

**SAN BERNARDINO VALLEY WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
MINUTES OF THE OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING**

January 17, 2019  
9:30 A.M.

Chairman Corneille called the Operations Committee Meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

**OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Richard Corneille, Chairman  
David E. Raley, Director

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Daniel Cozad, General Manager  
Jeff Beehler, Land Resources Manager  
Manuel Colunga, Field Supervisor  
Katelyn Scholte, Assistant Engineer  
Athena Monge, Administrative Services Specialist

**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 SEPTEMBER 18, 2018**

**It was moved by Chairman Corneille to approve the minutes from the September 18, 2018, Operations Committee meeting. The motion carried 1-0 with Chairman Corneille voting in the affirmative and Director Raley abstaining due to his absence from the meeting.**

**Chairman Corneille: Yes  
Director Raley: Abstain**

**4. FIELD SUPERVISOR UPDATE**

Mr. Colunga provided an update on field operations and presented a PowerPoint presentation. He said there is plenty of water due to recent rains and the District is currently taking 50 CFS in Mill Creek. The soft plugs are doing their job, and everything is operational in Mill Creek. Santa Ana is out, and we received 1.3 CFS from East Valley Water District earlier today. The Parshall Flume is back in service as of yesterday. The debris pool is 40 FT from the top. Mr. Colunga said that Basin 3 in Santa Ana has been cleaned out by field staff. The sediment removed from the basin is being used on roads, and the City of Highland has taken some. Mr. Colunga stated that trespassers have been moving the rock to get into

the pit road going from the canal to Basin 10. Director Raley suggested placing the rocks in concrete so they cannot be moved. Mr. Colunga reviewed the CalFire thinning on the Mendoza Property. Code enforcement states that it has to be cleared 40 FT from the road. Mr. Beehler said that this is one of the things called out in the Wash Plan; for areas overgrown to be thinned out for K-Rat. Mr. Colunga reviewed the area near the old Lockheed Property where field staff is spreading sand atop of old broken apart asphalt to try and bring back SBKR habitat. He said that they put 18 inches of sand atop of broken asphalt and atop of soil they are putting 10-12 inches of sand down. Mr. Beehler handed out a map of Planned Sand Placement and reviewed in brief.

Mr. Cozad reviewed the handout, which shows the Mendoza Property survey and fencing options. He indicated that the District would be performing a survey on the property line. There are approximately 4450 FT of fencing needed. Staff identified three fencing options so far; chain link, multi-strand fence or post, and cable. The most expensive is chain link but is often cut and stolen when used out in the field. Staff believes that the multi-strand fence is the most efficient method to keep people off the Mendoza Property. Chairman Corneille asked if there was any need to have a more substantial fence than the multi-strand. The staff does not see the necessity for more substantial fencing. Chairman Corneille requested a cost comparison.

#### 5. PLUNGE CREEK

Chairman Corneille said that it was his understanding that once the Wash Plan has approved all permits were covered under that. He asked which permits are covered. Mr. Beehler said that the Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) only covers the Endangered Species Act (ESA) under federal law. Additional permits are not covered under the HCP. However, the Section 7 consultation is covered under the HCP, and the endangered species take at the federal level. Mr. Beehler said that if the District affects waters of the state that it will require a 1602 Streambed Alteration Permit and if it is going to affect the water of the US a 404 Permit is needed. There is also a Clean Water Act Permit, which is a 401 Permit; this is administered by the Water Quality Control Board. 1602, 404 and 401 are permits for projects that touch the water. There is a State ESA permit, and the cost of this is based on the size of the project. The Districts' fee for Plunge Creek is \$31,000 for this permit. The HCP has the same coverage as the 2081 permit standards. Discussion ensued regarding the City of Highland news article. Chairman Corneille requested some talking points to address this issue if asked.

Chairman Corneille provided both written and verbal comments on the Plunge Creek procurement document. He asked if the construction cost estimate in the project charter is the consultant's estimate. This was an initial estimate from the District based on the original design, and the quantities were recommended by the project engineer. Chairman Corneille asked if we are going to use a lump sum. He recommended having it as quantities and said that there needs to be someone out in the field to monitor this project and quantities used. Chairman Corneille proposed that the District designate where excess material is disposed of. Mr. Cozad said that an inexpensive option is for the contractor to dispose of the material in Ag North if the material is decent. Discussion ensued. Chairman Corneille recommended advertising the project in the Green Sheet.

Mr. Beehler provided a handout on the Santa Ana River Woolly Star draft reseeding plan for fall. The District is applying for the 2081 permit which is very restrictive. The District collected around a quarter of a million seeds; 50,000 will be kept by the Botanical Garden. After the 2081 permit is obtained, the seeds can be spread. CA DFW is working with staff get the permit finished.

6. MILL CREEK

Mr. Beehler said that the firebreak which was reviewed earlier is part of the Habitat Restoration. He said that there are some areas that may have Spineflower. Mr. Romich will bring a botanist to determine whether there is or not likely this spring. The COE is working on the 408 permit; which has to be completed before the 404.

7. CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS REVIEW

Mr. Cozad provided a handout of the updated Capital Equipment Improvement Project list. Chairman Corneille asked the status on 3A-Independent Concrete Restroom/Septic Tank Mentone Shop and 3B-Sheds Replacement and Storage for Mentone Shop with Bath Facilities. Mr. Cozad confirmed that this item would be worked on this fiscal year. Staff is working on a redesign for Mentone Shop and obtaining quotes for a new dump truck.

8. ENHANCED RECHARGE UPDATE

Mr. Cozad said that the sedimentation basin has been completed and that there is a large amount of leakage. The staff at Valley Municipal is working on it. The Redlands Tunnel may have collapsed, and the staff is trying to determine whether it needs to be fully excavated. Discussion ensued regarding sedimentation basin. Mr. Cozad said that the District could currently take between 190 and 240 CFS in the canal and the enhancement through the pipeline offers an additional 200 CFS which can be turned out at Santa Ana Low.

9. ACTIVE RECHARGE TRANSFER PROJECTS

Mr. Cozad provided a handout on implementation planning on the Active Recharge Transfer Projects (ARTP) related to the Partnership Agreement with Valley Municipal. He noted that January 22 is when they intend to sign the agreement, and there is a 120 day due diligence period. There are additional plans for organizational and staffing changes for the next fiscal year. Discussion ensued regarding ARTP planning. The River HCP will cover most of the permitting. Staff presented the concept for feedback. Mr. Cozad reviewed project locations. He said that PFM would likely handle the \$36 million investments. Preliminary engineering has been done by Valley Municipal. Mr. Cozad discussed staffing with Koff & Associates, and they are going to provide the recommended salary for Senior Engineer/Project Manager and potential staff support that may be needed. There are construction projects that are piling up as well. Chairman Corneille suggested putting an org chart together to see what the ARTP will need to get started and what the District will need to contract out.

10. ADJOURN MEETING

**It was moved by Chairman Corneille and seconded by Director Raley that the meeting be adjourned. The motion carried 2-0 with all directors present voting in the affirmative.**

**Chairman Corneille: Yes**

**Director Raley: Yes**

There was no further business, and the meeting adjourned at 11:48 a.m.