SAN BERNARDINO VALLEY WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

MINUTES OF THE RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING

January 15, 2004
3:00 p.m.

Chairman Bert Marcum Jr. called the Resources Committee Meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Bert Marcum Jr., Director
Sterling Woodbury, Director
Clare Henry Day, Director

STAFF PRESENT:

Larry Libeu, General Manager
Thomas Crowley, Assistant General Manager
Walter Christensen, Project Manager
Colleen Theuer, Administrative Services Manager

GUESTS PRESENT:

Manuel Aranda, Director

1. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Chairperson Marcum announced this as the time for any persons present, who so desire, to make an oral petition to the Resources Committee. Hearing none, the meeting proceeded with the published agenda items.

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF OCTOBER 7, 2003

The minutes of the Resources Committee Meeting of October 7, 2003, were discussed. Three minor changes were noted.

It was moved by Director Woodbury and seconded by Director Day to approve the minutes of the Resources Committee meeting of October 7, 2003, as amended. The motion carried.

3. STATUS REPORT ON GROUNDWATER MITIGATION PROGRAM

Mr. Crowley discussed the Groundwater Level Mitigation Project, the water cost-sharing project between the District, the City of Redlands, and East Valley Water District during the months of November and December 2003. He said that during these two months, 2,300 acre-feet of water went into the Santa Ana River, and about 200 acre-feet of water went into Mill Creek. At a cost of $60.00 per acre-foot, the District would be spending approximately $150,000 instead of the $240,000 allowed. A new program, approved by the Board in December 2003, requires the purchase of water take place between January and May 2004. This ensures that water would be more readily available during the wet months for recharge. Discussion continued. Director Day expressed concern that the new program of purchasing water did not include a cost-sharing plan. Mr. Libeu said that the approval of the new program was contingent upon staff preparing a reimbursement program to recover costs, which would be discussed during the next agenda item.

4. DISCUSSION ON WATER REPLENISHMENT REIMBURSEMENT PROGRAM

Mr. Libeu discussed the Water Replenishment Program, approved by the Board in December 2003. He compared the Groundwater Level Mitigation Project and the Water Replenishment Program, explaining that while the Groundwater Level Mitigation Project was a cost-sharing program among agencies, the replenishment program requires that the District purchase water directly. The cost of $420,000 committed to the new program would need to be paid by the end of January; however, if the water were not all used, the District would have the option of receiving a refund or to carry the refund over to the following year. In order to recover the costs of the program, the District would need to increase groundwater assessment rates. Using visual aids, Mr. Christensen demonstrated several possible scenarios. After a lengthy discussion, the Committee decided to recommend a plan that would increase non-agricultural rates to $11.66 and agricultural rates to $3.04, recovering the costs over a six-year period, for the funds already committed.

It was moved by Vice President Day and seconded by Director Woodbury to recommend increasing the non-agricultural groundwater assessment to $11.66 and the agricultural groundwater assessment to $3.04, in order to recover District costs of purchasing water for recharge purposes, over a six-year period. The motion carried.

Discussion continued.

It was moved by Vice President Day and seconded by Director Woodbury to amend the motion to also consider increasing the non-agricultural groundwater assessment to $11.94 and the agricultural groundwater assessment to $3.11, in order to recover District costs of purchasing water for recharge purposes, over a five-year period. The motion carried.

5. ADJOURN

There was no further business, and the meeting adjourned at 4:18 p.m.