# SAN BERNARDINO VALLEY WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT SPECIAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

MINUTES OF April 2, 2020 10:00 a.m.

President Corneille called the Special Board Meeting of the Board of Directors to order at 10:07 a.m. by teleconference and Zoom meeting.

#### **ROLL CALL:**

#### **BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Richard Corneille, President Melody McDonald, Vice President Robert Stewart, Director David E. Raley, Director John Longville, Director

#### **BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:**

None

# **GENERAL COUNSEL PRESENT:**

David Cosgrove, Rutan & Tucker

#### STAFF PRESENT:

Daniel Cozad, General Manager Betsy Miller, Land Resource Manager/Assistant General Manager Athena Monge, Administrative Specialist

#### **GUESTS PRESENT:**

T. Milford Harrison, San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District David Smith, East Valley Water District

## 1. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

President Corneille announced this as the time for any persons present, who so desire, to make an oral presentation to the Board of Directors. Hearing none, the meeting continued with published agenda items.

# 2. CONSERVATION EASEMENT AND ENDOWMENT AGREEMENTS WITH SAN BERNARDING COUNTY TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY

Mr. Cozad introduced this item for discussion. The District has been assisting the San Bernardino County Transportation Authority (SBCTA) in obtaining permits for the 210 expansion. SBCTA had federal permitting in order a year or so ago, but with the addition of San

Bernardino Kangaroo Rat (SBKR) by California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), they need additional assistance. The District has been working with SBCTA since December 2019. Ms. Miller provided a verbal overview of the project. Mr. Cozad discussed items 2A and 2B within the memo on package page 4.

- Item 2A: There is a \$58,250 wasting endowment for start-up actions for newly conserved lands.
- Item 2B: There is \$87,060 to fund wasting endowment for survey and management for the first three years.

President Corneille asked about the values that are included in the memo. Ms. Miller said that there is a formula that calculates endowment costs for the community mitigation program. She said that there is habitat enhancement that takes place within the first two to three years to raise the property to Wash Plan standards. This funding could include invasive grass removal, restoration, or other appropriate actions. CDFW requires the non-wasting endowment not to be used for the first three years of conservation. All three of the costs from Item 2A through 2C will go to the Conservation Trust. The charge for \$567,000 is the cost to purchase the Conservation Easement on 4.2 acres of land. President Corneille asked where the 4.2 acres are located. Mr. Cozad reviewed the area and map of the areas available for mitigation.

President Corneille also asked about how the \$58,250 was calculated. Mr. Cozad said that these are the costs calculated by the Conservation District for treatment and reporting and development to Wash Plan standards. Discussion ensued on fees and calculations. The Conservation Trust will review and approve their own fees and agreements with SBCTA separately. Director Stewart asked if the District has several of these agreements was it developing a tracking system. Mr. Cozad said that the District tracks the three entities it has deposit agreements with; over time, there will be a change to the Wash Plan tracking system to allow for tracking of community mitigation as well. Mr. Cosgrove said that the Conservation District would likely be the escrow agent. Mr. Cozad said that staff is requesting approval of the documents, including modifications to these agreements since there is a potential need to use an escrow account or other changes acceptable to counsel.

It was moved by President Corneille and seconded by Vice President McDonald to approve the agreements presented with minor revisions acceptable by District Counsel and authorize the General Manager to execute these agreements. The motion carried 4-0 with all Directors present voting in the affirmative. Director Longville was unable to vote due to technical issues.

President Corneille: Yes

Vice President McDonald: Yes

Director Longville: N/A (having technical issues)

Director Raley: Yes Director Stewart: Yes

## 3. ADJOURN MEETING

It was moved by Vice President McDonald and seconded by Director Raley to adjourn. The motion carried 4-0 with all Directors present voting in the affirmative. Director Longville was unable to vote due to technical issues.

President Corneille: Yes Vice President McDonald: Yes

Director Longville: N/A (having technical issues)

Director Raley: Yes Director Stewart: Yes

At 10:45 a.m., the meeting adjourned to the Regular Board Meeting/Groundwater Public Meeting scheduled for April 8, 2020, at 1:30 p.m. at District Headquarters, 1630 W. Redlands

Blvd., Redlands, California.

Daniel B. Cozad

General Manager