

Borrego Water District
MINUTES
Conservation
Standing Committee
Wednesday, January 2, 2008
9:00 a.m.
806 Palm Canyon Drive
Borrego Springs, CA 92004

Attendance: Directors: Mendenhall, Shimeall, Smiley
Staff: Jerry Rolwing, Operations Manager
 Wendy Quinn, Recording Secretary
Public: Jim Engelke, Lundberg Rebecca Falk
 Rudy Monica Duane Bright

1. TIERED WATER RATES

- Review Powerpoint Presentation – Jerry.

Jerry Rolwing presented the Powerpoint outline of the tiered rate proposal, which had been updated based on comments at the last Committee meeting. Presentation to the full Board is scheduled for January 9, and it may also be included in the town hall meeting in March. If approved, the tiered rates would be effective July 1. Mr. Rolwing presented existing and proposed new water rates, along with sample comparisons. Commercial rates would be based on usage history for the last four years, and new businesses would remain at Tier 1 until a usage history has been established. Irrigation rates would apply to homeowners' associations, master metered mobile home and RV parks, parks and schools.

Mr. Rolwing explained the conservation investment subsidies, consisting of rebates for installation of low flow toilets and washers, turf removal and irrigation efficiency audits. Projected costs and potential water savings were presented. Rebecca Falk asked whether part of the proceeds from the tiered rates would be used to expand the sewer system. Mr. Rolwing replied that this is a very expensive project for which the District has applied for a grant but has not received a decision. However, he suggested the Powerpoint presentation could include a notation that tiered rate proceeds which are not returned to the rate payers in the form of conservation investment subsidies might be used for expansion of the sewer. Jim Engelke concurred, noting that this would constitute a general public benefit pursuant to Proposition 218. Ms. Falk added that treated sewage could be used for golf course irrigation.

The Committee commended Mr. Rolwing on his presentation. Discussion followed regarding the inclusion of golf courses in the irrigation rates. At present, the only golf course purchasing water from the District is Montesoro. At the Committee's request, Lane Sharman had submitted a proposal to negotiate the rates with Montesoro on behalf of the District. After further discussion, the Committee agreed to decline Mr. Sharman's proposal. The golf course category will be reinserted into the irrigation rates. Directors Shimeall and Smiley and Mr. Rolwing will arrange to meet with representatives of Montesoro, hopefully before the next BWD Board meeting, to present the suggested tiered rates and negotiate modification if necessary. Mr. Rolwing suggested doing the

same with the Christmas Circle Association and perhaps some of the homeowners' associations.

2. **CONSERVATION INVESTMENT SUBSIDIES**

The conservation investment subsidies were covered during the presentation on tiered rates.

3. **PROGRESS REPORT ON CIMIS STATION IN BORREGO**

Mr. Rolwing reported that the CIMIS station should be set up today or tomorrow. The only costs to the District will be the telephone line, training and maintenance.

4. **REVIEW FALLOWING POLICY**

Mr. Rolwing reported that Allison Burns was still waiting for a response from the County on the fallowing policy. Mr. Engelke hoped to fallow the Viking Ranch as soon as possible, but explained that some water needs to be retained to address CEQA concerns relative to blowing dust. Mr. Rolwing agreed to follow up with Jim Bennett on the status.

5. **CLOSING**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:15 a.m. The next Conservation Committee Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 6, 2008 at 9:00 a.m.