

**SAN BERNARDINO VALLEY WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT**  
**MINUTES OF THE OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING**  
MAY 21, 2024  
9:00 A.M.

Chairman Corneille called the Operations Committee meeting to order at 9:00 A.M. The meeting was held as a hybrid meeting with in-person and Zoom/teleconference attendance.

**OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Richard Corneille, Chairman  
Robert Stewart, Vice President

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Betsy Miller, General Manager  
John Lambie, Consulting Chief Engineer and Hydrogeologist  
Laura Torres, Assistant Engineer  
Athena Laroche, Administrative Specialist

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

None

1. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public present.

2. ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO AGENDA

There were none.

3. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES FROM APRIL 17, 2024

**It was moved by Vice President Stewart and seconded by Director Corneille to approve the meeting minutes from April 17, 2024, as presented. The motion carried 2-0, with all directors present voting in the affirmative.**

**Vice President Stewart: Yes**

**Director Corneille: Yes**

4. PERC STATUS REPORT NO. 18

Mr. Lambie introduced this item for discussion, noting its inclusion on package page 7. He reviewed progress on the Mill Creek PERC project. The consultant will use the infiltration test results to run 2D hydraulic modeling of the District-developed design alternative. This work will then be analyzed and two additional alternatives will be developed by the consultant. The three alternatives will be evaluated in a cost-benefit analysis to select the final design. Director Corneille asked what permits are required from U.S. Army Corp of Engineers (COE) and San Bernardino County Flood Control District (FCD). Ms.

Miller stated that the District has a jurisdictional delineation indicating that this project is outside of COE property. Following selection a final design, we will verify which permits are required. Mr. Lambie said that the Mill Creek contract includes more detailed project design work than the other contracts and thus is expected to be completed in 2025. Vice President Stewart asked for details on the upcoming cost benefit analysis. Mr. Lambie said the we will begin with recharge yield in relation to cost and include schedule considerations as well.

Mr. Lambie reviewed the Plunge Creek PERC project. He indicated that Plunge and Oak Creek are being analyzed separately. He said that Plunge Creek is a lower priority because its schedule is tied to future mining. Mr. Lambie discussed Plunge Creek 1, and said it is yet to be determined if Plunge Creek 1 and 2 should move forward separately. He said that geotechnical work cannot be done on the site currently due to land ownership.

Mr. Lambie reviewed City Creek and Bledsoe Creek PERC sites, indicating that this is the final update as these projects will be documented and retired due to limited/zero yield and environmental constraints. Director Corneille asked for an action item to remove these projects from further study at the PERC Policy Committee. Vice President Stewart asked if the data collected can be used in future analysis. Mr. Lambie said that he will document data collected as part of these projects to date and create a documentation file for future reference.

Mr. Lambie reviewed the Waterman Percolation Basins and Twin Creek PERC projects. He noted that analyzing these projects separately is the optimal approach to understand their benefits and constraints. The consultants have completed the analysis which indicates that the existing diversion structures are capable of routing average annual storm flows. Staff will discuss development of additional alternatives for analysis at the Waterman site with FCD: The sediment transport analysis for Twin has been very useful in understanding the system. Mr. Lambie said that Harrison Canyon, which is upstream of the Twin Creek site, has an existing flood detention basin along the levee wall with a pipe underneath into the levee channel. Staff is interested in discussing the possibility of recharging on this three-acre site with FCD. Director Corneille asked if the staff is ready to discuss Waterman, Twin, and Lynwood with FCD. Mr. Lambie spoke in the affirmative. Director Corneille suggested having maps that show the location and sequence of the PERC projects to support meeting presentations. Final selection of alternatives for further evaluation will be based on feedback from FCD. Mr. Lambie said that he has asked consultants to prepare models and attend the FCD meetings.

Mr. Lambie reviewed the Oak Creek and Lynwood Basin PERC projects on page 11. He said that they are priority projects due to property ownership and possible yield. He noted that the Oak Creek project site is located where Plunge Creek passes under old Greenspot Road. The proposed project could accept runoff from the small, localized watershed for groundwater recharge. He said the neighborhood runoff is currently routed into stormwater pipelines. The site is outside of areas affected by levees and Q100 zones. These make Oak Creek a desirable project on the ten-acre footprint. Mr. Lambie said that a U.S. Bureau of Reclamation feasibility study would be required to qualify for grants for Oak Creek. Staff plans to finish the study in August and apply for reimbursement for consulting costs in fall. Ms. Miller noted that the feasibility study that the Bureau of Reclamation grant requires differs from the feasibility study that the District is currently preparing for these projects. The grant offers twenty-five percent reimbursement, and the project must be completed within three years. He noted that Lynwood Basins are also in the

conceptual design phase. Geotechnical testing has been completed and the infiltration rates for this site are the lowest of the group.

Mr. Lambie reviewed the Preliminary Estimates of Capital Cost table on page 13. Staff has revisited Mill Creek and Oak Creek costs and increased the contingency to thirty percent. Mill Creek Phase 1 includes the south boundary canal and infrastructure east of Garnet, where there are minimal environmental constraints. This would significantly improve operations by allowing the Operations team to bypass the upper basins while sediment removal is in progress. Mill Creek Phase 2 includes basins east of Garnet. Vice President Stewart asked if Mill Creek includes export of materials. Mr. Lambie said it includes excavation, hauling, and backfill to grade the structures. Vice President Stewart noted cost-savings if District staff completes the excavation work.

Mr. Lambie reviewed the Five-Year Project Costs table on page 14. Vice President Stewart said that it appears to be realistic for current budget year. Mr. Lambie said that increased funding needs are expected in FY26 or FY27.

Mr. Lambie reviewed the Cost Tracking and Budget Worksheet, which includes ten-year cost projections, on page 15.

Mr. Lambie reviewed the Cost Summary through May 2024 on page 16. He reviewed the Project Schedule Overview provided as a handout to the Committee. Mr. Lambie noted that he believes the District can complete Oak Creek this calendar year. A detailed review of schedule ensued.

#### 5. MENTONE SHOP VERBAL UPDATE

Ms. Torres stated that the District will have the contractor's final schedule for the Mentone Shop construction project by tomorrow. Concrete pouring is expected to be complete by May 28. She said that G3 Quality has been scheduled to take concrete samples for compressive strength test to ensure the concrete mix meets the required compressive strength. The building is anticipated to be delivered on June 14.

#### 6. NEXT QUARTERLY MEETINGS

The next quarterly meetings are scheduled for August 6 and November 5.

#### 7. ADJOURN

There was no further business, and the meeting adjourned at 10:34 A.M.

**It was moved by Director Corneille and seconded by Vice President Stewart to adjourn. The motion carried 2-0, with all directors present voting in the affirmative.**

**Vice President Stewart: Yes**

**Director Corneille: Yes**