



Minutes City of Sacramento Utilities Rate Advisory Commission

COMMISSION MEMBERS:

Douglas Brown	Steven Archibald, Chair	Ernest Lehr
Melvin Johnson	Tess Kretschmann, Vice Chair	Karen McBride

CITY STAFF:

*Jessica Hess, Media and Communication Specialist
Holly Lera, Senior Staff Assistant
Janeth San Pedro, Deputy City Attorney*

*City Hall
Council Chambers
915 I Street*

November 19, 2009 – 5:30 P.M.

The Utility Rate Advisory Commission is a commission of the City Council with review and recommendation authority. Its purpose is to review utility service rate proposals, develop recommendations on relevant issues regarding the setting of rates, hold rate hearings, and act as a liaison to the community to encourage understanding and participation.

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

You are welcomed and encouraged to participate in this meeting. Public comment is taken (3 minutes maximum) on items listed on the agenda when they are called. Public Comment on items not listed on the agenda will be heard at the end of the meeting as noted on the agenda. Comments on controversial items may be limited and large groups are encouraged to select 3-5 speakers to represent the opinion of the group.

Notice to Lobbyists: When addressing the Committee you must identify yourself as a lobbyist and announce the client/business/organization you are representing (City Code 2.15.160).

Speaker slips are located at the back of the room and should be completed and submitted to the Commission Clerk.

Government Code 54950 (The Brown Act) requires that a brief description of each item to be transacted or discussed be posted at least 72 hours prior to a regular meeting. The City posts Agendas at City Hall as well as offsite meeting locations.

The order of Agenda items are listed for reference and may be taken in any order deemed appropriate by the Committee. The Agenda provides a general description and staff recommendations; however, the Committee may take action other than what is recommended. The Agenda is available for public review on November 16, 2009. Hard copies are available from the Utilities Department. (10 cents per page)

Meeting facilities are accessible to persons with disabilities. If you require special assistance to participate in the meeting, notify the Utilities Department at (916) 808-8260 at least 48 hours prior to the meeting.

MINUTES

November 19, 2009

*City Hall
Council Chambers
915 I Street*

All items listed are heard and acted upon by the Utilities Rate Advisory Commission unless otherwise noted.

Call to Order – 5:33 p.m.

Roll Call: **Present:** Steven Archibald, Tess Kretschmann, Karen McBride, Douglas Brown, Dr. Ernest Lehr and Melvin Johnson.
Absent: None

Motion to move item #2 of the Agenda to the first item by Douglas Brown, second by Steven Archibald. All present in favor, none opposed. Motion passed.

1. **Election of Chair and Vice Chair**

Location: (Citywide)

Recommendation: Nominate and elect a Chairperson and Vice Chairperson for the Utilities Rate Advisory Commission.

Contact: Jessica Hess, Media and Communications Specialist, Department of Utilities (916) 808-8260

Summary: Nomination of Steven Archibald for Chair by Karen McBride, seconded by Dr. Ernest Lehr. All present in favor, none opposed. Motion to elect Steven Archibald as Commission Chair by Douglas Brown, seconded by Tess Kretschmann. All present in favor, none opposed.

Nomination of Tess Kretschmann for Vice Chair by Dr. Ernest Lehr, seconded by Karen McBride. All present in favor, none opposed. Motion to elect Tess Kretschmann as Commission Vice Chair by Douglas Brown, seconded by Dr. Ernest Lehr. All present in favor, none opposed.

Action: Election of Steven Archibald as Commission Chair and Tess Kretschmann as Commission Vice Chair

Consent Calendar

All items listed under the Consent Calendar are considered and acted upon by one motion. Anyone may request an item be removed for separate consideration.

2. **Approval of Minutes for August 26, 2009.**

Location: (Citywide)

Recommendation: Approve Commission minutes for August 26, 2009.

Contact: Jessica Hess, Media and Communications Specialist, (916) 808-8260
Department of Utilities

Summary: Motion to approve by Douglas Brown, second by Tess Kretschmann. All present in favor, none opposed.

Action: Minutes Approved

Discussion / Action Reports

Discussion or action reports include oral presentations including those recommending receive and file.

3. Revised Work Plan

Location: (Citywide)

Recommendation: Review and file. Staff will be presenting a revised work plan describing its timeline for upcoming rate reviews and proposed adjustments.

Contact: Jessica Hess, Media and Communications Specialist, Department of Utilities (916) 808-8260, Jamille Moens, Business Services Manager, Department of Utilities (916) 808-5988.

Summary: Updated FY09/10 and FY11/12 work plan schedules reviewed.

(Douglas Brown left at 5:45 p.m.)

Action: Received and filed.

4. Drainage Rate Update

Location: (Citywide)

Recommendation: Review and file. Staff will be providing an update on the drainage rate and the proposed 218 ballot measure.

Contact: Wally Cole, Senior Management Analyst, Department of Utilities (916) 808-6203

Summary: Staff has hired a Public Affairs Consultant to design a rate proposal as well as a rate structure within best practices. Consultant hired is APCO Worldwide. Staff is looking at a multi-year proposal. Commissioners requested comparable data on rates, staff to provide. Staff also informed the commission that we are the highest in the state as we pump all our own drain water.

Action: Received and filed.

5. Tiered Rate Update

Location: (Citywide)

Recommendation: Review and file. Staff will be providing an update regarding tiered water rates and Council's request regarding tiered water rates.

Contact: Jessica Hess, Media and Communications Specialist, Department of Utilities (916) 808-8260

Summary: Council meeting last month requested immediate tiered rate for commercial customers only. Law and Legislation being reviewed for implementing on commercial customers only and not the entire customer base.

Action: Received and filed.

6. Meter Installation Update

Location: (Citywide)

Recommendation: Review and file. Staff will be providing an update regarding meter installation and grant funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Funds.

Contact: Dave Brent, Engineering Division Manager, Department of Utilities (916) 808-1420

Summary: Federal funding granted \$22.6 million, \$10 million of which must be paid back. Will fund 17,000 meter installations this year, increased largely from the 7,500 installed in the most recent 4 years. Challenges reviewed including a required 20% reduction in usage by 2020, meters being the number one tool in conservation. Commissioners requested a breakdown showing the number of meters installed, number to install, timeline, progress, money spent etc. Commission recommendation to focus town hall meetings on how the changes will increase and/or affect the customer's bill. Also recommended that a member of Water Conservation be present. Commissioners would also like to hear an update from the Water Conservation section in a future meeting.

Action: Received and filed.

7. Loose-in-the-Street Collection Update

Location: (Citywide)

Recommendation: Review and file. Staff will be providing an update regarding loose-in-the-street collection of yard waste, its rates and proposed service changes.

Contact: Edison Hicks, Integrated Waste General Manager, Department of Utilities (916) 808-4949

Summary: Loose in the Street update by various Solid Waste staff. Introductions, current operations, rates and looking ahead reviewed.

Enrique Hernandez, Collection Superintendent - Review of current operations, total containerized and loose in the street, as well as issues in efficiency. Benefits of containerized collections and outreach to landscaping and gardening companies.

David Levine, Support Services Manager – Review of current rates for different commodities, proposal of new rates, and overview of future plans.

Clarification for the commission that if new rates are adopted for solid waste, it would overwrite what was recently implemented. Staff review of major objections to containerized.

Public Comment: Walt Seifert on behalf of Sacramento Area Bicycle Advocates. Mr. Seifert commented in favor of containerized green waste program. Would like to see a vote to change from voluntary to mandatory.

Staff shared that the repeal of Measure A is going to council on November 24th.

Action: Received and filed.

Public Comments- Matters Not on the Agenda

8. No public Comments

Commission Ideas, Questions and Announcements

9. Commissioner request to review financial information received by staff for previous and current years. Commissioners will provide a more specific request of information to review at which time staff with work on providing the requested information and/or discussion.

10. Status of commission's vacant seat requested. Staff has received a number of applications and has forwarded 2 names to the Mayor for review. Staff hopes to have a new appointment before the January meeting.

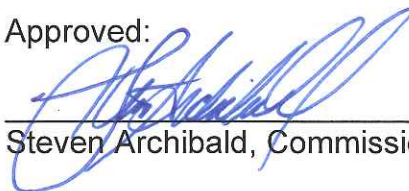
11. Commissioner Melvin Johnson welcomed to the commission. Mr. Johnson was previously the Director of Public Works for the City of Sacramento.

12. Commission Chair urges staff to think of ways to increase public outreach and look into enhancing information about the commission.

13. Clarification by staff with commissioners that members can re-apply for their seats when their term is up, commissioners can serve up to 3 consecutive terms.

Adjournment: 7:15 p.m.

Approved:



Steven Archibald, Commission Chair

Attest:



Holly Lera, Commission Secretary