CITY OF ANAHEIM  
PUBLIC UTILITIES BOARD  

MINUTES  
MARCH 27, 2019  

The agenda having been posted on Thursday, March 21, 2019, the Public Hearings / Regular Meeting of the Public Utilities Board (Board) were called to order by Chairperson E. Medrano at 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 27, 2019, in the 2nd Floor Gordon Hoyt Conference Room, Anaheim West Tower, 201 S. Anaheim Blvd., Anaheim, California.

**Board Members Present:** Chairperson E. Medrano, Vice-Chairperson J. Seymour, R. Bhalla, J. Showalter, R. Gaona, V. Baroldi, A. Abdulrahman  

**Board Members Absent:** None.  


**Guest(s) Present:** R. Nelson, former Board member; Don Phillips, Resident; Helen Phillips, Resident; Dagan King, Resident; Herb Deeks, Resident; Maria Felix, Resident; Grace Li, Student; Peter Li, Parent; Lucy Li, Parent; Irma Huitron, City of Anaheim Employee; Jesus Villasenor, Orange County Translation & Interpretation; Karla L. Beard, CSR 13036  

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<th>AGENDA ITEM</th>
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<td><strong>RECOGNITIONS: ROBERT NELSON AND VICKY RAMIREZ FOR THEIR SERVICE TO THE ANAHEIM COMMUNITY AS MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC UTILITIES BOARD (BOARD).</strong></td>
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R. Nelson was recognized for his years of service and commitment to ensuring that utility customers receive quality service and affordable rates. Public Utilities Department (Department) staff thanked R. Nelson for his accomplishments on the Board and presented him with a recognition plaque. V. Ramirez was unable to attend and staff will send her recognition plaque at a late date.  

R. Nelson thanked staff and welcomed the current and new Board members. Chairperson E. Medrano recognized R. Nelson for his contributions as a member of the Board.  

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1. **OATH OF OFFICE: NEW AND REAPPOINTED PUBLIC UTILITIES BOARD MEMBERS.**

A. Kott, Assistant City Attorney, administered the Oath of Office to the newly elected and reappointed members of the Board. The Board members include:

- Ravnish Bhalla, At Large
- R. Gaona, District 2
- V. Baroldi, District 3
- J. Seymour, District 6

2. **RECOGNITION OF THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT (MWD) POSTER CONTEST WINNERS.**

M. Moore, Assistant General Manager, Water Services, recognized Grace Li for the selection of her poster as part of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD) 2019 Water Conservation Poster Contest. The Board congratulated her for her artwork.

3. **PUBLIC COMMENTS.**

Chairperson E. Medrano invited the public to speak on matters other than the public hearing items.

4. **APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR PUBLIC UTILITIES BOARD MEETING OF FEBRUARY 27, 2019.**

There being no public comments, Chairperson E. Medrano closed the public comments portion of the meeting.

J. Seymour moved approval of the Minutes of the Regular Public Utilities Board Meeting of February 27, 2019. V. Baroldi seconded the motion.

**MOTION CARRIED: 7-0. ABSTAINED: 0. ABSENT: 0.**

5. **APPOINTMENT OF ONE MEMBER FOR THE PUBLIC UTILITIES HEARING BOARD AND ONE MEMBER FOR THE AD HOC LEGISLATIVE WORKING GROUP.**

Chairperson E. Medrano indicated he was seeking one member and one alternate to serve on the Public Utilities Hearing Board (Hearing Board). The Hearing Board convenes to hear matters that are unresolved by staff, such as billing disputes. J. Showalter was appointed as the member and R. Bhalla as the alternate by Chairperson E. Medrano.
Chairperson E. Medrano indicated he was seeking one volunteer to serve on the *Ad Hoc* Legislative Working Group. The *Ad Hoc* Legislative Working Group meets to review pertinent legislation that may have impacts on Anaheim customers or utility operations. A. Abdulrahman was appointed to the *Ad Hoc* Legislative Working Group.

6. **PRESENTATION: UTILITIES SUCCESS INDICATORS.**

A. Nguyen, Utilities Budget Administrator, provided an update on the Department’s Utilities Success Indicators (USI) for the reporting period of July through December 2018. He began with an overview of the report, explaining that the USI is published every six months, covers twenty different performance metrics, and is intended to provide a high level overview of the Department’s performance in relation to its key objectives.

A. Nguyen described how the Department’s electric reliability performance was in the top quartile of publicly owned utilities nationwide, and how street light repairs were completed on average within 2.1 business days for the reporting period and for calendar year 2018, which is highly responsive as street light repairs are the most frequently requested service by residents and businesses.

Regarding water system maintenance, A. Nguyen described how the Department met its valve maintenance goal but was two hydrants short on its hydrant maintenance goal. He indicated that the Department still has plans to schedule maintenance on all remaining hydrants and valves.

A. Nguyen also commented on how California’s clean energy goals were accelerated during the reporting period, and how the Department is working to ensure compliance with statewide mandates and that impacts to ratepayers are minimized. He explained that the Kramer and Canyon Power Plants have been instrumental in helping to integrate intermittent renewable resources like solar and wind. While he noted that the Kraemer Power Plant’s availability was limited during the reporting period, he described how the Plant’s availability returned to normal levels after repairs were completed.

On the Department’s financial metrics, A. Nguyen briefed the Board about how the Electric and Water Utility’s credit ratings were unchanged but that other utilities in California have been downgraded recently over wildfire-related risks. He reiterated that 98% of the City’s power lines in the fire threat zones are already underground, and that the Department plans to use cameras to mitigate this risk further.
Regarding utility rates, A. Nguyen described how water rates are approximately 30% below the average of other Orange County water agencies and electric rates are approximately 17% lower than what other Orange County residents pay.

A. Nguyen concluded his presentation by describing how the Department continues to place a high value on customer satisfaction, noting how at least 90% of Anaheim Anytime users rated the Department’s employees positively on measures reflecting effectiveness, responsiveness, and courteousness.

7. PRESENTATION: WATER QUALITY UPDATE.

C. Parker, Water Engineering Manager, discussed the Department’s water quality controls, emerging regulations, and water quality improvement strategies. C. Parker discussed how regulations start at the Federal level and filter down to the State and local levels, noting that the State and local levels can implement stricter regulations, if desired. C. Parker mentioned that the Department has over 51 permanent water sampling stations to monitor and ensure high quality water is served to customers. He noted that the new 2019 Water Quality Report will be presented at the next Board meeting in April.

C. Parker then mentioned that water quality regulations are continually being evaluated, and an emerging regulation is for PFOA (Perfluorooctanoic Acid) and PFOS (Perfluorooctane Sulfonate). He explained these chemicals are in a variety of commercial and consumer products, such as paper products, fire-fighting foams, and non-stick cookware, and while they are not caused by water utilities, the responsibility to ensure compliance is part of the Department’s overall program. C. Parker indicated that in the near future the Department will be testing for these compounds per the State Division of Drinking Water requirements. If testing results see levels above 14 parts per trillion, the Department would notify City officials.

Another regulation that is being implemented is a no-cost lead testing program by water utilities in public schools. The Department is in the process of completing the testing at public school agencies, and will voluntarily offer similar testing at no cost to private K-12 schools in Anaheim.

Finally, C. Parker discussed strategies for maintaining high levels of water quality by utilizing operational programs and capital improvement projects that include, installing wells deep into the aquifer, flushing water mains to prevent stagnant water, and reducing water age in the system by mixing water in storage tanks.
The Board asked for a quantification of the amount of the total dissolved solids in the Orange County groundwater basin. C. Parker reported the number, per the 2018 Water Quality Report, is 587 parts per million. The Board also asked about the status of the Orange County North Basin site groundwater plume clean-up was progressing. D. Lee indicated that the clean-up is under the purview of the United States Environmental Protection Agency that has a specific process and timeline. M. Moore explained that the process is underway with data being collected, and that a remediation strategy has not yet been delineated.


T. Cooke, Electric Operations Manager – Field Services, gave a presentation on the Wildfire Camera System in Anaheim. T. Cooke noted that the Department and Anaheim Fire & Rescue (AF&R) jointly evaluated a regional network of fire cameras that is being deployed in high fire threat zones to provide high resolution video, near infrared capabilities, and the ability to zoom into areas to more quickly identify ignition points. The main objectives of the Wildfire Camera System, is to enhance wildfire mitigation actions, bolster situational awareness, take advantage of being a part of a larger regional fire camera network, and provide AF&R remote control of the cameras over the fire threat zones to reduce response times and accelerate deployment of resources.

The Board inquired about some of the vantage points of the cameras and their locations, specifically at Anaheim West Tower. Staff indicated the cameras would be a part of a larger network of cameras that give different views for triangulation to locate fires. The Board asked about the University of California San Diego (UCSD) owning the camera data. Staff responded that the data is a part of the UCSD network of cameras and UCSD owns the data.

The Board also inquired whether the software system has the associated artificial intelligence to detect fires or does someone actually have to view the screen. Staff responded that cameras do not yet have artificial intelligence but that is under development by UCSD.

A. Abdulrahman moved approval to recommend an MOU for camera equipment, installation, and access to a regional network of fire cameras for monitoring potential wildfires. J. Seymour seconded the motion.

**MOTION CARRIED: 7-0. ABSTAINED: 0. ABSENT: 0.**
The Board inquired about privacy protection. Staff responded that the camera software utilized by UCSD has privacy protection features that include pixilation that mitigates viewing into homes.

9. PUBLIC HEARING: PROPOSED INCREASES TO THE WATER COMMODITY ADJUSTMENT (W-CA) AND WATER SYSTEM RELIABILITY ADJUSTMENT (W-SRA) RATES AND CORRESPONDING REVISIONS TO SCHEDULES W-CA AND W-SRA OF THE WATER RATES, RULES AND REGULATIONS; PROPOSED MODIFICATIONS TO SCHEDULE W-SRA AND RULE NOS. 1, 2, AND 17 OF THE WATER RATES, RULES AND REGULATIONS; AND DETERMINATION THAT THESE MODIFICATIONS ARE EXEMPT UNDER THE CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (CEQA) PURSUANT TO THE PUBLIC RESOURCES CODE, SECTION 21080(B)(8), AND SECTIONS 15061(B)(3) AND 15273(A) OF TITLE 14 OF THE CALIFORNIA CODE OF REGULATIONS. *

The Public Hearing was called to order by Chairperson E. Medrano.

B. Beelner, Assistant General Manager – Finance and Administration, presented oral testimony explaining that the Department is proposing to increase the Water Commodity Adjustment (W-CA) and Water System Reliability Adjustment (W-SRA) of the Water Rates, Rules and Regulations. The modest rate proposal will help to recover increasing wholesale water costs and provides capital funding to address aging pipelines and other capital infrastructure needs. B. Beelner also discussed the proposed modifications to Schedule W-SRA and the Rule Nos. 1, 2, and 17 that provides the ability for K-12 schools to invest in sustainability improvements to their campuses and to pay those costs over time on their utility bills, and to decrease the amount of time the Department may recover its costs for underbilled amounts.

D. Lee stated that 81,300 Notices of Public Hearing were mailed and, of those, 1,255 notices were in Spanish and 80,045 notices were in English. He also stated that twelve written protests were received as of the public hearing date.

Upon the conclusion of the foundational testimony, Chairperson E. Medrano asked staff to explain how water projects are prioritized in their capital improvement plan and the length of time to take a project from design to construction. D. Lee, M. Moore, and C. Parker responded to these questions.

The Public Utilities Department presented prepared testimony and oral testimony in support of its proposed (1) water rate increase to the Water Commodity Adjustment (W-CA) and Water System Reliability Adjustment (W-SRA) and (2) the proposed modifications to Schedule W-SRA and Rule Nos. 1, 2, and 17.

Upon the completion of the testimony and public comment, Chairperson E. Medrano entertained the following motion from A. Kott, who moved that all evidence, oral and written, submitted by staff, including the Prepared Testimony with exhibits from B. Beelner; the Affidavits of Publication of the Notice of Public Hearing; the Certificate of Mailing; and the written protests and the returned notices filed with the Secretary of the Board become part of the record and submitted into evidence. Chairperson E. Medrano granted A. Kott’s motion.

Chairperson E. Medrano next entertained A. Kott’s request to close the record of the public hearing because there were no further witnesses or evidence to be submitted by the Department for the Board’s
After Board questions, Chairperson E. Medrano asked if there was any member of the public who would like to speak either in favor of or in opposition to the proposed modifications to the Water Rates, Rules and Regulations. There were no public comments. D. Lee made closing remarks.

A verbatim transcript of the Public Hearing with all testimony, exhibits, and public comments that were a part of the public hearings was prepared by the Court Reporter. The certified original transcript is on file in the 11th floor Department Records, Public Utilities Department, Anaheim West Tower. A certified copy of the original transcript is on file in the City Clerk’s office, 2nd floor, City Hall.

The Board provided comments. After which, Chairperson E. Medrano summarized the prior testimony of D. Lee, concluding that the number of protests received did not constitute a majority protest to the proposed increases to the W-CA and W-SRA.

V. Baroldi moved that the Board recommend to the City Council, by resolution, that it (1) determine that the modifications to the Water Rates, Rules and Regulations are exempt under CEQA, (2) approve the proposed modifications to Schedule W-SRA for any rate adjustments occurring on or after July 1, 2019, and (3) approve the proposed modifications to Rule Nos. 1, 2, and 17 of the Water Rates, Rules and Regulations. J. Seymour seconded the motion.

**MOTION CARRIED: 7-0. ABSTAINED: 0. ABSENT: 0.**

The Public Utilities Department presented prepared testimony and oral testimony in support of its proposed modification to Schedule D-TOU, addition of Schedule D-TOU-2 and modifications to Rule Nos. 1, 2, 14, 17, 23, 26, and 29.
QUALITY ACT (CEQA) PURSUANT TO THE PUBLIC RESOURCES CODE, SECTION 21080(B)(8), AND SECTIONS 15061(B)(3) AND 15273(A) OF TITLE 14 OF THE CALIFORNIA CODE OF REGULATIONS. *

The Public Hearing was called to order by Chairperson E. Medrano.

B. Beelner presented oral testimony explaining that the Department is proposing modifications to Schedule D-TOU and addition of Schedule D-TOU-2, modifications to Rule Nos. 1, 2, 14, 17, 23, 26, and 29 of the Electric Rates, Rules and Regulations. The new rate schedule is strictly optional and allows customers who may be able to shift their energy usage to off-peak hours to sign up for the new rate schedule. The rule proposals include a bill credit for unplanned extended outages, to decrease the amount of time the Department may recover its costs for underbilled amounts, consolidation of income qualified discount programs into one rule, and simplification of a solar income qualified assistance program.

D. Lee answered questions regarding the publication of public hearing notice. Upon the conclusion the foundational testimony, Chairperson E. Medrano asked staff whether there is a penalty if customers want to go back from the time-based rate to the flat rate. He also asked about the Solar for Schools Program. D. Lee and B. Beelner responded to these questions.

After Board questions, Chairperson E. Medrano asked if there was any member of the public who would like to speak either in favor of or in opposition to the proposed modifications to the Electric Rates, Rules and Regulations. There were no public comments. D. Lee made closing remarks.

A verbatim transcript of the Public Hearing with all testimony, exhibits, and public comments that were a part of the public hearings was prepared by the Court Reporter. The certified original transcript is on file in the 11th floor Department Records, Public Utilities Department, Anaheim West Tower. A certified copy of the original transcript is on file in the City Clerk’s office, 2nd floor, City Hall.

of the Electric Rates, Rules and Regulations.

Upon the completion of the testimony and public comment, Chairperson E. Medrano moved that all evidence, oral and written, submitted by staff, including the Prepared Testimony with exhibits from B. Beelner; and the Affidavits of Publication of the Notice of Public Hearing become part of the record and submitted into evidence. Chairperson E. Medrano granted A. Kott’s motion.

Chairperson E. Medrano next entertained A. Kott’s request to close the record of the Public Hearing because there were no further witnesses or evidence to be submitted by the Department for the Board’s consideration. Since no objections to Staff’s request were interposed, Chairperson E. Medrano closed the public hearing.

A. Abdulrahman moved approval that the Board recommend the City Council by resolution determine that the modifications to the Electric Rates, Rules and Regulations are exempt from CEQA and approve the proposed addition of the Developmental Schedule D-TOU-2, and modifications to Developmental Schedule D-TOU, and Rule Nos. 1, 2, 14, 17, 23, 26, and 29 of the Electric Rates, Rules and
11. UPDATE ON ELECTRIC SYSTEM ISSUES.

J. Lonneker, Assistant General Manager – Electric Services, made the Board aware of the upcoming bore installation tour at an underground conversion project location, and asked if any members of the Board were interested in attending that they please let P. Oviedo know.

12. UPDATE ON WATER SYSTEM ISSUES.

M. Moore, Assistant General Manager – Water Services, provided an update on a water main break, which recently occurred on Imperial Highway. M. Moore indicated that the event was on the news and showed an excerpt from the news of the event. Coordination between the Department and AF&R was instrumental in locating the main break and making the necessary repairs.

M. Moore then discussed the water supply storage levels indicating that local groundwater basin levels were improving due to the recent rains. M. Moore also mentioned that there is a possibility the Orange County basin could reach normal operating levels this year for the first time in a decade.

13. UPDATE ON POWER SUPPLY ISSUES.

G. Bowen, Assistant General Manager – Power Supply, provided the Board with an update on the Department’s Power Supply. G. Bowen indicated that wholesale sales were strong for the last several months; however, the sales resulted in an increased cost for natural gas to operate the Canyon, Kraemer, and Magnolia Power Plants facilities. He also mentioned that the increased costs, predominantly natural gas, would result in a request next month for an increase in the current Power Supply budget to be brought to the Board for consideration. He noted that wholesale sales offset any impacts to utility rates. G. Bowen also indicated that SoCal Gas was expected to complete maintenance and repair of its main pipeline in mid-April.

G. Bowen provided the Board with an update on the Kraemer Power Plant, explaining that the unit suffered a failure of its oil supply line and was expected to be out of service while options to repair it were being considered.
G. Bowen made the Board aware that the Direct Current Fast Chargers for Electric Vehicles were now available at the Brookhurst Community Center for public use.

G. Bowen indicated that the Department received the 2019 Tree Line USA Recognition for its efforts and practices in protecting and enhancing America’s urban forests. He highlighted that the Department has been awarded this recognition every year since 2005 and that its Tree Power Program, was a major factor in receiving this award. He noted that the Department has provided over 55,000 trees since the Program’s inception, which equates to an average of over 1,200 trees per year to Anaheim residents and businesses.

14. UPDATE ON FINANCE ISSUES.

B. Beelner, Assistant General Manager – Finance and Administration, discussed the monthly dashboard with the Board. He indicated that electric revenue for the Fiscal Year to Date February 28, 2019 was 9.7% above budget ($28.8M) with electric costs coming in above budget as well by 3.6% ($9.5M) causing a net positive budget variance of $19.3M. B. Beelner explained that electric revenue and costs have both trended higher due to higher than expected wholesale power revenue and wholesale power costs driven by higher natural gas prices. B. Beelner then mentioned that with the uncertainty surrounding the Kraemer Power Plant’s current outage this positive variance would most likely drop to near normal levels as the Department will purchase more wholesale power than normal to replace Kraemer Power Plant’s lack of availability. B. Beelner then mentioned that the Year to Date February 28, 2019 water revenue was 2.1% ($1.2M) below budget; however, since water costs were under budget by 10.4% ($5.0M) the Department experienced a net positive budget variance of $3.8M.

B. Beelner then discussed the Electric Utility’s recent credit review by Moody’s Investor Services (Moody’s). Moody’s looked specifically at the Department’s potential financial risk related to wildfires that Department infrastructure might cause. Since the Department is 98% undergrounded in the high risk fire zones, and due to the extensive mitigation efforts undertaken by the Department, Moody’s reported that the Electric Utility’s credit rating remains at Aa3 (equivalent to AA- for Standard and Poor’s and Fitch) with a stable outlook. However, Moody’s moved Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, Burbank Water and Power, and Glendale Water and Power to a “negative outlook” due to the possibility that these agencies’ respective above ground infrastructure in high risk fire zones might spark a wildfire that
might consequently incur substantial financial losses for those agencies.

15. UPDATE ON ENTERPRISE RISK AND COMPLIANCE.

J. Lehman, Chief Risk Officer, discussed the Wholesale Energy Risk Management (ERM) Program’s Quarterly Compliance report. J. Lehman indicated that the ERM program provides clear requirements and limits regarding wholesale energy transactions that allow staff to conduct business in a timely manner while ensuring that the Department’s interests are protected and risks are minimized. All transactions were within the Authorized Transaction Limits during this period.

J. Lehman then shared that the legislative session was in full swing, and about 200 of the approximately 2,500 plus bills introduced to date have the potential to impact utility operations.

J. Lehman mentioned the PUB Legislative Working Group met prior to the Board meeting and reviewed some of the key bills that have the potential to impact the Department. These include wildfire related bills, resource procurement mandates, water tax, water quality bills, as well as transportation electrification bills. She thanked the Legislative Working Group for their time and effort.

16. ITEM(S) BY SECRETARY.

D. Lee indicated that upcoming agenda items for the following Board meeting include:

- Presentation on the Department’s FY2019/20 budget
- Posting of the annual water quality report
- Power supply budget amendment
- A potential grant opportunity for transportation electrification

He shared with the Board upcoming events that include:

- Budget Workshops at Community Meetings
- Earth Day Tree Planting Ceremony scheduled for April 19
- Sustainability Expo scheduled for June 22

D. Lee requested that the meeting be closed in the memory of Mr. Cy Tempel, a former employee who passed away.
17. ITEM(S) BY BOARD MEMBERS.

J. Showalter thanked the Department for their donation of a shade tree to a local Anaheim high school for their fundraiser event.

J. Seymour requested an emergency preparedness presentation pertaining to a significant earthquake event and the Department’s preparedness.

R. Bhalla thanked the Board and staff for welcoming him, and indicated he is looking forward to working with the Department staff.

A. Abdulrahman thanked staff for their hard work and for their transparency.

E. Medrano welcomed the two new Board members. He also thanked staff for taking care of the ratepayers and making sure they are always well informed about what the Department does.

18. ADJOURNMENT IN MEMORY OF CY TEMPEL, TO THE REGULAR MEETING ON APRIL 24, 2019, AT 5:00 P.M., IN THE 11TH FLOOR LARGE CONFERENCE ROOM, ANAHEIM WEST TOWER, 201 S. ANAHEIM BOULEVARD, ANAHEIM, CALIFORNIA.

E. Medrano called for a minute of silence, followed by a call for a motion to adjourn the Board meeting in Memory of Cy Tempel.

J. Seymour moved approval to adjourn the Regular Meeting in Memory of Cy Tempel at 7:50 p.m., to the Board’s Regular Meeting date of April 24, 2019 at 5:00 p.m. V. Baroldi seconded the motion.

MOTION CARRIED: 7-0.
ABSTAINED: 0.
ABSENT: 0.

Respectfully submitted,

Dukku Lee
Public Utilities General Manager

* Indicates item(s) that will be forwarded to City Council for action upon recommendation by the Board.
** Indicates item(s) that will be forwarded to City Clerk and City Council for informational purposes.