

SAN BERNARDINO VALLEY WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
MINUTES OF THE OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING
OCTOBER 10, 2023
9:00 A.M.

Chairman Corneille called the Operations Committee meeting to order at 9:02 A.M. The meeting was held as a hybrid meeting with in-person and Zoom/teleconference attendance.

OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Richard Corneille, Chairman
Robert Stewart, Vice President

STAFF PRESENT:

Betsy Miller, General Manager
Manuel Colunga, Field Supervisor
Katelyn Scholte, Principal Engineer
Erwin Fogerson, PERC Engineer
Athena Laroche, Administrative Specialist
Laura Torres, Assistant Engineer

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 JULY 25, 2023

It was moved by Vice President Stewart and seconded by Director Corneille to approve the meeting minutes from July 25, 2023, as presented. The motion carried 2-0, with all directors present voting in the affirmative.

Vice President Stewart: Yes
Director Corneille: Yes

4. FIELD SUPERVISOR UPDATE PRESENTATION

Mr. Colunga presented a PowerPoint on field activities. He reviewed the test pits dug on the former Lockheed property by Klinefelter. Vice President Stewart asked if there was a significant variance in percolation rates across the study site. Ms. Torres indicated that the report with these details is pending.

Ms. Scholte said that a clay layer was found during the excavations and noted how study results showing its extent will be valuable to operations. Ms. Torres reviewed the test pit process, noting that it included using sounder measurements.

Ms. Miller said that sand removal has been paused pending additional demand. New entities have expressed interest in obtaining sand and we have requested appropriate insurance information prior to proceeding.

Mr. Colunga reviewed the basin cleaning that is being performed. He said that field staff removed approximately forty trash bags dumped on the Mendoza Property. He reviewed sand removal that has occurred to date, noting delivery of sand to the Enhanced Recharge Project as well as and Mr. Purvis' work to load the sand to hauling trucks. Mr. Colunga reviewed the Santa Ana River water intake. Vice President Stewart asked for details on water tracking. Mr. Colunga discussed the Daily Flow Report and noted the on-going interagency communication among field staff.

5. ENHANCED RECHARGE VERBAL UPDATE

Ms. Scholte reviewed this item via PowerPoint. She discussed the grout curtain that has been installed between the main canal and basin 14. Santa Ana River (SAR) water and State Water Project (SWP) water was turned off last week following measurement of high groundwater levels at the project site. The contractors are currently focused on drop structure 6. Ms. Miller said that staff will meet to optimize groundwater recharge operations during construction this winter. Vice President Stewart asked if the project was on schedule. Ms. Scholte said that it is slightly ahead of schedule.

6. MENTONE SHOP IMPROVEMENTS VERBAL UPDATE

Mr. Fogerson reviewed this item via PowerPoint. The waterline was installed at the Mentone Shop. A new septic system was installed at the Mentone House, so the waterline had to be removed and is currently being reinstalled. The permit is awaiting revision for percolation and septic calculations. The building has been ordered. Mr. Fogerson said that the house has two septic systems: one for the kitchen and the other for the remainder of the house. He noted that the kitchen is temporarily hooked to the new septic system. The other septic system is full of grease and also needs to be replaced. Staff will bring proposed plans to the Board once more information is obtained. Ms. Miller said she appreciates the engineering team supporting this item. The fire hydrant is coordinated with the City of Redlands (Redlands) and will be installed soon on Flume Street. Ms. Scholte said the building should be delivered in December. Mr. Fogerson noted that he is working on a site plan.

7. MILL CREEK DIVERSION AND DEBRIS MANAGEMENT IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS VERBAL UPDATE

Mr. Fogerson said that the project is on schedule and budget. He noted that the cut-off wall had been extended along the entire length of the inlet channel. The gates will be installed late next week or the following week. Staff will be trained on how to use the new gates. Mr. Fogerson said that staff are preparing a zero-dollar change order to address revisions in earthwork due to Hurricane Hilary. Vice President Stewart asked for details on using the casings as forms. Mr. Fogerson reviewed the work completed to date, noting that the walls have been poured. Mr. Fogerson said that there may be a minor

design change to align with the existing earth and channel, which would be funding through the project contingency if needed.

8. PROGRAM FOR EXPANSION OF RECHARGE CAPACITY (PERC) POLICY COMMITTEE STATUS REPORT NO. 15.

Mr. Fogerson presented this item. This status report was provided to the Board at its last Board meeting. The PERC projects status is listed below:

- Waterman and Lynwood – Diversion and hydraulics has been completed.
- Plunge and Oak Creek – Flood plain analysis is underway.
- Mill Creek - Basin routing analysis is being conducted.
- All three contracts are conducting sediment transport analysis.

Vice President Stewart asked if the City of Highland (Highland) is aware of the Districts' plans. Mr. Fogerson noting meetings and informal communications with Highland to provide updates on District activities. All of the contracts are under budget: This is due to both the removal of Cook Creek and digging the Mill Creek test pits in-house. Director Corneille asked for details on any possible project delays, including critical path items. Mr. Fogerson said that San Bernardino County Flood Control District (FCD) review is a critical path item. He noted that staff members we have worked with have announced their retirement.

Ms. Miller discussed the opportunity to leverage PERC funds as a match for a U.S. Bureau of Reclamation WaterSmart grant application. This item was discussed and supported by the PERC Policy Committee. The District would work with professors from UCLA and Sacramento State to support this work, if the grant is received. Vice President Stewart spoke in support of the grant application. Discussion on modeling ensued.

9. SEDIMENT MANAGEMENT DISCUSSION

Ms. Miller introduced this item for discussion. This item was discussed with the Board during their last meeting. To date, over \$200,000 worth of sand hauling costs have been saved by working with local partners. Vice President Stewart asked for the rate previously charged by the District for sand. Ms. Scholte noted that the District has not charged for sand in approximately five years. Ms. Miller said that Ms. Torres calculated approximately 100,000 cubic yards of sand remaining on-site for removal. She said that the new Mill Creek diversion and the sedimentation basins proposed as part of PERC are expected to solve much of the sedimentation issues, but significant sediment from past operations still needs to be removed.

10. CAPITAL EQUIPMENT AND VEHICLE PURCHASES VS. LEASE DISCUSSION

Ms. Miller introduced this item for discussion. She said that staff recommends lease options following review of two quotes to purchase a loader. If the Board would like to further explore purchasing, staff can work with Sourcewell to obtain government discounts. The Board has previously authorized staff to continue to lease the loader through the end of the year at the cost of approximately \$10,000 per month. Ms. Miller has also had initial conversations with partner agencies about leasing any under-utilized equipment. Mr. Fogerson shared examples of the County contracting on-call equipment services. Vice

President Stewart spoke in support of leasing at this time, and recommended reviewing this decision when the PERC projects are constructed and operational. He believes that on-call service is a good idea, as well as partnering with partner agencies for the use of their equipment. Mr. Colunga has talked to other agencies about being trained on their equipment as well. Director Corneille suggested waiting until the District understands the total needs prior to purchasing equipment. He asked how the sediment was calculated. Ms. Torres said that the sediment was calculated based on LiDAR data. Director Corneille said that sediment has accumulated over multiple years and staff confirmed this statement. Ms. Miller noted we will evaluate inclusion of additional funds for sediment removal in the FY25 budget. Vice President Stewart and Director Corneille spoke in support of reducing these stockpiles.

It was moved by Director Corneille and seconded by Vice President Stewart to continue to lease rather than purchase equipment, until the District has more information on long-term maintenance needs related to new facilities. The motion carried 2-0, with all directors present voting in the affirmative.

**Vice President Stewart: Yes
Director Corneille: Yes**

11. REDLANDS HINCKLEY WATER TREATMENT PLANT EXPANSION

Ms. Miller provided a handout of the map of Hinckley Water Treatment Plant Expansion. Redlands reached out to the District for preliminary discussions related to expansion of the plant, including constructing additional basins on our land, six months ago. Staff does not have any additional details at this time. The site plan was reviewed in brief.

12. NEXT QUARTERLY MEETINGS

The quarterly meetings were reviewed by the Committee.

13. ADJOURN MEETING TO FIELD TOUR

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

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

**Vice President Stewart: Yes
Director Corneille: Yes**