

SAN BERNARDINO VALLEY WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

MINUTES OF THE OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING

March 17, 2014
9:30 A.M.

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

OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Richard Corneille, Chairman
Manuel Aranda, Director

STAFF PRESENT:

Daniel Cozad, General Manager
Jeff Beehler, Land Resources Manager
Athena Monge, Administrative Services Specialist
Manuel Colunga, Field Operations Supervisor

OTHERS PRESENT:

None

1. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None.

2. ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO AGENDA

There were no additions or deletions to the agenda.

3. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES FROM SEPTEMBER 30, 2013.

It was moved by Chairman Corneille and seconded by Director Aranda to approve the minutes from the September 30, 2013 Resources Committee meeting. The motion carried with all members present voting in the affirmative.

Chairman Corneille: Yes

Director Aranda: Yes

4. REVIEW OF PRELIMINARY CAPITAL EQUIPMENT AND IMPROVEMENT

Mr. Cozad indicated that the Existing Facilities Capital Maintenance and Improvement Project (CIP) list presented to the Committee is preliminary and upon feedback from the Committee will be revised and eventually brought back for review and approval. He provided a brief status report on equipment stating that the District obtained delivery of the new Case Loader tractor on March 13th. Additionally, replacement of the Ford Ranger pickup truck is included in the budget for Fiscal Year 2014-2015. The cost to repair the Ford Ranger has become more than the vehicle is worth. Mr. Cozad explained that

funding related to the CIP list are divided into categories of probable funding sources: District, Enhanced Recharge, and Other. He indicated that many of the projects listed on CIP list will not be reviewed again until the Enhanced Recharge Project has been completed and Staff can identify how those facilities affect existing field operations. Mr. Cozad noted the projects in grey have already been funded. Chairman Corneille asked about San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District's (SBVMWD) schedule for the Enhanced Recharge Project. Mr. Cozad stated that their work within the Wash Plan area will not begin until the Wash Plan is implemented. SBVMWD's offsite work is pending the filing of a permit with the state, which states the waters of the District are jurisdictional. This requires the District as owner of the property to negotiate permit conditions with the Department of Fish and Wildlife. Upon completion of obtaining the permit, SBVMWD will be ready to bid the project. They are also waiting on Edison permits.

Mr. Cozad discussed the construction of a concrete vertical walled channel that the Committee will view and discuss on their field tour today. Chairman Corneille inquired about Item 10, the existing reinforced concrete box culvert at Greenspot Road and the new culvert proposed in relation to the Greenspot Realignment Project. Mr. Cozad explained that the District has requested a larger capacity culvert during the road realignment construction, which will be funded by SBVMWD. He indicated that it will be less expensive to build since there will only be disruption to a trail. It has been left as a future project. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Cozad continued review of the list of maintenance and projects. He stated the vertical walled channel items are really to minimize future maintenance and will be categorized together. He indicated that once the road is in and SBVMWD has completed their projects, we can better determine the need for these channels. Review and discussion of CIP list continued as follows:

- Items 5-7: These items will be deferred until the Enhance Recharge Project is completed.
- Items 8, 9 & 13: These items are contingent upon the effects of the Enhanced Recharge Project completion and the effect it has on existing facilities and operations.
- Items 15-17: This item pertaining to diversion structures and existing main canal will be removed from list due to the inclusion of this in the Enhanced Recharge Project.
- Item 18: The construction of a north main canal of existing Borrow Pit is not likely to be completed.
- Item 19: Three recharge basins at east end of Borrow Pit have been completed.
- Items 20: The clean out and re-grading of the existing main east canal has been partially completed and the remaining half will be completed within the Enhanced Recharge Project.
- Items 21-22: These items will be reviewed on the tour to allow for better explanation on how the cost for installation and repairs exceed the District's budget.
- Item 23: The installation of 4000 ft. of chain link fence along south right of way of Mill Creek (MC) spreading grounds including adding rock is not a high priority currently. However, this item will be reviewed along with habitat.
- Item 24: SBVMWD plans to clean-out and extend Basins 7-9 which are 200 ft. north of the fence at Hadera St. in MC spreading grounds.
- Items 25-26: The need for rehabbing and reworking of canal/ditch and control structures near Dike D in the Santa Ana River (SAR) to CEMEX and Robertson's will only need to be completed in the event of an emergency.
- Item 27: Dike D has been cleaned out. If the District would like to move water from Dike D to Plunge Creek, the District would need to raise Dike D to control that flow as reservoir storage.

The District may combine this project with the land bridge, habitat crossing, which can be a net benefit to the HCP and we would get habitat credit.

- Items 28: This item is a pilot to perform habitat improvements in an area of the District's choice.
- Item 29: The MC planning and habitat surveys are not in the current budget. The District will need to budget funds for this project.
- Item 30: MC participation in regional HCP is both SAR and MC. The District has an agreement with WMWD, SBVMWD and City of Riverside to include approximately half of District costs as part of the enhancements on one side and the active recharge project on the MC side. The District's portion of \$50,000 is low for total participation; total cost is approximately \$120,000 paid over 3 years. The District will cover not only what we will be diverting but what we will be diverting for SBVMWD. It will be the full capacity of diversion and maintenance for the facilities.
- Items 31-32: Borrow Pit ripping and soil removal and clean out of Dike D have already been completed.

Mr. Cozad stated that on today's field tour the Committee will tour Mill Creek and in an effort to identify ways to improve the diversion. Staff would like to be prepared for any additional water capture opportunities. Mr. Cozad provided maps to show the diversion. He explained Staff is meeting afternoon with County Transportation and Flood Control on their Garnet St. bridge replacement. If they are doing significant work there may be an opportunity to partner with them in the completion of some of the projects identified on the CIP list. Mr. Cozad discussed the historic flood control levee in the center of the channel which reduces MC down to the small space under the Garnet St. Bridge box which encourages erosion of the creek bed. When this happens the District has to move further and further upstream to get the channel brought over to us to keep it high. Essentially the District is creating a flume in the channel to bring water over which is very unproductive.

Chairman Corneille requested that Manuel Colunga identify any equipment replacement or any new equipment needs. Mr. Colunga declared there is a need to install brakes on the trailer used to haul the excavator. He is working on obtaining costs to resolve this issue. Mr. Colunga said that a new trailer would cost more than \$10,000. Mr. Cozad indicated the need to review the current equipment and vehicle inventory out in the field. Chairman Corneille agreed that would be beneficial in planning for upcoming needs.

5. PRODUCER AUDIT PROCEDURE DISCUSSION

Mr. Cozad provided a copy of the Past Due Production Policy Resolution and the extended list of unpaid groundwater producers. He explained the list is broken into late/unpaid producers and producers under investigation for either not reporting for an extended length of time or the District needing to find the current owner. Mr. Cozad went through the list of producers and discussed their status. For the producers who continually have issues calculating their usage, he suggests that staff propose a fee for calculation. He indicated that producers on the investigation list are non-responsive whether it is because the wells have changed hands or are no longer being used has not been identified. These are the producers Staff would like to research further to determine the status of the wells. Chairman Corneille asked if Staff would physically go to the well locations and noted these are relatively small producers. Mr. Cozad agreed that the producers on the list are small and that Staff may consider visiting the well locations. He stated that Staff has been able to use information from Steve Mains of Watermaster Services to update some of the District's records. Staff needs be able to document the status of all wells. For the wells Staff is unable to obtain information on they would have attempt to obtain the legal owner of the parcel from the county and send a registered letter to the owner to try and get a response this way.

6. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS/ISSUES

There were none discussed.

7. ADJOURN TO FIELD TOUR

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

Chairman Corneille: Yes

Director Aranda: Yes

The field tour included: 1. visiting the MC diversion structure to look at the issues associated with the prevention of debris impacting this structure; 2 visiting the basins in MC impacted by the EBX pipeline construction and the basin levees that leaked during testing; and 3. Seeing the new backhoe located at the Seven Oaks Dam operations facility.

There was no further business, and the meeting adjourned to the field tour at 10:16 a.m.