

SUMMARY

From HUMBOLDT MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT

Municipal Customer Meeting Agenda Item #1

July 21st, 2009 - 1 pm

Water and Wastewater Program at CR – Advisory Meeting

Attendees:

Carol Rishe, General Manager – Humboldt Municipal Water District

Barry Van Sickle, Operations Manager – Humboldt Municipal Water District

Jacqueline Debets, Economic Development Coordinator – Humboldt County

Roxanne Metz, Director of Special Projects – College of the Redwoods

Steve Brown, Dean of Business and Technology – College of the Redwoods

Dennis Ryan, Public Works Director – City of Fortuna

Don Jones, Faculty – Cuyamaca Community College

John Hamner, Rural Community Assistance Corporation

Brad Finney, Engineering Faculty – Humboldt State University

Neal Carnam, Principle - Winzler and Kelly

Michael Fritschi, Engineer – Winzler and Kelly

Karen Diemer – City of Arcata

Greg Orsini, Operations Manager – Mckinleyville Community Services District

1. Presentation by representatives of CR and consultants:

Discussed the department of labor (DOL) grant

Provided an update on the water and wastewater program and the current development efforts, including the new courses planned for the fall semester.

Don Jones presented his experience with the existing Cuyamaca College Water and Wastewater Program and how that program interacts with the local industry, student employment successes.

2. Course content and learning outcomes

Academic background in chemistry, biology, and math as they apply to the water and wastewater industry, outcomes that should be useful to the local industry at large and locally.

General consensus that the program should focus on meeting the needs of the local industry.

3. Discussed advertising and local outreach needs.
Will present the program update at the next Redwood Water Resources Network meeting. February RWRN meeting provided a good survey for information regarding current industry needs.
4. Input from agencies regarding CEU needs for water and wastewater employees (and how this might shape curriculum or when classes would be offered).

Continuing Education Units (CEU's) are similar to educational points and are required to satisfy requirements for State water and wastewater license renewal and qualify operators to take certification examinations, and qualify for State certification

There is a current need in the industry for quality training programs that are affordable; CR may be able to assist local agencies by providing courses that could qualify for CEU's.

John Hamner has developed curriculum and taught water and or wastewater at community colleges in CA and would be willing to help out on course material.

5. Discussion with representative of Humboldt Regional Occupation Program (Humboldt Office of Education) regarding outreach and possible programs at the high schools

Water and wastewater occupation would potentially be a good career for high school grads that are not considering a 4-yr college path. Builds on mechanical skills and is a good stable career.

6. Initial ideas and discussion regarding what agencies can offer (tours, internships, outreach, at high schools, job shadowing

Several municipal representatives offered to explore potential internships and facility tours.

Meeting attendees expressed general enthusiasm for the concept and look forward to the program taking shape.