

TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
MINUTES

Date: October 7, 1986
Time: 1:30 P.M.

Committee Members Present: Lynn Robie, Chair, Bill Smallman
Terry Kastanis, David Shore

1. Discussion with SMUD Representatives Regarding Rate Structure and Plant Operations

DISCUSSION:

Mr. J. D. Stack, Local Government Coordinator, introduced Mr. Don Whitney, Assistant to the Plant Manager of Rancho Seco.

Mr. Whitney discussed the status of Rancho Seco's shutdown and the reasons which caused the malfunctions at the plant. He also stated that despite the hazards of any nuclear plant, Rancho Seco has had 10 years of successful operation. Previous malfunctions were caused because of staffs' unresponsive action in applying the more stringent requirements instituted following the Three-Mile Island incident. At present staff is receiving training on responsive action for a more safe plant operation.

Mr. Whitney reported that 5000 recommendations for plant improvement had been compiled and out of the 5000, 1500 are being reviewed and tested by staff. Enhancements are scheduled to be completed by May of next year.

Councilman Kastanis asked if the plant would be safe by May of 1987. Mr. Whitney replied that the plant has always been safe, but in the past, Rancho Seco challenged the safety system regularly. Under the new regulations this is no longer acceptable.

Councilman Shore asked if there would be a need for hiring additional permanent

staff. Mr. Whitney replied that there would not, as the plant is already fully staffed. Councilman Shore asked the cost involved in operating the plant again. Mr. Whitney stated that the cost is based on the original budget of 150 million to 180 million for the current fiscal year. The 1987 budget is in the process of being developed.

Other questions asked of Mr. Whitney were if the plant was near a earthquake fault and whether an earthquake study has been done. Mr. Whitney replied that the earthquake study was a separate issue and would be completed by January, and that the plant was near the Foothill fault. Councilman Shore asked for a synopsis once the earthquake report is completed.

Mr. Whitney introduced Mr. George Fraser, Manager of Electric System Planning. Mr. Fraser distributed copies of cost comparison charts, which showed cost figures with and without the plant operating. The figures without the plant in operation were much higher and would continue to rise up to 80%.

Councilman Shore asked whether Auburn Dam had been considered as an alternative to Rancho Seco. Mr. Fraser replied that this had been considered, but had been determined to be very costly. Councilman Shore asked Mr. Fraser for a PG&E cost chart, if possible, in order to compare it to SMUD's.

REPORT(S) BACK: None.

ACTION: None.

2. Caltrans Widening of Highway 50 and Inclusion of Soundwalls in the Plan

DISCUSSION: Les Frink, Deputy Director of Public Works, stated that the City has attempted to get soundwalls installed on Highway 50

between Howe and Watt Avenue and that Caltrans has plans to add a westbound auxiliary lane to U.S. 50 as part of extending ramp metering on the freeway but their plans do not include the installation of soundwalls.

Earl Galigan, Caltrans, stated that these soundwalls rank number 25 on the State's priority system. Priority is based on the level of sound measurements on interstate highways: the higher the sound level, the higher the priority ranking. Highway 50 is not an interstate highway and does not require soundwalls for the addition of an auxiliary lane.

Chair Robie stated that the installation of soundwalls is getting lower and lower on the priority list and feels it should be considered as a priority on the safety program list. She also asked Mr. Galigan for his recommendations to staff on getting this safety issue as a higher priority. *Mr. Galigan agreed that the lack of soundwalls in this area does pose a safety problem, but that it is not in Caltrans power to move the item up on the priority list.

Councilman Kastanis stated that he could not see why this issue did not warrant funding for soundwalls because it involves preventing safety hazards. Mr. Galigan replied that the auxiliary lane is not considered a through lane, it is just a connection and that the Federal Highway Administration does not require soundwalls for the addition of such lanes.

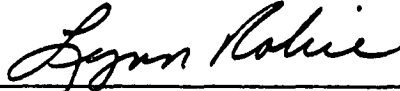
REPORT(S) BACK:

Chair Robie requested that Caltrans work together with City staff as well as with legal staff (Garland Burrell) to move up the issue of soundwall installation on the priority list and for a report on the accurate number of accidents on Highway 50 with recommendations for having the

soundwalls built. Caltrans agreed to come back to Committee within one month with the requested report.

ACTION:

None.



Lynn Robie, Chair
Transportation and Community
Development Committee

* Was moved by Councilman Smallman, seconded by Chair Robie that the minutes of October 7, 1986, be amended to reflect Mr. Galigan's statement.