

SAN BERNARDINO VALLEY WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
MINUTES OF THE OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING
September 16, 2020
9:00 A.M.

President Corneille called the Operations Committee Meeting to order at 9:00 A.M. The meeting was held virtually on Zoom.

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:

Gil Navarro, San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District

1. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public present.

2. ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO AGENDA

There were none.

3. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES FROM MAY 13, 2020

It was moved by President Corneille and seconded by Vice President McDonald to approve the Meeting Minutes from May 13, 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. Jacinto has cleaned the Borrow Pit; the bottom of it was ripped, and rocks moved to the edges. The District is storing aggregate with Upland Rock. Basin 10 in Santa Ana River (SAR) spreading grounds was cleaned. The

culvert in SAR was replaced using Upland Rock's loader; a ramp has been placed over the top to alleviate the culvert from being damaged again. There was heavy equipment training using a skidsteer and backhoe; all field staff has been certified through United Rentals. President Corneille asked if the field staff is performing herbicide treatment. Mr. Colunga indicated that they are currently treating for stinkwort and stinknet.

5. PLUNGE CREEK UPDATE

Mr. Fogerson presented this item using a PowerPoint presentation. He reviewed the aerial photo of the pre-project condition. The notice of completion is being filed with the County Recorder's office. Staff is working on finalizing the project, including getting the final condition aerial photo soon. The project came in a little over \$400,000. The next phase will likely begin quickly, which is site restoration and planting. Lessons learned were shown, and President Corneille asked for them to be emailed to the Committee. Ms. Miller is working with partner agencies on final closeout activities and on long term monitoring plan for endangered species.

6. ACTIVE RECHARGE TRANSFER PROJECTS UPDATE

Mr. Fogerson reviewed this item. The Policy Principles shown on package page 7 were reviewed. Mr. Cozad said that these are meant to guide the implementation and coordination between the Active Recharge Transfer Projects (ARTP) Policy Committee and the San Bernardino County Flood Control District (SBCFCD) and Valley Municipal. President Corneille suggested adding "new recharge" rather than just "recharge" under policy principle number four. He said that number eight and number sixteen should not be included in the principles. President Corneille suggested consolidating some of the policy principles. Vice President McDonald concurred with the edits suggested. President Corneille asked if each one of these projects will require water rights determination. Mr. Cozad indicated that each one requires a change in point of diversion. Mr. Cozad said that an umbrella water right approach is being considered. And that Mr. David Aladjem of Valley Municipal is preparing water Rights submittal. Mr. Fogerson reviewed the Program Management Plan in depth. He reviewed the project map on the sites being studied and indicated that additional potential projects have been added; Oak Creek, 29 Street Basins, and Lynwood Basins. The program goals were reviewed, and feedback was received. The program elements were reviewed on package pages 12 to 20. President Corneille proposed adding "Develop and maintain project schedule" under element two. President Corneille suggested under element six that staff consider the task order concept. Under element eight, President Corneille asked if Valley Municipal will be handling all the CEQA permitting. Mr. Cozad indicated that they are running permitting for the projects covered in the River HCP. He said there might be other permits needed, and CEQA amendments may be required. The review of the elements ensued.

Program Services Procurement on package page 22 was reviewed. President Corneille suggested including examples. The Memorandum of Understanding with SBCFCD will make it apparent which projects are doable. President Corneille suggested changing the title of the Programmed Project Schedule shown on package page 23 to "Preliminary Programmed Project Schedule."

7. ENHANCED RECHARGE UPDATE

Ms. Scholte reviewed this item included on package pages 25 to 27. She said that the District has received the 90% design from Valley Municipal and will review the plans with them on October 7. It is a similar layout to that shown in the Wash Plan; however, Valley Municipal is looking at utilizing the Borrow Pit a bit more. It is being considered as a sedimentation basin. She indicated that the main goal is to focus on how it will function and enhance operations. Valley Municipal has contracted this as a design-build delivery method.

8. MENTONE SHOP PLANNING UPDATE

Mr. Fogerson introduced this item for discussion and noted its inclusion on package pages 28 to 38. Staff performed an analysis, which includes the current equipment and mileage and access analysis. Staff will be performing a more detailed needs analysis, which will help determine where the best location is for the field shop. A map was reviewed of proposed building usage and the new building and existing buildings. The Committee expressed their support of staffs' approach.

9. MILL CREEK UPDATE AND CHANGES

Mr. Fogerson discussed the permitting phase for Mill Creek Diversion Project. The District has received the first set of comments on the 404 permit and received comments and resubmitted the 408 permit materials. Mr. Fogerson noted that if the District increases the diversion flows as part of the ARTP, then the capacity in the Districts' basins may also need to be improved. The currently planned work will not have an impact on the ARTP work.

10. ADJOURN MEETING

There was no further business, and the meeting adjourned at 10:41 A.M.