

**CITY OF CALISTOGA**  
**HOUSING ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**  
**October 18, 2021 via Zoom at 10:00 a.m.**

**1. ROLL CALL**

Committee members present virtually: Laurel Gourd, Lana Richardson, Laurel Rios, David Shaw, Cathy Schwamberger. Staff members present: Zach Tusinger, Samantha Thomas.

**2. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON MATTERS NOT ON THE AGENDA**

None.

**3. CONSENT AGENDA**

No draft minutes were available to approve.

**4. NEW BUSINESS**

**A. Presentation – Overview of Calistoga Water Resources and Conservation**

Water Conservation Technician Mitchell Egert presented this item. He gave an overview of where Calistoga's water comes from which is all surface water – Kimball Reservoir and State Water Project. Kimball Reservoir is solely owned by the City of Calistoga. The seasonal rainfall total was 16.32 inches where the city's average rainfall total is 38 inches. He stressed that just because it's raining, it doesn't mean it's enough – the drought isn't over. From the State Water Board, Napa County was only allocated 5 percent of the County's initial request due to dangerously low supplies. He explained that in modern times, the city's water demand is 650 to 750 acre-feet (AF) per year, where the 2021 consumption is 750 AF. Alternatively, water demand has fallen 20 percent over the last 26 years while wastewater influent has fallen 40 percent in a 25-year period. So, even though the population has changed since the 90s, efficiency has helped cut back on water consumption. The wild card is drought though. Committee member Schwamberger asked if anything else could be done to increase efficiency. Staff member Egert said yes – look at your toilet and shower head to make sure they are at least newer than 1994, ideally post 2016. He also explained that landscapes are the largest users of water – proposing more zeroscapes/sustainable landscaping. The city has initiated a number of outreach efforts to educate the community on water conservation/efficiency methods as well as the kits the city currently offers.

Committee member Schwamberger asked staff if water should be the top reason why there's no additional housing in the community. Director Zach Tusinger explained staff does present a report to the council as to the state of the city's water supply and is also used in active conversations with the Public Works department when updating the city's housing element. He explained that the city has enough water to provide for what's been approved and in the pipeline for housing. Committee member Shaw inquired if commercial properties are required to bring recycled water on-site. Staff member Tusinger explained, yes in certain situations, if it's available and makes sense for the property.

**B. Update on Housing Element Project and Survey**

Staff member Samantha Thomas presented this item. She provided an update on the outcome from tabling at Saturday's Farmer's Market where around 20 people filled out the Housing Element survey form at the event and a handful took the form

home to fill out and turn in at a later time either at city hall or online via the link provided. Staff member Thomas indicated that quite a few people at the Farmer's Market mentioned they had already completed the survey online. She further explained that staff would be providing the Planning Commission with a housing element update at the end of the month via a presentation prepared by 4LEAF and M-Group.

Chair Gourd recommended the survey deadline and language on the city's website for the housing element survey be revised in which staff member Thomas indicated it had been updated as of Monday morning. Chair Gourd further recommended using the HAC's meeting time to brainstorm how to get the word out regarding the survey to the community (i.e. mailer, insert in the Calistoga Tribune). Staff member Tusinger indicated that an insert would be going out in the next utility bill at the end of the month. Committee member Rios recommended using Solage's cafeteria area to try and include community members who may not live in Calistoga but do work in the city. Chair Gourd recommended doing the same at different employers around town, such as Cal Mart and working through the Chamber. Staff member Tusinger clarified that the city would be sending information out through the school district and has already reached out to the Chamber. Chair Gourd requested a snapshot of the survey results when available from staff via M-Group. She inquired who developed the survey questions, in which staff member Tusinger clarified the consultant group had and are standard survey questions. Chair Gourd requested that the HAC be involved with future survey's and city efforts related to housing. She further explained one of the biggest gaps she sees is reaching the Spanish speaking community and asked the committee member's their thoughts on how to reach this part of the community (i.e. mobile home parks). Committee member Schwamberger recommended reaching out to the Calistoga Wine Growers Association as another avenue into the employee community, especially Latino. Staff member Tusinger recommended the HAC email staff member Thomas or himself if they would like to get involved in distributing the survey to additional community members.

#### C. Continued Discussion of Shared Readings and Committee Goals/Priorities

Chair Gourd noted that no readings were circulated.

### **5. COMMITTEE MEMBERS' IDEAS & REQUESTS FOR FUTURE DISCUSSION**

Staff member Tusinger recommended having a primary item on the HAC's next agenda, talking about the committee's goals for next year. Chair Gourd asked committee members what they would like to add to future agendas. Committee member Schwamberger recommended continuing to gather community input regarding the housing element update in the new year and look for ways to educate the community about the water situation – possibly partnering with the Green Committee. Chair Gourd requested plans in relation to the housing element update focus groups, in which staff member Tusinger indicated staff could connect her with M-Group to further discuss opportunities for involvement.

### **6. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned around 11:15 a.m.