

ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING COMMITTEE (EPC)

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 21, 2013

CAG CONFERENCE ROOM

1075 SOUTH IDAHO ROAD, SUITE 300

APACHE JUNCTION, ARIZONA 85119

M I N U T E S

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Chair Jake Garrett – <i>Gila County</i>	Greg Homol – <i>Queen Creek</i>	Linda Taunt - <i>ADEQ</i>
Don Gabrielson – <i>Pinal County</i>	Edwina Vogan – <i>ADEQ</i>	
Atul Shah – <i>Pinal County</i>	Doug Mason – <i>San Carlos Irrigation & Drainage District</i>	

VIA TELECONFERENCE:

Kazi Haque – <i>Maricopa</i>	Kevin Louis – <i>Casa Grande</i>
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MEMBERS ABSENT:

LaRon Garrett – <i>Payson</i>	Debra Daniel – <i>ADEQ</i>	Wayne Costa – <i>Florence</i>
Reg Glos – <i>Pinal County</i>	Barbara Johnson – <i>Private Citizen</i>	Rick Gibson – <i>University of Arizona</i>
Vice Chair John Mitchell – <i>Eloy</i>	Greg Smith – <i>Casa Grande</i>	Tim Ensign – <i>Marana</i>
Rick Gibson – <i>University of Arizona Cooperative Extension</i>		

GUESTS:

Matthew Garlick – <i>Liberty Utilities</i>	Steve Carlson – <i>Liberty Utilities</i>	Steve Wedwick – <i>NCS</i>
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STAFF:

Alan Urban – <i>Community Development Coordinator</i>	Ken Hall – <i>Executive Director</i>
Al Larson – <i>Interim Executive Director</i>	Ken Hebert – <i>CDBG Grants Assistant</i>

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Garrett called the meeting to order at 10:01 AM in the CAG Conference Room located at 1075 South Idaho Road, Apache Junction, Arizona 85119.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Garrett led the committee in the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. ROLL CALL & INTRODUCTIONS

Roll call and introductions were taken. Seven voting members were present, allowing for a quorum.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – October 3, 2012

Chair Garrett asked if there were any additions or corrections to be made on the October 3, 2012 minutes. Mr. Gabrielson asked that the draft minutes be sent to members sooner to facilitate accurate reviewing. No corrections or additions were requested, Chair Garrett asked for a motion to approve the October 3, 2012 EPC meeting minutes as presented. Mr. Haque so moved with Mr. Homol seconding the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

VIII. SET DATE, TIME, & LOCATION OF NEXT MEETING

Chair Garrett referred the committee to the meeting schedule on the agenda noting that staff had prepared a year calendar for the EPC meetings.

Wednesday, October 16, 2013

Wednesday, December 12, 2013

Wednesday, February 12, 2014

Wednesday, May 21, 2014

Wednesday, August 13, 2014

Wednesday, October 15, 2014

10 AM, CAG Administrative Office Conference Room

V. NEW BUSINESS

Chairman Garrett re-arranged the agenda items to allow for guests to be able to conclude their business at the beginning of the meeting.

A. General Permits for Infrequent Discharges

Chairman Garrett invited the representatives of Liberty Utilities to present information concerning their request for a permit from ADEQ that would allow specified "Infrequent Discharges" from the Gold Canyon Waste Water Treatment plant located adjacent to U.S. Hwy. 60 just southeast of S. Superstition Mountain Dr. Steve Wedwick, NCS Engineers, introduced Matthew Garlick – Director of Arizona Operations, and Steve Carlson - Manager of Development Services, for Liberty Utilities. Mr. Wedwick presented an overview of what this new kind of permit covers and its limitations. He discussed the types of discharges this permit would allow and why they need to be provided for. Under the conditions of this permit, the Liberty facility in Gold Canyon would be allowed to discharge A+ effluent into an unnamed wash adjacent to the facility under certain planned and unplanned circumstances. During high precipitation periods the users of plant effluent would have no need to water facilities as normal and the recharge basins may not be able to recharge at a rate high enough to meet the plant's needs. During such times offsite discharge may be necessary to handle normal operational outflows. Under some maintenance and repair situations the plant may need to discharge to the unnamed wash for a short period.

This five (5) year permit restricts those discharges to no more than 14 days in duration for each, only three (3) unplanned/emergency discharges and no more than two (2) planned maintenance/repair discharges in the life of the permit. Any discharges must be interspersed by at least 30 days. Mr. Garlick reported that the plant has had only one discharge since Liberty acquired the facility in 2003. The one time they needed to discharge due to local saturation levels that prevented reuse or recharge, they trucked the 65,000 gallon overage to Superstition Mountain Community Facilities District's facility off of Ironwood, which it is believed discharges into an "unnamed wash" in the same drainage area as the one next to the Gold Canyon Facility.

The members' principle discussion centered around the possible adverse effects on neighbors along the wash. Mr. Gabrielson gave some history of prior operational issues, regarding odors primarily, that the neighbors complained about vociferously. He did acknowledge that the problems occurred under a previous operator, not the current operator, Liberty Utilities. Discussion continued about who to contact about the discharges, what effects there might be in the future, public notices of impending discharges, and related timelines. The committee decided that the discharges did not rise to the level of operational change to require a 208 Amendment. Mr. Wedwick was instructed to contact Pinal County, the Apache Junction City Manager, and the appropriate contact at the State Trust Lands office for letters of Support or No Objection. The letters need to be received by Mr. Urban within 30 days. Mr. Gabrielson moved for the EPC to refer the Infrequent Discharge Permit to the CAG Management Committee for review if the appropriate letters are received by Mr. Urban. Mr. Urban was authorized to present the referral to the

Management Committee at its next meeting if the letters are received.

B. Other 208 Amendments on the EPC horizon

Mr. Urban reported to the committee that there was a possible second 208 Amendment proposal from Liberty Utilities for the service of the Pasion area on the east side of Gold Canyon. Mr. Wedwick informed the committee that the area in question is 41.6 acres in size with 37 lots consisting of 15 homes and 22 vacant lots. The residents have been serviced by the Gold Canyon Wastewater facility since 2005 using septic collection hauled to the Gold Canyon facility. The proposal before the committee is to connect the Pasion area to regular sewer line service, eliminating the trucking process for septic tanks. This will add no additional volumes to the plant at this time. Future development of the 22 vacant lots could add some volume, but that is estimated to be a less than 1% change if all 22 are built out.

Mr. Gabrielson stated that this is a no brainer, something not requiring a 208 Amendment, but wondered if there is an accurate map of the Gold Canyon service area and is this area in it. Mr. Wedwick assured the committee that there is a 208 Amendment for the utility, but the inclusiveness would have to be checked. Mr. Urban told the committee that he was beginning a review of that very issue, for all of the CAG area, but it's a daunting task. Mr. Larson commented that this has been tried before, but was never finished due to the enormity of searching the paper files containing the information. Ms. Taunt questioned if the 208 amendment process would serve any value to the applicant or the 208 process in addressing only 37 properties, even just the mapping process. She noted that the 208 Plan language states an amendment "may" be required, so it is at the discretion of the committee. Mr. Gabrielson commented that the mapping is important, but let's do something comprehensive, one time, for Gold Canyon, or anyone else. Mr. Wedwick indicated that the Arizona Corporate Commission (ACC) is not requiring anything via the 208 process for the Pasion proposal to go forward. Mr. Gabrielson suggested Mr. Urban could generate a letter to the ACC for Liberty if it is requested. There was a motion by Mr. Gabrielson, seconded by Mr. Shah, that the committee endorse the Liberty application add the Pasion area to their sewer service area. Mr. Urban was instructed by the committee to pursue the consolidation and clarification of the 208 mapping documentation for Gold Canyon, and others, as time and opportunity allow.

Mr. Urban informed the committee that Johnson Utilities has submitted a Plan Amendment for Southwest Environmental Utilities, LLC (SEU) addressing service to properties south and east of the Town of Florence. A July revision of a March 2013 submittal has been reviewed by CAG staff, Mr. Jake Garrett, and ADEQ staff and found to be unacceptable for consideration at this time. There was some discussion of how the SEU proposal crossed several boundaries, town limits, the Florence DMA, and includes unincorporated areas as well in one proposal. Mr. Gabrielson advised Mr. Urban to instruct any applicant that a proposal needs to be complete and concise before presenting to the committee and that the "consent of the governed" is a basic criterion for any plan to be seriously considered.

Chairman Garrett stated he expects a 208 Amendment proposal to be forth coming from the Tri City Regional Sanitary District in the near future but no timetable is currently available.

C. CAG Draft 208 Plan Revision

Chairman Garrett began discussion of the status of the current CAG 208 Plan update by asking what the focal point of the Plan should be. He commented he feels it is not currently aimed at an applicant or the public stakeholders in the process. Mr. Garrett proposed the committee adopt the plan as it currently Reads and commit to a timeline that any amendments needed be completed by April/May of 2014. Mr. Gabrielson expressed concern that absolute consensus has stymied the approval of the document. He proposed excising a few sections to be edited as projects and approve the document in general. Mr. Larson expressed support for this approach, commenting the funded project for the re-write had expired a year ago. He added that passage of a plan that needs revisions is still a step forward, but let's commit to

finishing the revisions by Spring of 2014. Mr. Larson suggested an inventory of the existing 208 Plans could be added as an addendum. A motion was made by Mr. Haque, and seconded by Mr. Homol, that the committee adopt the proposed schedule to adopt the Plan in general and commit to edits of specific sections by April/May of 2014. No vote was taken on this motion.

Discussion continued about the need for land use planning consideration in the 208 process. Ms. Taunt informed the committee that the ADEQ is proposing re-writing the state level 208 and that maybe that process would reduce some of the content in the Council of Governments' level plans. The timetable for the process is October/November of 2013, but no dates are available at this time. Mr. Gabrielson commented that the EPC is most involved in boundary issues and political situations not addressed by ADEQ permitting. He also stated that the permitting process does not deal with the long term effects of processes. Ms. Taunt commented that the land use planners need to be involved up front and that discharges are seldom an issue because they're bad business since they don't generate revenue like re-use. Mr. Hall said including planners could address the long term effects of any discharges. Mr. Gabrielson commented many concerns have to do with an owners control over flow through a property. CAG directs Wastewater plants to internalize their process issues, such as discharge needs, because it is a land use issue.

Chairman Garrett suggested the committee wait on the suggested editing of section 5.6 of the 208 Plan till the October meeting. Mr. Gabrielson suggested the members commit to getting edit suggestions to Mr. Urban two (2) weeks before the next meeting (by October 2nd). He also asked staff to determine the actual costs of the EPC process to CAG.

No action was taken on the adoption or approval of the 2012 208 Plan Amendment.

VI. CHAIR REPORT

Chair Garrett asked if CAG could make some provision for access to large files. Mr. Gabrielson commented he has to empty his email inbox constantly to assure incoming mail gets through. Mr. Larson discussed some options and Chairman Garrett instructed Mr. Urban to pursue some appropriate setup and authorize use by the committee.

VII. STAFF REPORT

Mr. Urban stated he is happy to be a new member of the CAG staff.

IX. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business to report at this time.

X. EPC MEMBERSHIP

Mr. Gabrielson requested that Mr. Shah be appointed as the replacement for Mr. Reg Gloss who retired from his position with Pinal County and that Travis Ashbaugh be added as his alternate representative.

XI. CALL TO THE PUBLIC

Chair Garrett opened the floor for the call from the public. No one answered the call to the public.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Garrett asked for a motion for adjournment. Mr. Shah so moved with Chairman Garrett seconding that motion. The motion was carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 1:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted December 6, 2013 by Alan Urban, Community Development Coordinator

