

## Trinidad City Clerk

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**From:** Sarah Lindgren-Akana <mzlindgren79@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 11, 2020 12:25 PM  
**To:** Trinidad City Clerk  
**Cc:** Trinidad Manager; Dwight Miller; dgrover@trinidad.ca.gov; Jack West; tdavies@trinidad.ca.gov; Steve Ladwig  
**Subject:** Fwd: Public Comment

Hi,

Please correct the minutes from last meeting to reflect my complete comment as written in the email attached below.

Written comments should be recorded into the minutes as submitted, not edited or interpreted by City staff. Also, I did not sign the comment as being from the Ancestral Society. This is my comment, as signed in the email.

Thank you,

Sarah Akana

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Sarah Lindgren-Akana <mzlindgren79@gmail.com>  
**Date:** April 14, 2020 at 8:13:22 PM PDT  
**To:** Trinidad City Clerk <cityclerk@trinidad.ca.gov>  
**Subject:** Public Comment

Hi,

I would like to request these water discussions be held in public not in government to government meetings. Those are essentially private meetings about public resources regardless of whether decisions are made or not.

Sarah Akana

Sent from my iPhone

**Richard H. Harris Jr., Esq.**

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**License No. 76704**

May 11, 2020

By e-mail

Trinidad City Council

Trinidad City Clerk

City Hall

409 Trinity St.

P.O. Box 409

Trinidad, CA. 95570

Re: City Council Meeting, Tuesday, May 12, 2020  
Agenda Item V, Approval of Minutes of April 14, 2020 Council Meeting  
Request for revision of Draft Minutes of April 14 meeting, re  
Discussion/Decision Agenda Item 2 – Draft Trinidad Water Plan

Dear City Council and City Clerk,

This is respectfully to request that, before adoption, the draft Minutes of Council's April 14, 2020 meeting<sup>1</sup> be revised: (1) to correct a factual error; and (2) to include Planning Director Parker's response to Councilmembers Miller's and Davies' questions about drought. These revision requests are based upon my verbatim transcription of the relevant comments from Councilmen and Staff at the Council's April 14 public meeting<sup>2</sup>, which transcription I attach hereto as Exhibit A.

**1. Correction of factual error**

At Draft Minutes, page 3 second paragraph from the end, the comment from Councilman Davies should read as follows (suggested correction in yellow):

**Davies:** It is important to note that the treatment plant is capable of treating an additional 43,000 gallons/day (gpd), and that amount isn't necessarily 'excess' supply."

Councilman Davies' use of the 43,000 gpd figure corrected his original question about 48,000 gallons<sup>3</sup>, and reflects Planning Director Trevor Parker's opening comments to the Council, in which she said that the excess treatment capacity of the water treatment plant is 43,000 gallons-per-day

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<sup>1</sup> The Draft Minutes appear at pages 4-10/73 of Council's Meeting Agenda Packet for Council's May 12, 2020 meeting: <https://trinidad.ca.gov/sites/trinidad.ca.gov/files/library/05-12-2020%20cc%20packet.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> Access Humboldt, U-Tube recording of the Trinidad City Council's April 14, 2020 meeting: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c9P5vtFmkOM>,

<sup>3</sup> Councilman Davies' question, restated by Mayor Ladwig and modified by Davies, is transcribed verbatim from the Access Humboldt U-Tube recording (supra), at 1:08:25-1:08:35, and is found at Exhibit A, No. 2.

(not 48,000), taking into account water loss within the system, as shown at Table 2 (at page 6) of the Water Policy Agenda Report<sup>4</sup> presented to the Council at its April 14, 2020 public meeting.<sup>5</sup>

## 2. Planning Director Parker's response to comments by Councilmembers Miller and Davies

Drought and drought-planning were major topics of the Council's Draft Water Plan discussion. In response to questions and comments from Councilmembers Miller, Davies, and Mayor Ladwig, City Planner Parker directly discussed the issue and risks and uncertainties of drought. But her remarks do not appear in the draft minutes. With respect, I suggest that her remarks on this drought topic are significant and should be included in the Minutes to accurately reflect the meeting. I suggest that at the final paragraph of Page 3, the Draft Minutes be revised as follows (suggested added language in yellow), based on my verbatim transcription of Planning Director Parker's comments from Council's April 14 public meeting,<sup>6</sup> which transcription is attached hereto as Exhibit A.

**City Planner Parker** noted that the Plant has the ability to treat that amount of water – if and when there's enough water in Luffenholtz Creek to treat. Peak demand is currently around 85,000 gpd. There are issues of drought or climate change or other upstream water rights that could reduce flow in Luffenholtz Creek that could reduce the amount of water coming through the water plant. But that's absolutely an issue that we don't have a great handle on – being able to predict exactly what the low-flows on Luffenholtz Creek are. And that is a reason for taking a conservative approach. It's a level of risk and an unknown that the Council has to weigh the pros and cons of. Creating a drought contingency plan is the next step.

Respectfully submitted,

*Richard Harris*

Richard H. Harris, Jr.

Enclosing Exhibit A, Partial Verbatim Transcription of Council's April 14, 2020 meeting

cc: (w/ encl.) Eli Naffah, City Manager, City of Trinidad  
Gabe Adams, City Clerk, City of Trinidad  
Supervisor Steve Madrone, Humboldt County Board of Supervisors  
David Hankin, Westhaven Community Services Dist.  
J. Bryce Kenny, Esq  
Richard Johnson  
Kelly Lindgren  
Jennifer Kalt  
Ted Pease

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<sup>4</sup> The Water Policy Agenda Report to the April 14, 2020 City Council meeting is found at 116/166 of the Council's April 14, 2020 meeting Packet:  
[https://trinidad.ca.gov/sites/trinidad.ca.gov/files/library/04-14-2020%20cc%20packet\\_0.pdf](https://trinidad.ca.gov/sites/trinidad.ca.gov/files/library/04-14-2020%20cc%20packet_0.pdf).

<sup>5</sup> Planning Director Parker's comment to the Council, transcribed verbatim from the Access Humboldt U-Tube recording (supra), at 1:04:22-1:05:05, is found at Exhibit A, No. 1.

<sup>6</sup> Access Humboldt, U-Tube recording of the Trinidad City Council's April 14, 2020 meeting, at 1:08:37-1:10:06  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c9P5vtFmkOM>, See Exhibit A, No. 3.

**EXHIBIT A**  
**VERBATIM TRANSCRIPTION (EXCERPTS)**  
**TRINIDAD CITY COUNCIL MEETING, APR. 14, 2020**  
**FROM ACCESS HUMBOLDT U-TUBE RECORDING**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c9P5vtFmkOM>

**No. 1. Planning Director Trevor Parker, at 1:04:22-1:05:05**

“We’ve considered public comments. One of those was regarding loss from the available capacity of the water plant, which was 48,000 gallons per day during the peak usage in July and August. The current loss from the system would not apply to that amount, but there could be some losses from processes during treatment such as backflushing the filters. So we did reduce that amount to 43,000 gallons per day. And so you can see that in Table 2 in the Staff Report.”

**No. 2. Mayor Steve Ladwig and Councilman Tom Davies, at 1:08:25-1:08:36**

Ladwig to Parker: “Just curious on your thoughts on Tom’s comment about the 48,000 being a theoretical value.” Davies: “43 now, actually.”

**No. 3. Planning Director Parker, at 1:08:37-1:10:06**

“So that number comes from the May Water Plant assessment that GHD [the City’s Water Engineer] did. And talking to GHD about this, they feel comfortable with that number, but there are issues of drought or climate change or other upstream water rights that could reduce flow in Luffenholtz Creek that could reduce the amount of water coming through the water plant. So the water plant has the capacity to treat that much water if the water is in the creek. And I think if you go through the rest of the findings, that is reflected in those findings. But that’s absolutely an issue that we don’t have a great handle on, being able to predict exactly what the low-flows on Luffenholtz Creek are. And that is a reason for taking a conservative approach. And I think if you look at increased demand over the next twenty years we’re still leaving quite a bit of play for Luffenholtz to get low and still have enough water for everyone. But it’s a level of risk and an unknown that the Council has to weigh the pros and cons of.”