

**SELMA-KINGSBURG-FOWLER
COUNTY SANITATION DISTRICT
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

November 19, 2008

The meeting of the Selma-Kingsburg-Fowler County Sanitation District Technical Advisory Committee was called to order at 10:10 a.m. by Chairman Alan Weaver.

MEMBERS ROLL CALL

Darren Hays, Kingsburg (absent)
Alan Weaver, County of Fresno (present)
Archie Moosakhanian, City of Selma (present)
David Weisser, City of Fowler (present)

STAFF AND CONSULTANTS PRESENT

David Michel, General Manager
Ben Muñoz, Assistant General Manager
Veronica Cazares, Supervising Engineer
Scott Aguiar, Plant Operations Supervisor
David Bacon, Information Systems Analyst
Michael Fong, Chief Accountant

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of October 15, 2008, were approved on a motion duly made, seconded and approved by unanimous vote of all members present.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

California Consulting – Annual Review of Contract

General Manager Michel reported that California Consulting has provided grant research services to the District at a cost of \$24,000 per year for the last two years. There appear to be limited grants available for wastewater agencies. The District has pursued only one, the Wastewater Recycling

Planning Study grant. DTAC Vice-Chair Weisser has suggested that the Committee review the need for the annual \$24,000 expenditure.

At the Board's initiation, the District has engaged California Consulting, Inc. of Fresno (Steve Samuelian) to research and assist in obtaining grants. The firm has worked for the District for the years 2007 and 2008. The contract is up for review for 2009. The cost is \$24,000 per year plus direct expenses, generally adding another \$1,000 per year.

The firm assisted the District in being offered the \$75,000 Wastewater Recycling Planning Study grant (to be matched with \$75,000 from District funds). The firm also assisted in the District being placed on the waiting list for a State Revolving Fund loan. Staff and consulting engineer were familiar with both items.

Other areas researched by the firm have not yielded any direct results.

- Energy savings – Staff is familiar with and is pursuing available programs.
- Plant Expansion – Staff has understood that the State Infrastructure Bank may be a better alternative than State Revolving Fund because of the availability of incremental loans rather than one big project loan.
- Buffer Zone Landscaping – The Board declined to pursue any grant related to this item.
- USDA Rural Water Grant – The firm checked preliminary feasibility and found that the District was not eligible, generally due to size or economic status limitations.

After some discussion, a motion to recommend that the contract with California Consulting be terminated at the end of 2008, with review in upcoming years, was made by Alan Weaver, seconded by Archie Moosakhanian, and approved by unanimous vote of those members present.

The consensus was that the recommendation of the Committee was not a reflection on Steve Samuelian's performance, but rather an attempt to eliminate a redundant effort. If the District can't spend \$75,000 on a Recycled Water Planning grant, then it shouldn't pay for grant research & lobbying services already provided by professional associations such as the California Association of Sanitation Agencies and California Water Environment Association.

Energy Conservation and Rebates

General Manager Michel and Assistant General Manager Muñoz reported that staff has been working with QuEST, Inc. to perform a facilities audit specific to wastewater treatment plants (WWTP's). QuEST provides cash incentives to WWTP's who install energy-saving equipment. QuEST also provides free administrative support and some limited free engineering services. QuEST works for PG&E and offers engineering services by Herwit Engineering.

In August, 2007, BASE energy consultants presented a general energy audit of the SKF facilities. It was helpful as a preliminary roadmap. Staff and QuEST have taken BASE's conceptual ideas one step further by initiating and completing actual energy-savings measures.

Quantum Energy Services & Technologies, Inc. (QuEST) of Berkeley is an energy efficiency firm that offers specialty advice to wastewater facilities among other sectors. QuEST also provides free administrative support and some limited free engineering services through Herwit Engineering of Clayton, California, which specializes in water and wastewater facilities. Most importantly, QuEST is managing the California Wastewater Process Optimization Program (CALPOP). Through CALPOP, QuEST provides rebates of 0.08¢ per kWh saved by newly-installed energy-efficient equipment. CALPOP is funded by California utility ratepayers under the auspices of the California Public Utilities Commission.

The next step is for QuEST to complete the facilities audit, which should be ready sometime after the first of the year. At that time, the District will need to decide if it wants to participate in QuEST's CALPOP rebate program. If so, the District proceeds with design, installation/construction and energy measurement to qualify for the rebates.

COMMUNICATIONS

Alan Weaver asked for and received a report on the Board action to decline pursuing a solar generation project. He asked that a report of the prior Board meeting be included on all agendas.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Committee, Chairman Weaver declared the meeting adjourned on a motion duly made, seconded and approved by unanimous voice vote at 10:41 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

David Michel, General Manager/
Secretary of the Committee

Approved,

Alan Weaver, Chairman
SKF Technical Advisory Committee