in the region is one of their top priorities. She will be happy to help in any way she can.
- vii. Comment: Melanie Richardson, speaking for Santa Clara Valley Water District (SCVWD), commented on the SCVWD's support of recycled water projects. SCVWD supports recycled water projects since it will help the district achieve their long-term goals for recycled water use. There is also potential for a partnership between the PARWQCP and the SCVWD as the SCVWD has already entered into contract with three other plants in the South Bay region.
- viii. Q: Ellie Gioumouisis questioned the purity of the water, especially the chlorine and fluoride levels, that is being discharged into San Francisco Bay.

A: Water that is discharged into the Bay has residuals of many common contaminants, however it meets state and federal requirements for water that is discharged in this manner. Chlorine and fluoride are continually monitored. Fluoride is added to the water supply before it is used at the drinking water supply level. Levels of fluoride remain somewhat constant as it goes through the wastewater treatment process. Average levels of fluoride are around 1 part per million (ppm) in the water that is discharged into the Bay. This is well below the Federal guideline of 3 ppm.

- ix. Comment: James O'Brien of SCVWD reminded the project team that the Community Project Department will review the project and is in charge of the permits necessary for creek crossings. In addition, he suggested that we contact Sue Tippetts at SCVWD in regards to construction activities near creeks and possible pipeline alignment along the Steven's Creek trail. James also expressed concern that the levee along the Renzel marsh is used for flood control and might be compromised (with respect to its flood control functions) with the construction of a pipeline in the levee.

A: Bill Miks clarified that the levee used for flood control is located on the outer portion of the marsh. The levee that the pipeline may be installed in is not used for flood control/protection.

- x. Q: Tom Gordon asked why the existing pipeline is not used or repaired.

A: The existing pipeline was never intended for permanent recycled water use. It was originally installed by the SCVWD for a test project. The pipeline was made with PVC irrigation pipe and was intended for only 10-year use. The steel sleeves that connect the pipe have since corroded and deteriorated in the salt water leaving the pipe not fully functional. The same alignment would not be used since it is within the marsh, which is an environmentally sensitive area.

- xi. Q: Libby Lucas asked if there is an alignment alternative to the levee segment along the Renzel marsh.

A: Embarcadero Road is an alternative to the levee route, although there would be traffic impacts for this alternative and the need to deal with crowded utilities at the intersection of Embarcadero Road and East Bayshore. This alternative is currently being evaluated.

- xii. Comment: It was suggested that recycled water be used for a demonstration garden with native plants at Bixbee Park. However, it was commented that “native” plants should not require irrigation.
- xiii. Comment: An additional use of recycled water could be for the Matadero Creek enhancement project and/or for saltwater marsh restoration.
- xiv. Comment: The installation of easy take off points at all creek crossings would make the use of recycled water for creek restoration easier in the future.