

**LODI CITY COUNCIL
SHIRTSLEEVE SESSION
CARNEGIE FORUM, 305 WEST PINE STREET
TUESDAY, JUNE 15, 2010**

A. Roll Call by City Clerk

An Informal Informational Meeting ("Shirtsleeve" Session) of the Lodi City Council was held Tuesday, June 15, 2010, commencing at 7:01 a.m.

Present: Council Member Hansen, Council Member Johnson, Mayor Pro Tempore Hitchcock, and Mayor Katzakian

Absent: Council Member Mounce

Also Present: Interim City Manager Bartlam, City Attorney Schwabauer, and City Clerk Johl

B. Topic(s)

B-1 Present Council Update on White Slough Water Pollution Control Facility Waste Discharge Permit (PW)

Interim City Manager Rad Bartlam provided a brief introduction to the subject matter of the White Slough Water Pollution Control Facility Waste Discharge Permit.

Deputy Public Works Director Charlie Swimley provided a PowerPoint regarding the waste discharge permit. Specific topics of discussion included the permit overview, White Slough location, land application facilities, treatment plant, studies for surface water discharge, compliance demonstration plans, temperature study, cost of studies for surface water discharge, studies for land application, Title 22 engineering report, groundwater background study, land application practices report, cost of studies for land application, construction, secondary aeration basins, monthly average nitrate data, historic field nitrogen loadings, tertiary filters, aluminum data, mercury data, ultraviolet (UV) disinfection, biosolids lagoon lining, historic and current biosolids lagoon operations, storage pond nitrogen trends, State Board order, 2012 permit application, biosolids dewatering, and considerations for application of liquid biosolids and biosolids dewatering.

In response to Council Member Hansen, Mr. Swimley stated the regulation on land application reductions also started in May 2010.

In response to Council Member Hansen, Mr. Swimley stated the olives were planted on non-City land north of the facility. Mr. Swimley stated typically the City will grow alfalfa and corn seasonally on the City-owned land.

In response to Council Member Johnson, Mr. Swimley stated the blue lines on the map depict how the fields were prepared for flood irrigation purposes.

In response to Council Member Hansen, Mr. Swimley stated the water for field irrigation comes from treated effluent and can be stored in the ponds or can come from industrial water. Mr. Swimley stated all municipal water supply is treated and industrial supply is pre-treated.

In response to Mayor Pro Tempore Hitchcock, Mr. Swimley stated water from PCP used to have high amounts of salinity but those amounts have been reduced significantly through PCP's use of potassium instead of sodium.

In response to Council Member Hansen, Mr. Swimley stated the City's quality of effluent is

probably as good as many third world countries. Mr. Swimley stated the water could likely be consumed without causing sickness but legally the water cannot be consumed.

In response to Council Member Johnson, Mr. Swimley stated PCP invested \$300,000 per year to reduce salinity based on the State Board order, community sensitivity, and in an effort to be proactive. Mr. Swimley stated Flag City has also issued a reduction mandate to its customers and made significant improvements.

In response to Council Member Johnson, Mr. Swimley stated that, while the water softening business may continue to decline, other technology to reduce the salinity will likely be introduced in the future.

In response to Mayor Pro Tempore Hitchcock, Mr. Swimley stated the waste from the wineries does contain some nitrates but nothing significant to be concerned about currently.

In response to Myrna Wetzal, Mr. Swimley stated that extreme temperatures do affect the plant and operational adjustments, such as increasing or decreasing the biological matter, are often made as a result.

In response to Council Member Hansen, Mr. Swimley stated unreimbursed regulations do often times drive the cost of the related studies.

In response to Mayor Pro Tempore Hitchcock, Mr. Swimley stated the studies that are specific to Lodi and the County that are not required by all agencies include the Organic Loading Study, Pond Freeboard Study, and Wintertime Irrigation Plan. He stated the studies are fact driven and not complaint driven.

In response to Council Member Hansen, Mr. Swimley stated during the heavy rainfall the City does see spikes of nitrate in the sewer system based on the lack of proper drainage.

In response to Myrna Wetzal, Mr. Swimley stated rainfall does not dilute nitrates.

In response to Mayor Pro Tempore Hitchcock, Mr. Swimley stated in the winter time the change in operations would involve adjustments in the biological process associated with bugs.

In response to Council Member Hansen, Mr. Swimley stated that, while it is difficult to determine where biosolids are being applied and collected, the City can maintain a zero level whereby the fields will not be overloaded by biosolids.

In response to Council Member Johnson, Mr. Swimley stated staff will continue to work on the relationship with surrounding growers because the larger the crop the more financial benefit the City receives and vica versa.

In response to Council Member Johnson, Mr. Swimley stated the City is spending approximately \$300,000 per year for the UV system. City Attorney Schwabauer stated it would be difficult to use public benefit monies for the lightening unless an energy efficiency could be shown.

In response to Myrna Wetzal, Mr. Swimley confirmed that the used light bulbs are sent back to the manufacturer, a discount is not received, and he is not sure if the manufacturer recycles the bulbs thereafter.

In response to Mayor Pro Tempore Hitchcock, Mr. Swimley stated the treatment plant processes and removes nitrates whereby it releases into the air through the biological process.

In response to Mayor Pro Tempore Hitchcock, Mr. Swimley stated that, while he is not sure of the exact amount the 2012 permit application cost, it is likely that it will be expensive.

In response to Council Member Johnson, Mr. Swimley and Mr. Bartlam confirmed that in addition to other regulations San Joaquin County has a prohibition against certain application of biosolids through an ordinance.

In response to Mayor Pro Tempore Hitchcock, Mr. Swimley and Mr. Schwabauer stated there is no legal prohibition against buying land near the facility, there would be financial implications, and purchasing more property would not improve application process because it would only spread out the application.

In response to Council Member Hansen, Mr. Swimley stated that, even if the liquid biosolids were redirected through a pipe instead of irrigation, collection would still occur at point of entry. Mr. Swimley stated staff believes the use of the flinger, which also prepares the City for elimination of biosolids application altogether, is the best solution.

In response to Council Member Hansen, Mr. Swimley stated the water diverted to Northern California Power Agency will remove about 1,000 acre feet but the City processes about 7,000 acre feet per year.

In response to Mayor Katzakian, Mr. Swimley stated while pharmaceuticals remain a concern they are not seeing much in discharge.

In response to Myrna Wetzel, Mr. Swimley stated he is not aware of any concerns regarding health care products being discharged.

In response to Mayor Pro Tempore Hitchcock, Mr. Swimley stated the proposed recommendation will allow for either even distribution on land or an option for trucking out.

In response to Mayor Pro Tempore Hitchcock, Mr. Swimley stated regardless of the Certificate of Participation funds remaining staff would be making the same recommendation with respect to the biosolids application.

C. Comments by Public on Non-Agenda Items

None.

D. Adjournment

No action was taken by the City Council. The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 a.m.

ATTEST:

Randi Johl
City Clerk