

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

April 4, 2022

9:00 A.M.

Vice President Corneille called the Operations Committee Meeting to order at 9:00 A.M. The meeting was held as a hybrid meeting with in-person and Zoom/teleconference attendance.

OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Richard Corneille, Vice President

Robert Stewart, Director

STAFF PRESENT:

Daniel Cozad, General Manager

Betsy Miller, Assistant General Manager

Manuel Colunga, Field Supervisor

Erwin Fogerson, ARTP Engineer

Milan Mitrovich, Land Resources Manager

Katelyn Scholte, Principal Engineer

Athena Lokelani, Administrative Specialist

Angie Quiroga, Administrative Analyst

OTHERS PRESENT:

Melody McDonald, San Bernardino Valley Water Conservation District

David E. Raley, 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 FEBRUARY 4, 2022

It was moved by Director Stewart and seconded by Vice President Corneille to approve the Meeting Minutes from February 4, 2022. The motion carried 2-0, with all directors present voting in the affirmative.

Director Stewart: Yes

Vice President Corneille: Yes

4. FIELD SUPERVISOR UPDATE PRESENTATION

Mr. Colunga presented a PowerPoint presentation about field activities. He reviewed the crane installation at the Mentone Shop. He reviewed the paver placement to protect culverts in the Mill Creek facility, that were installed by field team staff Tommy and Mike. Clearing was performed at the Cuttle Weir gates. A biological weed control experiment was performed at the Mentone Shop. Cal Fire assisted in the clearing of District property removing castor bean, tobacco, tamarisk and other invasive grasses and plants near Arnott Farms. He reviewed the use of fusillade treatment on invasive grasses in the area after Cal Fire had finished their clearing efforts.

Mr. Colunga stated that sand was given to Valley Municipal for a test pilot project. The San Diego Zoo (Zoo) was out in the field today performing a survey of the area; this effort began in March. The effort is to study habitat restoration for SBKR. The study area is divided into four experimental plots and includes: 1) sand, 2) sand and weed treatment, 3) weed treatment and 4) control area. Ms. Miller stated that the Zoo has performed a similar study in San Diego on burrowing owls and Steven's kangaroo rat in Riverside. The methodology is used to test and compare various treatment types. Valley Municipal is working to restore the areas between the Enhanced Recharge Basins so they are trying to identify the optimal method to do so. Mr. Mitrovich reviewed results of the USGS spadefoot toad survey. The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service is evaluating listing this species as endangered. Spadefoot toad were not found during this survey on District property. Director Stewart asked for potential implications if found on our property. Mr. Mitrovich reviewed the species habitat requirements and noted that USGS expected to find them on the property. Listing the species could affect permitting for District property; however, if they were found in our basins, it would likely indicate that the District operations are compatible with the species. Ms. Scholte said that the interns assisted AECOM with field surveys. Vice President Corneille asked if the District received water. Mr. Colunga indicated that there is currently 6 CFS in Santa Ana and 9 CFS in Mill Creek. Director Stewart asked if the water coming from Mill Creek is reaching Pond 3. Mr. Colunga confirmed that it is.

5. MENTONE SHOP IMPROVEMENTS

Mr. Fogerson reviewed this item, noting its inclusion beginning package page 12. Staff worked with the middle bidder, CS-NK Construction Services, to obtain a complete bid of \$294,065 including permits, bonds, septic and fencing. Staff expects to receive the anticipated delivery date for the building during the design phase. Mr. Fogerson reviewed the bid package in detail and noted that the schedule is included on package page 144. He said that contractor uses Western Steel as the building manufacturer; Western Steel is on the pre-approved list for the County of San Bernardino (County). Staff may wait to order the building until the permits from the County are obtained to make sure they have the right codes. No grading plan will be required. When project dates are closer, staff will obtain a bids to move the fence and install septic. The project as described will require more staff time than selecting the highest bidder, but will also result in a savings to the District of \$400,000 when compared to the highest bidder. Director Stewart expressed concern over the processing time necessary to obtain permits from the County of San Bernardino. The Committee expressed their desire to move forward with the project as presented. The project includes a ten percent contingency for actual construction and twenty percent contingency for the design phase which includes the architect costs. Vice President Corneille requested that, given its length, the entire bid package not be included in the Board package.

It was moved by Vice President Corneille and seconded by Director Stewart to recommend the Board: Accept the bid of CS-NK Construction Services in the amount of \$294,065 for the design/build project; Accept the proposal for \$19,308.40 from CS-NK Construction Services to construct water and electrical service to the new shop; Approve an agreement with CS-NK Construction Services in the total amount of \$313,373.40 for design and construction services; Approve a contingency fund of \$7,000 for the design phase of the project and a contingency fund of \$29,406 for the construction phase of the project; Authorize the General Manager to approve the expenditure of the contingency funds, as needed, for verified quantity overruns for this unit priced design-build contract and order any necessary changes or additions in work performed under the contract with CS-NK Construction for the construction phase; Authorize the General Manager to spend up to \$70,000 to obtain permits, install a septic system, additional property fencing, general cabinetry and shelving, fuel and pesticide storage, and perform field testing; and Authorize the General Manager to accept the work when completed and execute and file the Notice of Completion and forward to the Board for final approval. The motion carried 2-0, with all directors present voting in the affirmative.

Director Stewart: Yes

Vice President Corneille: Yes

6. MILL CREEK DIVERSION AND DEBRIS MANAGEMENT IMPROVEMENT PROJECT – SLUICE GATE PURCHASE

Mr. Fogerson reviewed this item beginning package page 147. He said that staff continues to work to obtain the 408 permit. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (COE) requested signed plans which have been submitted to the County. Mr. Fogerson recommended ordering the sluice gates given the lead time is between 12 to 18 weeks. Ms. Scholte said that three quotes were requested from the same companies that proposed on the design and they received two quotes. Staff is suggesting that the Committee approve the contract with Mueller-Hydrogate because they provided the District with a credit of \$21,602 for the previously paid engineering and design cost which lowers the proposed cost to \$93,143. The cost for Waterman was \$126,221 and the costs before the credit from Mueller-Hydrogate was \$114,745; Mueller-Hydrogate was the lowest cost both with and without the credit. The lead time with Mueller-Hydrogate is also less. Staff also included \$5,000 for Mueller to assist with inspection of install. Director Stewart asked if the District orders the gates if there is a deadline to install or what would happen if another agency should veto this project. Mr. Fogerson said that there is minimal risk: the selected contractor has extensive experience working with COE, who did not provide comments on the gate design. Staff noted that comments received by the San Bernardino Flood Control District (FCD) have all been addressed and FCD will only enforce COE comments if any are received.

It was moved by Director Stewart and seconded by Vice President Corneille to recommend that the Board finds the purchase of the sluice gates in advance of construction bidding is in the best interest of the project, that the Board accept the quote from Mueller-Hydrogate, and the Board authorize the General Manager to purchase the sluice gates and any incidental costs related

to shipping, construction coordination, and site inspection for gate installation by Mueller-Hydrogate for an amount not to exceed \$100,000.

Director Stewart: Yes

Vice President Corneille: Yes

7. DRAFT ARTP POLICY COMMITTEE STATUS REPORT

This item is included on package page 159. Mr. Fogerson said that the status report shows progress for the ARTPs. The three contracts for the projects' feasibility studies are underway. Staff is making headway on cost estimates for projects. Package page 160 summarizes tasks completed to date and page 161 shows the current status. Vice President Corneille suggested that staff add the ARTP Project Tour that was held on March 3 of the facilities. He suggested that total contract values be included under each the contracts. Staff has developed a contract tracking sheet as well. Mr. Cozad said that there were staff changes within FCD and District staff has talked with the County regarding obtaining a resolution of support for the ARTP projects. Supervisor Rowe's office is currently reviewing the draft resolution that we prepared. Vice President Corneille asked if there are minutes for the FCD meetings held with District staff. Ms. Scholte said that minutes are prepared by staff and approved by FCD and includes the topics, discussions and next actions.

8. CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS BUDGET FOR 2022-2023

This item is included on package page 163. The items were discussed as follows:

- Item 12: Habitat and Water Recharge Planning or Permitting for Mendoza – Mr. Cozad said that these efforts are ongoing and will be incorporated into the work being done on Mill Creek. Vice President Corneille spoke in support of including Mendoza with Mill Creek. Ms. Scholte is reviewing the current ARTP projects to identify methods to include this item.
- Item 23: Aggressive Recharge Planning/Permitting Dredge and Fill – Mr. Cozad said that this item is being subsumed by Mill Creek.
- Item 32a: Seven W H&S plus cleanup needs – Mr. Cozad said that it may be more than \$50,000.
- Item 34: Wash Plan Trails fencing, signage, HCP COI request – Mr. Cozad said that this item needs to move forward as agreements are approved by the City of Redlands. Vice President Corneille said that this is a high priority for the Board.
- Capital Budget – Mr. Cozad asked for the engineers to review capital equipment budget and items that may be need over the next three years. He suggested adding a capital item for office equipment and furniture. Staff will review values and include inflation costs.
- Item 14: Canyon House demolition and cleanup and Item 15: Canyon Shop demolition and replacement– Vice President Corneille said this item has been on the CIP list for awhile. Mr. Cozad said costs to clean up the house that has asbestos and lead is more expensive than originally budgeted. The ideal time to address this item is when someone is in this area performing demolition. Vice President Corneille suggested moving these items down on the priority list.
- Item 35: Dumptruck with grapple – This was recommended by Mr. Fogerson. He said that once the ARTP projects are implemented this will be a useful tool to assist in expediting work.

- Item 31: Active Recharge Transfer Project Capital Funding - Director Stewart said that this will consume a lot of staff time and is likely to continue to grow.

Director Stewart said that the way that tasks are being subsumed by other projects shows the scrappiness of the District. He said that we might have to accelerate some items to take advantage of all the permitting that the District has and is obtaining.

9. PROPOSE/SET NEW MEETING DATES FOR QUARTERLY MEETINGS

The proposed new dates are July 5 and October 4 at 9 a.m.

10. ADJOURN MEETING

There was no further business, and the meeting adjourned at 10:20 A.M.

It was moved by Vice President Corneille and seconded by Director Stewart to adjourn. The motion carried 2-0, with all directors present voting in the affirmative.

Director Stewart: Yes

Vice President Corneille: Yes