

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

July 28, 2016
9:00 A.M.

Chairman Corneille called the Operations Committee Meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Richard Corneille, Chairman
Manuel Aranda, Director

STAFF PRESENT:

Daniel Cozad, General Manager
Athena Monge, Administrative Services Specialist
Luis Vazquez, Engineering/GIS Intern

OTHERS PRESENT:

Sean McFarland
Bill Young, California Watershed Engineering
Ben Willardson, California Watershed Engineering

1. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation.

2. ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO AGENDA

Mr. Cozad requested the addition of Endangered Habitats League and Center for Biological Diversity vs. Army Corp of Engineers. This item was received after publication of the agenda.

It was moved by Director Aranda and seconded by Chairman Corneille to add Endangered Habitats League and Center for Biological Diversity vs. Army Corp of Engineers to the agenda. The motion carried with all members present voting in the affirmative.

**Chairman Corneille: Yes
Director Aranda: Yes**

3. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES FROM MAY 19, 2016

It was moved by Chairman Corneille and seconded by Director Aranda to approve the minutes from the May 19, 2016 Operations Committee meeting. The motion carried with all members present voting in the affirmative.

**Chairman Corneille: Yes
Director Aranda: Yes**

4. REVIEW OF MILL CREEK REDESIGN

Mr. Cozad introduced this item for discussion. The final design is at 65% of completion. The Committee discussed the design with California Watershed Engineering (CWE) which attended by teleconference. Chairman Corneille reviewed the design as well as staff and provided comments to CWE prior to today's meeting. Bill Young with CWE addressed the comments received and how the large gate will operate. Mr. Cozad gave his overview of how it may potentially operate. If flows go over the gate there would be an emergency weir for flows to be diverted back into Mill Creek. Ben Willardson with CWE elaborated on gate operations. He indicated with the large gate open the system will handle more than 500 CFS. The emergency weir will be next to the 5 foot low flow gate. Mr. Willardson said that you would leave the 5 foot gate open during low flows and 17 foot gate closed. Chairman Corneille asked how the gate stems would be protected during large debris flows. Mr. Willardson said the gates can be operated by handheld drill; one wheel will operate both stems. He will review how to protect the operating stems and provide feedback to District. Chairman Corneille requested a follow up to advise how long it will take the gates to open and close and reference projects for installation of large gates. The drawings will be updated and provided to District. The original cost estimate is \$335,000 and may go up slightly once comments are incorporated into design. There is \$400,000 total in the budget which includes some contingency funds. The design will be completed by August 15th for submittal to Army Corp of Engineers which will include specifications, cost estimate and plans at 90%. Next policy step will be environmental permitting.

Mr. Cozad suggested using ICF Jones & Stokes (ICF) for environmental permitting on Mill Creek. Mill Creek will likely require 408 Permit thru the COE. Mr. Beehler said that ICF is doing permitting for Santa Ana River HCP so they have project familiarity and there has been some analysis done. The foot print impacts are covered and Megan with ICF has done a 408 permit. Mr. Beehler said that when the District files for right of entry of the Mill Creek property it will trigger the need to obtain 408 permit. The District can tier with Santa Ana River HCP or mitigate separately. In order for COE and San Bernardino Flood Control District (FCD) to review plans the District will have to complete CEQA documents; either a mitigated negative declaration or it will have to complete thru HCP. The District will also have to pay \$3,000 to FCD for review and \$2,067 for inspection and they will put in account they will draw off of for actual costs. Mr. Beehler will meet with COE to discuss 408 permitting. Once final plans are received staff will bring back to September Board meeting for approval of ICF for permitting.

Mr. Cozad indicated that Katelyn Scholte and Joy Welling worked on the culvert design which is downstream from Mill Creek diversion gates. The Mill Creek North Canal Replacement Options memo is included on package page 6. Ms. Scholte measured diameters of culvert and identified choke points. Mr. Cozad said that the culvert is rough (corrugated) and flat which reduces it's hydraulic capacity even though it is thirty inches in diameter. This project is a maintenance activity and the District will have to do a CEQA Exemption. The options are outlined within memo and costs are listed on package page 10. The costs range from \$2,400-\$4,100. Mr. Cozad indicated that if you included contingency costs the total would be an estimated \$10,000 including field staff time. Chairman Corneille recommended High Density Polyethylene pipe. The North Canal Culver Maintenance CEQA approval will be brought forward to the Board at the August Board meeting for approval.

It was moved by Chairman Corneille and seconded by Director Aranda to approve the North Canal Culvert Maintenance Project in the amount not to exceed \$10,000. The motion carried with all members present voting in the affirmative.

Chairman Corneille: Yes

Director Aranda: Yes

5. REVIEW OF PLUNGE CREEK DESIGN FOR PERMITTING

Mr. Beehler introduced this item for discussion and handed out the 90% design drawings. The next step for this project is permitting. The District will need to do the 401 permit from regional board and a mitigation and monitoring permit. The District will also need a 404 permit from the COE. Additionally, there is a Nationwide Permit staff is looking into which would streamline the project for habitat mitigation. Staff will meet the COE to see if they deem this permit acceptable. A Cultural Resource Assessment (Section 106) will have to be done if the District has to obtain a 404 Permit. The Jurisdictional Determination will need to be updated to do the waters of the US analysis. Staff is working with ICF to identify the best permitting approach. The costs for permitting this project will be brought to the September Board meeting for final approval.

It was moved by Chairman Corneille and seconded by Director Aranda to authorize staff to move forward with permitting the Plunge Creek Project. The motion carried with all members present voting in the affirmative.

Chairman Corneille: Yes

Director Aranda: Yes

6. SB-88 REPORTING COMPLIANCE REPORT

Mr. Cozad introduced this item for discussion. Luis Vazquez, Engineering/GIS Intern provided a hand out on this item. SB-88 requires minimum standards to be set for diversions related to water rights. Mr. Vazquez reviewed the handout. He stated that SB-88 requires for water producers who spread over 1000 AF to provide hourly monitoring with a required accuracy of 10% for flow measurement. State Water Resources Control Board will do periodic field inspection of measurement. Mr. Vazquez analyzed the existing Santa Ana Parshall Flume and its current performance. He went over hydraulic entrance conditions. Based on his analysis, with the lowest flows the Froude numbers are high and it is unlikely that the District is meeting accuracy standards. Mr. Vazquez reviewed how measurements are taken by field staff. He reviewed in depth how the analysis was done and what measures the District can take to improve accuracy. The basic flow capacity for the channel is 800 CFS. Mr. Cozad stated that the channel has not received more than 250 CFS. The options for improving accuracy include: 1) Two days of field work to drain the still well or clean out so that device will record with more accuracy, 2) Force a hydraulic jump which will slow water down, or 3) Retrofit with ramp flume. Mr. Vazquez suggested requesting an extension for compliance based on the fact that flows are infrequent and that the District has not had an opportunity to calibrate for accuracy due this factor. This item was received and filed.

7. REVIEW FIELD EQUIPMENT PURCHASE

Mr. Cozad introduced this item for discussion. He noted that the field staff has reviewed proposals received for chippers. Mr. Beehler provided handed out of cost comparisons for this item. He said the chipper they selected is a compact, four blade chipper with a hydraulic feed. It is much safer to have hydraulic feed. Having a District chipper will significantly cut back on debris out in the field.

It was moved by Chairman Corneille and seconded by Director Aranda to authorize staff to purchase chipper for field operations from Wilbur's Power Equipment in Mentone not to exceed \$16,000. The motion carried with all members present voting in the affirmative.

Chairman Corneille: Yes

Director Aranda: Yes

8. TRAILS PLAN UPDATE

Mr. Beehler stated that the Trails Plan (Plan) draft is close to final. The Plan has been updated with comments and reviewed with the US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS). The preliminary cost estimates have been completed and FWS indicated they would support the Plan. Most of the annual costs are related to patrol. FWS wants the patrol personnel to have the ability to cite individuals violating posted regulations. Mr. Beehler reviewed the cost in detail. There will be pedestrian usage, dogs, equestrian and potential mountain bikes. Mountain bikes is the highest concern and most expensive; that is why it is important to have a patrol to ensure they stay on the path and out of habitat areas. There will be a set aside fund of \$20,000 for maintenance and repair. There are several options for paying and governance for this project. The final draft should be ready by late August.

9. AGGREGATE PURCHASING RFP SCHEDULE

Mr. Cozad said that the Aggregate Management Request for Proposals (RFP) should be ready August 19th with a deadline to District of September 19th. If multiple proposals are received the District will perform interviews on October 17th and bring back to the Board for final approval at the November Board meeting. The existing Material Processing License expires in January 2017. The Committee concurred with staff's recommendation of RFP and Schedule.

10. TRANSITION, STAFFING AND SUCCESSION PLAN REVIEW 2016

This item was deferred to next Operation Committee meeting.

11. POTENTIAL LITIGATION

Mr. Cozad provided the Committee with a copy of notice. It was filed by the Endangered Habitats League and Center for Biological Diversity. The lawsuit indicates that the environmental documents need to be recirculated because there were elements of the Seven Oaks Dam operations that were not adequately covered. It indicates that there are species impacts that were not included in the original environmental documents. It mentions the Wash Plan in brief just to state that "projects in the Wash Plan intend to divert more water". The District is not a specifically named party. Mr. Cozad stated this is an informational item.

12. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS/ISSUES

Chairman Corneille requested that staff review the Operations and Maintenance Manual and update. He indicated that diversion facilities, pictures and specifications should be included.

13. ADJOURN

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

Chairman Corneille: Yes

Director Aranda: Yes

There was no further business, and the meeting adjourned at 11:12 a.m.