



## MINUTES GLENDALE WATER & POWER COMMISSION

**MUNICIPAL SERVICES BUILDING  
633 E. Broadway, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Room 105 - Glendale, CA 91206**

**Monday, August 3, 2020, 4:00 PM**

### 1. ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 4:04 p.m.

Present: Commissioners Lall, Flanigan, and Jazmadarian

Absent: President Kedikian, Commissioner Avanesian

### 2. CONSENT ITEMS

#### a. Approval of the July 6, 2020 Meeting Minutes

The Commission approved the minutes as published.

### 3. GWP COMMISSION/ STAFF COMMENTS

None.

### 4. REPORTS – INFORMATION

#### a. Legislative Update.

Mr. Leo Zalyan, Administrative Analyst, presented the legislative update. Mr. Zalyan provided information relating to the 2020 legislative calendar. Mr. Zalyan provided information regarding the 2020 Budget Act signed by Governor Newsom, which is aimed to strengthen emergency response, protect public health and safety, and promote economic recovery. Mr. Zalyan summarized the key energy bills and water bills.

Commissioner Flanigan inquired regarding the key energy bills relating to microgrids and the size-cap and whether it is still 1 megawatt per customer. Mr. Zalyan and Mr. Steve Zurn, General Manager, explained that the next cycle's cap would be decided at the next legislative cycle.

Commissioner Lall inquired whether GWP has taken a position (in support or opposition) of any legislation for the current session. Mr. Zalyan explained that GWP has not taken any formal positions and that it is tracking the bills along with CMUA and SCPPA.

#### b. Customer Services Update.

Ms. Tami Vallier, Customer Services Administrator, presented the customer services update. Ms. Vallier provided an update relating to COVID-19 impacts. Ms. Vallier summarized GWP's efforts amidst COVID-19, which included closing customer service counters, sending customers pre-recorded messages and connecting via social media; processing payments through drop boxes, pay-near-me stations located in 7-eleven stores, on-line payments, and payment over the telephone. Ms. Vallier explained a

moratorium on utility disconnections/shut-offs due to non-payment through the end of the calendar year 2020. Additionally, there is a suspension of late fees through the end of the calendar year 2020. Ms. Vallier also discussed the CARES Bill relief program implemented by GWP for its customers affected by COVID-19.

Commissioner Flanigan stated that he was impressed that GWP was able to pivot so quickly due to COVID-19. Commissioner Flanigan commented whether post-COVID-19, GWP will continue utilizing some of the remote services.

Commissioner Jazmadarian inquired regarding how much funds have been spent to date in the CARES program. Ms. Atineh Haroutunian explained that the cap for the program is \$3 million, and GWP customers have until October 1, 2020, to submit applications. Mr. Zurn explained that GWP has set aside \$3 million and can expend more if needed from the Public Benefits account. GWP utilizes the same criteria as the federal CARES program.

Commissioner Lall inquired about GWP's ability to switch to remote and whether it was in part due to GWP having a disaster plan already in place before COVID-19. Ms. Vallier explained that GWP did have a disaster/emergency plan in place before COVID-19 to maintain services in the event of a "systems down" or other disasters (such as earthquakes).

**c. Annual Water Quality Report.**

Mr. Michael De Ghetto, Chief Assistant General Manager, introduced Mr. James Saenz, Water Quality Manager, who presented the annual water quality report. Mr. Saenz provided a history of water quality analysis and provided an overview of the legislation governing water quality, such as the Federal Water Pollution Control Act of 1948, Clean Water Act of 1972, and Safe Drinking Water Act of 1974.

Mr. Saenz summarized Glendale's procedures and protocols to remain in compliance with all mandates. Mr. Saenz also discussed the Consumer Confidence Report and explained that it is available by July 1st of each year and can be found at GWP's website, with hard copies available, which can be requested by calling GWP.

Commissioner Flanigan thanked GWP staff for the report, especially the early history relating to water quality.

**d. Scholl Biogas Project Update.**

Ms. Dorine Martirosian, Principal Assistant City Attorney, provided an update regarding the current status of the Scholl Biogas Project (and stated that the Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for the Project was released on July 2, 2020, for public review and comment, with the public comment period closing on September 30, 2020. Mr. Maurice Oillataguerre, Environmental Program Administrator, presented the Project and provided the Project history, including the previous Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) process, and explained that at the Planning Department's recommendation, GWP prepared the DEIR, which is currently published and undergoing the public comment period. Mr. Oillataguerre provided a proposed Project Timeline and stated that the public meetings before the Planning Commission and City Council are anticipated to occur in early 2021. Mr. Oillataguerre provided a project description of the four internal combustion engines to produce 12 megawatts of renewable energy using the landfill gas, the construction of 60,000-gallon and 10,000-gallon water tanks, a new water main, and a new 2/3-mile natural gas makeup pipeline. Mr. Oillataguerre summarized the Project alternatives

analyzed in the DEIR, and the project alternatives considered and provided information on how and where the public can submit comments to the DEIR.

Commissioner Flanigan commended GWP as one of the first utilities to have methane collection. He inquired about the poor gas quality (low methane and high levels of contaminants). Mr. Oillataguerre explained that the proposed internal combustion engines would be able to handle the landfill gas efficiently. Mr. Zurn explained that the proposed engines are designed to burn landfill gas, such as those generated at the City's landfill. He further explained that turbines would not be able to function well with the landfill gas. Mr. Zurn further explained that upgrading the landfill gas quality to pipeline gas quality to use in the turbines would be very costly.

Commissioner Lall inquired about the Project budget and output. Mr. Zurn stated that the Project budget is \$30 million, and the output is 12 megawatts or 100% renewable electricity with zero transmission costs. Commissioner Lall inquired whether placing the engines at the Grayson Power Plant would be possible. Mr. Zurn explained that placing the engines at Grayson Power Plant would be a possibility; however, the emissions would be higher at Grayson Power Plant. Additionally, Mr. Zurn stated that there are more residences around the Grayson Power Plant, which would be affected by the higher emissions versus having the engines places at the landfill, which has more open land, and the residences are farther away.

Commissioner Lall inquired whether the DEIR compared the emissions of the landfill gas burned in the engines to the landfill gas flared. Mr. Zurn and Mr. Oillataguerre stated that such a comparison is a part of the DEIR. Commissioner Lall inquired whether the GWP Commission will take any action relating to the DEIR and Project. Ms. Martirosian stated that the GWP Commission could make recommendations regarding the DEIR and Project. Commissioner Lall inquired about the estimated Project life span. Mr. Zurn stated that Project has an estimated life span of 20 years, perhaps even 30 to 40 years. Even though generations may decline as landfill gas levels decline, there will still be generation; Mr. Zurn provided an example of the closed portion of the Scholl Canyon Landfill and that while it closed in 1975, it still produces gas.

Commissioner Flanigan inquired regarding the comparison between the flaring versus the internal combustion engines and whether there will be an answer to which one is cleaner. Mr. Zurn stated that there will be a clear answer and that SCAQMD regulations will mandate that GWP meet all requirements since SCAQMD guidelines apply to both flares and engines.

## **5. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS**

None.

## **6. AGENDA FORECAST**

The Commissioners reviewed and approved the agenda for the August 2020 meeting with the following changes:

September 14, 2020 - Special Meeting: Clean Energy Alternatives report.

October 5, 2020 - GWP Commission Elections (Secretary); Strategic Plan Update; Renewable Portfolio Update; Water Resources Update.

November 2, 2020 - Legislative Update.

December 7, 2020 - GWP Commission Elections (President and Secretary if Secretary not elected in October).

Commissioner Lall requested a report on the difference between power consumption before COVID-19 and after/because of COVID-19. She stated that it is important to see how the utility has pivoted and can respond in emergencies. Mr. Zurn noted that he would have this report presented to the Commission.

Mr. Zurn also stated that GWP staff is in the process of researching and drafting an ordinance to ban the sale of Mylar Balloons within the City due to the damages caused to electric facilities when Mylar Balloons are released and come into contact with power lines and other related electric facilities, resulting in costly repairs and power outages to GWP customers.

## **7. ADJOURNMENT**

Motion to Adjourn:

Moved by: Commissioner Jazmadarian

Seconded by: Commissioner Flanigan

Motion Passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:26 p.m.