



CITY COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

DATE: 6/16/2015

AGENDA OF: 6/23/2015

DEPARTMENT: Water

SUBJECT: Joint Study Session Between the Santa Cruz City Council and the Council Appointed Water Supply Advisory Committee on Technical Analysis and Committee Work to Date (WT)

RECOMMENDATION: Discussion of Water Supply Advisory Committee technical analysis and work to date and direction to the Committee and staff as needed.

BACKGROUND: In February 2014 the Santa Cruz City Council appointed representatives to a new advisory body whose role is to provide the City Council with recommendations on issues related to improving the reliability of the current water supply serving the Santa Cruz water service area. This new advisory committee, the Water Supply Advisory Committee (WSAC or Committee) has specifically been asked to “explore, through an iterative, fact-based process, the City’s water profile, including supply, demand and future threats; analyze potential solutions to deliver a safe, adequate, reliable and environmentally sustainable water supply, and develop strategy recommendations for City Council consideration.”

In establishing the WSAC, the Council asked to receive periodic reports from the Committee. The purpose of these reports is to give the Council updates; to ask for Council action on key steps in the process, for example the WSAC Charter or the problem statement; and to provide opportunities for the Council to give the WSAC feedback about issues or topics such as the work-plan.

DISCUSSION: The WSAC’s Phase Two work plan calls for the Committee to work with detailed technical analyses of the potential approaches for improving the reliability of Santa Cruz’s water supply and formulate its recommendations to the City Council.

The WSAC is now about half-way through Phase Two of its work. Committee members have had a number of opportunities to work with information that is being developed by the WSAC Technical Team and are now at a point where a discussion with the City Council about technical findings and concerns would be of great assistance as they move into the final months of their work.

The Joint Study Session will provide an opportunity for that discussion to occur, as well as an opportunity to hear from members of the public about their perspectives on the Committee’s work.

Attachment A is a summary document about the Committee's work from February to mid-June and provides an overview of the supply problem, the options being explored, and the solutions that are beginning to emerge.

FISCAL IMPACT: None

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ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment A
Appendix 1
Appendix 2
Appendix 3
Appendix 4
Appendix 5
Appendix 6