

# PARADISE SEWER REGIONALIZATION PROJECT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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**COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES  
MONDAY, 9 AUGUST 2021**



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**COMMITTEE MEETING LOCATION: CITY OF CHICO (Also broadcast over Zoom for viewing)**

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:**

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Mayor Steve Crowder  
Vice Mayor Jody Jones

Mayor Andrew Coolidge

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**COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Vice Mayor Kasey Reynolds

**TOWN OF PARADISE STAFF PRESENT:**

Kevin Philips, Town Manager  
Marc Mattox, Public Works Director

**CITY OF CHICO STAFF PRESENT:**

Mark Orme, City Manager  
Erik Gustafson, Public Works Director, Operations  
Brendan Ottoboni, Public Works Director, Engineering

**CENTRAL VALLEY WATER BOARD STAFF PRESENT:**

Clint Snyder  
Bryan Smith (Zoom)  
David Durette (Zoom)

**ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT WHO WERE IDENTIFIED:**

Leslie Tice (HDR Engineering) and John Buttz (HDR Engineering)

**AGENDA ITEM 1 - INTRODUCTIONS**

At 1:00 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. This is an in-person meeting in Chico City Council Chambers and is being broadcast for listen-only on the Zoom platform. Mr. Snyder introduced Water Boards staff present, Mr. Phillips introduced Town of Paradise staff present, and Mr. Orme introduced City of Chico staff present.

Emailed comments received from the public were briefly discussed including questions about the cost of connection, numbers of manholes and pumping stations (from Debra

Lucero), and trees in Paradise. A letter of support for the project was noted from the Chamber of Commerce. Emails were provided to Committee members.

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

Committee unanimously approved June 14, 2021 meeting minutes.

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

Ms. Jones, Mr. Coolidge, Mr. Crowder – None noted.

## **AGENDA ITEM 4 – STATUS UPDATES**

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

Ms. Tice, HDR Engineering, provided update on project's EIR. Field studies are being finalized. Environmental analysis is progressing. Continued engagement with stakeholders including Tribal consultation. EIR planned to be finalized by late summer/early fall. Areas of analysis include collection system, export pipeline, connection to Chico plant, extension of service area through LAFCO, project alternative for routing, cumulative activities. Information available on project website.

### **B. COOPERATIVE FUNDING AGREEMENT (CFA) SCOPE OF WORK**

City of Chico consultants, Carollo Engineering, meeting regularly with staff at Town and City working through study scope. In data collection and technical evaluation phase. Progressing on schedule. Deliverables planned in November and will help inform draft EIR.

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

None.

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

Mr. Buttz facilitated Committee working session on continued development and refinement of the Principals of Agreement (POA). The POA will serve as an outline for an inter-municipal agreement should the project be approved and follows City of Chico code requirements for considering regional projects. Mr. Buttz explained that there have been several Town and City staff meetings since the last Committee meeting to develop draft language for Committee discussion and consideration. Further, that the Committee will revisit each of the POA topics multiple times through the document's development process. The first eight items come directly from the City of Chico Municipal Code, then an additional four items not in the municipal code but important for this agreement. Extra copies of the working document will be brought to the next meeting and be offered to the public to make it easier to follow along. Committee members discussed how the meeting should proceed to best receive public comment prior to making decisions. Committee agreed to just listen to the presentation first, then receive public comment, then make decisions and direction.

Comment was received from Debra Lucero that the draft POAs were not available on the website. Mr. Buttz responded that the draft POAs have been included in the minutes but will also be published on the website to make more transparent.

Sewer Use Ordinance –

No new discussion or changes.

User Inventory –

Staff/Committee discussion. Date for inventory to be specified. Potential for high strength or high flow can be identified during development review process. Sewer application process would include one part by Town and a second part by City. Treatment portion will follow the City's existing review process. Pretreatment requirements may be triggered if a proposed connection would exceed the City's pre-treatment thresholds. Businesses would face the same pretreatment requirements whether they are in the City or in the Town. Ms. Jones stated that she thought this seemed logical and fair.

Discussion of control of connections to the pipeline. No intention to allow connection between Town and City. Ms. Jones noted that this is one of the biggest concerns regarding the project and would like to provide firm clarity in this area. Mr. Snyder explained intent of recommended language is to require agreement of both Town and City before any unplanned connection could be allowed. Discussed concept of limiting to within Town or City boundaries only. Mr. Ottoboni noted likely involvement from LAFCO in any such future considerations. Staff to edit language for firmer and clearer statement on this issue for further Committee consideration.

Pretreatment –

Pretreatment Program ensures connections producing high strength waste have controls in place to prevent upsets to City of Chico WPCP as is also required by facilities within the City of Chico. Town members discussed that Town would follow City's program and not develop its own. Use City's application process, including setting fees to be paid to City. Inspectors would be City staff. Town members would like to include a clause to allow this arrangement to be reconsidered to allow Town to take over this role in its area in the future if desired.

Pretreatment Data Access –

No new discussion or changes.

Wastewater Limits -

No new discussion or changes.

Wastewater Monitoring –

No new discussion or changes.

#### Access to Facilities –

No new discussion or changes.

#### Remedies for Breach of Agreement

No new discussion or changes.

#### Connection Fees –

No new discussion or changes.

#### Monthly User Fees –

No new discussion or changes.

#### Operation and Maintenance of Facilities –

Mr. Buttz explained that POAs would turn into one or more intermunicipal agreements. Discussion of whether the export pipeline through the City should be owned by the City or the Town. Would it be more efficient for the Town to perform operation and maintenance activities, or contract to City to maintain it? Certain expertise is needed. Town would handle the local collection system in Paradise, but export pipeline might be best handled by City. Mr. Coolidge asked for staff opinion. Mr. Mattox stated that it makes sense that Town would own and maintain pipe until termination structure. Ms. Jones and Mr. Crowder stated that this seemed to make sense. Mr. Snyder commented that it might be easiest to understand if the Town owns the pipe, and the City runs the treatment plant. The point of termination is the headworks to the plant. Mr. Mattox mentioned the concept of separate fees for the collection costs versus the treatment costs. Mr. Buttz will draft some language for Committee consideration. Discussion of manholes at termination structure with flow meter in one and sampler in the other. Possible location is at plant. Who would monitor and sample? Mr. Snyder mentioned that some of this language should also be included and consistent in Items 6 and 11. Staff to provide suggested language for Committee consideration.

### **AGENDA ITEM 6 – PUBLIC FORUM**

Ms. Linda Stone from RCAC commented about value of having redundancy at top and bottom of the export pipeline for measurement and sampling. She also noted potential for inflow and infiltration in between the ends, and benefit of City knowing what is coming down the pipeline.

Mr. Ottoboni commented about making sure considerations are made regarding wastewater collection and treatment needs for buildout of the City, and potential impacts due to Town connection. Ms. Debra Lucero also linked the need to connect failing City septic systems over time.

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

Committee members expressed appreciation for a good meeting and for the progress being made. Town and City staff will meet between Committee meetings to develop proposed language for Committee consideration. Staff will get minutes out earlier along with latest draft of POAs in a transparent way and provide additional copies at the next meeting. Location for next meeting is in Paradise on Oct 11<sup>th</sup> next meeting, but if Columbus Day holiday is an issue then consider moving forward a week.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Clint Snyder adjourned the Committee meeting at 2:35pm.