

SAN BERNARDINO VALLEY WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

MINUTES OF THE RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING

September 30, 2013
8:00 A.M.

Chairman Corneille called the Resources Committee Meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.

ROLL CALL/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Richard Corneille, Director
Clare Henry Day, Director
Bob Glaubig, Director

STAFF PRESENT:

Daniel Cozad, General Manager
Jeff Beehler, Land Resources Manager
Athena L. Medina, Administrative Services Specialist
Manuel Colunga, Field Operations Supervisor

GUESTS PRESENT:

Bob Tincher, San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District (SBVMWD)

1. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Chairperson Corneille announced this as the time for any persons present, who so desire, to make an oral petition to the Resources Committee. Hearing none, the meeting continued with the published agenda items.

2. ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO AGENDA

There were no additions or deletions to the agenda.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE APRIL 3, 2013 MEETING.

The minutes from the April 3, 2013 Resources Committee meeting were reviewed and approved.

It was moved by Director Day and seconded by Director Glaubig to approve the minutes from the April 3, 2013 minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

4. ENHANCED RECHARGE PRESENTATION BY BOB TINCHER OF SBVMWD

Bob Tincher gave an update on the joint Enhanced Recharge project between the District and SBVMWD to expand the District's Santa Ana River recharge basins commencing Daniel Cozad and Richard

Corneille for their participation throughout the design. SBVMWD will be adding new spreading basins west of the District's existing basins. The project will provide the ability to capture and divert an extra 200 cfs of water with the addition of the Plunge Pool pipeline. The functionality of the Cuttle Weir will be improved with the addition of a deflection wall, crane arm to remove debris and an inflatable spillway gate. Water clarity will further be enhanced with a new sedimentation basin upstream of the spreading basins. In the future, SBVMWD plans to extend the Plunge Pool Pipeline in order to tie in with Western Municipal Water District through the Inland Feeder Pipeline. Mr. Tincher spoke about potential impacts to Redlands Tunnel (Tunnel) which runs through District property where a new basin will be built over it. Mitigation may be necessary for any impact to the Tunnel. Mr. Tincher explained the parameters of extending the current canal to reach the new spreading basins. The design capacity to reach the current basins is 500 cfs but to reach newer basins down river only requires 250 cfs capacity. One gate per three basins will be added to release water into the basins reduced from one gate per basin as originally planned. There will be drop structures along the canal to keep the channel relatively flat to not speed up water flow. The canal will be converted to an underground culvert where it crosses the Inland Feeder Pipeline and East Branch Extension.

Mr. Tincher indicated the cost of the project has increased and a workshop will be planned to discuss final numbers. The project initially estimated at about \$30 million now looking at \$35-\$40 million. There are minor property acquisitions and permissions needed to cross the Inland Feeder and East Branch Extension. Mr. Cozad stated a MOU has been generated with BLM for basins on their property and is expected to be signed in the next few weeks. Environmental permitting within the Wash Plan area is the most important aspect of the project where SBVMWD wants to get started building. This area needs a Habitat Conservation Plan before moving forward. Currently SBVMWD will begin construction on the facilities that are outside the Wash Plan area; which were cleared of any environmental impact. However United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) is evaluating any impacts. The Bid packages are to be generated in November 2013, sending them out from December-January for bids and starting construction as early as April 2014. For facilities inside Wash Plan, 100% submittal from consultant will be turned in as early as the end of October. The review workshop for this portion of the plans is to be held in November with final submittal in December. Discussion ensued.

5. INVASIVE SPECIES MANAGEMENT (TAMARISK REMOVAL)

Mr. Cozad and USFWS recognized tamarisk plant growth problems on District property. Jeff Beehler explained the tamarisk is a plant that is called a salt cedar because though it has a pink flower the debris it drops are salty and will kill most other plants and vegetation near it decreasing habitat valued plants around it as well as soil composition. The majority of the plants are in Mill Creek basins 12 and 13. District has signed a MOU with Inland Empire Resources Conservation District (IERCD) and will be working together for removal of the tamarisk. The cost is estimated at \$2,000. Removal plans are to cut the plant, chip the remains and treat the stump with an herbicide approved for aquatic use. The removal is to begin in mid-October. More tamarisk has been seen above the Santa Ana River and the District may need to work with IERCD in the future to obtain grants for removal of this tamarisk which will help prevent it from spreading back onto District property. Discussion ensued.

6. CAPITAL BUDGET ITEMS-EQUIPMENT

Mr. Cozad stated three to four repairs annually are now needed for the case loader tractor and that staff would like to obtain a new one. The District has been setting aside funds into reserve for possible field equipment needs. Staff has looked into renting however purchasing seems more appropriate. Manuel Colunga obtained quotes from Case and John Deere. A new loader ranges in cost from \$70-\$100,000 and used can range anywhere from \$15-\$70,000. Manuel will continue to look for better pricing. Word from

others is that some of the used equipment being sold at auction was previously rental equipment which typically is not a good buy. Staff is looking for feedback from Committee members. The Committee feels buying new is preferable. We may also need to replace at least one of our pickup trucks so they don't all come to the end of their lifespan at the same time.

For Redlands Plaza, Daniel stated the need for a new sign to help attract renters and re-working landscape estimating the cost from \$30-\$35,000. Director Day concurs fixing up Redlands Plaza is needed. Director Glaubig thinks cost sounds too high and would like to see specifics first but overall agrees. Per Director Corneille, concurrence of the committee should be noted to these needs and included in the revised budget.

7. FIELD TOUR

The Committee went on a field tour of the DWR EBX construction and other SBVMWD projects after the meeting was adjourned.

8. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS/ISSUES

President Corneille inquired about the status of the Wash Plan (WP) agreement signatures. Mr. Cozad stated that the District is waiting for County of San Bernardino who plans to ask their Board for 3.03% contribution of WP budget instead of 6.06%. This will leave the WP at a deficit of approximately \$23,000. However, the Task Force should be able to generate additional funding. The next WP Task Force meeting is scheduled for Friday, October 4th unless there is a government shutdown. Mr. Cozad confirmed consultant contracts are in place for the WP. Director Glaubig confirmed he will be retiring in December at the same time as Director Day. President Corneille requested another Resources Committee meeting in November to get an update on where the WP stands before the Directors retire.

9. ADJOURN

It was moved by Director Day and seconded by Director Glaubig that the meeting be adjourned at the completion of the field tour. The motion carried unanimously.

There was no further business, and the meeting adjourned to the field tour at 9:24 a.m.