



FOLSOM
DISTINCTIVE BY NATURE

Utility Commission Regular Meeting

Approved Minutes

City Council Chambers | 50 Natoma Street, Folsom CA 95630
March 18, 2025
6:30 PM

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:31 p.m.

Roll Call

PRESENT:	L.Ladd, M.Menz, A.Ross, A.Silva, T.Widby, A.McBride (at 6:36pm).
ABSENT:	H.Elkhatab
STAFF PRESENT:	Mark Rackovan: Public Works Director
	Marie McKeeth: General Services Manager, Public Works
	Marcus Yasutake: Director, Environmental & Water Resources
	Emma Atkinson: Management Analyst, EWR

Business from the Floor

None.

Minutes

Approval of the Minutes of the February 18, 2025, Regular Meeting
Motion by Commissioner Silva, second by Commissioner Widby to approve the Minutes of the February 18, 2025, regular meeting. Motion passed by the following roll-call vote:

AYES: Commissioners Ladd, Menz, Silva, Widby
 ABSTAIN: Commissioner Ross
 ABSENT: Commissioners Elkhatab, McBride

Directors' Reports

Public Works:

Director Rackovan provided updates relating to the Public Works department:

- Staffing: The Collections Division has completed promotion of 3 drivers to the newly created Senior Refuse Driver classification; their primary responsibility will be training of staff, while continuing to run routes. The department is holding interviews for the Environmental Specialist Supervisor position on Friday, and the new Solid Waste Manager vacancy closes on Sunday.
- Waste Collections Routes: Management continues to monitor route data following last summer's reroute. A plan has been developed to address overtime and overweight loads; these plans rely on implementation of new staffing, requested in the FY25-26 budget. Timeliness of residential route updates is also impacted by office workload.
- Outreach and Education: New outreach material is being prepared by the Recycling team for City-wide distribution; they provided information at a recent community event at Talavera apartments and will be hosting a composting workshop on Friday.
- Vehicles: There is no status change to ACF regulations, so those continue to limit ability to procure refuse trucks. There is also no status change to the ordered electric refuse trucks; it is hoped that one will be delivered before the Earth Day event. The Household Hazardous Waste division has ordered a new work truck, with custom bed. Fleet is also getting quotes for an electric flat bed.

- Compliance: Staff continue to work on distributing green bins to the few remaining neighborhoods and addressing non-compliance of 33 commercial accounts that do not yet have recycling bins.

EWR:

Director Yasutake provided updates relating to the Environmental and Water Resources department:

- New City Manager: The new City Manager, Bryan Whitmyer, started work last Monday. Much of his time so far has been spent discussing FY25-26 budgets with representatives of City departments.
- EWR Staffing: Todd Eising is retiring; second interviews for his replacement are taking place this week.
- Proposals: EWR is currently reviewing proposals received for a Water and Sewer Rate Study, and for the new Sewer System Master Plan Update. A Request for Proposals has also been issued for the 2025 Urban Water Management Plan, which is due next July. The studies and plans resulting from these proposals will be brought to the Utility Commission.
- Operator Series: EWR is currently working with the City HR team on the Operator job classification series. Staff proposed a change to the current job classification structure to provide a less cumbersome career ladder, without the requirement for reclassifications to be completed by HR staff.
 - *Commissioners asked about the reclassification process, the proposed changes, alternative options (such as an exemption), and the anticipated impact of the change. Commissioners also offered assistance in case of any issues getting this process completed. There was some discussion of time involved in completing reclassifications, private industry versus government, and the experience of other departments in the City, including Public Works. Commissioners thanked Director Yasutake for bringing this matter to the attention of the Commission.*

New Business:

1. Public Works Department FY 2025-2026 Operations Budget

Marie McKeeth provided a presentation of the proposed fiscal year 2025-2026 operating budget for Solid Waste, and responded to questions from the Commission.

Widby: When retrofitting a truck, by replacing the compactor, how long do you expect the truck chassis to last, compared to the compactor?

MM: that is what we hope to find out. We are putting the compactor units on older trucks. If we can get 5-7 years' use out of them, we have saved money.

Menz asked about buying diesel trucks, vehicles from out of state, or secondhand vehicles. He expressed general concern about heavy duty vehicles.

MM: We can buy diesel trucks as long as, per Advanced Clean Fleet, we offset this by buying a heavy-duty electric vehicle, such as the Ford Lighting or an E-transit van. However, because of Advanced Clean Trucks regulation, availability of non-electric heavy-duty vehicles is limited. Manufacturers are required to sell an escalating percentage of zero emission vehicles, impacting the availability of internal combustion engines. These regulations apply to all vehicles sold in CA, whether from out-of-state or secondhand, so this affects any vehicle that is new to the Fleet. This is why the department is retrofitting current vehicles, to buy some time until there are more exemptions (hopefully) and improvements in supply.

Commissioners requested that the budget presentation be distributed by email.

2. Environmental and Water Resources Department FY 2025-2026 Operations Budget

Director Yasutake provided a presentation of the proposed fiscal year 2025-2026 operating budget for Water and Wastewater Operations, and responded to questions from the Commission. He explained that the City is using new software for budget preparation, so there are some

differences in how information is presented. He also provided a timeline for the city budget process.

McBride: Will the proposed new engineer oversee all aspects of reporting? Will they work on both water and wastewater projects?

MY: Responsibility for reporting will be shared between engineering staff. All engineers work on both water and wastewater projects, and support operations of both.

Ross: Does the City own the Water Treatment Plant, and the land that it is on. Does the City have a landscape maintenance team to handle the work at the Water Treatment plant?

MY: Yes; we own the plant. While not all Park maintenance work is contracted out, most landscaping work is contracted out.

Ross: If the City Manager doesn't include some of your requests in his proposal, is there an opportunity to discuss with City Council the items that were removed?

MY: Items that are removed are not presented to City Council but, in May the Commission will get feedback on the proposed budget and any items that are not approved.

Next Meeting:

The next meeting, on April 15th, will be in the Police Department Training Room. This will be the 6th and final Water Vision meeting.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:



Emma Atkinson, Management Analyst

Approved:



Mark Menz, Utility Commission Chair