

Fort Collins Water Board 2006 Annual Report

Following is a summary of the 2006 activities of the Fort Collins Water Board. The report focuses on topics addressed during the year plus actions taken on the 2006 Work Plan.

Water Board Members

Ted Borstad, Chairperson
Doug Yadon, Vice Chairperson
Steve Balderson
John Bartholow
Paul Czarnecki
Eileen Dornfest

Johannes Gessler
Gina Janett
Rami Naddy
Phil Phelan
Reagan Waskom

Action Items

Raw Water Rental Rates and Delivery Charges

Each year prior to the irrigation season, the City sets water rental rates and delivery charges for use of its raw water. These uses include rental to agricultural users, meeting certain raw water delivery obligations and use by other City departments.

Consistent with the last few years, staff is again proposing two separate categories for raw water rates and charges. The first category includes only those sources for which an active rental market exists. The second category includes sources with a limited rental market or which are used primarily to irrigate City facilities (parks, golf courses, etc.).

The early snow pack is encouraging, and the City will continue to monitor its supply when making surplus raw water available for rental this year. The first priority will be to ensure that adequate supplies will be carried over into 2007, although current projections indicate that the City will have ample surplus supplies available for rental this year.

The Board approved staff's recommendation to City Council for (seems a word is missing here) the proposed raw water rental rates and delivery charges for the 2006 season.

Overview of Pretreatment Code Changes and Mercury Update

The Board approved the Code additions and modifications of the Wastewater Code with the added language to empower the General Manager to request documentation from dentists as needed.

Intergovernmental Agreement with Fort Collins-Loveland Water District

In April 2001, the City and the Fort Collins-Loveland Water District entered into an agreement in which the City would sell treated water to the District for use within city limits. The City and

the District have recently received requests from property owners and developers in the agreement area to extend the period for an additional five years.

Floodplain Variance for Campus West Redevelopment

The Board approved staff's recommendation to grant the variance request for the elevation requirements on the vacant lots at 1325 and 1331 W. Elizabeth Street. The variance would allow the slab-on-grade foundation to "step" down at the same slope as the water surface elevation goes down. They will still meet the minimum 18-inch elevation requirement at all times.

The proposed project consists of building two new structures. One of the structures is mixed-use and the second structure is a two-story apartment building. Both buildings are located in the 100-year floodplain, however, the applicant is seeking a variance for Building A only. It is a mixed-use structure with commercial on the ground floor and residential on the second floor. It is located along the West Elizabeth frontage and the building is oriented on an east-west axis, parallel to the flood flows.

Entrega Gas Pipeline, LLC Easement

It was recommended by the Board to grant the easement for the construction of the natural gas pipeline at Meadow Springs Ranch. Several existing pipelines run through Meadow Springs Ranch at the northeastern corner of the property. Entrega Gas Pipeline, LLC is constructing a new interstate natural gas pipeline from Meeker, Colorado, to the Cheyenne Hub in Weld County.

Approval of the Sale of Land to Retain a Utility Easement

The Board authorized the sale of a small tract of real estate on Cedarwood and Prospect Drives. Presently, there is a sewer running under the real estate to be conveyed to the purchaser who is the adjoining landowner. The City is presently maintaining and mowing this small strip of ground, and these responsibilities will be assumed by the new owner. The City would reserve and retain a utility easement on and under this tract, in order to utilize the easement for any utility purpose required by the City in the future. The total amount of consideration to be paid to the City for the purchase of the 3,935-square foot tract is \$1,000, which will reimburse the City for the time and resources taken to convey the property.

Right-of-Way Easement and the Grant of a Temporary Construction Easement for a Liquid Gas Pipeline at Meadow Springs Ranch

The Water Board voted to recommend approval of the right-of-way easement and the temporary construction easement. The project will be constructed under the approval and eminent domain authority of the United States Bureau of Land Management and according to the construction, restoration and operational requirements of the United States Department of Transportation.

Endangered Species Act Compliance – South Platte River Basin

The Board supports the City's active and financial participation in the South Platte Water Related Activities (SPWRAP). This program is designed to address the habitat needs of the endangered species in the Central and Lower Platte River basin and resolve escalating conflicts between water use and protection of endangered species. This program was developed by the Department of Interior and the states of Colorado, Wyoming and Nebraska. It will allow water

use and development activities in each of the three states to continue, in compliance with the ESA and in accordance with the state water law and entitlements under interstate compacts and decrees.

The SPWRAP will be working with the State of Colorado to help implement the program for Colorado water users. To be covered by the program, Colorado water users need to become members of SPWRAP. A formula based on water use will be used to determine membership and associated assessments.

Utility Proposed Rate Changes

The Board recommended that City Council approve the proposed changes to the water and wastewater rates and the wastewater plant investment fees for 2007. Proposed changes for the monthly rates were:

- Wastewater 5%
- Water 3%
- Stormwater 0%

The Wastewater Fund will increase plant investment fees to implement the second phase of the adopted three-year phase-in plan. No changes were recommended to the water and stormwater plant investment fees in 2007. The proposed changes will be effective January 1, 2007.

Presentations

The following presentations were discussed during the year:

- Treated Water Production Summary & Water Supply Outlook – monthly updates on snow pack and water supply.
- Halligan Reservoir Updates – monthly updates on the progress of the Halligan Reservoir project.
- Consumer Confidence Report – Explanation of the drinking water quality brochure that all City water customers received. It was noted that the water utility surpassed all state and federal health standards for drinking water.
- 2005 Drinking Water Quality Policy Annual Report – This was the 10th annual water quality report since Council adopted a drinking water policy in 1993. The report listed the strategies and summarized the action taken during the year.
- Chronic Wasting Disease – The Board reviewed a letter from the Larimer County Department of Health Environment in response to the risk to the public of the proximity of the Water Treatment Plant and the Department of Wildlife research facility.
- Water Conservation Annual Update – Staff summarized various water conservation programs and activities that took place during the year.
- Stormwater Quality Annual Report - An overview was given of the Stormwater Quality program and its accomplishments as it relates to the Colorado discharge permit requirements. The newest program is the routine maintenance and operation of individual retention ponds.
- Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District Updates
- Big Thompson Watershed Forum Update

- Poudre River Floodplain Regulations
- Legislative, Finance, Liaison Committee Updates
- Conservation & Public Education Committee Updates
- Engineering Committee Updates
- Water Supply Committee Updates