

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

January 27, 2021

9:00 A.M.

Vice 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, Vice President  
Melody McDonald, President

**STAFF PRESENT:**

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

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Mike Esquer, San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District  
Wen Huang, San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District  
Robert Stewart, San Bernardino Valley Water Conservation District

**1. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

There was no public present.

**2. ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO AGENDA**

There were none.

**3. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES FROM SEPTEMBER 16, 2020**

**It was moved by President McDonald and seconded by Vice President Corneille to approve the Meeting Minutes from September 16, 2020. The motion carried 2-0, with all directors present voting in the affirmative.**

**President Corneille: Yes  
Vice President McDonald: Yes**

4. SAN BERNARDINO VALLEY MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT UPDATE ON ENHANCED RECHARGE PRESENTATION

Mr. Huang provided a PowerPoint presentation on this item. He indicated that this process began in 1991 and reviewed the project timeline. The target project construction date is early 2022. When developing the current operating plan Valley Municipal staff reviewed historical Seven Oaks Dam (SOD) data from 1961-1999; 500 CFS will be the optimal diversion capacity. Mr. Huang reviewed the SAR spreading grounds modeling results; the maximum annual recharge basin on modeling is 107,000 AF. He reviewed the project design goals achieved. The Phase 1B design was reviewed in brief. Mr. Colunga indicated that the basins are working well for desilting. Mr. Esquer reviewed Phase 1A noting its design was done in 2012; construction began 2017. He reviewed the overall plan view. Mr. Esquer reviewed Phase 1B; including O&M and groundwater modeling results. There will be an operations and maintenance manual developed as the project is implemented with feedback from the Conservation District field staff. Brief discussion ensued regarding Phase 1B. The gates will be operated manually, and the measuring devices will be powered by small solar panels and batteries. Mr. Esquer thanked Mr. Colunga for his feedback on the project leading to enhancements of the design. The project yields an average of 15,412 AF per year; \$90 AF for capital and \$30 AF for O&M. Mr. Esquer said that Phase 1B is currently in CEQA and Valley Municipal is writing an addendum to the EIR. There will be additional permitting to be filed likely to be completed by fall of this year. The average recharge flow that is being projected is 15,200 AF annually based on modeling. Chair Corneille asked about the total costs increase and suggested value engineering be considered.

5. FIELD SUPERVISOR UPDATE PRESENTATION

Mr. Colunga presented this item using a PowerPoint presentation. He reviewed the recent project and training. Mr. Colunga and Mr. Purvis attended the virtual symposium on invasive plant management in October 2020. He reviewed the Cuttle Weir vegetation removal field staff performed that usually CalFire performs. There was dumping at the old-Greenspot bridge which they cleaned up. Plunge Creek Seeding was completed and new Woollystar were found and flagged. Mr. Colunga discussed stinkwort and stinknet removal.

6. PLUNGE CREEK CONSERVATION PROJECT MONITORING AND MAINTENANCE VERBAL UPDATE

Mr. Fogerson reviewed this item via PowerPoint. He indicated that there has been a good amount of flow and that staff is working on a method to measure the amount recharged. Staff is working on a plan to stabilize and spread the water in the channel. Mr. Fogerson reviewed the map of potential O&M activities. President McDonald expressed her support of the project and appreciation for staffs' efforts.

7. DISTRICT CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT (CIP) PRIORITY LIST FOR FISCAL YEAR 2021-2022

This item was deferred until the end of the meeting.

Vice President Corneille asked why some of the equipment within the Mentone Shop Analysis were not included in the CIP list. He asked to include the dump truck with grappler and long reach excavator to the

list. Vice President Corneille noted items that are listed as completed can be removed from the list such as items 4 thru 6, 32, 33, and 35. He said that items 14 and 15 should be included in next years CIP. He asked about the 7W cleanup. Mr. Cozad indicated that staff has been focused on other activities and has been unable to focus on that item. Mill Creek permitting was discussed in brief.

#### 8. ACTIVE RECHARGE TRANSFER PROJECTS CONSULTANT QUALIFICATIONS LIST

Mr. Fogerson reviewed this item noting that fourteen Statement of Qualifications (SOQ) were received. It received great response and there was a rating system used.

#### 9. ACTIVE RECHARGE TRANSFER PROJECTS PRELIMINARY OAK CREEK DESIGN LAYOUT

Mr. Fogerson discussed the concept plan for Oak Creek. He said that this project may be able to draw off the city storm drain for the initial inflow into the basin. He indicated that the District can use a mid-size company to do grading plans for this project. Review continued of this project via Zoom.

#### 10. MENTONE SHOP NEEDS ANALYSIS

Vice President Corneille thanked staff for their detailed analysis of the project. Mr. Fogerson reviewed the December 2020 analysis shown on package page 10 to 24. He indicated there will be another analysis needed for the Santa Ana River side. Vice President Corneille spoke in support of the CIP item for studying the canyon versus another facility some time over the next year. He also spoke in support of the Mentone Area improvements but would like for it to be somewhat scaled back than originally envisioned. Review of heavy equipment storage was discussed. Mr. Fogerson suggested that one of the three bays be made into storage. Vice President Corneille suggested that the analysis and plan be finalized and moved forward for Board approval.

**It was moved by Vice President Corneille and seconded by President McDonald to approve the Mentone Shop Improvements, direct staff to hire an architect and direct staff to perform a study of what facilities are needed at the Santa Ana Side (Canyon House/Shop) over the next fiscal year. The motion carried 2-0, with all directors present voting in the affirmative.**

**President Corneille: Yes**

**Vice President McDonald: Yes**

#### 11. MILL CREEK DIVERSION PROJECT VERBAL UPDATE

Mr. Fogerson stated that comments have been received from the Corp of Engineers (COE) and staff has contact CWE. Progress continues toward permit processing and staff hopes to submit within the next couple of weeks. They accepted the geotechnical report and there were minor comments on flood control aspects of project. Mr. Fogerson said that some of the gates must have shop drawings done now and are to be approved by the COE. A quote has been requested from the manufacturer.

12. ADJOURN MEETING

There was no further business, and the meeting adjourned at 11:41 A.M.