

SAN BERNARDINO VALLEY WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
BUDGET WORKSHOP

MINUTES OF April 22, 2015
3:00 P.M.

President Corneille called the Budget Workshop to order at 3:00 p.m.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Richard Corneille, President
Melody McDonald, Vice President
David E. Raley, Director
Manuel Aranda, Director

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

John Longville, Director

GENERAL COUNSEL PRESENT:

David Cosgrove, Rutan & Tucker, LLP

STAFF PRESENT:

Daniel Cozad, General Manager
Athena Monge, Administrative Services Specialist
Jeff Beehler, Land Resource Manager

GUESTS PRESENT:

None

1. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

2. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. DISTRICT AND ENTERPRISE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2015-2016

Mr. Cozad presented an overview on this item. He indicated that the budget was developed in a manner similar to previous years.

Mr. Cozad noted the following changes in the Budget:

- ❖ Permitting: Environmental permitting for Mill Creek and Santa Ana are included in the budget.
- ❖ Security Improvements: Repairs and enhancements are included in the budget such as security repairs to fencing, entry gates, boulders and barriers etc.

- ❖ Field Operations: Certifications of District measurement facilities. Continuing invasive plant removal; including castor bean, tamarisk, and others to keep them under control.
- ❖ Salaries: CPI-U All West at 1.3% has been used to estimate salaries and a 5% raise pool has been included.
- ❖ Capital Projects: There will be updating to field operations related to work performed for EBX.
- ❖ Revenue: Staff is using the groundwater rate that was set early this afternoon which remains the same as 2014-2015. Mining revenue is estimated based on the lease guarantee and annual minimum increases. Wash Plan funds from reserves will be utilized in next fiscal year.
- ❖ Wash Plan: There are no endowment contributions estimated for next fiscal year. Staff anticipates contributions to be made 2016-2017.
- ❖ Mentone Shop: \$25,000 was included in the budget for the addition of restroom facilities for the Mentone Shop as well as having a larger septic tank installed that connects to the Mentone House.

Upon completion of Mr. Cozad's overview, Director Raley asked if we should be spending money on projects related to the Wash Plan. Mr. Beehler said that performing endangered species work on the land which we are saying is conserved is viewed as "take" by the FWS. The District cannot perform work that causes take without a permit (approval of HCP). There are minor projects related to invasive plants and surveys that the District can perform while waiting for permitting, but we are not permitted to perform any activity that results in take of species. Mr. Cozad said that staff is performing activities that don't require a permit; regular maintenance and minor work in Mill Creek and fencing. President Corneille requested that staff budget for the preliminary design of the Trails System in 2015-2016. We should prioritize the trails and determine the trail(s) we want to do first, then get the cities involved and obtain comments. Director Raley asked for the Operations Committee to develop a list of deferred maintenance and projects and the items we would like to fund. President Corneille requested that staff add funds in the budget to potentially support the Community Garden project with Mentone Area Community Association, if it is implemented. He suggested that when designing the restroom facilities for the Mentone Shop that we add a septic system large enough to be able to tie in a restroom for the Community Garden. Vice President McDonald said that we would have to take into account the new ADA requirements amongst other factors. Mr. Cozad indicated that adding a restroom for the Community Garden would be a significant capital expense. Discussion ensued. President Corneille asked what the District would need to get the trail to cross the Santa Ana River. Mr. Beehler indicated that the additional permitting would have to be done through the Woolly Star Preserve Area. It has to go through SBC Flood Control District because it is their easement or property. The largest task will be identifying the operations and maintenance of the trails to ensure that it is kept up; including trash and avoidance of species. Staff indicated they have included some funding for continued trail planning. Discussion ensued. President Corneille noted that Director fees have decreased in

the proposed budget. Mr. Cozad said they have decreased by \$5,000 based on expenses this year.

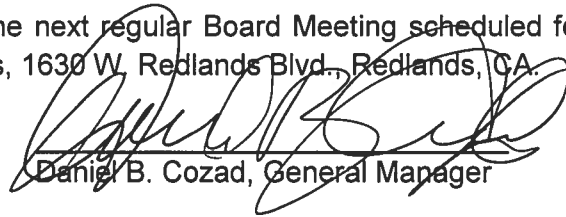
It was the consensus of the Board to bring the District and Enterprise Budget for fiscal year 2015-2016 with revisions suggested to the May 13th Board of Directors Meeting for consideration of approval.

3. ADJOURN MEETING

It was moved by Director Aranda and seconded by Vice President McDonald to adjourn. The motion carried with all directors present voting in the affirmative and Director Longville noted absent from the vote.

**President Corneille: Yes
Vice President McDonald: Yes
Director Longville: Absent
Director Raley: Yes
Director Aranda: Yes**

At 3:39 p.m. the meeting adjourned to the next regular Board Meeting scheduled for May 13, 2015 at 1:30 p.m. at District Headquarters, 1630 W. Redlands Blvd., Redlands, CA.



Daniel B. Cozad, General Manager