

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

MINUTES
July 16, 2013

PRESENT

Governing Committee

Jon Harrison, Chair
David E. Raley
Christine Goeyvarts
Christine Jones
John Mura

Technical Committee

John Jacquess
Ernie Wong
Daniel B. Cozad
David Cosgrove
Robert Dalquest
Doug Headrick
Geary Hund
Karin Cleary-Rose
Kim Freeburn
Jeff Johnston
Holly Roberts

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

Charles Roberts
Jeff Beehler
Athena Medina
Emerald Mancilla
Richard Corneille

REPRESENTING

City of Redlands
SBV Water Conservation District
Robertson's Ready Mix
CEMEX
East Valley Water District

City of Highland
City of Highland
SBV Water Conservation District
SBV Water Conservation District
City of Redlands
SBV Municipal Water District
US Fish & Wildlife Service
US Fish & Wildlife Service
Department of Fish & Wildlife
Bureau of Land Management
Bureau of Land Management

REPRESENTING

Highland Community News
SBV Water Conservation District
SBV Water Conservation District
SBV Water Conservation District
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 9:00 a.m. in the offices of the San Bernardino Valley Water Conservation District, 1630 West Redlands Boulevard, Suite A, Redlands, California.

2. SELF-INTRODUCTIONS

Those present introduced themselves.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

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

4. PRESENT THE COVERED ACTIVITIES FOR THE CONSERVATION STRATEGY

Daniel Cozad, of the San Bernardino Valley Water Conservation District (District) provided a handout of the Draft Covered Activities map and gave an overview of the changes presented. He indicated that the purpose of identifying the covered activities is primarily to give the partners ability to develop, construct, maintenance and modify activities within the Wash Plan area. The activities listed on the covered activities map are: Recreation & Trails, Transportation, Wells, Water Conservation, Flood Control, Aggregate Mining and Miscellaneous Activities. The District plans to create separate maps to illustrate existing and proposed activities to clearly identify maintenance and construction.

The following items were reviewed by Mr. Cozad referencing the map and follow up items were identified:

1. Trails – Mr. Cozad stated that for the partners who included these into the Plan there would need to be additional detail on planned maintenance, access and monitoring in order to open the trails to the public. This is in order to insure that the habitat is not disturbed. John Mura with East Valley Water District indicated that the Greenspot Trail is not shown on current improvement plans for the City of Highland. John Jaquess with the City of Highland stated he would confirm with the Ernie Wong, the City Planner, but believes they are included. Additionally, Mr. Mura identified on the map where the Cone Camp trail abruptly ends rather than loops or connects to another trail. Mr. Cozad stated that this particular trail ends at the beginning of the Woolly Star Preserve Area (WSPA). The Task Force would need to identify whether it is possible to continue the trail through WSPA or find an alternate route. Mr. Mura is supportive of allowing the trail through EVWD property if need be. Mr. Cozad stated that the District will follow up on this item and that additional engineering will need to be completed.
2. Transportation – Mr. Cozad indicated that the Greenspot S Curve has already been constructed and its impacts may get swapped out for the Orange, Alabama or City of Redlands Extensions. Jon Harrison, City of Redlands confirmed that the extensions are to accommodate the right-of-way, signals etc. Mr. Cozad stated that the Greenspot Road and Bridge Realignment was originally included in the Wash Plan (Plan), but due to timing has been mitigated outside of the Plan. The bridge project could result in credits due to the City of Highland for the project

not shown on the map but will be added to the next version. John Timmer, with the City of Highland, said that the Greenspot Road and Bridge Realignment has been constructed with two lanes, however the right-of-way plans include up to four lanes. Mr. Jaquess stated that the plans for this project are currently being mitigated. Mr. Cozad stated that issues such as these are items that would need to be identified in each partners covered activities and submitted to Geary Hund with US Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS). He stated that next step is to be sure activities are adequately mitigated.

3. Wells – Mr. Cozad stated that wells will be sited with the support of the USFWS and Department of Fish and Wildlife Services (DFW). Mr. Hund stated that the inclusion of the footprint should cover operations and maintenance of the wells. Mr. Cozad said that if the District did not receive the detail it was estimated and that partners will need to review and advise of any changes. Mr. Hund reiterated the importance of including operations and maintenance for the wells now so that it becomes a part of the Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP). That way the Task Force does not have to revisit this item later. Brief discussion ensued. Mr. Mura asked if the existing wells have to be included. Mr. Hund stated that if an activity affects habitat even if it is an ongoing activity it needs to be included in the covered activities proposal if not done previously. Mr. Cozad reiterated that if there are any new wells that need coverage or operations and maintenance on existing activities this needs to be identified now. Karen Cleary-Rose with USFWS said that sometimes the wells predate the listing of endangered species, but the inclusion of these now help to avoid conflict or future concern over potential impacts. The District will follow-up with Mr. Mura on well coverage.
4. Water Conservation Activities – Mr. Cozad stated existing facilities construction will be covered for maintenance. He indicated that the Mill Creek diversion grading is being considered for inclusion and coverage if it enhances the plan, more work with USFWS will be needed. The Enhanced Recharge Project has facilities both inside and outside of the Plan boundaries. The activities for this project that are inside the plan include the canal not currently shown on the map and the recharge basins west of the existing basins. Ms. Cleary-Rose stated that the activities cannot be dependent on activities outside of the Plan they must have independent utility.
5. Flood Control – Mr. Cozad indicated the need to discuss the levee and other maintenance more completely with David Lovell with SB County Flood Control District who was unable to attend the meeting today. He also stated that there may need to be additionally activities added pertaining to Plunge Creek.
6. Aggregate Mining – This item was briefly reviewed, but not discussed in detail as there have not been any changes.
7. Habitat Area\Enhancement – Mr. Cozad pointed out the Greenspot Levee Removal which serves as an example of a covered activity which will have an impact to the species in construction and will have benefits to the species afterword and therefore will be included. He reviewed the Plunge Creek Project briefly noting that it is 110 acres and reviewed the benefits of its inclusion. Ms. Cleary-Rose asked for confirmation on the acreage of this project. District will review the current acreage.

8. Miscellaneous Activities – Mr. Cozad briefly discussed EVWD grove maintenance addition.

Mr. Cozad asked that if any partners have additional activities that they would like to be added to the Plan that they submit them to the District for inclusion.

5. WASH PLAN COSTS, BUDGET AND SCHEDULE UPDATE

Mr. Cozad presented a PowerPoint presentation (attached) which included previous budgeted costs for the cost share of the HCP which is \$787,000. He discussed the implementation costs update and funding approach. The project schedule was updated based on the feedback received from USFWS. There was an additional activity added such as grazing. Mr. Cozad stated that the new costs are not presented because they are not properly phased yet. The footprints of the activities were shown in a slide of covered activities was reviewed identifying each percentage and the larger percentages are: habitat preservation/enhancement is 43%, mining is at 28% and water conservation at 26%. Mr. Wong stated that the acreage reflected is quite different from existing Environmental Impact Report (EIR) and would like the District to verify these numbers. District will coordinate with Mr. Wong to insure the proper acreage is included.

Mr. Cozad expressed his concern in regard to working to stay on schedule. He asked if final implementation costs can be finalized simultaneously with the partners obtaining approval from their boards of directors and councils to cover the preparation costs for the HCP. Final detailed implementation costs will not be available for the next couple of months and do not significantly impact the cities and smaller share districts. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Cozad stated that the implementation costs will be related to the actual covered activity that each partner chooses to have included in the Plan. Ms. Cleary-Rose stated that the NEPA documents will not be completed for 18 months and that the implementation costs will not need to be paid until the project moves forward and ground is broken. Mr. Cozad stated that an addendum to the Wash Plan Task Force Agreement will be prepared to add the San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District (SBVMWD). Mr. Timmer asked if a CEQA addendum is required for the EIR or if a new EIR is required because that will affect costs. David Cosgrove, General Counsel for the District stated that the District does not anticipate the need for a new EIR because the current activities identified are not significantly different and have less impact than the prior EIR. Ms. Cleary-Rose stated that the project descriptions should be finished by end of July. She also indicated that they have prepared a schedule that should have a permit by March 2015. BLM and USFWS will work together on the CEQA and NEPA required documents. However, sequestration may affect the ability to complete on schedule. Doug Headrick with SBVMWD would like costs included to cover USFWS should sequestration impede the project. Brief discussion ensued. Mr. Cozad indicated that the HCP and NEPA costs are currently covered under the existing costs. Mr. Cozad stated that the District will be available to make board presentations as needed. Chair Harrison asked for confirmation that it was consensus of the Task Force to move forward

and obtain approval from their respective boards of directors and councils for reinitiating the Wash Plan and authorizer the budgeted costs and allocations. All concurred and agreed the approvals should be completed in early September.

6. TASK FORCE AGREEMENT AMENDMENT AND APPROVALS

Mr. Cozad clarified the need for partners to take Wash Plan agreement amendment to their governing boards and councils for approval. The District will send out an amendment for partners to review and provide feedback. It was consensus of the Task Force to submit agreement amendment for approval to their board of directors.

7. NEXT STEPS AND NEXT MEETING

Mr. Cozad stated that the updating of the Task Force agreement and funding approvals as previously covered are some of the next steps. He anticipates the next meeting time will be in late-September. Additionally, he identified the need to have several technical committee meetings in between now and then.

8. ADJOURN MEETING

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:42 a.m.