

SAN BERNARDINO VALLEY WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

MINUTES OF OCTOBER 11, 2023
1:30 p.m.

Vice President Stewart called the Board of Directors meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. by in-person, teleconference, and Zoom meeting. All those in attendance stood for the pledge of allegiance led by Vice President Stewart.

ROLL CALL:

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Robert Stewart, Vice President
Richard Corneille, Director
David E. Raley, Director
John Longville, Director (Arrival: 1:43 p.m.)

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Melody McDonald, President

STAFF PRESENT:

Betsy Miller, General Manager
Milan Mitrovich, Land Resources Manager
Katelyn Scholte, Principal Engineer
Angie Quiroga, Senior Administrative Analyst
Athena Laroche, Administrative Specialist

GUESTS PRESENT:

Paul Kielhold, San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District
June Hayes, San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District
T. Milford Harrison, San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District
David E. Smith, East Valley Water District
Willow Green, Tetra Tech
Randy Do, PCTronics

1. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Vice President Stewart announced that any persons present, who so desired, may make an oral presentation to the Board of Directors. There being none, the meeting continued with the posted agenda items.

2. ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO AGENDA

There were no additions or deletions to the posted agenda.

3. GUEST RECOGNITIONS/SELF INTRODUCTIONS

The Board and staff made self-introductions. Vice President Stewart and Ms. Laroche introduced online attendees.

4. CONSENT CALENDAR

It was moved by Director Corneille and seconded by Director Raley to approve the Consent Calendar: Item A: Board Minutes, September 13, 2023; and Item B: Expenditure Report, September 2023. The motion carried 3-0, with all Board members present voting in the affirmative. Director Longville and President McDonald were noted absent from the vote.

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

5. COMMITTEE REPORTS/ACTION ITEMS

A. OPERATIONS COMMITTEE VERBAL UPDATE

Director Corneille provided a verbal update on the Operations Committee meeting held on October 10. He stated that the Committee received a Field Supervisor presentation and that it visited the Mill Creek Diversion and Debris Management (Mill Creek) Project construction site. He noted that the Mill Creek project is on schedule and within budget, and that staff is doing a great job overseeing the construction of Mill Creek. The Mentone Shop Improvement Project is progressing as planned, and the District expects to receive the building in December. Director Corneille indicated that the Program for the Expansion of Recharge Capacity (PERC) status report was reviewed and that the schedule has been delayed due to interagency review. The Committee reviewed sediment management; approximately 100,000 cubic yards are pending removal in Mill Creek. Director Corneille noted that capital purchase of vehicles and equipment versus leasing was discussed, with the Committee opting to lease rather than purchase major equipment. Ms. Miller stated that any proposed leasing of equipment for maintenance will be brought to the Budget Workshop for the next fiscal year. Vice President Stewart noted that Ms. Scholte has obtained her P.E. and the Board congratulated Ms. Scholte on this accomplishment. Director Corneille said that the City of Redlands will be expanding their treatment plant, with potential expansion on District property. Staff will continue coordinating with the City of Redlands on this item. Vice President Stewart thanked staff for the field presentation.

B. UNAUDITED FINANCIAL REPORT, SEPTEMBER 2023

Ms. Quiroga introduced this item for discussion, noting its inclusion on package page 27. She said that GL 4010 Interest Income has increased by \$145,472 for September and is on track to be at or above budget by fiscal year end. She reviewed GL 4032 CEMEX royalties, noting that \$83,564 has been received for July and \$96,753 for August. Ms. Quiroga pointed out that a pass-through payment was made to San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District (SBVMWD) from GL 5128 GC NonDistrict Facilities Maintenance for \$117,698 through the Groundwater Council. She continued to review the memo on package page 27. She noted that the septic tanks and leach field at the Mentone House needed to be replaced, and the cost for one new tank and leach field has been expended from GL 7130 Mentone Property (House). Ms. Quiroga reviewed the graph financials on package page 29. She stated all revenue for the GL 4022 Groundwater Charge has been received. She noted that four groundwater producers have yet to report their usage, but these producers historically report zero usage. Staff continues to research new ownership information for the property previously owned by Lucky Farms. Ms. Quiroga said groundwater production has been lower overall because it is a wet year. She noted that under GL 5200 Field Operations, \$157,000 was expended from this GL for basin maintenance. She reviewed package page 30; a revised handout was provided to the Board with the enterprise name changed from "Active Recharge TP Revenue" to "PERC Revenue ." Ms. Quiroga noted that there has been an increase in our cash position of \$783,674. Director Corneille asked for additional information on GL 4032. Ms. Quiroga said that royalties are paid monthly and normally received by the end of the following month for usage. The current monthly minimum annual guarantee that CEMEX pays is \$550,000. Director Corneille asked where the partial reimbursement of Wash Plan expenses of \$351,153 were allocated. Ms. Quiroga indicated that the payment to the District has been applied against the liability and will be shown in next month's financials following an adjusted entry. Director Corneille asked for the status of the audit. Ms. Quiroga said that the Conservation Trust audit has just been completed, the District's Audit is almost complete, and Rogerson, Anderson, Malody, and Scott (RAMS) will be preparing both Audit Reports for review and approval.

It was moved by Director Corneille and seconded by Director Raley to approve Unaudited Financial Reports for September 2023. The motion carried 4-0, with all Board members present voting in the affirmative. President McDonald was noted absent from the vote.

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

C. U.S. BUREAU OF RECLAMATION WATERSMART APPLIED SCIENCE GRANT APPLICATION AND MATCHING FUNDS

Ms. Miller introduced this item for discussion, noting its inclusion beginning package on page 34. She said that there is a funding opportunity through the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation for a WaterSmart Applied Science Grant. This is a grant opportunity to leverage funds that are currently budgeted,

including: 1) groundwater modeling as part of the PERC feasibility study contracts and 2) funds that were budgeted to expand the integrated model prepared by SBVMWD in 2016 to include all of the District's recharge data. Ms. Miller said that this work will inform understanding of how recharge has affected the Bunker Hill Basin. She stated that the grant would allow us to run the existing Integrated Model with updated PERC scenarios. The District has partnered with Dr. Zoi Dokou, Ph.D. of Sacramento State University, and Dr. Alvar Escriva Bou, Ph.D. of University of California Los Angeles, on this proposal. Ms. Miller noted that the District received support from the PERC Policy Committee to authorize the use of matching funds and apply for this grant. She provided an overview of draft Resolution No. 616, which would authorize the General Manager to file an application for the WaterSmart grant and commit the District to provide matching funds, if approved by the Board. Director Corneille spoke on behalf of the PERC Policy Committee, noting his support. Director Longville noted the benefit of leveraging District funds through combining them with grant dollars to accomplish work that would otherwise be unachievable. He thanked staff for doing an excellent job in finding these opportunities. Director Raley asked for the costs and benefits of pursuing these projects. Ms. Miller said there are no additional costs, and the District could receive up to \$300,000 for additional modeling for the PERC projects. Vice President Stewart asked how long the modeling would take. Ms. Miller said the work is estimated at one-and-a-half years. Vice President Stewart asked if the Enhanced Recharge Project was included in the Integrated Model. Ms. Scholte said that the Weaver Basins were not included, but the Enhanced Recharge project was.

It was moved by Director Longville and seconded by Director Corneille to adopt Resolution No. 616 and authorize the use of budgeted funds for appropriate tasks as matching funds for the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation WaterSmart Applied Science Grant, up to a total of \$350,000 in FY24 and FY25. The motion carried 3-0, with Director Longville, Corneille, and Vice President Stewart voting in the affirmative. President McDonald was noted absent from the vote, and Director Raley abstained.

President McDonald: Absent

Vice President Stewart: Yes

Director Corneille: Yes

Director Longville: Yes

Director Raley: Abstained

6. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. ENGINEERING UPDATE

Ms. Scholte presented this item, noting its inclusion on package page 38. She reviewed the Mentone Shop Improvement Project: the hydrant will be installed on Flume St., the fence will be relocated, and the water line will be relocated due to the need for a new septic system at Mentone House.

Ms. Scholte reviewed the Mill Creek Diversion and Debris Management Improvement Project. She presented photos of the project via Zoom. Construction began August 14, and the project is on schedule. Director Corneille said that the Operations Committee enjoyed their tour of the site and noted that the project is going well.

Ms. Scholte reviewed the Enhanced Recharge Project, indicating that staff continues to work closely with the San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District. A grout curtain has been installed between basins 13 and 14 to allow for better instrumentation of measurements.

Ms. Scholte reviewed the current status of the PERC projects. She said that all three contracts are currently focused on hydraulic modeling. San Bernardino County Flood Control District has provided concurrence for the proposed conditions for Plunge and Oak Creek and Waterman, Twin and Lynwood. Ms. Scholte said that the completed hydraulic models will be incorporated into the groundwater modeling. She noted that staff is working on finalizing the average annual hydrology for Bledsoe Creek to see if enough water is present to make that site viable. This item was received and filed.

B. WASH PLAN TRAILS STATUS REPORT

Ms. Miller introduced this item for discussion, noting its inclusion on package page 41. She noted that staff is awaiting feedback from the City of Redlands. The previously-scheduled meetings were postponed pending city attorney review. This item was received and filed.

C. ENVIRONMENTAL UPDATE

Mr. Mitrovich introduced this item for discussion, noting its inclusion on package page 42. He reviewed the Wash Plan Implementation – Monitoring Activities. He said that Mikael Romich is in the third year of data collection for the SBKR Monitoring Program. As of the end of September, 75% of the sampling of one hundred grids within the Wash Plan is complete. In October, SBKR trapping for monitoring purposes will begin in Mill Creek in support of the Safe Harbor Agreement. Mr. Mitrovich noted that the Conservation Trust received confirmation that it was awarded the California Fuels Management and Community Fire Assistance Program Grant in the amount of \$819,500. Seed collection at the SHSF bulking site was completed on September 20. Outplanting is planned to begin in November.

Mr. Mitrovich reviewed the Wash Plan Implementation – Organizational Structure, Planning, and Reporting, noting its inclusion on package page 43. He said that staff met with BLM to discuss fire management strategies in the Wash Plan Preserve and the schedule of Enhanced Recharge construction activities on September 26. District staff met with CDFW on August 24, August 30, and October 10 to discuss the 2081 Incidental Take Permit for Wash Plan covered activities, with a focus on proposed mining activities.

Mr. Mitrovich reviewed the Mill Creek Programmatic Permits. He provided photos via Zoom, and provided a verbal update. He provided a brief review of the tour that was planned for September 23, but has been postponed at this time. This item was received and filed.

D. GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT AND MONTHLY RECHARGE REPORT

Ms. Miller indicated that the written General Manager's Report was included in the Board package on pages 45 through 47. She noted a tour of District facilities has been scheduled for November 6 at 8:00 a.m. per Director Raley's request at the September Board meeting. Ms. Miller said the Board Environmental Workshop planned for November will be rescheduled when additional information is available regarding a possible federal shutdown in order to allow our colleagues from USGS to attend.

The District's total recharge is 85,302 AF to date for the water year, including approximately 3,506 AF of SWP water. Director Raley asked about the level of the groundwater basin. Ms. Scholte indicated that the District will have that information after the completion of the Engineering Investigation Report. Rebecca Martin reached her one-year anniversary at the District on October 3, and Athena Laroche will reach her fifteen-year anniversary on October 27. The District has entered into a property management contract with Hudson Property Management for Redlands Plaza on October 1. The remediation in Suite 1 began on October 9. Ms. Miller noted that IERCD has been performing outreach efforts as indicated under Item 20 of General Manager's report.

Ms. Miller thanked staff for their efforts in preparation of the September 23 tour that has been postponed. She congratulated Ms. Scholte on achieving her Professional Engineering license. She noted that she will be traveling next week, and will be attending her Financial Data Analysis for Leaders training the following week. Director Corneille asked for the next steps related to the Strategic Plan Update. Ms. Miller has met with the strategic planning consultants, and a draft incorporating comments provided at the September Board meeting will be brought for approval of content at the November Board meeting. The final adoption of the plan is scheduled for December. The Monthly Recharge Report is included on package page 48. This item was received and filed.

E. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS AND STAFF TASKS

Vice President Stewart requested a workshop be held on the fuel modification plan separate from a Board meeting.

7. MONTHLY BOARD MEMBER MEETING REPORTS AND/OR BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Director Corneille attended the State of the City Luncheon on September 14, Division III Water Forum on September 28, and PERC Policy Committee on October 5. He attended the Operations Committee on October 10 and Redlands Rise N Shine on October 6.

Director Raley attended the State of the City Luncheon on September 14 and Redlands Rise N Shine on October 6.

Director Longville attended the SBVMWD Board meetings on September 19 and October 3.

Vice President McDonald attended the Division III Water Forum on September 28 and the Operations Committee on October 10.

8. UPCOMING MEETINGS

There were none discussed.

9. CLOSED SESSION

It was moved by Director Corneille and a second by Director Raley, adjourned to Closed Session. The motion carried 4-0, with all Directors

present voting in the affirmative. President McDonald was noted absent from the vote.

President McDonald: Absent
Vice President Stewart: Yes
Director Corneille: Yes
Director Longville: Yes
Director Raley: Yes

Mr. Mitrovich announced that the meeting would adjourn to Closed Session to discuss all posted agenda items.

At 3:04 p.m., the meeting reconvened into an open session. Ms. Miller noted that there was no reportable action during the closed session, under Government Code section 54957.1.

10. ADJOURN MEETING

It was moved by Director Raley and seconded by Director Longville to adjourn. The motion carried 4-0, with all Directors present voting in the affirmative. President McDonald was noted absent from the vote.

President McDonald: Absent
Vice President Stewart: Yes
Director Corneille: Yes
Director Longville: Yes
Director Raley: Yes

At 3:05 p.m., the meeting adjourned to the Board meeting scheduled for 1:30 p.m. on November 8, 2023, in-person, teleconference, and Zoom meeting.



Betsy Miller
General Manager