

## BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

April 2, 2024

The regular meeting of the Board of Public Utilities held on the 2nd day of April, 2024, was called to order at 4:00 p.m. with CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL presiding and the following COMMISSIONERS present:

COMMISSIONERS LeJEUNE, BROWN AND McNEIL

Also Present: SECRETARY SALLIS, CITY MANAGER MARTINEZ, UTILITY MANAGER TORRANCE AND OTHER KEY STAFF

EX ABSNC COMMISSIONER BROWN MOVED, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER McNEIL, to grant an excused absence to COMMISSIONER MOFFITT. Motion carried by the following roll call vote:

AYES: CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL, COMMISSIONERS LeJEUNE,  
BROWN AND McNEIL  
NOES: NONE  
ABSENT: COMMISSIONERS MOFFITT AND SCHNEIDER

APPROVAL COMMISSIONER McNEIL MOVED, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER  
AGENDA LeJEUNE, to approve the agenda. Motion carried by the following roll call vote:

AYES: CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL, COMMISSIONERS LeJEUNE,  
BROWN AND McNEIL  
NOES: NONE  
ABSENT: COMMISSIONERS MOFFITT AND SCHNEIDER

COMMISSIONER SCHNEIDER entered the meeting at 4:02 p.m.

CORSPNDN: None

PBLC APRN: None

CNST CAL: COMMISSIONER McNEIL MOVED, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER BROWN, to approve consent calendar items 1 through 3

1. Minutes of regular meeting held March 5, 2024
2. Cancel the second regular Board meetings during the months of June, July and August 2024
3. Approve an extension of the Electrical General Services Contract with Petrelli Electric Co. through April 25, 2028 for a 4-person electrical line crew including equipment and tools for emergency services and system reliability improvements

Motion to approve item 1 carried by the following roll call vote:

AYES: CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL, COMMISSIONERS LeJEUNE  
AND BROWN  
NOES: NONE  
ABSENT: COMMISSIONER MOFFITT  
ABSTAIN: COMMISSIONERS SCHNEIDER AND McNEIL

Motion to approve items 2 and 3 carried by the following roll call vote:

AYES: CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL, COMMISSIONERS LeJEUNE,  
BROWN, SCHNEIDER AND McNEIL  
NOES: NONE  
ABSENT: COMMISSIONER MOFFITT

REG ITEMS: Utility Manager Torrance spoke on the direction of the Alternative Energy Ad Hoc Committee to issue a request for proposals to develop a solar feasibility study. Two qualified proposals were received and, after interviews by the Ad Hoc Committee, the recommendation is to select Unisol Solar Energy Solutions.

UNISOL SLR  
ENERGY RE  
SOLAR  
FEASIBLTY  
STUDY

COMMISSIONER BROWN spoke on the interviews and the time spent with both companies. One company was interested in not only the feasibility study but possibly in the development of the solar project while the other company is an engineering firm that did not indicate an interest in participating in the project. The Ad Hoc Committee felt the group recommended was more conducive to smaller communities. A brief discussion followed on the proposals submitted and qualifications of the recommended company.

CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL wants to make sure the successful company is aware that this will be built out over time with capital funds from ratepayers over the next 2-5 years. He also would like to see a cost analysis regarding greenhouse gas and it's very important that we do not impact the city's hydropower allotment.

COMMISSIONER McNEIL MOVED, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER BROWN, to accept the proposal of Unisol Solar Energy Solutions to prepare a Solar Feasibility Study at a cost not to exceed \$37,513 to be funded by FY23/24 electric operations & maintenance. Motion carried by the following roll call vote:

AYES: CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL, COMMISSIONERS LeJEUNE,  
BROWN, SCHNEIDER AND McNEIL  
NOES: NONE  
ABSENT: COMMISSIONER MOFFITT

SB 1188  
SM WTR  
SYSTEMS  
STANDRDS

Utility Manager Torrance explained SB 1188 (Laird) requiring small water systems under 10,000 connections to meet minimum standards on technical, managerial, and financial capacity and what has been done in relation to Needles specifically including our request to sit at the table while drafting the guidelines. The Board can respond and ask for a place at the table to help influence the outcome or can write a letter in complete opposition to the Senate Bill. CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL does not have a problem with either option but does

have a concern with the state not maintaining utility solvency as a municipality. In addition, we need to make sure the state understands that water rights are strictly results of the federal government administration and California has no responsibility.

COMMISSIONER McNEIL expressed concern about putting this on city staff due to the time that will need to be committed to participate in drafting the guidelines. He felt expertise is needed and suggested maybe hiring a legislative analyst or something as this will take many hours and days.

COMMISSIONER BROWN questioned how we can oppose the Bill when we don't even know what's in it. He felt that at the end of the day the State will do what it wants to do and questioned if the Board wants to waste the time and effort. Discussion followed on opposing the Bill without knowing what guidelines will be included. City Manager Martinez pointed out that the California Municipal Utilities Association (CMUA) is also involved so Needle will not be alone but backed by a professional association and Utility Manager Torrance explained CMUA's position is for Needles to sit at the table.

After further discussion, CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL noted that the position of the Board is that the matter is in the hands of staff to tell CMUA we want a seat at the table but do have concerns that need to be addressed. As this matter was submitted for information only, no action was taken.

OPPOSE  
AB 2221 RE  
BROADBND  
PROJECTS

Utility Manager Torrance explained there is a move in the broadband industry to get before the legislature a broadband for all initiative. This Assembly Bill would establish requirements relating to electric power design approval of broadband projects and is another issue that comes from CMUA. She spoke on the impacts if this Bill passes on the utility's time to approve projects.

COMMISSIONER McNEIL MOVED, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER SCHNEIDER, to authorize the Chairman to execute a letter in opposition to AB 2221 (J. Carrillo) which would establish requirements relating to broadband projects: electric power design approval. Motion carried by the following roll call vote:

AYES: CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL, COMMISSIONERS LeJEUNE,  
BROWN, SCHNEIDER AND McNEIL  
NOES: NONE  
ABSENT: COMMISSIONER MOFFITT

REPORTS:

CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL acknowledged the following report: 1) Western Area Power Administration group power term purchase FY25 Q1 with a brief report by Utility Manager Torrance on term purchasing and the cost being lower than last year.

MGR'S RPT: None

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BRD RQSTS: COMMISSIONER SCHNEIDER questioned if staff is keeping an eye on the California Public Utilities Commission movement on flat electric rate and if not, we need to stay on top of it.

CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL declared the regular meeting of the Board of Public Utilities held on the 2nd day of April, 2024, adjourned at 4:40 p.m.

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
Chairman Secretary