

**SAN BERNARDINO VALLEY WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT**  
**MINUTES OF THE OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING**

November 5, 2024

9:00 AM

Chairperson Corneille called the Operations Committee meeting to order at 9:01 AM. The meeting was held as a hybrid meeting with in-person and Zoom/teleconference attendance.

**OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Richard Corneille, Chair  
Robert Stewart

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Betsy Miller, General Manager  
David Cosgrove, General Counsel  
Manuel Colunga, Field Supervisor  
Allison Zecher, Board Secretary

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

None

**1. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

There was no public participation.

**2. ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO AGENDA**

There were none.

**3. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES FROM AUGUST 6, 2024**

**It was moved by Vice President Stewart and seconded by Director Corneille to approve the meeting minutes from August 6, 2024, as presented. The motion carried 2-0, with all directors present voting in the affirmative.**

**Vice President Stewart: Yes  
Director Corneille: Yes**

**4. APPROVAL OF SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES FROM AUGUST 28, 2024**

**It was moved by Vice President Stewart and seconded by Director Corneille to approve the meeting minutes from August 28, 2024. The motion carried 2-0, with all directors present voting in the affirmative.**

**Vice President Stewart: Yes  
Director Corneille: Yes**

## 5. FIELD OPERATIONS UPDATE PRESENTATION

Mr. Colunga presented the Field Operations update with a focus on basin maintenance. He said that Mr. Purvis, Field Operations Specialist II, designed and built a tool to remove accumulated sediment in our basins, which is working very well. In addition, Mr. Colunga reported on recent access road maintenance near Basins 41-53 using a new chipper. The Field Operations team has also been utilizing a rock screen to sort sediment following removal for use or processing. The update continued with an overview of recent drone flights conducted for basin inspections and the BLM fuel enhancement project. Mr. Colunga noted that these drone flights improve both safety and efficiency in site monitoring, and a video was presented to show the drone's perspective during these activities.

Following the Line Fire, the team observed sediment in stream flows, indicating a mix of ash and other debris moving through local waterways. These color variations are being closely monitored during diversion activities to ensure that effects on our basins are limited.

## 6. MENTONE SHOP CONSTRUCTION VERBAL UPDATE

Ms. Miller provided an update on the progress of the Mentone Shop improvements, sharing that the District has solicited bids with three contractors responding to tour the site. Following receipt and review of bids, staff will recommend a contractor to the Board to complete construction.

## 7. ENHANCED RECHARGE VERBAL UPDATE

Mr. Miller stated that construction is substantially complete with wrap-up activities in progress. The team is currently working with SBVWMD on a numbering system for the basins.

## 8. PROGRAM FOR EXPANSION OF RECHARGE CAPACITY (PERC) POLICY COMMITTEE STATUS REPORT NO. 20

Ms. Miller provided an update on the progress of the PERC projects, noting significant milestones reached to date. Ms. Miller discussed details of work at the Mill Creek Basins, Plunge Creek Basins 1 & 2, Waterman Percolation Basins, and Twin Creek Spreading Grounds, including in-progress hydraulic modeling and preliminary design. The team continues to coordinate with project partners to refine project concepts and gather feedback.

Looking ahead, over the next quarter, Ms. Miller's team will continue hydraulic modeling and finalize diversion sizing for several projects, including Mill Creek, Plunge Creek, and Waterman Percolation Basins, and prepare feasibility study reports for all sites.

Director Corneille requested that the priority rankings included in Table 1 of the PERC status update be removed until the formal prioritization process is completed.

Ms. Miller discussed the details of the alternatives for Mill Creek, ranging from limited basin expansion to improve operational flexibility (Alternative 1) to significant earthwork to maximize recharge (Alternative 3), and detailed aspects of the modeling work underway.

Ms. Miller stated that completion of the Mill Creek hydraulic modeling, diversion sizing and hydraulic modeling at Plunge Creek, diversion sizing and hydraulic modeling at Oak Creek, and hydraulic modeling and quantity take-offs at Waterman Basin are expected in the next quarter.

9. RESULTS FROM STAFF WORKSHOP ON PERC FEASIBILITY STUDY MULTI-OBJECTIVE ALTERNATIVES ANALYSIS

Ms. Miller outlined the Multiple Accounts Analysis (MAA) applied to the project alternatives, and discussed items considered by regional partners at a workshop on October 31. She noted that the MAA assesses five accounts (Technical, Cost, Environmental/Natural Resources, Social, and Legal) which are weighted subjectively to reflect their relative importance to project partners. The indicator scoring range is set from +7 to +1 to clearly communicate that no analyzed alternative would result in a negative impact. At the workshop, partners requested addition of a subaccount to address geographic location (e.g., proximity to other basins or recharge facilities), noted the importance of cost/acre foot, and discussed the importance of capturing water quality benefits and ensuring that costs are not double counted. With discussion of the accounts and subaccounts complete, the next step is to draft weighting values and conduct a second workshop with staff from partner agencies in January.

Director Corneille and Director Stewart discussed the weights of the cost components (e.g., capital vs. operational expenses) and provided direction to staff to evaluate recent local construction projects such as Enhanced Recharge for cost estimates. Director Stewart stated that he is not in favor of SBVWCD incurring debt to design and construct the PERC projects.

10. FINAL FACILITIES MAINTENANCE PLAN FOR THE MILL CREEK GROUNDWATER RECHARGE FACILITY

Ms. Miller presented the Final Facilities Maintenance Plan for the Mill Creek Groundwater Recharge Facility, following review of draft versions of the plan by the Operations Committee at previous meetings. She discussed the aspects of the plan and the process to develop it. Director Corneille expressed support for adopting the plan to clearly prioritize, plan, budget, and complete maintenance needs.

**It was moved by Vice President Stewart and seconded by Director Corneille to approve the Final Facilities Maintenance Plan for the Mill Creek Groundwater Recharge Facility. The motion carried 2-0, with all directors present voting in the affirmative.**

**Vice President Stewart: Yes  
Director Corneille: Yes**

11. GROUNDWATER MODEL CALIBRATION FUNDING

Ms. Miller noted that selection of a contractor is moving forward and an item to provide funding support will be brought to Board following SBVMWD's approval of the contract, likely in December.

12. REDLANDS PLAZA ZONING

Ms. Miller provided an update on staff's intent to review zoning for Redlands Plaza ahead of the planned expansion of the SBVWCD office. She noted that staff plan to reach out to the City of Redlands in early 2025 to learn about rezoning requirements to better inform next steps.

13. NEXT QUARTERLY MEETINGS

The next quarterly meeting is scheduled for January 29, 2024, at 9:30 AM.

14. ADJOURN

There was no further business, and the meeting adjourned at 11:45 AM.

**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**