

SAN BERNARDINO VALLEY WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

MINUTES OF THE OUTREACH COMMITTEE MEETING

October 16, 2003

3:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

OUTREACH COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Manuel Aranda Jr., Director
Cheryl Tubbs, Director
Melody Henriques, Director

STAFF PRESENT:

Thomas Crowley, Assistant General Manager
Colleen Theuer, Administrative Services Manager

OTHERS PRESENT:

None

1. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Director Tubbs announced this as the time for any persons present, who so desire, to make an oral petition to the Outreach Committee. Hearing none, the meeting proceeded with the published agenda items.

2. APPOINT COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON

Director Tubbs called the Outreach Committee Meeting to order at 3:30 p.m.

It was moved by Director Tubbs and seconded by Director Henriques to appoint Director Aranda as Chairperson for the Outreach Committee. The motion carried.

3. DISCUSS COMPLETION OF FACT SHEETS PROJECT

Mr. Crowley led a discussion on the Fact Sheets Project. Graphic artist Phyllis Kates began drafts (distributed to the Committee) of the fact sheets in January 2003. The fact sheets, to be used as handouts, include information about District history, endangered species, District projects, and the future of water. The Committee agreed that the project should be completed, and discussed ways to improve the fact sheets. Some of the ideas included using pictures of the mining and other activities of the District, and printing the

District address and other pertinent information on the back of the sheets. Additionally, the 70th logo would be replaced with the normal District logo, and the groundwater assessment amounts would be deleted. After further discussion, Mr. Crowley said he hoped to have a few completed and present them to the Board at the November Board meeting.

4. DISCUSS ATTENDANCE TO CONGRESSMAN JERRY LEWIS' 25TH ANNIVERSARY DINNER

There was a brief discussion on whether the District could cover the cost of attending Congressman Jerry Lewis' 25th Anniversary Dinner. As it is a fund-raiser, the District would not be allowed to cover this cost.

5. NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Crowley said the City of Highland (City) had received a grant for the Highland Environmental Learning Center (Center), \$8,000,000 from the county library, and \$2,000,000 from the EPA. The City has formed a non-profit organization, the Highland Environmental Education Coalition, to develop some of the materials that will go into the learning center. From the coalition, a sub-group will be formed to handle water issues. Mr. Richard Haller, the Planning Commissioner at the City, will oversee the activities of the group. Mr. Crowley indicated that he has been asked to help develop the exhibits and other educational materials for the Center. Eventually, water agencies will be asked for sponsorship. He said he would present a committee report at the Board meeting on November 5.

Chairperson Aranda discussed AB 856, a Bill which allows Directors of Boards to participate in the PERS program. He said ACWA and CSDA support this Bill. If the Bill passes, and is implemented by the District Board (it is not mandatory), there was discussion as to whether a Director would be considered an employee, and therefore subject to withholding taxes. Another item of concern was whether the District or the Directors directly would pay for this benefit. Since the bill has not yet passed, further discussion on this item was delayed. Chairperson Aranda said a separate issue also in the legislature is an amendment that would increase the amount of monthly meetings for Directors from ten (10) to fourteen (14).

Chairperson Aranda noted that Assemblyman Bob Dutton is sponsoring a workers' compensation seminar on Wednesday, November 5. Director Tubbs said she has registered as a representative from her company, and that District staff should attend.

6. ADJOURN

There was no further business, and the meeting adjourned at 4:35 p.m.