

SAN BERNARDINO VALLEY WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
MINUTES OF THE OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING

May 13, 2020
9:00 A.M.

President Corneille called the Operations Committee Meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Richard Corneille, President
Melody McDonald, Vice President

STAFF PRESENT:

Daniel Cozad, General Manager
Erwin Fogerson, Senior Engineer/Project Manager
Katelyn Scholte, Assistant Engineer
Athena Monge, Administrative Specialist
Betsy Miller, Land Resources Manager/Assistant General Manager
Manuel Colunga, Field Supervisor

OTHERS PRESENT:

None

1. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public present.

2. ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO AGENDA

There were none.

3. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES FROM OCTOBER 15, 2020

It was moved by Vice President McDonald and seconded by President Corneille to approve the Meeting Minutes from October 15, 2020. The motion carried 2-0 with all directors present voting in the affirmative.

President Corneille: Yes

Vice President McDonald: Yes

4. FIELD SUPERVISOR UPDATE

Mr. Colunga presented a PowerPoint about recent field activities. Field staff has received the new dump truck and purchased the extended warranty. Mr. Colunga said that the District received abatement notices from the City of Redlands and San Bernardino County. The notices for Mendoza were waived last year due to the property being critical habitat. Mr. Colunga said that Steps 4 Life is assisting with weedeating. He noted that all the ponds in Santa Ana's side were cleaned; the ponds percolated well. The Borrow Pit and Pond 1 and 2 still need to be cleaned; Mill Creek was cleaned last year and is still percolating well. Field Staff is still dealing with recreational trespasses that are leaving trash behind and swimming in the

ponds. Field staff is adding more stencils that say "no swimming". There is a new invasive species on District property called hairy vetch along Greenspot Road. President Corneille asked if State Water Project water (SWP) is still coming in. Mr. Colunga said that it had not been received. Mr. Cozad noted that the majority of SWP is being used for direct use. The aggressive recharge analysis will be presented at the Board meeting at the end of the fiscal year. Mr. Colunga reviewed the vandalism that has occurred to the District's facilities in Mill Creek. There was an increase with trespassers and vandalism this year. Ms. Miller reviewed the sand placement that will be done to increase San Bernardino Kangaroo Rat (SBKR) in Mill Creek. Staff is looking at spreading sand in areas where the soil is not compromised. The full sand placement locations map was reviewed. Mr. Cozad noted that the District library would house SBKR for the 210 project temporarily. Ms. Miller said that the sand placement might be able to be done on a larger scale utilizing grant funding, but it would likely be done 2021.

5. MENTONE SHOP PLANNING UPDATE

Mr. Fogerson presented on this item using a PowerPoint presentation. He spoke with the contractor that built the previous Mentone Shop. The new shop is more detailed due to the need for a septic tank and possibly updates electrical. Mr. Fogerson said that the District would have to bid out septic construction. President Corneille asked if the project has to bid or if the District can do design-build. Mr. Cozad said that it can be design-build, but there has to be a procurement process. Mr. Fogerson continued his review. President Corneille asked for a memo to be developed, which states what the need and how the new structure will be used. He recommended getting feedback from the field staff and a local architect. Mr. Cozad said that staff will put together request for proposals for architect services. The origin of this project was initially the Board's request to have a bathroom installed at the Mentone Shop. President Corneille also asked staff to consider the needs of the Wash Plan and enhanced recharge when developing this outline. Vice President McDonald spoke in support of this approach.

6. MILL CREEK UPDATE AND CHANGES

Mr. Fogerson reviewed the approval process. Staff is currently in the process of obtaining the 408 permit. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (COE) said that environmental comments had been sent to the District. Mr. Fogerson said that so far the COE has used approximately \$29,000 on the review. The District has received a draft permit from California Department of Fish and Wildlife. The Water Quality Control Board has received the District's application and are reviewing it. Staff anticipates bidding this project this time next year. President Corneille suggested updating the Project Charter for this project since the designs have been slightly updated.

7. ACTIVE RECHARGE TRANSFER PROJECTS UPDATE

Mr. Fogerson reviewed this item via PowerPoint presentation. He said that Plunge Creek phases one and two are the primary focus. Mining operations were discussed in brief. Mr. Cozad said that the District is working on agreements with Robertson's and Cemex. Mr. Fogerson reviewed the project maps. He also reviewed the Twin Creek project; the outside levee is COE jurisdiction. The District can rebuild the spillways and a low flow system. Valley Municipal spreads water in the Waterman Basins. Staff is working on an MOU with Flood Control District; District Counsel is preparing draft. Mr. Fogerson reviewed the Waterman and Lynwood Basins. The District may be able to operate Lynwood Basins differently, possibly use for recharge. He discussed the possibility of hiring a consultant to perform analysis after meeting with Flood Control. The Active Recharge Transfer Projects (ARTP) will meet next month on July 9.

8. PLUNGE CREEK UPDATE

Mr. Fogerson introduced this item for discussion. He reviewed the PowerPoint of the Plunge Creek maps. He indicated that he is waiting to hear back about the Safe Harbor Agreement. The Wash Plan Task Force indicated their support of the approach presented. There will be more activity next month.

9. WASH PLAN ONE YEAR IMPLEMENTATION

Ms. Miller reviewed the Wash Plan Year 1 Requirements spreadsheet. The requirement to have two hundred acres of jump start land is the highest cost; estimated at \$69,500. The other one year requirements include initial clean up on jump star land, invasive grass treatments at Spineflower sites, monitor California Gnatcatcher and SBKR. There were monitoring protocols put together by previous staff from the District and FWS that will need to be updated and finalized. President Corneille asked about staff costs. Ms. Miller indicated that those costs are for in-house staff.

It was moved by President Corneille and seconded by Vice President McDonald to approve the Wash Plan One Year Implementation costs of \$142,500 be added to the District Budget for FY 2020-2021. The motion carried 2-0 with all directors present voting in the affirmative.

President Corneille: Yes

Vice President McDonald: Yes

10. CEIP LIST UPDATE

Mr. Cozad reviewed the CEIP List on package page 16. Staff indicated that this item is for Committee review and feedback. President Corneille indicated that Item 8: Dump Truck purchase had been completed. He asked about Item 32: Seven W acquisition – and Initial Needs \$50,000 and suggested that the \$50,000 should likely be shown as a separate line item. Mr. Cozad indicated that clean up and fencing will need to be done and that he will move the \$50,000 as recommended to a separate line item. He said that there might be opportunities as it relates to the endangered habitat to obtain grant funding. Mr. Cozad reviewed Item 23: Aggressive Recharge Planning/Permitting Dredge and Fill; this is the permitting required for our facilities. The permitting costs for taking materials out of Waters of the State can be expensive, so the District is working with the Regional Board to address this item. This is not a priority for the Regional Board, and it will be an every five-year permit. Item 16: Capital Maintenance SAR Main canal to #11 Service Ramp Dike D will likely be moved to potential items or removed completely depending on whether Valley Municipal incorporates this item into their Enhanced Recharge Project or not. Item 11: Mill Creek North Canal Flume SB-88 Compliance has not been completed yet because the area is still wet from the water the District has received, and the structure needs have changed due to the excess water the District received last year. The items highlighted in green will be included in the FY 2020-2021 budget. The Committee reviewed this item and recommended changes to staff for incorporation in the FY 2020-2021

11. ADJOURN MEETING

There was no further business, and the meeting adjourned at 11:12 a.m.