

Borrego Water District
MINUTES
Conservation Standing Committee
Wednesday, July 7, 2010, 11:30 a.m.
806 Palm Canyon Drive, Borrego Springs, CA 92004

Attendance: Director: Shimeall
Staff: Richard Williamson, General Manager
 Jerry Rolwing, Operations Manager
 Wendy Quinn, Recording Secretary

CALL TO ORDER
INTRODUCTION OF PARTICIPANTS

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Jerry Rolwing pointed out that Jack Stowell had completed his irrigation retrofit within the current fiscal year, so a rebate was granted. The Minutes of June 9, 2010 were corrected accordingly and approved as amended.

CURRENT AGENDA ITEMS:

1. IMPLEMENTATION OF CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT PLAN

- Discussion of new California Building Standards (Cal Green)

Mr. Rolwing explained the Cal Green program, a change in the State's building standards to include more conservation provisions. Its impact is mainly on cities and large, commercial buildings.

- Public outreach/education with Borrego College on Conservation Class

Rich Williamson reported that plans for the conservation class at the College of Borrego were on hold for the summer. He was planning to meet with Bill Wright tomorrow and hoped to gain additional information.

Mr. Rolwing announced that the District's funding application for the Borrego Springs Water Educational Center had been submitted. Displays will include local history and conservation information. A decision on the grant application is expected in January, with completion by autumn 2011.

Mr. Williamson emphasized the importance of continued public involvement in the Conservation Committee, particularly its input to the rate study.

- Future plans for FYE 2011

Mr. Williamson reported that Dennis Ciocca has left Sutter Securities and joined another firm.

He then sought the Committee's input on reevaluating the Conservation Management Plan and proposing changes to the Board. Public participation will be important. The community will need to increase its conservation efforts to meet our goal of a 15 percent water use reduction by 2015.

- Signage for Palm Canyon Resort

Director Shimeall and Messrs. Williamson and Rolwing agreed to visit Palm Canyon Resort after the meeting to consider placement of the District's sign.

2. CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MONITORING DUTIES

- Role of Tiered Rates in future rate design analysis
- Alternative paths for meeting conservation goals and progress to date

Mr. Rolwing recommended that instead of requiring four years' residency before tiered rates apply, new residents be subject to them immediately, based on whatever history they do have. He further suggested that the exemption from Tier 2 rates for customers who reduce their water use by 10 percent over four years be raised to 15 percent. Mr. Williamson recommended developing a draft proposal and e-mailing it to the usual meeting attendees for comment. Tentatively, the Proposition 218 process could begin in January.

After discussion, it was agreed to suggest the following new tiered rates, as a four-year program:

	Tier 1 ("Water Conscious") Base Rate	Tier 2 ("Needs Improvement") 1.5 x Base Rate	Tier 3 ("Excessive") 2 x Base Rate	Tier 4 ("Wasteful") 4 x Base Rate
First year	under 40 units per month	40-60	60-100	over 100
Second year	under 35 units per month	35-55	55-95	over 95
Third year	under 30 units per month	30-50	50-90	over 90
Fourth year	under 25 units per month	25-45	45-85	over 85

(These are winter tiers. The summer tiers would be ten units higher in all instances.)

Mr. Rolwing recommended that homeowners' association usage be included in the residents' allotment.

3. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

Mr. Rolwing reported that two irrigation audits had been submitted during the last reporting period.

Director Shimeall suggested reconsidering the discontinuation of turf removal rebates, per Jim Engelke's recommendation. Mr. Rolwing explained there was insufficient budget this year, but we can address it next spring.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:10 p.m. The next regular Conservation Committee Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 1, 2010.