ALBUQUERQUE BERNALILLO COUNTY WATER UTILITY AUTHORITY MEETING Wednesday, April 17, 2019, 5:07 p.m.

VINCENT E. GRIEGO CHAMBERS
ALBUQUERQUE-BERNALILLO COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER
ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO 87102

APPEARANCES

COMMISSIONER DEBBIE O'MALLEY, Chair

COUNCILOR KLARISSA J. PENA, Vice Chair

COMMISSIONER MAGGIE HART STEBBINS, Member

COUNCILOR TRUDY E. JONES, Member

COMMISSIONER STEVEN MICHAEL QUEZADA, Member (excused)

COUNCILOR KEN SANCHEZ, Member (excused)

MAYOR TIMOTHY M. KELLER, Member (excused)

TRUSTEE PABLO RAEL, Member

COUNCILOR PAT DAVIS (alternate)

BEFORE: KIM KAY SHOLLENBARGER, RPR, CCR #236
Paul Baca Professional Court Reporters
500 4th Street, Northwest, Suite 105
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87102

1 CHAIR O'MALLEY: Good evening, everyone. I

- 2 call this April 17th, 2019 meeting of the Albuquerque
- 3 Bernalillo County Water Utility to order.
- 4 Commissioner Quezada is excused. Councilor Sanchez
- 5 is also excused, and Councilor Davis will be his
- 6 alternate. All other members are present.
- We're going to begin with the
- 8 Invocation/Pledge of Allegiance. We'll have a moment
- 9 of silence, and the Pledge of Allegiance will be led
- 10 by Trustee Pablo Rael.
- 11 (Silence/Pledge of Allegiance)
- 12 CHAIR O'MALLEY: Thank you. The next item
- is Item 3, which is the Approval of Minutes. I move
- 14 approval of the March 20th, 2019 minutes. Is there a
- 15 second.
- 16 COUNCILOR JONES: Second.
- 17 CHAIR O'MALLEY: There's a motion and a
- 18 second. All those in favor say aye.
- 19 MEMBERS: Aye.
- 20 CHAIR O'MALLEY: All opposed say no. The
- 21 motion carries. Go next to Item 4, which is
- 22 Proclamations and Awards and that's 4A, which is the
- 23 Quarterly Employee Incentive Awards. If the employee
- 24 is here to receive an award, if you would please come
- 25 forward to receive your certificate and your award.

1 So I'm going to begin with the first person,

- 2 is Kathryn Mendoza. Ms. Mendoza is recognized for
- 3 taking -- \$250 plus 8 hours. She's recognized for
- 4 taking over as the Water Utility's representative in
- 5 the Endangered Species Collaborative Program after a
- 6 co-worker fell ill and was no longer able to serve.
- 7 She added this to her portfolio in addition to her
- 8 existing job duties and has excelled in the role,
- 9 cementing the important working relationships with
- 10 the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Thank you.
- 11 (Applause)
- 12 CHAIR O'MALLEY: Next we have Jose Garcia,
- 13 Joseph Cave and Joshua Sena, \$50 each. These
- 14 individuals are recognized for volunteering
- 15 much-needed assistance in the relocation of files
- 16 during a recent renovation of the warehouse records
- 17 center. Thank you.
- 18 (Applause)
- 19 CHAIR O'MALLEY: Next is Karen Hovey, \$150
- 20 plus 4 hours. Ms. Hovey is recognized for her recent
- 21 efforts to ensure that the Water Authority was not
- 22 wrongfully held responsible for substantial work --
- 23 substandard work performed by another entity, saving
- 24 the Utility time and dollars while upholding our
- 25 public image. Thank you.

- 1 (Applause)
- 2 CHAIR O'MALLEY: Carlos Sena, \$50.00, is
- 3 recognized for taking the initiative to train utility
- 4 stock keepers regarding the material requirements of
- 5 field crews. Thank you.
- 6 (Applause)
- 7 CHAIR O'MALLEY: Next is Debra Garcia, \$50.
- 8 Ms. Garcia is recognized for the assistance and
- 9 support she provided to an outside department that
- 10 requested her expertise in completing an analysis at
- 11 the Water Quality Lab. Thank you, Ms. Garcia.
- 12 (Applause)
- CHAIR O'MALLEY: Kris Johnston, \$150 plus 4
- 14 hours. Mr. Johnston is recognized for his leadership
- 15 role in the development of the Utility's new
- 16 Comprehensive Safety Manual. Thank you.
- 17 (Applause)
- 18 CHAIR O'MALLEY: Next we have Aura
- 19 Gonzalez-Aller, Mark Denis and CJ Riggins, \$50 each.
- 20 These individuals are recognized for their success in
- 21 taking over a safety department that had been
- 22 operating without a full staff and, over the past
- 23 year, successfully reorganizing and upgrading our
- 24 internal safety program. Thank you all.
- 25 (Applause)

1 CHAIR O'MALLEY: Victoria Dery, \$150 plus 4

- 2 hours. Ms. Dery is recognized for her heroic efforts
- 3 as project manager of the recently completed \$8
- 4 million Yucca/Central sewer relocation project. This
- 5 extremely challenging engineering project will
- 6 eliminate a decade-old problem in the Yucca/Central
- 7 area. Thank you.
- 8 (Applause)
- 9 CHAIR O'MALLEY: Richard Costales, \$150 plus
- 10 4 hours. Mr. Costales is recognized for his
- 11 outstanding project management effort in the
- 12 completion of the new Solids Dewatering Facility at
- 13 the Southside Water Reclamation Plant. Thank you,
- 14 Mr. Costales.
- 15 (Applause)
- 16 CHAIR O'MALLEY: Martin Louissena.
- 17 Mr. Louissena is recognized for the innovations in
- 18 management and leadership he has brought to his
- 19 position following his promotion to assistant
- 20 superintendent in the groundwater division. Thank
- 21 you.
- 22 (Applause)
- 23 CHAIR O'MALLEY: Robert Moraga. Mr. Moraga
- 24 is recognized for his efforts -- \$50.00. For his
- 25 efforts to improve security features at utility

1 facilities and for handling many important welding

- 2 fabrication jobs internally that would otherwise have
- 3 to be contracted out. Thank you.
- 4 (Applause)
- 5 CHAIR O'MALLEY: Cody Elwell, \$50.
- 6 Mr. Elwell is recognized for his important efforts in
- 7 cataloguing safety equipment to bring records into
- 8 compliance with evolving OSHA standards. Thank you,
- 9 Mr. Elwell.
- 10 (Applause)
- 11 CHAIR O'MALLEY: Trina Norman, Debra
- 12 Walz-Burkett, John Vance, Eric Murray, Yvonne Lara,
- 13 Blythe Mireles, Anissa Pennington-Pink and Celeste
- 14 Rael. This team is recognized for its successful
- 15 implementation -- \$150 plus 2 hours. This team is
- 16 recognized for its successful implementation, over
- 17 the course of many months, evenings and weekends of
- 18 the Customer Care and Billing System upgrade. Thank
- 19 you to you all.
- 20 (Applause)
- 21 CHAIR O'MALLEY: We have Lisa Carreon.
- 22 Ms. Carreon is recognized -- \$50, for her outstanding
- 23 contributions towards helping the less fortunate in
- 24 our community through the annual Adopt-A-Family
- 25 Holiday Program. Thank you.

- 1 (Applause)
- 2 CHAIR O'MALLEY: We have Ernesto Unale,
- 3 Wally Gurule, Abraham Ramirez and Aaron Arzola, \$50
- 4 each. These individuals are recognized for their
- 5 successful repair of an extremely complex and
- 6 hazardous water main break in early March of this
- 7 year. Thank you.
- 8 (Applause)
- 9 CHAIR O'MALLEY: We have Filimon Martinez,
- 10 Marcus Sena, Richard Vasquez, Matthew Montano,
- 11 Anthony Wood, Anthony Contreras, George Cordova,
- 12 Joseph Sais, Pedro Benitez, Juan Archuleta, Richard
- 13 Gutierrez, Michael Gallegos, Derrick Baca, Vernon
- 14 Velarde and Raymond Garcia, \$50 each. These
- 15 individuals of the Collection Section Construction
- 16 Group are recognized for their leadership in bringing
- 17 148 manholes across different jurisdictions up to
- 18 standards to allow completion of a comprehensive
- 19 inspection of the sewer interceptor system. Thank
- 20 you all very much.
- 21 (Applause)
- 22 CHAIR O'MALLEY: And finally we have Carlos
- 23 Griego, Randy Baca, James Muniz, Daniel Altamirano,
- 24 Victor Martinez, Arlo Gonzales, Sammy Sena, Nelson
- 25 Gallegos, Robert Lucero, Jesus Cordova, Yosette

1 Yonek, Canon Duby, Henry Ortega, Steven Bottijliso,

- 2 Daniel Perez, Michael Leeds, Jacob Chavez, Paul
- 3 Smith, Daniel Bogue, Jacob Gabaldon and Brian Romero,
- 4 \$50 each. These members of the Vactor Group are
- 5 recognized for their leadership in implementation of
- 6 new documentation procedures allowing for greatly
- 7 improved asset management practices.
- 8 I want to thank you all very much for the
- 9 work you do on behalf of the Authority. You're very
- 10 much appreciated.
- 11 (Applause)
- 12 CHAIR O'MALLEY: That takes us next to
- 13 Public Comment. Ms. Carreon, how many folks do we
- 14 have signed up?
- MS. CARREON: Two.
- 16 CHAIR O'MALLEY: Two folks, okay. And
- 17 that's three minutes each. So it looks like two
- 18 minutes and after one-and-a-half minutes go by, then
- 19 you get a thirty-minute little bell so that you know
- 20 you need to wrap up. So the first person.
- 21 MS. CARREON: Our first speaker is Rudolpho
- 22 Serrano followed by Willard Hunter.
- 23 CHAIR O'MALLEY: Welcome.
- 24 MR. SERRANO: Madam O'Malley, Members of the
- 25 City, Members of Council. Well, we're jumping into

1 hard areas water, you know. I have this idea, you

- 2 know, of how to fight global warming with global
- 3 warming and I'm starting to, you know, recycle carbon
- 4 to make it an activated carbon to purify waters. And
- 5 it's a great idea because China is burning a bunch of
- 6 wood, throwing a lot of chemicals into the air that
- 7 come down here, and then we pay them for the
- 8 activated carbon to clean the water that they
- 9 polluted in the first place. It's a three-way
- 10 effort, you know. First, you know, treat it like
- 11 that. I'm trying to get support from the City and
- 12 from the County to get this business here. We can be
- 13 the first ones to do it. I do have the patent for it
- 14 and I would like to see us participate, and see if
- 15 you guys can help me in this efforts because all
- 16 waters need it, you know. I'm talking to Kirtland,
- 17 I've been pushing Kirtland. I can get half price of
- 18 what they're paying, you know. If they support me,
- 19 support them, you know. So it's just getting into
- 20 the right business, it's the right time, then we can
- 21 start timbering those woods, you know, instead of
- 22 just burning it and throw more smoke to the air,
- 23 that's phase two. But that's starting, you know.
- 24 I'm really going to need your support on this.
- 25 And the second thing is, it's a drought, you

- 1 know. Some areas of the river go up five degrees
- 2 higher than other ones and water just disappears like
- 3 that. And I was thinking solar panels, you know.
- 4 Let's make a shade and we can get five, you know,
- 5 watts of energy instead of losing five liters of
- 6 water. It's just doing the right math, that's what
- 7 I'm doing for you guys here, but I need you guys to
- 8 work with me too and hopefully we can get something
- 9 done. So I have nothing else. Thank you very much
- 10 for listening.
- 11 CHAIR O'MALLEY: Thank you.
- MS. CARREON: Our last speaker is Willard
- 13 Hunter.
- 14 CHAIR O'MALLEY: Thank you. Welcome.
- 15 MR. HUNTER: Thank you. Members of the
- 16 Bernalillo County Water Authority, Albuquerque, these
- 17 comments are actually directed toward the
- 18 representatives of the Air Force here. I've been
- 19 interested in the issue related to Sandia Labs mixed
- 20 waste cesspool for a long time and also the Kirtland
- 21 Air Force Base fuel, I call it a gush, it's not a
- 22 leak, it's a gush.
- When one would think that the primary
- 24 mission of the Air Force is to protect this country,
- 25 and I actually -- based on what the Air Force has

1 done, I really question that. In the early 1980s the

- 2 EPA required gas stations to pressure test their
- 3 buried metal fuel tanks, and I remember fuel tanks
- 4 all over the country were dug up. The Air Force
- 5 exempted itself from that requirement. They said
- 6 they don't need to do that. And the little holes
- 7 that developed out at Kirtland Air Force Base by the
- 8 early 80s developed over the last -- or 15 years
- 9 later, and the big holes that are the size or bigger
- 10 of silver dollars. And I would guess, I don't know,
- 11 but I would guess probably 95 percent of the fuel
- 12 leaked out of the fuel dump after they were supposed
- 13 to have tested that.
- Over the life of that leak an estimated 24
- 15 million gallons of aviation gas and jet fuel gushed
- into the ground at an estimated almost 70 gallons an
- 17 hour every hour for 24 years, or for the life of that
- 18 leak until it was finally discovered. So based on
- 19 that cavalier attitude that Kirtland Air Force Base
- 20 and other Air Force bases all over the country, I see
- 21 the Air Force -- the Air Force actually is a major
- 22 threat to the environment and the people of this
- 23 country. Thank you.
- 24 CHAIR O'MALLEY: Thank you. So we're going
- 25 to move up -- well, first, I guess, the next

- 1 scheduled meeting is May 22nd, 2019 in these
- 2 chambers. And then we're going to move up the two
- 3 presentations. We've got 10A, which is the status of
- 4 the Kirtland Air Force Base Bulk Fuels Facility
- 5 Cleanup followed by the Water and Drought Report. So
- 6 we have Mark Correll up. Welcome, Mr. Correll.
- 7 MR. CORRELL: Well, good evening. And thank
- 8 you very much for allowing me to come speak to you
- 9 tonight and give you an update on the Kirtland Bulk
- 10 Fuels Facility Spill Cleanup operations.
- I'm Mark Correll, I'm the Deputy Assistant
- 12 Secretary of the Air Force for Environment, Safety
- 13 and Infrastructure. Let me start off by saying, I
- 14 heard earlier today that there are a number of new
- 15 members to this Water Utility Authority, I'll say
- 16 welcome, but I'm also going to say to you, I'm not
- 17 new to this.
- 18 So I stand before you today, almost five
- 19 years from the time I first came and addressed how
- 20 the Air Force would address this cleanup. And so I
- 21 think from a standpoint of commitment from the United
- 22 States Air Force, what you're seeing is, we've been
- 23 doing this for a long time. We're going to continue
- 24 to do this for a long time. I'll give you three main
- 25 messages that I'll pass at the beginning -- at the

- 1 end of this presentation.
- 2 The first is, that the Air Force has
- 3 committed to and remains with the goal of, and where
- 4 we are today, that no one is drinking water in this
- 5 City or in Kirtland Air Force Base with EDB in it.
- 6 Second, that the Air Force remains committed
- 7 to the Kirtland Bulk Fuels Cleanup.
- And third, what I'm going to go through
- 9 tonight, that we have met or exceeded all of the
- 10 commitments we made in June of 2014 when we first
- 11 came.
- 12 So I'm not sure how the slide thing works,
- 13 but I do say, "next slide" or push a button? Ah, I
- 14 do this, okay, very good. So let me first warn you
- 15 upfront, I'm sorry, I'm from the federal government,
- 16 we use acronyms. I will try not to do that. Please
- 17 raise your hand or yell at me or something if I make
- 18 an acronym statement that you don't understand as we
- 19 go through this.
- 20 So first, what did I say in June of 2014
- 21 when I came and said, "this is what we'll do for
- 22 you." I said, "we're going to ensure that the
- 23 drinking water wells of this City never are
- 24 contaminated with EDB." Where are we today? No fuel
- 25 leak-related constituents have been detected in any

- 1 of the sentinel wells that are intended to tell us
- 2 when we're going to have a problem or in the drinking
- 3 water wells that you use for consumption today.
- 4 We're going to talk more about that, though.
- 5 When I came before I said, "we are going to
- 6 stop and then try to collapse the EDB plume." Where
- 7 are we today? The pump and treat interim measures
- 8 that we put into place for the EDB plume north of
- 9 Ridgecrest Drive are having a significant effect. We
- 10 are seeing no spread of the plume and a significant
- 11 collapse of the plume.
- 12 Finally I said, "we're going to bring the
- 13 contaminants of concern below regulatory standards."
- 14 Today the fuel source leak area is still under
- 15 investigation. We have a number of pilot projects
- 16 and treatment source solutions that we're looking at,
- 17 and I'll discuss some of those as well. To date we
- 18 have spent \$125 million towards this cleanup as of
- 19 the end of fiscal year 2018.
- 20 So let's talk a little bit about ensuring
- 21 the drinking water wells remain protected. Drinking
- 22 water wells in the City are tested monthly and have
- 23 been for the entire time I've been associated with
- 24 this project. Where are we today? We have yet to
- 25 detect, ever, any EDB or fuel-related constituent in

- 1 any of the drinking water in the system.
- We're trying to define the plume. How have
- 3 we done that? Since I came in 2014 we've added 62
- 4 monitoring wells, bringing us to a total of 159
- 5 monitoring wells that have, in our estimation,
- 6 effectively determined the length, width and depth of
- 7 this plume.
- 8 We have also installed 24 sentinel wells
- 9 located between the plume and drinking water sources
- 10 that are sampled quarterly and throughout this period
- 11 none of those sentinel wells have ever detected any
- 12 EDB or any other constituent of concern to us.
- There has been of late, though, concern
- 14 about the water table rising and what did that mean
- 15 to us. So let me talk a little bit about our
- 16 response to the water table rise. So during that
- 17 time frame, because the water table rose, essentially
- 18 what happened is, about 61 of those 159 wells became
- 19 submerged and consequently the data wasn't as
- 20 effective for us in determining where the plume was
- 21 and what was going on.
- We installed 15 new wells to help us
- 23 understand what was happening due to the water level
- 24 rise. There were also 12 wells that were already
- 25 above the water table, such that they were useless to

- 1 us until the water table rose, and so we actually
- 2 started getting good data from them. And then we had
- 3 about 8 wells that were within 5 feet of the table
- 4 rise, consequently allowing us to use the data from
- 5 them as well. At this point we now have 43
- 6 functional wells telling us what's going on with the
- 7 water table.
- What did the data from that tell us? It
- 9 told us that the plume was unaffected by the water
- 10 table rise, which did not surprise us from a
- 11 scientific standpoint, but it also goes a little
- 12 farther and helps us understand that later, when I
- 13 show you how the EDB plume is collapsing, because the
- 14 results were exactly as predicted, it helps us
- 15 understand that, in fact, that plume collapse that
- 16 I'm going to show you is, in fact, real. It's not
- 17 the result of dilution as a result of the water
- 18 coming up. It's, in fact, a result of the interim
- 19 measures and the pump and treat that we've had in
- 20 place to make this happen.
- 21 The last thing that I would note on this one
- 22 is, there is one more sentinel well that we intend to
- 23 place in 2019 and it will be located -- if you're
- looking at the slide, at the very top that yellow
- 25 area with that kind of blob at the very top there,

1 we'll be installing one more sentinel well just to

- 2 make sure that there's no place that the EDB could
- 3 move towards our drinking water supplies here in
- 4 Albuquerque.
- 5 So I've led you up to, what does the plume
- 6 look like today? So on the left-hand side what
- 7 you're seeing there is, what did it look like in the
- 8 second quarter of 2015 and what does the plume look
- 9 like today? For reference, where you can see the
- 10 dark line, that is our target area of concern, that's
- 11 the area north of Ridgecrest that -- and I'll talk
- 12 about south of Ridgecrest later. That's the area
- 13 north of Ridgecrest.
- 14 Let me make some points here, though, to say
- 15 that the Air Force, again, remains committed to this
- 16 pump and treat interim measure. We have no intention
- of reducing that until it's necessary to do so. The
- 18 investments that we've made to add an additional
- 19 extraction well, so a fourth well that we put into
- 20 place in February of '18 has doubled the capacity of
- 21 the treatment plant and add disposition methods that
- 22 clearly demonstrate our commitment to keep working on
- 23 this project.
- I'd like to thank some folks, though. The
- 25 technical working groups that have been involved in

1 determining how we would do things, like locate the

- 2 EDB plume site, site the extraction wells, establish
- 3 the pumping rates at which it would be most effective
- 4 to use those wells. And so who's been involved in
- 5 that that I need to thank? Well, there's been
- 6 members of the Albuquerque Bernalillo County Water
- 7 Utility Authority. There's been folks from the City
- 8 of Albuquerque, the EPA and the U.S. Geological
- 9 Survey, as well as team members from the Air Force
- 10 that have put this together.
- 11 One of the things that we talked about when
- 12 we came in 2014, at that time what we call the -- the
- 13 EPA calls its Fate and Transport Model, where are
- things going to go and how do we think that's going
- 15 to end up. They thought at that time, based on the
- 16 estimated data that was available, that it would take
- 17 us about ten years to get all of the EDB south of
- 18 Ridgecrest. Now, in this year there will be a new
- 19 EPA model that's coming out and it will have the
- 20 benefit of the data that we've collected over the
- 21 last almost five years and I think we're all going to
- 22 be pleasantly surprised to see it's going to be way
- less than ten years before we get the EDB plume
- less south of Ridgecrest, as we had intended.
- 25 So kind of, what have we done from a pump

1 and treat? What are the results that you've seen so

- 2 far? So the effluent that we receive from our pump
- 3 and treat system right now is non-detect for all Safe
- 4 Drinking Water Act contaminants. To date we've
- 5 pumped 615 million gallons of groundwater and that's
- 6 resulted in about 113 grams of EDB that's been
- 7 removed. Now, that doesn't sound like very much and
- 8 it isn't very much, but one of the reasons is,
- 9 because north of Ridgecrest what we're finding is,
- 10 there isn't a high concentration of EDB, that's good
- 11 news. That means that the risk and the threat is
- 12 low, but it also means, even with those small
- amounts, we're able to capture them and make sure
- 14 that they don't reach the water supply.
- Within the target area we've reduced 86
- 16 percent of the mass of EDB. So what you're looking
- 17 at on this chart is kind of two lines, which is the
- 18 blue line, which is the target capture zone of how
- 19 much EDB is there. And then the green line that's
- 20 going up is the how much have we captured going out.
- 21 So about 86 percent of it we believe we've captured.
- 22 A fair question it would be, so how do you
- 23 know about that? So what do we do is, we'll test,
- 24 and it's an estimate, but it's a pretty good estimate
- 25 and gets better as time goes along. We test at the

1 sites at each one of these monitoring wells, what is

- 2 the concentration we're seeing. Then we look at,
- 3 what is the concentration of water that's coming into
- 4 our influent, coming into the pump and treat versus
- 5 what's coming out. And when you measure those
- 6 differences you're able to see this reduction.
- 7 So as I looked at the chart one of the
- 8 questions I asked is, well, how could it go up and
- 9 down? How could it go down and then go back up? So
- 10 it's an estimate and you're going to get variations
- 11 as you go through this. The important part is to
- 12 look at the trend. So at the end of the day, while
- 13 this number might not be particularly exact in terms
- 14 of it, you look at the trend, the 86 percent is
- 15 pretty close to on target. So it might be 85, it
- 16 might be 87, but the trend shows you dramatic
- 17 reduction in the mass of EDB.
- 18 So let me go to the source area a little bit
- 19 and talk about, what are we doing in the source area?
- 20 So by the source area I'm going to talk about the
- 21 area where the spill actually occurred, and then
- 22 really all the way up to Ridgecrest from there.
- We've got a couple of pilots that are
- 24 ongoing right now. One is associated with the
- 25 ethylene dibromide in-situ bioremediation pilot test.

1 So what are we talking about in there? We are going

- 2 to use that bioremediation where we will essentially
- 3 add food to the ground in an attempt to get the
- 4 appropriate kinds of bacteria to eat the EDB, for
- 5 lack of a better term. We've done some testing on
- 6 this and we've got an initial report that's going to
- 7 be due to the New Mexico Environmental Department on
- 8 the 1st of May, but the results have been
- 9 extraordinarily promising in the pilot.
- 10 Now, I warn everybody, a pilot is just that,
- 11 it's a test and it's a test under certain
- 12 circumstances. Can we scale that to the rest of the
- 13 area that we need to address? That remains to be
- 14 seen, but the pilot is encouraging on the EDB.
- The second test we've got is in the soil
- 16 vapor extraction area, and what we call the vadose
- 17 zone where we ran, for about 12 years, a soil vapor
- 18 extraction program to get that vapor and condense it
- 19 and then burn it off or remove it from the soil.
- 20 Doing that over the course of about 12 years really
- 21 dried that soil out and we kind of made soil vapor
- 22 extraction something that was no longer viable for
- 23 us.
- What we're going to do under this pilot is
- 25 add oxygen and add water and see if we can

1 reinvigorate that soil vapor extraction. We're going

- 2 to run a pilot test on that between April and October
- 3 of 2019 and then the first results you see will be
- 4 sometime in early 2020. The objective of that is to
- 5 be able to -- can we get at the vapor in areas that
- 6 we weren't able to get at with the soil vapor
- 7 extraction.
- 8 In the source area, just so you know, we
- 9 have also completed all of the excavation of 4,800
- 10 tons of soil. The 12 years of soil vapor extraction
- 11 and what we took out during that time frame. We also
- 12 tried some other things, something called
- 13 bioslurping, which is where we go and try to get free
- 14 product that's between the ground and the water and
- 15 bring that up. So we did that for about four years,
- 16 didn't find that we found a lot of free product, but
- 17 a number of things have been done to make that
- 18 happen.
- 19 COUNCILOR DAVIS: Madam Chair.
- 20 CHAIR O'MALLEY: Councilor Davis.
- 21 COUNCILOR DAVIS: Mr. Correll, before you go
- 22 on, if you could go back really quickly to
- 23 bioremediation, if you'll allow me to interrupt, I
- 24 think while we're here.
- 25 MR. CORRELL: To this one?

1 COUNCILOR DAVIS: Yes, sir. Thank you.

- 2 MR. CORRELL: Sure.
- 3 COUNCILOR DAVIS: It's been my understanding
- 4 in previous presentations to the community that in
- 5 discussing this, the bioremediation test included, as
- 6 you're saying, putting water and vapor back and
- 7 oxygen back into the ground to help the bacteria.
- 8 But there was also, I understand, maybe a lab test
- 9 that also showed that by adding additional bacteria
- 10 could fast-track this process significantly, but I
- 11 understand that's not a part of the pilots that are
- 12 being conducted in the field at this time.
- Can you tell us why they decided not to take
- 14 that extra step that had generated the most bang for
- 15 our buck, sort of, in the lab.
- MR. CORRELL: Sure. So let me do two things
- 17 first. So the oxygen and water is really about the
- 18 bioventing, not about the bioremediation. So for the
- 19 lab tests on bioremediation I'm going to ask
- 20 Ms. Lynnes, because that's beyond my technical scope.
- 21 COUNCILOR DAVIS: Thank you.
- MS. LYNNES: That's a really good question,
- 23 Councilman Davis. The reason that we asked the New
- 24 Mexico Environment Department to put that part of the
- 25 EDB in-situ bioremediation on the shelf temporarily,

1 it's because we actually found we had such a robust

- 2 community of naturally dehalogenating bacteria down
- 3 in our subsurface that when we fed them, they did
- 4 such a great job and knocked it back so fast, and
- 5 they were so robust, our feeling was that adding the
- 6 additional bacteria, they would have been overwhelmed
- 7 by the existing bacteria there and it really would
- 8 not have added anything to it. So instead of doing
- 9 that we did a second phase of biostimulation, giving
- 10 them more food. And we're in the process of
- 11 collecting the data on that second round.
- Now, we haven't totally given up on
- 13 necessarily trying the additional bacteria, it's kind
- of on the shelf. But from the first round that we've
- 15 seen, and when we see the data from the second round,
- 16 I think we found that the bacteria that we already
- 17 had there are doing a bang-up job. And I've actually
- 18 talked to some other folks that do this and they said
- 19 a lot of times when you have that kind of robust
- 20 activity down there, adding those other bacteria,
- 21 they kind of like just disappear and they get
- 22 overwhelmed.
- 23 COUNCILOR DAVIS: Sure. Ms. Lynnes, I don't
- 24 want to take too long, I want to continue the
- 25 presentation. But on this point, because I'm not a

- 1 scientist on this, but it seems to me that the two
- 2 things we're hearing don't make sense or don't seem
- 3 to come together very well. In one slide, or in one
- 4 presentation, we're saying that the 12 years of sort
- 5 of drying everything out has really degraded both the
- 6 vapor and the oxygen and the water capacity, the
- 7 water down ground. But at the same time we're
- 8 saying, there's still a robust biocommunity there
- 9 that's doing the work, and I think we've seen
- 10 conflicting people who've said those two things
- 11 cannot -- we've heard from other presentations, those
- 12 two things cannot exist simultaneously. Can you help
- 13 remedy that for me.
- 14 MS. LYNNES: Councilman Davis, I think
- 15 Mr. Correll was trying to get to that point as well.
- 16 We're actually talking about two different pilot
- 17 tests.
- 18 COUNCILOR DAVIS: Sure. But I'm saying
- 19 they're happening on the same soil.
- 20 MS. LYNNES: No, they're two very different
- 21 things. So the EDB pilot is actually focused at the
- 22 groundwater and the NAPL in that area. So we're not
- 23 talking about the vadose zone. So we're talking
- 24 about two different things here.
- 25 So the EDB pilot, where we decided not to

- 1 add the -- you know, I call them the gentrified
- 2 bacteria, is, that's in the groundwater. So it's a
- 3 totally different thing.
- In the area of the vadose zone is what's
- 5 above the 500 feet above and that is where we did
- 6 kind of beat up the aerobic bacteria. So these are
- 7 anaerobic bacteria and ethylene dibromide. These are
- 8 aerobic bacteria in the vadose zone. So it's two
- 9 separate things. And so those bacteria we were
- 10 pretty mean to and we did desiccate them and take
- 11 their oxygen level down too far. So that's why
- 12 they're -- we're not actually adding water, we're
- 13 adding moisture and ambient air to try to revitalize
- 14 them. So we're actually talking about two very
- 15 separate things.
- 16 COUNCILOR DAVIS: Thanks, Ms. Lynnes. And
- 17 the Chair reminded me, if you would, Kate, just state
- 18 your name and your title for the record.
- 19 MS. LYNNES: Oh, I apologize. My name is
- 20 Kathryn Lynnes, L-y-n-n-e-s, and I'm the Senior
- 21 Advisor for the Bulk Fuels Project for the Air Force.
- 22 COUNCILOR DAVIS: Thank you, Madam Chair.
- 23 Mr. Correll, thanks for letting us go down that
- 24 rabbit hole. I know it was something that had come
- 25 up previously.

1 COMMISSIONER HART STEBBINS: Madam Chair, if

- 2 I may.
- 3 CHAIR O'MALLEY: Commissioner Stebbins.
- 4 COMMISSIONER HART STEBBINS: This is a
- 5 question for staff. Do we have a copy of this
- 6 presentation? I don't see it available in our
- 7 packets.
- 8 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SANCHEZ: Madam Chair,
- 9 Commissioner Hart Stebbins, no, it's electronic only
- 10 at the podium.
- 11 COMMISSIONER HART STEBBINS: But that was
- 12 not included in our meeting documents.
- 13 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SANCHEZ: We did not
- 14 receive it in a sufficient time to do that.
- 15 COMMISSIONER HART STEBBINS: All right.
- 16 Thank you. Thank you, Madam Chair.
- 17 MR. CORRELL: And I'll take responsibility
- 18 for that. For me to make a presentation I have to
- 19 write it, I have to get it through Public Affairs, I
- 20 have to get it through legal, and so we didn't get it
- 21 to you until yesterday, was the soonest I could get
- 22 it to you.
- 23 So let's talk a little bit more about south
- 24 of Ridgecrest. So south of Ridgecrest, because we've
- 25 been dealing most with the target zone, where are we

- 1 headed from there?
- 2 So on the first bullet what you're seeing
- 3 is, we have conducted coring across about 3,500
- 4 linear feet, including 300 samples from several
- 5 different locations. What is the goal of that
- 6 coring? What it's going to do is, it's going to tell
- 7 us for the non-aqueous phase liquid, I have to
- 8 remember what the acronyms stand for too, for the
- 9 non-aqueous phase liquids, where has it smeared?
- 10 So as you know, this stuff sits kind of
- 11 between the soil and the water, has it smeared and
- 12 how much has it smeared? It's going to tell us where
- 13 has that occurred. It's going to tell us what the
- 14 current constituents of that non-aqueous phase
- 15 liquids are so that we can then decide what's the
- 16 best approach to handle those areas.
- 17 So I think it goes to a great point that
- 18 Commissioner Davis was getting to, which is, each one
- 19 of these areas has something different. We removed
- 20 soil and just got rid of it and remediated it. We're
- 21 pumping and treating water, that treats one piece of
- 22 this. Soil vapor extraction treats a different
- 23 aspect of this. And so now we have this non-aqueous
- 24 phase liquid that we have to deal with as well and
- 25 that's what we'll be working with from this coring

1 area. Once we have that it will inform to us what is

- 2 the best approach, how can we best go about treating
- 3 the constituents that are in that area.
- What is the status? We expect that we're
- 5 going to have our initial results on this this summer
- 6 and that we will have a report to the New Mexico
- 7 Environmental Department by fall -- actually November
- 8 is where we think we want to go.
- 9 So you can see there -- I'll just take a
- 10 second to talk about the nine cores that were
- 11 converted to two well ground monitoring nests.
- 12 What's a ground watering nest? Essentially what it
- means is, when we put these in the ground, we'll put
- 14 two wells essentially parallel to each other. One a
- 15 little bit higher than the other. The one that's
- 16 lower is in the water table now and the one that's
- 17 higher is above it, so that if we have another event
- 18 where the water table goes up and it gets submerged,
- 19 we can use the data from the second one.
- The six wells in the vapor monitoring nests
- 21 are the same construct where we will put wells at
- 22 varying levels so that if things change we'll be able
- 23 to use them. Why six instead of two? Because it's
- 24 500 feet of vadose zone where the vapor is, but we
- 25 only have to deal with the NAPL at a very much

- 1 narrower area at the top of the water table. So
- 2 that's what we're trying to get to as we deal with
- 3 the area south of Ridgecrest.
- 4 So one of the other things I wanted to
- 5 highlight was the community outreach that we've done
- 6 in the last four-and-a-half, almost five years since
- 7 we've been working on this program. So not to say
- 8 this is all we would ever do, but the requirement
- 9 that we have under the Resource Conservation and
- 10 Recovery Act is to have two public meetings per year
- 11 and that is all we are required to do. You can see
- 12 the list of what's on here. And by the way, this is
- 13 just for the Kirtland Bulk Fuel Spill.
- 14 We still do two public meetings every year
- 15 at Kirtland for all the other cleanups that we have,
- 16 but for the Kirtland Bulk Fuels Facility Spill we do
- 17 this many public meetings, plus all of the others
- 18 that you see here. So I believe the Air Force is
- 19 committed to engaging with the community, informing
- 20 the community and giving the opportunity for the
- 21 community to hear and understand what the Air Force
- is doing and where we're headed as we go forward.
- Last slide is, so what's the way ahead?
- 24 I'll caveat the way ahead is by saying, this is the
- 25 Air Force's way ahead. I still have to work with New

1 Mexico Environmental Department and the regulators,

- 2 so their timetable is not necessarily mine. But
- 3 where we wish to go on this is, we will have a
- 4 National Pollutant Discharge permit hopefully issued
- 5 by the EPA in 2019. We hope to never have to use
- 6 that permit, but what would that permit allow us to
- 7 do? It would allow us potentially to take the clean
- 8 water that comes out of the pump and treat system
- 9 that is completely compliant with the Safe Drinking
- 10 Water Act, and if for some reason we couldn't put it
- on a golf course or if for some reason we couldn't
- 12 re-inject it, we'd be able to surface release that
- 13 water as long as it met the permit requirements. We
- 14 expect to have that permit this year.
- I already talked about the bioventing pilot
- 16 test that we intend to implement this year and the
- 17 shallow soil vapor data, that's the core samples that
- 18 I was talking about that we expect to have this year
- 19 as well.
- 20 In 2020 we will have a second injection well
- 21 that will be completed, and what does that mean?
- 22 That means that we will have two -- we have one well
- 23 that's really reliable and one that's fairly old for
- 24 re-injection, the water that we get out of the pump
- 25 and treat system. We'll have another well that will

1 be more reliable and that should cover any potential

- 2 problems should one well go down, we'll have no
- 3 problem with a place to put the water that's coming
- 4 out of the pump and treat system.
- 5 And then in 2020 we hope that the site
- 6 investigation phase will be completed with this
- 7 coring report that I just talked about and that we'll
- 8 get Phase II of the RFI report. The Phase II -- we
- 9 already have the -- Phase I was, what do we think,
- 10 that's defining the plume. Phase II is, okay, now
- 11 that the water table rose, what do we think now,
- 12 that's what Phase II is. We hope to have that
- 13 complete in 2020.
- In 2021 we'd like them to approve that
- 15 report with an updated risk assessment. And then
- 16 hopefully we're going to have the Corrective Measures
- 17 Evaluation report started in 2021. Then beyond that
- 18 we would get the corrective measures implementation.
- 19 And so that's kind of where we are as we go ahead.
- The Corrective Measures Evaluation, we think
- 21 is about a one- to two-year process. Again, that is
- 22 highly dependent on how long the regulators wish to
- 23 review it.
- 24 So let me conclude then by saying, as I
- 25 started, so I'm back here four-and-a-half years

1 later. And as I mentioned, Ms. Lynnes is here, she's

- 2 been here almost five years and she's been with me
- 3 for almost four years of that. The Air Force is
- 4 committed to this project. No one's drinking water
- 5 with EDB in it. We remain committed to the Kirtland
- 6 Bulk Fuels cleanup. We recognize what the Air
- 7 Force's responsibility is and we've made commitments
- 8 to you. And in every one of those commitments we've
- 9 met that commitment or we've exceeded it and we're
- 10 not done. We will continue working on this.
- 11 So let me stop there and I'll be happy to
- 12 take any additional questions that you have for me.
- 13 CHAIR O'MALLEY: Members. Commissioner
- 14 Stebbins.
- 15 COMMISSIONER HART STEBBINS: Thank you,
- 16 Madam Chair. And I want to say, Secretary Correll,
- 17 thank you for being here. There is certainly a lot
- 18 of good news, a lot of good news to celebrate
- 19 tonight, and I really give you full credit for that.
- 20 When you came in 2014 you made a point of listening
- 21 to all of us in the local government and listening to
- 22 our concerns. And at that time, and it continues to
- 23 be the dissolve phase, and what kind of threat --
- 24 sorry, the dissolve phase plume and what threat that
- 25 represented to our drinking water well.

1 So when we look at the map and we see the

- 2 accomplishments on that, that's fantastic. And
- 3 again, I want to thank you for that. And I know, as
- 4 you said, there are lots of people who also deserve
- 5 to be thanked and there were some really key people
- 6 that you brought on, like Dr. Baddoor, Trent Simpler.
- 7 There were people who made that happen and I want to
- 8 make sure that we recognize them as well, because
- 9 we're seeing the results of their work.
- 10 So your presentation said 85 or 86 percent
- of the EDB mass has been captured in the target
- 12 capture zone. Do you have an estimate of what
- percent of the total plume has been captured?
- MR. CORRELL: I'd have to take that one and
- 15 get back to you on it. So, I don't know. And I
- 16 don't know that we have that data yet for the south
- of Ridgecrest so that we really know how much there
- 18 is. We've got a really robust measurement system
- 19 north of Ridgecrest and we're working more on some of
- 20 these other aspects. But south of Ridgecrest, if you
- 21 don't mind I'll take that one for the record and I'll
- 22 get back to you on that.
- 23 COMMISSIONER HART STEBBINS: That would be
- 24 great. So the area south of Ridgecrest. So, again,
- 25 I think there was an agreement among all of us that

1 the target capture zone would be north of Ridgecrest.

- 2 There still is some EDB, some significant
- 3 concentrations in the plume that is south of
- 4 Ridgecrest. Are there plans to install extraction
- 5 wells south of Ridgecrest to begin addressing that
- 6 EDB that's outside the target capture zone?
- 7 MR. CORRELL: That's a great question, it
- allows me to talk a little bigger picture discussion
- 9 on this. So what are we doing here under this
- 10 interim measures? We're doing something ahead of the
- 11 CME, ahead of our Corrective Measures Evaluation.
- 12 How does this normally work?
- So we have 4,300 cleanup sites in the Air
- 14 Force, so how does this work under the CRCA and RCRA
- 15 process normally. Normally we don't do any of this
- 16 until we finish the equivalent of the Corrective
- 17 Measures Evaluation, we do none of it. We don't
- 18 start any of the pump and treat. At Kirtland we
- 19 started this way in advance of it.
- 20 At this point in time with the four pump and
- 21 treats that we have in place and the other data we
- 22 have, we think we've got a sufficient interim
- 23 measure. So at this point what we would do is finish
- 24 the analysis that I talked about where we're doing
- 25 the soil cores, get that information and then use

- 1 that in the Corrective Measures Evaluation to
- 2 determine what's the right answer. It could be pump
- 3 and treat, but it might be something different.
- 4 So at this point nobody's drinking water --
- 5 plume's not moving. What we would want to do is get
- 6 that data, find out what the right answer is and then
- 7 take the correct action to address it, which could be
- 8 pump and treat, but we don't know that yet.
- 9 COMMISSIONER HART STEBBINS: And that would
- 10 be, I think you gave a timeline for completion of the
- 11 CMEs might be 2023?
- MR. CORRELL: So we would like to have the
- 13 CME started in 2021. It will take one to two years
- 14 to do that, depending on the number of questions that
- 15 we have. And by the way, that is also an opportunity
- 16 for -- the reason -- why does it take that long?
- 17 It's not just, I send it to NMED and they sit on it
- 18 for two years. There will be an opportunity for
- 19 public review, public comment, very robust
- 20 investigation, because at that point we're all coming
- 21 to an agreement on, this is what the plume contains
- 22 and this is how big it is. So it will take a little
- 23 while to do that. So we are estimating it will take
- 24 one to two years to make that happen. And you all
- 25 will be a part of that.

1 COMMISSIONER HART STEBBINS: You have this

- 2 world-class pump and treat facility. And again, I
- 3 want to thank you. I do recognize that you did
- 4 actively respond to our concerns to get this work
- 5 done now and I appreciate that.
- 6 So you've got this amazing pump and treat
- 7 system, which is working incredibly quickly. What
- 8 happens -- does it shut down when the EDB in the
- 9 target capture zone has been removed?
- 10 MR. CORRELL: Great question again, so
- 11 thanks, I appreciate you -- these are great
- 12 questions. So one of the things that we will do as
- 13 part of the Corrective Measures Evaluation, we will
- 14 then get the corrective measures implementation. So
- in conjunction with the regulator a decision will be
- 16 made, the equivalent of a record of decision that
- 17 says, "okay, we've looked at all of the information
- 18 and here's what we've decided. We've decided we're
- 19 going to do these things and we're going to do them
- 20 for this long a period of time." Typically not
- 21 time-based. Typically results-based.
- 22 So in this particular case, as we've said
- 23 before, the maximum contaminant level, for example,
- 24 for EDB is five micrograms per nanoliter. The record
- of decision will likely say, "you will run this until

- 1 you achieve a certain level in your groundwater."
- 2 Once you've achieved that level, then we will move to
- 3 another phase, typically long-term monitoring, to see
- 4 whether or not there's rebound and the numbers go
- 5 back up again or they were able to -- or do we need
- 6 to continue that pump and treat or is it, have we, in
- 7 fact, finished at some point.
- 8 So the goal is no, you don't want to run
- 9 pump and treat forever. You want to run it until you
- 10 don't need it anymore. And the record of decision
- 11 will tell us when we think that is, but there's
- 12 always a long, long-term monitoring period where we
- 13 have to constantly check and see, did it stay that
- 14 way or did something bad happen after we left.
- 15 COMMISSIONER HART STEBBINS: So any
- operational changes in the pump and treat system
- 17 would be contingent upon additional --
- 18 MR. CORRELL: Corrective Measures Evaluation
- 19 and implementation agreement.
- 20 COMMISSIONER HART STEBBINS: So nothing
- 21 short-term.
- MR. CORRELL: No. So if your question is,
- 23 are we going to shut the thing down? We are not
- 24 shutting the pump and treat down. It's going to go,
- 25 it's continuing to go. And we have no plans to

- 1 curtail it at all.
- 2 COMMISSIONER HART STEBBINS: Great. And you
- 3 mentioned some of the deadlines that have been
- 4 established by NMED. And I know some of those were
- 5 in a letter that was dated February 25th. Do you
- 6 anticipate meeting all of those deadlines?
- 7 MR. CORRELL: We do.
- 8 COMMISSIONER HART STEBBINS: That's
- 9 excellent. Can you just talk about the status of the
- 10 vapor risk assessment.
- 11 MR. CORRELL: So I'm going to ask Ms. Lynnes
- 12 to come up and talk about that. I'm aware that she's
- 13 briefed me, but my concern is I will misspeak. So
- 14 let me let her do that.
- 15 MS. LYNNES: Thank you, Commissioner Hart
- 16 Stebbins. So as part of the State's conditional
- 17 approval of our risk assessment they requested that
- 18 we do some additional shallow soil vapor borings,
- 19 kind of over by where the VA has close -- where they
- 20 have buildings, and up just at the edge of Bullhead
- 21 Park, and then like across the street like into
- 22 Lassiter Park near the homes.
- 23 You know, in our last stakeholder meeting,
- 24 you know, Dennis McQuillan, the chief scientist for
- 25 NMED said, "I don't really think there's anything

1 there." Bart Faris from the City of Albuquerque

- 2 echoed that. We really don't think there's anything
- 3 there, but we want to kind of do belts and
- 4 suspenders. And one of the reasons for this is, in
- 5 those vapor monitoring nests that Mr. Correll
- 6 mentioned, our shallowest one is 25 feet down. And
- 7 so we basically took that data and said -- that's
- 8 just like, we're going to take that concentration and
- 9 assume it's right under your floor, when we did the
- 10 risk assessment. And it was found to be okay. But
- 11 we don't have actual data from that shallower zone,
- 12 which is how you evaluate whether or not there's a
- 13 potential for vapor intrusion. You're looking at
- 14 five to ten feet below grade. So that's why we're
- 15 going to do those. And we will have the work plan to
- 16 the State within the time frame established in that
- 17 letter.
- 18 The State wants us to do two sampling
- 19 rounds, one in the summer, one in the winter, because
- 20 the concentrations tend to be higher in the winter,
- 21 if we find any concentrations. And then there will
- 22 be a summary report that's due to the State whenever
- 23 they establish when it's due, because we don't have a
- 24 date for that yet. And then that will feed into an
- 25 amended risk assessment either as part of the CME or

- 1 at the end of the RFI Phase II.
- 2 And just one other quick thing. You asked
- 3 what's the plume capture south of Ridgecrest. This
- 4 system is not designed to affect that. So that's why
- 5 Well 239, which is right there on Ridgecrest by San
- 6 Pedro, that is at the foot of that target capture
- 7 zone, that's Well 239, the one we're pumping at a
- 8 lower rate, like around 75 GPM. Again, this interim
- 9 measure is only designed to address that dissolve
- 10 phase EDB alone plume and it doesn't affect the rest
- 11 of the plume south of there.
- 12 COMMISSIONER HART STEBBINS: Thank you. Two
- 13 more quick questions. Budget. So federal budget.
- 14 Do you have any concerns? I know there's been
- 15 discussion in the media about perhaps infrastructure
- 16 dollars being diverted from military installations
- 17 around the country. Any concerns about funding
- 18 availability for this?
- 19 MR. CORRELL: So the answer to that question
- 20 is no. It's been asked several times. And so what I
- 21 will tell you is, we remain committed to this
- 22 program. You will see budget fluctuations here
- 23 throughout this program. Why is that? When we
- install a pump and treat well, or when we built the
- 25 building, that's going to be a big spend year. Once

- 1 the well is in place, now all I have to pay for is
- 2 operations and maintenance and sustainment of that
- 3 well. So every year you'll see ups and downs in the
- 4 budgets, but they're based on reflecting what is the
- 5 requirement to meet the need. But I do not
- 6 anticipate any challenges in meeting our budgetary
- 7 need for this project, or frankly any others that we
- 8 have.
- 9 COMMISSIONER HART STEBBINS: One final
- 10 question, and this is really based on recent
- 11 conversations with some of our local Air Force
- 12 leadership. Would you say the Air Force is committed
- 13 to continuing to include the Water Authority as a
- 14 stakeholder?
- 15 MR. CORRELL: So I would say yes. And so at
- 16 the end of the day we have to recognize the regulator
- 17 is the New Mexico Environmental Department and we are
- 18 the regulated entity, and so that relationship
- 19 between the Air Force and the New Mexico
- 20 Environmental Department is the decision
- 21 relationship. At the same time there's value in
- 22 bringing many stakeholders in to participate, and
- 23 we've seen that. And so the folks who have
- 24 participated from the Albuquerque Bernalillo County
- 25 Water Utility Authority have provided great value as

1 advisors to us. I would expect they will continue to

- 2 do that.
- 3 One of the things folks need to recognize
- 4 though as we move forward on it, when we first
- 5 started this we didn't know what we were going to do.
- 6 Lots of discussion. Lots of input required. Now
- 7 we're at a point where we've got our four wells for
- 8 the EDB plume in. We think our interim measures,
- 9 with the exception of some of these pilot tests, are
- 10 pretty well set until we get to the Corrective
- 11 Measures Evaluations. So the need for lots more
- 12 change and input is probably going to be smaller as
- 13 we go forward, but I think all the players will still
- 14 need to be there and we will value their input.
- 15 COMMISSIONER HART STEBBINS: And again,
- 16 thank you so much for being here tonight. And thank
- 17 you, Madam Chair.
- 18 CHAIR O'MALLEY: Councilor Davis.
- 19 COUNCILOR DAVIS: Thank you, Madam Chair.
- 20 Mr. Correll, thank you again. And, Ms. Lynnes, thank
- 21 you so much. I just wanted to follow up again to the
- 22 Commissioner's point there and just reiterate how
- 23 important it is. I know in the last, sort of,
- 24 several quarters that -- on the Air Force side of the
- 25 table in terms of this sort of roundtable with NMED

1 and others, there seems to have been a -- there's a

- 2 perception that the Air Force is sort of pushing some
- 3 of those data-driven stakeholders or data contributor
- 4 stakeholders out. And I think what you said tonight
- 5 is exactly well stated, and due to the work of the
- 6 Air Force that to date there are no contaminants in
- 7 our drinking water, but I think that's, in big part,
- 8 to the Water Authority stepping up to add not only
- 9 technical expertise, but also being able to sit at
- 10 the table, validate questions, and ask for more
- 11 clarification on data so that we can put that back to
- 12 our rate holders because the are the ratepayers,
- 13 because there's no -- as you said, there's no way for
- 14 us to unring that bell once we get to that place.
- 15 And so I just hope that we can continue to have a
- 16 more transparent process on the data side instead of
- on the post-report side, because that helps us
- 18 reassure our constituents and our ratepayers that
- 19 we're doing -- that you are doing a good job and we
- 20 trust that data. I have no doubt that it's true at
- 21 this point, but still we know that in the past there
- 22 has been frustration there and we don't want to lose
- 23 that good momentum.
- I did want to follow up really quickly to
- 25 the point that was made about the vadose zone and

1 sort of monitoring at the Bullhead Park. And I know

- 2 Ms. Lynnes mentioned Lassiter Park, which is actually
- 3 a neighborhood there. And as you mentioned, three of
- 4 those wells had earlier, in addition to other things,
- 5 benzene as well in those 25-foot below ground level
- 6 monitoring, and we haven't seen anything further. I
- 7 understand that the Air Force has a deadline of a
- 8 couple of days, I think, in May to put a plan forward
- 9 on what we do to continue to monitor those. But I
- 10 think there's a real concern, that the Air Force has
- 11 offered, for example, for us to -- I see Colonel
- 12 Alvarez back there, he's been a great partner with us
- in the community and the Air Force Base; have offered
- 14 for us to take over additional Air Force land there
- 15 as open space and maintain it. And we're doing some
- 16 significant improvements and investments in our
- 17 public parks there, but I think we have some concern
- 18 from community members that if there is a pathway or
- 19 if there's a lack of data between the 25-foot level
- 20 and the ground level that we don't yet have, as we do
- 21 more activity and more construction and more
- 22 investment in those parks, we need to -- we want to
- 23 fast-track the process to ensuring that there is no
- 24 pathway.
- 25 And I think maybe I'm going to end with a

1 question by saying, I understand there's some concern

- 2 that the data points that were presented about
- 3 exposure levels or potential pathways was based on
- 4 indoor sort of numbers, right, under your house, for
- 5 example, but not necessarily in -- whether direct
- 6 impact with the soil for outdoor activities and play
- 7 activities, open space activities, was considered.
- 8 And so I'm curious what the Air Force has planned to
- 9 close that data gap is in a rapid-fire secession and
- 10 how we can move forward to ensure that we're meeting
- 11 those deadlines.
- 12 MR. CORRELL: So I'll let --
- 13 COUNCILOR DAVIS: That was a lot.
- 14 MR. CORRELL: -- Kate jump in in a second,
- 15 but -- so several things there. So first of all, the
- 16 way I heard her explain the shallow was, we had taken
- 17 a pretty conservative approach of saying, if it's at
- 18 25 feet, we're going to presume it's at zero, which
- 19 -- and I do vapor stuff outside of just EDB. That's
- 20 a pretty conservative approach. That means that if
- 21 it's bad there I'm going to presume it's bad at the
- 22 top. It might actually not be.
- I will also tell you that, in general, when
- 24 I look at vapor intrusion issues across our Air Force
- 25 portfolio, the indoor is a far more concern because

- 1 there's not a lot of air movement. So generally
- 2 speaking, again, that's a very conservative approach
- 3 to use the indoor standard. Because, generally
- 4 speaking, when you're outside, when you're dealing
- 5 with radon and things like that it's -- when you're
- 6 indoors it's a problem. When you're outdoors it's
- 7 not a problem.
- 8 That said, when we get this information, and
- 9 if you want to do work out there, even with vapor
- 10 intrusion it's not that you can't do work, you have
- 11 to have vapor barriers, you have to do things to
- 12 account for it. So I think we'll get the information
- 13 you need so it can be safe and will be safe. And
- 14 then let me let Kate add anything else she wants to
- 15 to it.
- 16 COUNCILOR DAVIS: Thanks, Ms. Lynnes.
- 17 MS. LYNNES: And just to keep in mind that
- 18 those -- you know, Mr. Correll was correct in what he
- 19 was saying about vapor intrusion. We do quarterly
- 20 monitoring in all of our 248 soil vapor locations
- 21 that have 6 ports apiece, on a quarterly basis. We
- 22 look at this data all the time.
- When we did the risk assessment we did look
- 24 at the ambient air risk for recreational users at
- 25 Bullhead Park, and they're safe. The real issue with

- 1 this is, is back, frankly -- and it's going to be
- 2 real interesting when we get the coring results and
- 3 some other things and really start to pull all these
- 4 pieces together of what the remaining NAPL is and
- 5 what would be feeding vapor.
- 6 Out in the field we really didn't see
- 7 anything out there when we were doing the cores. And
- 8 you probably saw that rig out in the soccer field,
- 9 right. Yeah, my dogs are very intrigued with that
- 10 every day.
- 11 COUNCILOR DAVIS: You and I both are there
- 12 every morning, I think, with our dogs.
- MS. LYNNES: Yes. And so what we're really
- 14 thinking is, when we were running the soil vapor
- 15 extraction, we were actually at a much larger zone of
- influence than we thought we did and it was actually
- 17 spreading vapor around a little bit. And now that
- 18 we've got -- you know, the rebound is done and we're
- 19 looking at things, we're really -- you know, we're
- 20 not seeing that now, and so what -- you know, we're
- 21 keeping an eye on the vapor data. If we see an
- 22 uptick in anything we compare it to the risk levels.
- 23 We don't just do it when we do the risk assessment.
- 24 We constantly keep an eye on it.
- 25 The purpose for these shallow corings that

1 the State asked for just to make sure -- and like I

- 2 said, Dennis McQuillan and Bart Faris, at our last
- 3 stakeholders meeting, we're all saying, we don't
- 4 really think we're going to see anything here. We
- 5 really, really truly don't. We've been very
- 6 conservative. But because of public concern, and
- 7 that 7.1 acre parcel is really in an area so distant
- 8 from that, I wouldn't be concerned about that. But
- 9 we can certainly sit down with you and go through
- 10 that and show you our quarterly monitoring results
- 11 and put people's mind to rest. Because, you know, we
- 12 all know that's a heavily-used park and it would be
- 13 great to have more space.
- 14 And could I briefly actually address a
- 15 question that you had, Commissioner Hart Stebbins,
- 16 about why the CME process takes so long? So when you
- 17 submit the Corrective Measures Evaluation, what
- 18 happens is we recommend -- we do technology screening
- 19 and then the ones that survived the first round go
- 20 into the second round. We make recommendations for
- 21 north-south Ridgecrest. NMED then has 360 days under
- 22 their rules to review that. They then come out with
- 23 their recommended remedies, which may or may not
- 24 match what we recommend. They put out a statement of
- 25 basis and a fact sheet and a public notice period of

1 at least 60 days probably, and then there will likely

- 2 be a request for hearing. That's what actually push
- 3 those -- so it's that review period and the hearing
- 4 that pushed that date out. But that process is what
- 5 allows you -- it's more than just a public meeting,
- 6 it's an actual hearing on the record. So the Water
- 7 Utility Authority could put on their own technical
- 8 experts and cross-examine our technical experts. So
- 9 that is a very robust process that's unique to RCRA,
- 10 frankly, on remedy evaluation. So when we, like,
- 11 look at, should we put in other extraction wells
- 12 closer to the source area, that will be the
- 13 opportunity to really drill down into those. And I
- 14 just wanted to explain that a little further.
- 15 COUNCILOR DAVIS: Thank you.
- 16 CHAIR O'MALLEY: Are there any other
- 17 questions? Commissioner Stebbins, you said you had
- 18 another one.
- 19 COMMISSIONER HART STEBBINS: Thank you,
- 20 Madam Chair. One last question, and you're probably
- 21 tired of me asking you this, but I think since 2014
- 22 I've asked you every time you've been here. I think
- 23 back then the Air Force made a commitment to eight
- 24 extraction wells.
- MR. CORRELL: Up to eight extraction wells.

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1 COMMISSIONER HART STEBBINS: Up to eight
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- 2 extraction wells, okay. I seem to remember a more
- 3 detailed conversation about four now, four later. So
- 4 my question is, if there are additional extraction
- 5 wells it's unlikely that those will be installed to
- 6 address the EDB plumes south of Ridgecrest until
- 7 2023?
- 8 MR. CORRELL: It is unlikely we will take
- 9 any additional measures beyond interim measures until
- 10 we get to the CME completion. So I would think
- 11 that's correct. And why is that? Again, to remind
- 12 you, because no one's at risk. We have mitigated the
- 13 risk sufficiently at this point of anyone drinking
- 14 water with EDB. We'll still do the vapor things that
- 15 we need to do, but right now the risk assessment
- 16 indicates we don't need to do more until we know the
- 17 rest of the story. So that's what I would expect,
- 18 right.
- 19 COMMISSIONER HART STEBBINS: Thank you.
- 20 Thank you, Madam Chair.
- 21 CHAIR O'MALLEY: Thank you, Mr. Correll. I
- 22 just have a quick question for our manager. So the
- 23 report, as Mr. Correll stated, did not come to us.
- 24 Well, it isn't actually in our -- I don't think yet,
- 25 or maybe we can download it now. So the Water

1 Authority didn't really have a chance to look at this

- 2 status report; is that correct?
- 3 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SANCHEZ: Madam Chair,
- 4 that's correct.
- 5 CHAIR O'MALLEY: So given, of course, our
- 6 interest and -- not only our interest, but as a
- 7 stakeholder in this, I think it might be good to have
- 8 our staff respond in some way to the status report
- 9 for us, that would be good.
- 10 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SANCHEZ: Madam Chair, I
- 11 think at the May meeting we can do that publicly.
- 12 And I think we would also invite the New Mexico
- 13 Environment Department secretary to make a
- 14 presentation.
- 15 CHAIR O'MALLEY: Thank you. Thank you,
- 16 Mr. Correll.
- 17 MR. CORRELL: As you do that, we're very
- 18 interested in your feedback on this. So I'd be
- 19 interested to know what you think as well.
- 20 CHAIR O'MALLEY: Appreciate that. If there
- 21 are no other questions, we'll move on to the next
- 22 presentation, which is the Water and Drought Report.
- 23 Mr. Carlos Bustos.
- 24 MR. BUSTOS: Good afternoon, Madam Chair,
- 25 Members of the Board. I'm Carlos Bustos and I manage

- 1 the Water Conservation Program for the Water
- 2 Authority. So I got three good news to share today.
- First good news is that our customers have
- 4 saved almost 100 million gallons to date compared to
- 5 last year. As you recall, last year we had a great
- 6 conservation celebration reaching 125, our lowest to
- 7 date.
- 8 The other good news is that we're getting
- 9 good rain. The winter was amazing. We had great
- 10 precipitation. Some areas of Albuquerque had almost
- 11 eight inches just between November and March. While
- 12 others had two inches between January and March. So
- 13 compared to last year that's about 150 percent more.
- 14 And it seems like our forecast moving forward is
- 15 getting a lot better.
- 16 As you may recall, last year when Katherine
- 17 Yuhas came and did this presentation we were moving
- into an advisory for a drought and that's not the
- 19 case. Right now, even though the drought monitoring
- and maps are showing that we're abnormally dry, which
- 21 is surprising because if you look outside right now
- 22 it's raining, and it seems like every two weeks we
- 23 have been getting some good rainfall. Nevertheless,
- that's where we are today.
- 25 And as you may know, in order for us to move

1 into a severe drought or drought advisory the entire

- 2 county has to be in severe drought, which means that
- 3 it needs to be like in the orange to red. It's not
- 4 looking like in the next three months we're going to
- 5 move in that direction if precipitation continues to
- 6 be the same. We most likely are going to move on
- 7 through the year in anticipating good precipitation
- 8 the next three months. So that was my second good
- 9 news.
- 10 My third good news is, as you may recall,
- 11 last year we entered into an agreement with City
- 12 parks and recs to support the efforts of planting
- more trees and restore the canopy laws that we're
- 14 facing here in the Albuquerque area. Most of our
- 15 trees were planted back in the 1920s, 1940s. A lot
- 16 of those trees are aging. They're facing a risk of
- 17 dying and their lifespan is ending.
- 18 So one of the big things that we're doing,
- 19 not only through our Treebate Program, is to support
- 20 the efforts of City parks and planting mature trees
- 21 in all our parks. The good news is that we also
- 22 extended a donation of trees to the County. So now
- 23 we're working with County Land Management and
- 24 supporting their efforts, and thanks to both of those
- 25 efforts we have planted almost 300 trees in this

1 winter season alone. So we're talking about mature

- 2 trees with a six-inch caliber which can withstand the
- 3 high winds that we get and most likely are going to
- 4 be successful.
- 5 CHAIR O'MALLEY: So this is where there's
- 6 some irrigation, right?
- 7 MR. BUSTOS: Yes, yes. It's areas where
- 8 there's already irrigation. One of the techniques
- 9 that both City and County parks do is that they plant
- 10 the trees in the winter. In the winter the
- 11 irrigation system is not on. Nevertheless, they
- 12 still go out there at least twice a week with trucks
- 13 and containers of water and water each individual
- 14 tree. And the idea is that during the winter the
- 15 trees will put a lot more energy into growing those
- 16 roots, that way when it starts getting hot those
- 17 trees are ready to withstand the heat of the spring
- 18 and the summer. And then once the season kicks in
- 19 then they get water by spray irrigation.
- The other good news is that thanks to our
- 21 Treebate our customers have also supported the
- 22 restoration of tree canopy laws in Albuquerque, and
- 23 they planted almost 1,300 trees last year alone. So
- 24 that's super successful. Not only are we working
- 25 with City partners and County partners to increase

1 the tree canopy, also we've seen that the Treebate

- 2 alone, that's one of our rebates, has increased by
- 3 almost 300 percent in the last two years. The
- 4 participation, the energy is out, there's a lot of
- 5 programs that the City is sponsoring, and now the
- 6 County. And through the Water Authority we're
- 7 encouraging and we continue to be vested in
- 8 supporting these efforts. That way, 20 years from
- 9 now, we can have a healthy tree canopy in more than
- 10 20 years hopefully. And those were my three good
- 11 news.
- 12 CHAIR O'MALLEY: Well, that's great news.
- 13 Any other questions for Mr. Bustos? Thank you very
- 14 much.
- MR. BUSTOS: Thank you.
- 16 CHAIR O'MALLEY: Next we'll go to Item 7,
- 17 which is the Introduction of First Reading of
- 18 Legislation and that's Manager Sanchez. 7A.
- 19 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SANCHEZ: Thank you,
- 20 Madam Chair. I'm going to provide some brief
- 21 highlights on the Rate Ordinance. If you recall, the
- 22 Rate Ordinance requires that we conduct a cost of
- 23 service review every two years to ensure there's no
- 24 cross-subsidy, there's integrity in the rate
- 25 structure itself for our customers and for any fees

1 for service, including the UECs, the water supply

- 2 charge. Those were all evaluated.
- If you recall, Water 2120 required that the
- 4 Water Authority cease acquisition of water rights and
- 5 move more towards reuse recycling into the future.
- 6 So that required a substantial change I'll go over
- 7 later.
- 8 The ordinance also contemplates changes to
- 9 the Water Assistance Fund. If you recall, we have a
- 10 low-income assistance program that's ongoing.
- 11 Whereas, the Water Assistance Fund is more for
- 12 emergencies, one-time occurrences. And I would point
- 13 out that the origin of that fund was actually from
- our employees through a United Way campaign and it
- 15 was expanded later on by this Board to allow
- 16 customers to contribute to that in their monthly
- 17 bills.
- 18 The UECs were updated by the ENR index by
- 19 3.1 percent. So for the water, you see it's about a
- 20 hundred dollars. For the sewer you see it's about
- 21 \$75 dollars. All of these proposed changes were
- 22 reviewed by the Technical Advisory Committee. They
- 23 had three meetings on this. Some of the
- 24 recommendations are that the water resource charge,
- 25 formerly known as the water supply charge, be phased

1 in over a long period of time because of substantial

- 2 increases. The TCAC also recommended that the UECs
- 3 and water resource charge also be evaluated every two
- 4 years in addition to rates.
- 5 So with regard to the Water Assistance Fund,
- 6 as I mentioned, it's currently funded by donations
- 7 from ratepayers. We're currently receiving about
- 8 \$1,000 a month, about \$12,000 annually. Not much.
- 9 Our recommendation is that we appropriate \$150,000 to
- 10 this fund to help customers on a one-time assistance
- and they would expand it to renters occupying
- 12 single-family homes. It would also help customers in
- 13 crisis. It would reduce staff time and eliminate
- 14 shutoffs escalating the fees and potentially even
- 15 qualifying overtime, for our low-income assistance
- 16 program.
- 17 With regard to the water resource charge,
- 18 this again is shifting from water rights acquisition
- 19 to bring online infrastructure reuse projects over
- 20 the next 45 to 50 years. This would only apply to
- 21 new customers outside of the fully built areas.
- 22 Areas that require development agreements and this is
- 23 in line with a no-net expense for growth.
- 24 So the impact just on the three-quarter inch
- 25 residential, the current water supply charge is about

1 roughly \$1,700. The new charge would go to about

- 2 \$4,000, a difference of almost \$2,400. The
- 3 recommendation would be to phase this in over eight
- 4 years because of the magnitude of the increase. So
- 5 it would be about \$400 a year each year over the next
- 6 eight years. So year one would be \$2,000 and year
- 7 eight would be almost \$5,000. That is the
- 8 recommendation for that change.
- 9 The last slide shows you the magnitude of
- 10 our proposed change in relation to some of our
- 11 neighbors in Colorado and Texas. And even with that
- 12 change, although it's substantial, it's far less than
- 13 what we see around us. So that's the short version
- 14 of the presentation on the Rate Ordinance. I'd be
- 15 happy to stand for any questions.
- 16 CHAIR O'MALLEY: Are there any questions on
- 17 the first one, changes to the Rate Ordinance?
- 18 COMMISSIONER HART STEBBINS: Madam Chair.
- 19 CHAIR O'MALLEY: Commissioner Stebbins.
- 20 COMMISSIONER HART STEBBINS: Thank you,
- 21 Madam Chair. So, Mark, the water resource charge,
- 22 that's the former water supply charge. These
- 23 increases would apply only to new service outside the
- 24 current service area.
- 25 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SANCHEZ: That is

- 1 correct.
- 2 COMMISSIONER HART STEBBINS: Okay, great.
- 3 Just to comment, I really want to thank you on behalf
- 4 of my constituents, for your work on the Water
- 5 Assistance Fund. I think all of us who represent
- 6 low-income areas know how many of our constituents
- 7 kind of live paycheck to paycheck and a crisis can
- 8 really just push them over the edge. So something
- 9 like this is incredibly important. The fact that it
- 10 is now available to renters, I have had questions
- 11 about that from time to time. And I understand the
- 12 complexity of trying to expand it to multifamily
- 13 housing, but just that small step, I think, is going
- 14 to make a big difference for a lot of our families.
- 15 So thank you for that.
- 16 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SANCHEZ: Thank you.
- 17 COMMISSIONER HART STEBBINS: Thank you,
- 18 Madam Chair.
- 19 CHAIR O'MALLEY: Councilor Davis.
- 20 COUNCILOR DAVIS: Mr. Sanchez, I think
- 21 that's great that we're doing the assistance fund, as
- 22 the Commissioner said. What are we doing to reach
- 23 out to ratepayers to educate them about this or what
- is our protocol, say, if someone falls behind a month
- or two, how proactive are we or how active are people

1 engaged with that fund? I do, for the record, think

- 2 we should -- we have the ability right now to
- 3 appropriate some funds to it and this Board should do
- 4 that, but how do we reach out to folks about that.
- 5 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SANCHEZ: Madam Chair,
- 6 Councilor Davis, we have two nonprofit partners. One
- 7 is Storehouse of Albuquerque and the other is the Rio
- 8 Grande Food Project, who PNM uses actually for their
- 9 Good Neighbor Fund. So we're kind of partnering with
- 10 them at that location to reach out to customers that
- 11 are coming in for their assistance as well. So
- 12 that's the network we're using in the community to
- 13 reach out.
- 14 COUNCILOR DAVIS: And to follow up, say a
- 15 customer begins to fall behind on their bill and we
- 16 start to send them notices, is there information in
- 17 our notices that says we have this fund available if
- 18 you qualify or is there a way that we're educating
- 19 folks once they start to fall behind.
- 20 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SANCHEZ: Madam Chair,
- 21 Councilor Davis, our customer service
- 22 representatives, as they're interacting with
- 23 customers, educate them about that.
- 24 COUNCILOR DAVIS: Thank you.
- 25 CHAIR O'MALLEY: Are there any other

- 1 questions? Thank you. That takes us to 7B.
- 2 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SANCHEZ: Madam Chair,
- 3 with your permission, I'll address Item B and C at
- 4 the same time.
- 5 CHAIR O'MALLEY: Great. Thanks.
- 6 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SANCHEZ: So this is our
- 7 proposed budget for FY20. This chart basically shows
- 8 you kind of the real best process we use to go
- 9 through our budgeting process. It's a continuous
- 10 process going forward. We're currently at the
- 11 budget. We engage our customers with the Technical
- 12 Advisory Committee, customer conversations, all of
- 13 that feeds into our budgeting process over time.
- Our assumptions for FY20, we are not
- 15 proposing a rate increase to our customers. There
- 16 are no new FTEs. This is essentially a maintenance
- 17 of effort budget. Our goal is to increase
- 18 efficiencies internally to absorb a lot of these
- 19 increases. We expect our increases to grow by two
- 20 percent. We don't expect a lot of growth in our
- 21 service area. We're assuming our consumption levels
- 22 would be at last year's levels, which were 125
- 23 gallons per capita per day. We continue to increase
- our capital spending by \$3 million each year as
- 25 directed by this Board.

Our Rate Reserve is funded at nine million.

- 2 If you recall, this is a separate rate reserve in the
- 3 event of huge consumption fluctuations due to
- 4 conservation and that would not require us to go to
- 5 our ratepayers for an emergency rate increase. And
- 6 our fund balance will remain at 1/12 of operating
- 7 expenses.
- 8 This pie chart kind of just shows you where
- 9 the \$231 million budget would come from. 55 percent
- 10 water, 40 percent sewer, 2.7 percent miscellaneous,
- 11 which are interest earnings, lease payments for water
- 12 sales and compo sales. And the working capital is
- 13 basically drawing down from our fund balance to fund
- 14 basically the capital contribution and increase
- 15 chemicals.
- 16 Expenses, our largest expense is obviously
- 17 debt service, almost \$80 million a year, then wages
- 18 and benefits, operating expenses, transfer of the
- 19 funds, which is cash transfers of capital, and risk
- and workers comp, which I would point out have not
- 21 changed for the last two years due to our wellness
- 22 program and safety measures.
- Just to remind you, we tend not to toot our
- own horn, but we've received some pretty prestigious
- 25 awards over the last year. We received a National

1 Water Protection Award. We received a Platinum Award

- 2 for Utility Excellence. Partnership for Safe Water
- 3 and a Peak Performance Award. And last, but not
- 4 least, we were Triple AAA upgraded by S&P. And
- 5 there's only about seven percent of utilities across
- 6 the country that are in that category.
- 7 In terms of accomplishments, I'm not going
- 8 to dwell on these, you can see these yourself, but we
- 9 exceeded our target for conservation. And despite
- 10 drought and river conditions that curtailed our
- 11 surface water, we still produced over half of our
- 12 consumption with surface water. Bear Canyon
- 13 continues.
- 14 One significant achievement was, we had
- 15 customer conversations on water quality throughout
- 16 the community and what we heard loud and clear from
- 17 customers was, that water quality report you send to
- 18 us every year, hard to understand, very technical, we
- 19 want you to change it. So we've changed that. In
- 20 May staff will present that to you and it will show
- 21 drastic changes. A lot more graphic information that
- 22 customers can digest.
- 23 Most of you know we completed the Rivers and
- 24 Aquifers Water Protection Plan, that's been
- 25 presented. That was a significant achievement. We

1 were engaged in the Los Padillas Waterline Project

- 2 and our water quality lab has been reaccredited at
- 3 the highest standard in the country. And we created
- 4 our own online application system called Authority
- 5 Works for applicants.
- In terms of priorities for FY20, as we
- 7 presented at the last meeting, we're going to engage
- 8 with Explora to create a partnership to have
- 9 interactive water exhibits at Explora. We're engaged
- 10 in some best practice activities with the American
- 11 Water Works Association.
- We're going to complete Phase 3 of what we
- 13 call our Maximo Asset Management System and what that
- 14 means is we're going to have better information about
- 15 every asset we have and when it's time to rehab it or
- 16 replace it. We will be one of probably five
- 17 utilities in the country that will have this system
- 18 in place.
- 19 We're updating our Emergency Response Plan
- 20 to include cyber security and vulnerability of all of
- 21 our assets. That's a big issue for all utilities
- 22 around the country.
- We are consolidating our customer service
- 24 operation in our field operations at the Renaissance
- 25 location where our water treatment plant is. So

- we're going to bring three different locations
- 2 together. We'll be moving outside of Pino Yards that
- 3 we currently lease from the City.
- 4 We'll be completing the Pharmaceutical and
- 5 Personal Care Products Study. If you recall, over
- 6 the last few years many customers have come before
- 7 you saying, "we'd really like to know what's in that
- 8 river, aside from what you're monitoring." We are
- 9 doing that. We will conclude that probably in
- 10 September.
- 11 We're finalizing our discharge permit with
- 12 EPA and we hope to complete construction of the Los
- 13 Padillas Water Project.
- We will also be completing the Environmental
- 15 Plan outlining 2120. The Groundwater Reuse Plan will
- 16 be an ongoing effort, but we anticipate completing
- 17 the first phase of both of those.
- 18 With our RAPP Project we'll begin analyzing
- 19 this by each well capture zone. And we'll hopefully
- 20 begin operation of large-scale aquifer storage and
- 21 recovery project to inject access service water into
- 22 the aquifer for future drought reserve.
- 23 Moving on to the capital projects. We
- 24 anticipate \$68-1/2 million appropriation of which 58
- 25 million will be for basic capital rehab. The

1 majority of that will continue to go to upgrading our

- 2 Wastewater Treatment Plant, our sewers.
- We received 2.6 million in the last
- 4 legislative session. 2.2 million of which was to
- 5 have a pilot project with Winrock to create the first
- 6 reuse-driven mall. Green Mall, if you will. 4-1/2
- 7 million for our vehicle and heavy equipment
- 8 replacement. 2 million to continue our automated
- 9 infrastructure for meter reading. And a million for
- 10 steel line replacement.
- 11 One of the projects we discussed last year
- 12 as a priority is covering what's known as the
- 13 clarifiers and our wastewater treatment plant. There
- 14 are four major large clarifiers. You can see from
- 15 this photo, these large, kind of aluminum structures
- 16 are now covering those. These are the last source of
- 17 potential odors at that plant. So we anticipate
- 18 being, as best we can be, odor free at that facility
- 19 for the surrounding communities.
- The last slide here shows the decade plan
- 21 CIP spending. The bars show the spending each year.
- 22 The yellow line shows the cash transfer. And as you
- 23 can tell, more and more of our CIP spending will be
- 24 from cash.
- 25 If you look at about 2026, about 50 percent

1 of our debt service payments will be completely paid

- 2 for and about \$40 million a year in 2026 will be
- 3 freed up for additional cash financing of capital
- 4 improvements. So 2120, if you recall, had \$600
- 5 million worth of projects. A lot of those would be
- 6 able to be financed into the future with that debt
- 7 service coverage payments savings.
- 8 I'd be happy to answer any questions at this
- 9 point.
- 10 CHAIR O'MALLEY: Thank you very much,
- 11 Mr. Sanchez. You had that one slide about all the
- awards and accomplishments, they're very, very
- 13 well-deserved awards and I want to thank you and your
- 14 staff. And I've mentioned this before, I think it
- 15 says a lot about your leadership and I want to thank
- 16 you very much for that and thank your staff. You all
- 17 have done an excellent job. Are there any other
- 18 comments?
- 19 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SANCHEZ: Thank you.
- 20 CHAIR O'MALLEY: Thank you. There's nothing
- 21 on the Consent Agenda, but we go next to Approvals.
- 22 Welcome, Mr. Roth.
- MR. ROTH: Thank you, Madam Chair, Members
- 24 of the Board. The FY20 goals and objectives were
- 25 presented at the March meeting and I said I would

1 have a presentation at this time. But just to follow

- 2 up on the presentation that Mr. Sanchez made, linking
- 3 up the budget priorities to the objectives in front
- 4 of you as a resolution. I'd be happy to answer any
- 5 questions.
- 6 CHAIR O'MALLEY: I move approval.
- 7 COUNCILOR JONES: Second.
- 8 CHAIR O'MALLEY: There's a motion and a
- 9 second to approve Item 9A. All those in favor say
- 10 aye.
- 11 MEMBERS: Aye.
- 12 CHAIR O'MALLEY: All opposed say no. The
- 13 motion carries. Thank you. Go to 9B, C-19-14. This
- is approving Supplemental Agreement with EMA, Inc.,
- in relation to the Asset Management Maximo System
- 16 Upgrade, Phase 3.
- 17 MR. ALLRED: Madam Chair, Members of the
- 18 Board, this is asking for your approval to agree a
- 19 supplement of \$1.4 million for supplement for Phase
- 20 III for the EMA contract. Mr. Sanchez talked about
- 21 that in his budget presentation. There are budget
- 22 CIP funds for this supplement as well.
- 23 CHAIR O'MALLEY: Thank you. Is there a
- 24 motion to approve.
- 25 COUNCILOR JONES: So move.

1 CHAIR O'MALLEY: There's a motion and a

- 2 second to approve 9B. All those in favor say aye.
- 3 MEMBERS: Aye.
- 4 MEMBERS: Aye.
- 5 CHAIR O'MALLEY: All opposed say no. The
- 6 motion carries. Thank you. Item C. This is the
- 7 Memorandum of Understanding with the Village of
- 8 Tijeras. Mr. Stomp.
- 9 MR. STOMP: Good evening, Madam Chair. This
- 10 agreement before you is a continuation of an
- 11 agreement that we had with the Village of Tijeras
- 12 about five years ago. They have a well. They don't
- 13 have water rights sufficient to offset the effects of
- 14 that well on the Rio Grande, so they're asking us to
- 15 grant them return flow credits and so this would do
- 16 that for the next five years to give them a chance to
- 17 purchase some additional water rights and transfer
- 18 them to the well.
- 19 CHAIR O'MALLEY: Thank you. At this time I
- 20 move approval.
- 21 COUNCILOR JONES: Second.
- 22 CHAIR O'MALLEY: There's a motion and a
- 23 second to approve C-19-15. All those in favor say
- 24 aye.
- 25 MEMBERS: Aye.

1 CHAIR O'MALLEY: All opposed say no. The

- 2 motion carries. That takes us to 9D.
- 3 MR. STOMP: Madam Chair, this is a storage
- 4 agreement with Ohkay Owingeh Pueblo. This is a
- 5 continuation of the Water 2120 policies to use
- 6 Abiquiu reservoir as a resource for everybody in the
- 7 Middle Valley. So we're requesting approval for this
- 8 storage agreement up to 10,000 acre feet of San Juan
- 9 Chama water.
- 10 CHAIR O'MALLEY: If there aren't any
- 11 questions, I move approval.
- 12 COUNCILOR JONES: Second.
- 13 CHAIR O'MALLEY: There's a motion and a
- 14 second to approve Item 9D. All those in favor say
- 15 aye.
- 16 MEMBERS: Aye.
- 17 CHAIR O'MALLEY: All opposed say no. Thank
- 18 you. And that's the last item on our agenda. Thank
- 19 you all very much. This meeting is adjourned.
- 20 (Meeting adjourned at 6:31 p.m.)
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1	REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE
2	I, Kim Kay Shollenbarger, New Mexico Certified
3	Court Reporter, No. 236, do hereby certify that I
4	reported the foregoing proceedings in stenographic
5	shorthand and that the foregoing pages are a true and
6	correct transcript of those proceedings taken to the
7	best of my ability.
8	I FURTHER CERTIFY that I am neither employed by
9	nor related to any of the parties or attorneys in
10	this matter and that I have no interest in the final
11	disposition of this matter.
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24	Kim Kay Shollenbarger
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