

UPPER SANTA ANA RIVER WASH LAND MANAGEMENT AND HABITAT CONSERVATION PLAN TASK FORCE

MINUTES
NOVEMBER 8, 2016

PRESENT

Governing Committee

Jon Harrison, Chair
Doug Headrick
Karin Cleary-Rose
Christine Jones

Technical Committee

Jeff Beehler
Daniel Cozad
Heather Dyer
David Lovell
Ernie Wong

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

Richard Corneille
David Cosgrove
Jane Hunt
Lawrence Mainez
Steve Nix
Angie Quiroga
Charles Roberts

REPRESENTING

City of Redlands
SBV Municipal Water District
USFWS
CEMEX

SBVWCD (District)
SBVWCD (District)
SBV Municipal Water District
SBC Flood Control District
City of Highland

SBV Water Conservation District
SBV Water Conservation District
Save Lytle Creek Wash
City of Highland
East Valley Water District
SBV Water Conservation District
Highland Community News

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

The Upper Santa Ana River Wash Land Management and Habitat Conservation Plan Task Force meeting was called to order by Chariman Jon Harrison at 10:34 a.m. in the offices of the San Bernardino Valley Water Conservation District, 1630 W. Redlands Boulevard, Suite A, Redlands, California.

2. SELF-INTRODUCTIONS

Those present introduced themselves.

3. ADOPTION OF MEETING MINUTES (4/15/2016)

It was moved by Christine Jones and seconded by Richard Corneille to adopt the meeting minutes of April 15, 2016 subject to ratification of the number of Task Force members needed to consist of a quorum.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

Chairman Harrison asked if there were any items that anyone wished to address that were not on the agenda. Hearing none, the meeting continued with the published agenda items.

5. WASH PLAN HCP: UPDATE

Jeff Beehler provided a slide show indicating the status of the Wash Plan. He reminded members of the three components needed to post the Wash Plan to the Federal Register: (1)Habitat Conservation Plan document (HCP), (2)Implementing Agreement (IA), and (3)Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement (EIR/EIS). The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and Certificate of Inclusion (COI) with the District, as the permit holder, are how Wash Plan Task Force partners will be covered under the HCP. SB County Flood Control District (SBCFCD) wishes to obtain their own incidental take permit and will therefore have a separate IA agreement. With this change, the HCP had to be redrafted to ensure it could stand on its own for all Wash Plan partners including SBCFCD and on its own for SBCFCD independently. Adjustments to the final draft HCP document have been completed and reviewed by USFWS solicitor and the region. The draft document should be Federal Register ready by November 15th. The IA initial review is complete, final comments from USFWS senior Staff and Solicitor are completed. The IA should be Federal Register ready December 1st.

Mr. Beehler provided a list of agreements that are being worked on and needed to implement the HCP:

- The Conservation Trust has been established to hold conservation easements and endowments but in order for the trust to hold endowments, approval is needed from CA Dept. of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW). Preliminary documents have been prepared and the District is to meet with CDFW early December.
- An MOU between District and SBCFCD, which essentially replaces the Task Force Agreement since SBCFCD is participating independently, is in final review. Expecting to take it to District's Board in December.
- District and BLM agreement to additionally manage properties has been circulated to new BLM Senior Staff. Expect tour of Wash Plan facilities and review of MOU with BLM staff soon.
- CDFW and BLM Durability Agreement is in discussion. BLM cannot place conservation easements on their property so a durability gives additional protection to those lands and insurance that land will stay in conservation.
- SBCFCD and Robertson's land transfer document is getting ready for the Board of Supervisors consideration and is forthcoming.
- Trust/District/Task Force members MOU has been implemented. Approvals have been received from District's Board and the City of Highland. Target is to have all Wash Plan members' approvals in by March 2017
- Trails Plan requires partnership with the City, conditions for trail use, responsible parties, etc. To be considered for adoption by District Board November 16th.

Mr. Beehler stated the EIR/EIS screen check is complete. Federal review by BLM of the screen check draft is complete. Estimating it will be updated and Federal Register ready by December 25th. The EIS

schedule however is dependent on the lead Federal Agencies. Mr. Beehler reviewed the Task Force schedule estimate and stated even the pessimistic timeline was a little optimistic. He provided a new schedule noting completion may be as late as November 2017.

Karin Cleary-Rose reminded members all preliminary requirements necessary for your projects can get started and you can be shovel ready, but until the Incidental Take Permit has been issued, you cannot act. Discussion ensued. Mr. Cozad informed members that if their project is getting close to starting, to notify the District so as much of the COI process as possible can be completed in advance. This will expedite issuance of the COI once the permit has been issued. Mr. Beehler noted the EIR/EIS may not need to be adopted by every participant especially if they have their own CEQA/NEPA documents. Each participant should check with their legal counsel.

6. WASH PLAN Land Transfer Legislative Update

Mr. Beehler continued his presentation regarding legislation of the House bill and Senate companion bill that were introduced for the BLM land transfer. A committee hearing is anticipated this session. BLM has done all that they can to complete the transfer without additional Congressional authorization. Once the committee hearing takes place, they are able to ramp up the administrative process. If the land transfer does not occur, the Wash Plan can still be implemented and everything can move forward except full expanded mining. The Wash Plan is moving forward slowly, but still moving forward.

Mr. Cozad added the City of Redlands incorporated the Trails Plan elements into their General Plan and states it is consistent with the HCP. The District and the City of Redlands are in sync so any future changes should be easier. The Highland Trails Committee will meet Thursday.

7. Adjourn

Jon Harrison thanked District staff for their continuous efforts toward completion of the Wash Plan. The meeting adjourned at 11:03 A.M.