

SANTA ANA RIVER - MILL CREEK COOPERATIVE WATER PROJECT  
MINUTES OF THE 129th MEETING OF THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

October 7, 2019

The 129th Meeting of the Management Committee was called to order by Chairperson Robert Martin at 9:06 a.m. in the San Bernardino Valley Water Conservation District Board Room, 1630 West Redlands Boulevard, Suite A, Redlands, California.

Members Present

Daniel Cozad	San Bernardino Valley WCD
Robert Martin	Bear Valley Mutual Water Company
David B. Knight	Lugonia Water Company
Cecilia Griego	City of Redlands
Doug Headrick	San Bernardino Valley MWD
John Mura	East Valley Water District/North Fork Water Company
Joe Zoba	Yucaipa Valley Water District

Guests

Richard Corneille	San Bernardino Valley WCD
Athena Monge	San Bernardino Valley WCD
Robert Stewart	San Bernardino Valley WCD
T. Milford Harrison	San Bernardino Valley MWD
Bob Tinch	San Bernardino Valley MWD
Wen Huang	San Bernardino Valley MWD
Matthew Howard	San Bernardino Valley MWD
Sam Fuller	Bear Valley Mutual Water Company
Kevin Watson	City of Redlands
Madeline Blua	Yucaipa Valley Water District
Jennifer Ares	Yucaipa Valley Water District
Jeffery Szytel	Water Systems Consulting
Laine Carlson	Water Systems Consulting

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF 128<sup>TH</sup> MEETING ON AUGUST 27, 2019

**It was moved by Joe Zoba and seconded by Doug Headrick to approve the minutes of the 128<sup>th</sup> Meeting held on August 27, 2019. The motion carried with those present voting in the affirmative.**

## EXCHANGE PLAN BACKGROUND AND FEATURES

Bob Tincher, with Valley Municipal, presented a PowerPoint presentation on this item. He reviewed the system and agreement, which began in 1976 as a way to identify options to serve Yucaipa. He reviewed the three-level exchange, where Mill Creek water goes to Yucaipa, Santa Ana River water goes to Mill Creek and the State Water Project water goes to Santa Ana. Valley Municipal paid the Department of Water Resources (DWR) and DWR provided power to Southern California Edison (SCE); these agreements are currently expired. There has not been an exchange like this in approximately fifteen years. Valley Municipal needed the Exchange Plan to move water into Yucaipa by an exchange. Mr. Tincher said that each of the parties brought resources. Valley Municipal built the facilities to be able to complete the exchanges. The high elevation diversion facilities were provided by SCE and the current Project Manager of the Exchange Plan is the Conservation District. Mr. Tincher noted that the "Bucket for Bucket" summary is included in the Facilitation Handbook that was handed out by Water Systems Consulting (WSC). He reviewed the governance of the Exchange Plan. The Conservation District keeps track of where the water is going through the Daily Flow Report (DFR).

Matt Howard, with Valley Municipal, discussed further the three-level exchange and reviewed it through Google Earth. Mr. Tincher continued the review of the background of the Exchange Plan through the PowerPoint presentation. He reviewed the future use of the Exchange Plan and water quality issues caused by the Seven Oaks Dam (SOD) were discussed. Mr. Tincher said that there were highly turbid conditions this year similar to that of 2004-2005. He noted that SCE Powerhouse 2 and 3 were out from February 2019 until August 2019. He reviewed the chronology. The water supply system is integrated with the SCE system; when these facilities are down, Bear Valley Mutual (Mutual) has to purchase water from Valley Municipal. Valley Municipal performed a joint water quality study with the Corp of Engineers (COE). Out of the study came a water quality schedule, but it was not implemented by the COE. The three options for the future of the Exchange Plan: 1) Do nothing, 2) Amend or 3) Replace. Mr. Tincher discussed Big Bear Lake and how it fits into the updating of the Exchange Plan. Mutual is interested in the water supply. Big Bear Municipal Water District (BBMWD) has an agreement with Mutual to provide them water from the lake unless the lake is low. Valley Municipal provides State Water Project (SWP) water to Mutual when unable to obtain it through BBMWD. The lake release policy was reviewed in brief. Director Corneille asked why SCE is an issue. Mr. Headrick expanded on how the outage of SCE affects water deliveries. When SCE is down Mutual has to take SWP water. Mr. Headrick discussed with SCE ways to rectify the issue and will hold a meeting with them to discuss solutions. There was damage to near Powerhouse 1 and SCE could not get to the facilities to fix them. Valley Municipal offered to purchase and store equipment at the site but will continue negotiations with SCE. SCE has tried to stage equipment in the past, but it was vandalized.

## EXCHANGE PLAN UPDATE/EXPANSION PLANNING KICKOFF

The Exchange Plan Management Committee (Committee) selected WSC to facilitate the updating of the Exchange Plan Agreement. Jeffery Szytel, with WSC, presented a PowerPoint

presentation and discussed the facilitation approach. This is the kickoff meeting and there will be several more workshops, including individual meetings, to discuss the update to the agreement. Mr. Szytel asked for the Committee to provide feedback on their goals and expectations. The feedback provided by the Committee is as follows:

1. Update Process: help identify new exchanges that could save money if any, integrate stakeholders' ideas and solutions into an amended Exchange Plan document, increase understanding and take advantage of current infrastructure.
2. Infrastructure/Function: expand the number of delivery points and intake points into the amended Exchange Plan, use all of our collective facilities to maximize the use of water flowing into the basin, play an important role in SCE facilities as a group, allow future points of delivery (i.e., East Valley and Hinkley treatment plants), identify new projects, delivery water to Bear Valley Mutual (high elevation points by exchange), local control of facilities, collaborative facility use and construction of new facilities, establish coalition to acquire rights to SCE system, and identify ways to maximize use of regional infrastructure.
3. Agency Participation/roles/responsibilities: clear message working together, provide a productive forum to solve regional water issues, educate and inform the next generation of water managers of the benefits of cooperation, facilitate collaboration among regional exchange plan parties, and agency cooperation that extends beyond the agreement.
4. Benefits: resilience when a flood, fire, and earthquakes occur, share the risk, delivery issues, long term benefits for all, reliable and sustainable water supply, water quality, maintain beneficial aspects of Exchange Plan while enhancing benefits for new facilities, and prevent infrastructure redundancy in the future.
5. Resource Management: continue the delivery of water to all parties when SOD is compromising our operations, exchange to improve resource use shortage, support and maximize recharge, continue to work with Exchange Plan partners to ensure efficient, cost-effective and flexible delivery of water (including local water and state water), streamline facility management, plan that helps us to take advantage of high precipitation events, and create a way to increase the amount of water stored in the Bunker Hill Groundwater Basin.
6. Funding/Financing/Cost Share: manage and control cost share, equitable sharing of cost, consider value, and develop financial indicators to improve the efficiency of the regional system.
7. Administrative: obtain agreement with SCE, exercise Exchange Plan on a regular basis so that staff are familiar with it, agreement to facilitate interagency exchanges, agreement flexibility to allow future exchanges, and maintain consistency and transparency.

Chairman Martin discussed the SCE facilities. Mr. Fuller said that we need to review the Power Agreements with SCE and Mutual; there may be language in the old agreements that could be useful. Mr. Headrick said that Valley Municipal previously had first right of refusal with SCE if they ever wanted to sell their facilities. Mr. Fuller will review these agreements. The Committee discussed the current operations of facilities. President Corneille asked if there is a way to remove the silt before it gets to the Districts' settling ponds and if that is included in this update. Chairman Martin said that a study was done previously. Mr. Headrick said that the

Enhanced Recharge facilities would address this issue. Discussion ensued. WSC will incorporate the feedback from the Committee into a word document and send out the group for review. Mr. Zoba asked for treatment studies to be shared among the group, including the CDM study.

#### SCHEDULE TOUR/WORKSHOPS AND MEETINGS FOR 2019-2020

Laine Carlson from WSC reviewed the workplan overview. The Conservation District will work to schedule the tour of facilities. Working Session 2 projects for February 2020 and the summary of proposed changes is projected for March 2020. A legal review will need to be done and the addendum is projected to be finalized by June 2020. The Working Session 1 will be held on December 13; notice will be sent out by the Conservation District.

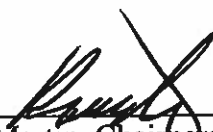
#### BUDGET AND PAYMENTS

Mr. Cozad provided a handout of the budget and payment cost-share schedule. The District may need to revisit legal if expenses become too high. Mr. Szytel will send counsel current agreement to review in advance to identify any issues or concerns.

#### ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:55 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Robert Martin, Chairperson