

# PARADISE SEWER REGIONALIZATION PROJECT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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**DRAFT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**  
**MONDAY, 10 MAY 2021**



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**BOARD MEETING LOCATION: ZOOM TELECONFERENCE**

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:**

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Mayor Steve Crowder  
Vice Mayor Jody Jones

Mayor Andrew Coolidge  
Vice Mayor Kasey Reynolds

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**COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:**

None

**TOWN OF PARADISE STAFF PRESENT:**

Kevin Philips, Town Manager  
Marc Mattox  
Katie Simmons  
Melanie Norris  
Dina Volenski

**CITY OF CHICO STAFF PRESENT:**

Mark Orme  
Erik Gustafson  
Debbie Presson

**CENTRAL VALLEY WATER BOARD STAFF PRESENT:**

Clint Snyder  
Bryan Smith  
Eric Rapport  
Jeremy Pagan  
Gene Coughlin

**ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT WHO WERE IDENTIFIED:**

Leslie Tice (HDR Engineering), John Buttz (HDR Engineering), Debra Lucero (Butte County), Steve Lucas

**AGENDA ITEM 1 - INTRODUCTIONS**

At 2:00 p.m. Clint Snyder called the meeting to order, stated the purpose of the meeting and organizational structure of the meeting, provided an overview of attendance options and procedures, and facilitated introductions.

Emails received from the public included Sawyer Stevens (Indiana), Jeffrey Obser (Chico), William Kellogg (Paradise). Emails were provided to Committee members.

Mr. Snyder introduced Water Boards staff present, Mr. Phillips introduced Town of Paradise staff present, and Mr. Orme introduced City of Chico staff present.

## **AGENDA ITEM 2 – APPROVE PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES**

Committee unanimously approved April 12, 2021 meeting minutes.

## **AGENDA ITEM 3 – COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMUNICATION**

Mr. Crowder – Looking forward to getting process going, everybody knows how badly a sewer system is needed, grateful for help.

Ms. Jones – No comment.

Mr. Coolidge – No comment.

Ms. Reynolds – Inquired about Butte County Board of Supervisors were in attendance. Supervisor Debra Lucero confirmed to be in attendance but appearing as interested citizen.

## **AGENDA ITEM 4 – STATUS UPDATES**

### **A. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT**

Ms. Tice, HDR Engineering, reviewed new project website, <https://paradisesewer.com>. Specifically called out public engagement opportunities, wants tool to be useful for project stakeholders and public.

Issued Notice of Preparation (NOP) May 3, 2021, public review and comment period ends 3 June 2021. Letters to tribal governments have been sent. Town of Paradise identified as CEQA Lead Agency. Responsible agencies include City of Chico and Butte LAFCO.

Two virtual public scoping meetings have been scheduled; May 13 at 6 p.m. and May 25 at 12:00 p.m.

CEQA related public review periods have been shifted away from the holidays in December 2021 to first quarter 2022 as requested by Committee members.

Environmental studies ongoing now until late summer 2021. Historic record search to identify where previous studies have identified cultural and archeological resources, field teams trying to fill in information gaps. Species surveys ongoing.

No questions from Committee members.

Mr. Steve Lucas commented that flow chart is missing LAFCO component. Ms. Tice stated she will add this information to the project schedule flowchart.

Ms. Lucero questioned whether one month of scoping is sufficient time for all agencies involved, concerned it's too short. Ms. Tice stated it is a prescribed timeline per CEQA.

Mr. Snyder added that the Water Board is commonly asked for CEQA comments and it is typical to have a 30-day scoping timeline, hopeful that Butte County would find it reasonable.

Ms. Lucero inquired as to why is the County not a member of the Committee? Mr. Snyder deferred to Town and City.

Mr. Phillips, Town Manager, said the County will be involved throughout the project but that the Committee serves to in part, develop Principals of Agreement between the Town of Paradise and the City of Chico.

Ms. Lucero stated she is doing her due diligence to be sure the County is involved in the process. Mr. Phillips stated that Butte County will be involved as appropriate.

## **B. COOPERATIVE FUNDING AGREEMENT SCOPE OF WORK**

Mr. Gustafson provided that the City of Chico is actively working on a scope and cost estimate to evaluate potential improvements to the City's Water Pollution Control Plant with consultant Carollo Engineering.

No questions from Committee members.

## **C. OTHER FOLLOW-UP ACTION ITEMS FROM SRPAC**

None.

## **AGENDA ITEM 5 – PRINCIPALS OF AGREEMENT WORKING SESSION**

John Buttz, HDR Engineering

Committee ultimately needs to come to agreement on 11 topics. Could be more topics in the future, but for now 11. First 8 principals of agreement come from the City of Chico's existing municipal code, "Regulation of Waste Received from Other Jurisdictions".

General concept is to have discussions during the meeting. Simple items can be handled in the meeting as they come up. More complicated items will be tabled and can be revisited during a future meeting. Eleven (11) areas, or principals of agreement the Committee needs to consider are: 1) sewer use ordinance, 2) user inventory, 3) pretreatment, 4) pretreatment data access, 5) wastewater limits, 6) wastewater monitoring, 7) access to facilities, 8) remedies for breach of agreement, 9) connection fees (initial and ongoing), 10) monthly user fees, and 11) O&M of facilities.

Working to have the Town and City attorneys engaged "sooner than later" in developing the POA.

Mr. Lucas asked if the Town of Paradise would retain the right of ownership of the wastewater after treatment? Or will Chico? Mr. Buttz did not have an immediate answer, but committed to getting more information and reporting back to the Committee at a later date.

Ms. Lucero inquired about ownership of the pipes/pumps; is that still to be worked out? Mr. Buttz said there could be discussion regarding the ownership, but likely scenario is that Paradise will be the owner.

Ms. Lucero inquired about future development relying on the pipeline, does that trigger a whole new EIR process? Mr. Mattox stated that any future modification to the sewer service area or the pipeline would require its own separate environmental review.

Ms. Lucero inquired about design/build contracting legislation currently proposed? Mr. Mattox stated this shouldn't be an issue for this project.

POA discussion:

Sewer Use Ordinance – review of draft language proposed by Mr. Buttz.

Ms. Jones stated language seemed reasonable but would like to see a copy of the City of Chico's sewer use item.

Mr. Coolidge stated City staff should weigh in and be comfortable with the POA language drafted by Mr. Buttz.

Mr. Snyder inquired if the sewer use ordinance should go before Town and City councils?

Ms. Jones stated that ordinances need to go before councils for first and second review and that those requirements should be considered in project timing.

User Inventory – review of draft language proposed by Mr. Buttz

Ms. Jones asked if this was in arrears or looking forward? Mr. Buttz clarified that this inventory would be a point in time, annually for instance.

Mr. Coolidge and Ms. Reynolds requested that timing of inventory coordinate with City's current reporting deadlines.

Mr. Snyder suggested that inventory not only include current users but also projected users. Mr. Mattox responded that should be simple to provide. Mr. Gustafson echoed Mr. Snyder's suggestion. Mr. Gustafson suggested quarterly updates to the inventory.

Mr. Snyder suggested that "entities" should be classified differently, i.e. residential, commercial, industrial, etc. Mr. Mattox responded this sounded reasonable. Mr. Gustafson agreed.

Mr. Snyder asked Mr. Buttz if the draft language needed to be more specific, or if the language could be provided to the City and Town attorneys in its current form? Mr. Buttz responded that the language could be given to the attorneys for their review.

#### Pretreatment Data Access – review of draft language proposed by Mr. Buttz

Ms. Jones would like more clarification regarding “pretreatment activities”, what does the Town need to do? Mr. Buttz suggested using the City’s pretreatment program as an example. Mr. Gustafson explained the City’s pretreatment program and referenced the City’s website for reference materials.

Mr. Snyder stated the Water Boards and USEPA have some level of involvement in pretreatment program audits/inspections as well, reiterated the pretreatment program is in place mainly for industrial dischargers and to prevent upset at the wastewater plant.

Mr. Buttz clarified the Town is not creating their own pretreatment program, only that the Town’s commercial/industrial users would need to comply with the City’s pretreatment program.

Mr. Gustafson explained the City’s role as it relates to the program. They have two industrial inspectors and survey their industrial dischargers once per year depending on the character and flow of the discharges. Also have fats, oils, and grease (FOG) program they implement for restaurants.

Ms. Jones stated that this seems too general and needs to be more specific to what is actually required of the Town. For instance, does the Town need to hire their own industrial inspectors or would they contract this service through the City? Mr. Buttz stated that a copy of the City’s pretreatment program would be provided to Committee members.

#### Access to facilities – review of draft language proposed by Mr. Buttz

“Facilities” would include the Town’s sewer, export pipeline, pump stations, etc.

Mr. Snyder asked if advanced notification should be included as a requirement before access to facilities is granted. Mr. Coolidge stated this seemed reasonable. Mr. Gustafson agreed.

Mr. Gustafson stated the importance of agreement/collaboration between the Town and City for accessing facilities and conducting joint inspections.

Mr. Orme and Mr. Phillips had nothing to add.

Mr. Buttz asked the Committee if they wanted to cover more items during the meeting, or they preferred to hold remaining items until June 14 meeting.

Mr. Phillips requested the draft POA language be available ahead of Committee meetings to help facilitate review and input. Mr. Buttz confirmed that he would make the language available for Committee members to review before the next meeting. Mr. Buttz will indicate which draft POA items will be discussed at the next meeting.

## **AGENDA ITEM 6 – PUBLIC FORUM**

Ms. Lucero (present as concerned citizen, not representing Butte County in her capacity as Board of Supervisor) inquired about the possibility of the draft POA document be uploaded to the website? Mr. Snyder instead suggested including the language as part of the meeting minutes.

Mr. Lucas inquired about how future sewer connections within the Town sewer service area would be addressed. Mr. Snyder said he would follow-up.

## **AGENDA ITEM 7 – CLOSING COMMITTEE REMARKS**

Mr. Coolidge was pleased with the progress and appreciated staffs time.

Ms. Reynolds was appreciative in starting work on POA.

Mr. Crowder echoed his appreciation.

Ms. Jones expressed her appreciation of the process, thanked Mr. Buttz for keeping the Committee on track, asked that the next meeting to be in-person.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Clint Snyder adjourned the Committee meeting at 3:51 p.m.