

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

MINUTES
MAY 1, 2018

PRESENT

Governing Committee

Jon Harrison, Chair
Karin Cleary-Rose
David Cosgrove
Daniel Cozad
Doug Headrick
Christine Jones
Eliseo Ochoa
David Raley
John Timmer

Technical Committee

Dennis Barton
Jeff Beehler
Janet Cheek
Anthony Edwards
Kim Freeburn
Victoria Hernandez
Geary Hund
Savat Khamphou
Kjeld Lindsted
David Lovell
Lawrence Mainez
Ernie Wong
Brandy Woods

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

Richard Corneille
AJ Gerber
Angie Quiroga

REPRESENTING

City of Redlands
US Fish & Wildlife Service
SBV Water Conservation District
SBV Water Conservation District
SBV Municipal Water District
CEMEX
East Valley Water District
SBVWCD and SBVCT
City of Highland

City of Highland
SBV Water Conservation District
BLM
Robertson's
CA Fish & Wildlife
BLM
US Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS)
City of Redlands
Redlands Municipal Utilities
SBC Flood Control District
City of Highland
City of Highland
SBC Flood Control District

SBV Water Conservation District
SB County Parks
SBV Water Conservation District

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 Chairman Jon Harrison at 10:04 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 (04/18/2017)

It was moved by David Raley and seconded by John Timmer to adopt the meeting minutes of April 18, 2017. The motion carried unanimously with all present voting in the affirmative.

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. MOU STATUS AND CONTRIBUTIONS

Daniel Cozad stated most of today's information is just updates. Jeff Beehler provided a Member Status slide. He reminded members there are two Implementing Agreements (IA): one is by the SBV Water Conservation District (District) and the other is by BLM. Most members will implement the HCP through the holder of the Take Permit, the District, by obtaining a Certificate of Inclusion (COI). This process necessitated an MOU between the parties and the District for payments of the parties costs related to the permit. All parties have taken the MOU to council and management and all are approved with one exception. We anticipate Cemex to be approved soon. Payment contributions have been received in full by all except the mining parties.

6. WASH PLAN HCP: UPDATE

Mr. Beehler discussed the status of the three parts of the HCP: the HCP document, the IA between the District and USFWS, and the EIR/EIS. The HCP document and IA are complete and have been through legal review by FWS's Sacramento office. The EIR/EIS are complete at the local level and are currently in Sacramento being processed for inclusion with the IA and HCP document. Regional BLM and Regional FWS, the lead agency, are working to package these documents and publish them in the Federal Register.

Mr. Beehler explained because part of the HCP is conservation efforts on BLM land, there is an MOU in order for us as a group to manage BLM land as part of the HCP. This MOU is moving forward and is under review in Sacramento.

An updated schedule to obtain the Incidental Take Permit was provided. Mr. Beehler explained the final steps needed and estimates receipt of the Permit in April 2019. A number of projects will be moving forward prior to the HCP due to time and/or grant limitations. The District is working with anyone who may have an issue with timeline. USFWS is assisting in these efforts. Mr. Cozad stated large EIR/EIS efforts take on average 5.1 years up from 3 years in 2000. Mr. Beehler added there are favorable mitigation ratios, real cost advantages and a degree of flexibility in doing this HCP together, but it is a long arduous journey. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Beehler provided information on the District's Plunge Creek Conservation and Habitat Restoration Project. The District will be diverting waters of the state by a new channel creating 13 additional acres of San Bernardino Kangaroo Rat (SBKR) habitat. It is a mitigation project for the Wash Plan. Many participants will have to get permits from Corps of Engineers and FWS for water impacts. The Corps has allowed the District to move forward with Advanced Permittee Responsible Mitigation (APRM) upon completion of a CRAM habitat analysis and Habitat Mitigation and Monitoring Plan. This project has species impacts but it also creates about 10 acres of waters which can be used for Wash Plan projects. The District hopes to generate coverage for water impacts for participants' 404 and 1602 permits. Mr. Beehler stated the District's yearly Spineflower Survey is currently being completed. It is one of the most critical plants in the wash and most critical species being covered in the HCP. For CEQA, the District had to complete an AB52 Consultation. A list of tribes contacted was provided with consultation outcome and staff recommendations discussed. These consultations did bring small changes to the EIR/EIS. As members move forward with their CEQA projects, they too will need an AB 52 Consultation.

7. LAND TRANSFER BETWEEN DISTRICT AND BLM

Mr. Beehler and Mr. Cozad provided an update on the status of the land transfer between District and BLM. The House of Representatives passed the Bill that would allow the land transfer. A companion bill is in the Senate sponsored by both CA Senators. It has been at a hearing in the Senate and is awaiting mark-up. Hopefully the Committee will pass it on to be heard by the full Senate in Spring. Our bill is non-controversial but is grouped with other land transfer bills. If it does not make it through the Committee process, we will have to wait until Fall. Getting this bill passed allows BLM to begin the administrative work on the transfer which is really important for Phase 2 of the HCP. Most projects in Phase 2 are mining. The HCP is structured such that the land transfer does not have to be complete to permit Phase 1 projects. Discussion ensued.

8. TASK FORCE APPRECIATION FOR JON HARRISON'S LEADERSHIP AND SELECTION OF NEW TASK FORCE CHAIR

Mr. Cozad advised the Task Force, Jon Harrison will be stepping down from his position as Task Force Chair as he will be moving out of the area closer to family. Mr. Harrison has been on the Task Force for about ten years. Mr. Cozad thanked Mr. Harrison for his service as primary scheduler and coordinator and as Councilperson for the City of Redlands. Mr. Harrison stated the Wash Plan is a very complicated project but he is confident the Task Force will get it done. David Raley nominated John Timmer as the new Task Force Chair. By unanimous consent of the Task Force, John Timmer accepted the position of Task Force Chair.

9. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 10:48 A.M.