

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

March 13, 2017  
1:00 P.M.

Chairman Corneille called the Operations Committee Meeting to order at 1:05 p.m.

**OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Richard Corneille, Chairman  
T. Milford Harrison, Director

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Daniel Cozad, General Manager  
Athena Monge, Administrative Services Specialist  
Jeff Beehler, Land Resource Manager  
Katelyn Scholte, Assistant Engineer

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

None

**1. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

There was no public participation.

**2. ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO AGENDA**

**There were no additions/deletions.**

**3. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES FROM OCTOBER 21, 2016**

**It was moved by Director Harrison and seconded by Chairman Corneille to approve the minutes from the October 21, 2016 Operations Committee meeting. The motion carried by 2-0 with all directors present voting in the affirmative.**

**Chairman Corneille: Yes**

**Director Harrison: Yes**

**4. PLUNGE CREEK PERMIT APPLICATION STATUS**

Mr. Beehler stated that the application process for the 404 Certification with the COE has begun and the District has been assigned a case number and project coordinator. The COE is reviewing the Water of the US determination and will go out into the field with staff. The next item that will be needed is a 401 Certification from the Regional Board. The pre-permit site walk for this was done last week with the head of the 401 program who will be writing the District's 401 Certification (Clean Water Act). A 1602 Permit (Waters of the State Coverage) will need to be done as well; Jeff Brandt with CADFW will be handling that. Mr. Brandt will be reviewing the HCP packet first. FWS will be consulted on the 404 Certification; where they will prepare a Section 7. Mr. Beehler indicated that the project permitting is on

track for completion this fall. In the Plunge Creek Budget there are unused task funds that will be rearranged and ICF Jones & Stokes will be preparing the 404 application under the amended task order. Northwest Hydraulic will be in the field when project is in construction. This item was received and filed.

#### 5. MILL CREEK PERMIT APPROACH

Mr. Beehler introduced this item for discussion. He provided a draft memo on permitting strategy. Mr. Beehler reviewed Figure 1-where it shows Mill Creek Diversion. The District has completed the project description, footprint and design drawings. The project description was amended to include a culvert crossing on North Canal to allow Field Staff to perform operations and maintenance. It provides for operational flexibility and preserves the flow. It is after diversion on the north side of the flood wall. The biological assessment has been completed which is the assessment of biological resources (California Gnatcatcher and SBKR). The cultural resources report is being prepared, Section 106 and Wetlands Delineation; these will become part of CEQA checklist. A Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) will also need to be prepared. The District contracted with Jericho Systems to complete MND. There will be 30 days posting for public comment and will likely come back to Board/Committee in June. Mill Creek will also need a 1600 permit and CESA compliance. It will also require a 408 permit; SBCFCD will apply to the COE for the 408 on behalf of the District. The permitting process is likely to take more than a year. Mr. Beehler discussed the three permitting options. He stated that the District can shorten the process by preparing Section 7 consultation itself. Either way the project cannot move forward until the 408 permit is completed. Staff asked for the Committee to review the draft memo/plan and provide feedback. Chairman Corneille said the Committee needed time to review the Draft Memo and will provide feedback at the April 4<sup>th</sup> meeting. .

#### 6. ENHANCED RECHARGE UPDATE

Mr. Cozad introduced this item for discussion. The District received an updated schedule from Valley Municipal. He said this is Phase 1 of the project. Mr. Cozad received revised design drawings. Staff met with the consultants of the project, GHD, and provided them their comments. He indicated that Phase 1 A is the portion outside of Wash Plan boundaries. The project will go out to bid in April-May timeframe. The items that will go out for bid are the construction of sedimentation basin and new canal. There will be a pipeline to take additional flows from Santa Ana Low. The schedule shows that construction will also be completed in October 2018. The District will be working closely with Valley Municipal. This item was received and filed.

#### 7. MENDOZA PROPERTY

Mr. Cozad introduced this item for discussion. He handed out a preliminary plan for the Mendoza Property. The location map was reviewed. Staff looked at options for getting water to the site and one would be to utilize SWP water and the other would be local surface water provided through the Bear Valley highline. There are three options for water spreading: 1) Recharge basins on west end, 2) Recharge basins on east end or 3) Recharge in a canal with no basins on the parcel. The maximum recharge on the property is estimated to be 20 CFS. Option 3 requires the least amount of maintenance. Mr. Cozad noted there are existing manmade trails on the property that are well maintained by the residents. Included in the preliminary plan is a discussion of facilities to manage unauthorized usage by installing gates and fencing. Another option may be speaking with county about closing road behind the houses. The District intends

to meet with current residents to discuss the District's plan for the property. Chairman Corneille proposed presenting this item to Mentone Area Community Association when it is fully developed. A preliminary budget is included in the handout. Staff asked for the Committee to review and provide feedback. Chairman Corneille said the Committee needs time to read the plan and will provide feedback at the April 4<sup>th</sup> meeting.

#### 8. BUDGET AND CIP REVIEW

Mr. Cozad provided a preliminary Budget and CIP to the Committee. The first eight items are the items that the District is currently working on. Chairman Corneille said that item 11 major cleaning should be included in the annual maintenance budget, not capital. The Budget and CIP review continued:

- Item 12 Capital Maintenance Mill - #6 to #12 capacity: Ms. Scholte reviewed capital maintenance for Mill Creek. She said that water flows between basins 6 south and 6 north into basin 12, but it is a low amount of water. If we can increase the amount we can get water to the further northern basins in Mill Creek if there was an issue with North Canal. Ms. Scholte reviewed maintenance and how the District can return it to operational flexibility.
- Item 14 Concrete Repair Parshall Flume SAR if needed after Enhanced Recharge: Parshall Flume is tilted; if the District plans on utilizing it repairs will need to be done.
- Item 15 Habitat Equipment Herbicide Sprayer and ATV: Field staff will need a large capacity herbicide sprayer tank and small ATV to carry it for invasive grasses. Some areas where herbicide is required do not have road access for District vehicles.
- Item 16 Capital Maintenance SAR Main Canal Connection to #11: The connection to from the Main Canal to #11 is not good. Field staff typically connects through #10. If basin #10 is full it affects the drainage of the Borrow Pit and #10 has a lot of silt in it and needs more maintenance.
- Item 21 Canyon House Asbestos and Lead Removal/demolition/flood grading: The house was previously inhabited by Field Supervisor but is now uninhabitable. The house needs to be demolished but it has asbestos and lead paint. The Canyon Shop also needs repairs to it. Chairman Corneille requested that this item be changed to indicate Canyon House and Shop.
- Item 24/25 Aggressive Recharge Planning/Implementation: This year the District had a substantial amount of water bringing it close to capacity. This helped the District identify areas of improvement.
- Item 26/27 Distributed Recharge Planning/Implementation: The District needs additional recharge basins; this is a placeholder to begin thinking and planning for them.

Chairman Corneille said that the Committee needs time to the review the plan and will provide additional feedback at the April 4<sup>th</sup> meeting. The Finance & Administration Committee will also review this item at their quarterly meeting in April and it will be forwarded to the Board for final approval second meeting in April.

#### 9. SB-88 COMPLIANCE MILL CREEK

Ms. Scholte introduced this item for discussion. She and Tommy Purvis installed an ultrasonic sensor to take readings. It works well if water is going over weir only; it is not a convenient measurement tool. Ms. Scholte expanded on the work that previous intern Luis Vazquez had

initially done. She discussed existing structure and the ramp flume design proposed to allow for accurate measurement. Aside wall will need to be built up slightly so that water will not spill over wall. The current cost estimate for this project is \$13,544. Mr. Beehler said that the District would have to obtain either a nationwide permit or non-notification permit. Chairman Corneille said the Committee needed time to read the plan and would provide comments at the April 4<sup>th</sup> meeting.

#### 10. FIELD SUPERVISOR UPDATE

Ms. Scholte presented on this item. She provided a handout of photos of work performed out in the field. Ms. Scholte noted that in Santa Ana new gates have been installed by Tommy Purvis, Field Operations Specialist and Manuel Colunga, Field Supervisor. In January, SOD began releasing 200 CFS and continued for most of the month and dropped down to about 50 CFS at the end of the month, so field staff could clean out gates. Ms. Scholte discussed briefly algae growth in basins 13, 14 and 15 caused by SWP water and the need for basins to be cleaned on Santa Ana side. Field staff has reestablished some pedley dams near the WSPA area by digging them out by hand. Mr. Cozad indicated that the District is expecting 80% allocation of SWP water this year which is why we will need to clean out the basin now, rather than in the summer after they are dried-out. This is the first time our basins will be used almost year-round. This item was received and filed.

#### 11. OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE MANUAL REVIEW AND DISCUSSION

Ms. Scholte presented on this item. She provided a handout of the schedule for the update this year.. She showed the Committee a copy of the Manual. The District's Operations & Maintenance Manual was prepared in in 2012 and has not been updated since. She said there are updates to text and appendices that need to be done. Chairman Corneille recommended updates each year, as this was the intent when the Manual was completed. .

#### 12. ADJOURN

Due to time constraints the Committee postponed field tour until April 4<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m. At that meeting the Committee will provide comments to staff on the items noted in these minutes.

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

**Chairman Corneille: Yes**

**Director Harrison: Yes**

There was no further business, and the meeting adjourned at 3:17 p.m.