



**SPECIAL NOTICE REGARDING
CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 (COVID-19)
AND PARTICIPATION IN PUBLIC MEETINGS**

On March 4, 2020, Governor Newsom declared a State of Emergency resulting from the threat of COVID-19. On September 16, 2021, Governor Newsom signed Assembly Bill No. 361 into law. Assembly Bill No. 361 amends Government Code section 54953(e) by adding provisions for remote teleconferencing participation in meetings by members of a legislative body, without the requirements of Government Code section 54953(b)(3), subject to the existence of certain conditions. The San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District adopted a resolution determining, by majority vote, that, as a result of the declared State of Emergency, a meeting in person would present imminent risks to the health or safety of attendees. Accordingly, it has been determined that all Board and Workshop meetings of the San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District will be held pursuant to the Brown Act and will be conducted via teleconference. There will be no public access to the meeting venue.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS WORKSHOP - RESOURCES
THURSDAY, JANUARY 6, 2022 – 2:00 P.M.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Public participation is welcome and encouraged. You may participate in the January 6, 2022, meeting of the San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District online and by telephone as follows:

Dial-in Info: (877) 853 5247 US Toll-free

Meeting ID: 979 215 700

PASSCODE: 3802020

<https://sbvmwd.zoom.us/j/979215700>

If you are unable to participate online or by telephone, you may also submit your comments and questions in writing for the District's consideration by sending them to comments@sbvmwd.com with the subject line "Public Comment Item #" (insert the agenda item number relevant to your comment) or "Public Comment Non-Agenda Item". Submit your written comments by 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, January 5, 2022. All public comments will be provided to the Chair and may be read into the record or compiled as part of the record.

IMPORTANT PRIVACY NOTE: Participation in the meeting via the Zoom app is strongly encouraged. Online participants MUST log in with a Zoom account. The Zoom app is a free download. Please keep in mind: (1) This is a public meeting; as such, the virtual meeting information is published on the World Wide Web and available to everyone. (2) Should you participate remotely via telephone, your telephone number will be your "identifier" during the meeting and available to all meeting participants; there is no way to protect your privacy if you elect to call in to the meeting.



SAN BERNARDINO VALLEY MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT
380 E. Vanderbilt Way, San Bernardino, CA 92408

BOARD OF DIRECTORS WORKSHOP - RESOURCES

AGENDA

2:00 PM Thursday, January 6, 2022

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson: Director Hayes

Vice-Chair: Director Harrison

1) INTRODUCTIONS

2) PUBLIC COMMENT

Any person may address the Board on matters within its jurisdiction.

3) SUMMARY OF PREVIOUS MEETING

3.1 Board of Directors' Workshop - Resources - December 16, 2021(Page 2)
[Summary Notes BOD Workshop - Resources 121621](#)

4) DISCUSSION ITEMS

4.1 Presentation on Upper SAR HCP Comprehensive Adaptive Monitoring and Management Program (CAMMP) and Demonstration of the Online Data Portal (Page 11)
[Staff Memo - Presentation on Upper SAR HCP Comprehensive Adaptive Monitoring and Management Program \(CAMMP\) and Demonstration of the Online Data Portal](#)

5) ADJOURNMENT

PLEASE NOTE:

Materials related to an item on this Agenda submitted to the Board after distribution of the agenda packet are available for public inspection in the District's office located at 380 E. Vanderbilt Way, San Bernardino, during normal business hours. Also, such documents are available on the District's website at www.sbvmd.com subject to staff's ability to post the documents before the meeting. The District recognizes its obligation to provide equal access to those individuals with disabilities. Please contact Melissa Zoba at (909) 387-9228 two working days prior to the meeting with any special requests for reasonable accommodation.



DATE: January 6, 2022
TO: Board of Directors Workshop - Resources
FROM: Staff
SUBJECT: Summary of December 16, 2021 Board of Directors Workshop – Resources

The Resources Workshop convened on December 16, 2021. Vice President Hayes chaired the meeting via video conference.

Directors Present: President Kielhold, Vice President Hayes, Director Botello, Director Harrison and Director Longville.

Staff Present:

Heather Dyer, MS, MBA - Chief Executive Officer/General Manager
Joanna Gibson – Executive Director Upper SAR Habitat Conservation
Jose Macedo, ML, CPT-P (USA Retired) – Chief of Staff/Clerk of the Board
Cindy Saks, CPA – Deputy General Manager/Chief Financial Officer
Bob Tincher, PE, MS – Deputy General Manager/Chief Water Resources Officer
Melissa Zoba, MBA, MPA – Chief Information Officer

Kristeen Farlow, MPA - Strategic Communications Manager
Anthony Flordelis – Business Systems Analyst
Adekunle Ojo, MPA – Manager of Water Resources
Kai Palenscar, Ph.D. – Environmental Compliance Program Manager
Shavonne Turner, MPA – Water Conservation Program Manager

Members of the Public Present:

Nyles O’Harra, Yucaipa Valley Water District
David E. Raley, San Bernardino Valley Water Conservation District

Pursuant to the provisions of the Brown Act, this meeting will be conducted by teleconference only.

1. Introductions

Chair Hayes introduced Nyles O’Harra of Yucaipa Valley Water District. and David Raley of San Bernardino Valley Water Conservation District.

2. Public Comment

Chair Hayes invited public comment. There was none.

3. Summary of Previous Meeting

The meeting notes from the November 4, 2021 Board of Directors Workshop - Resources were accepted with no comments.

4.1 Consider Developing an Agreement with Metropolitan Water District of Southern California to Improve Management of State Water Project Supplies.

Deputy General Manager/Chief Water Resources Officer Bob Tincher explained the proposed development agreement, a companion agreement to the coordinated operations agreement with Metropolitan Water District (MWD) executed by Valley District in June 2021. The purpose is to provide a framework for exchanges with MWD. It provides flexibility for State Water Project (SWP) and local supplies, he noted. Tincher reviewed the terms of the agreement and detailed benefits, including exchange of Valley District SWP for MWD’s stored SWP in Diamond Valley Lake.

The agreement sets basic terms and lays a foundation for exchanges so they can be done in a timely manner, Tincher stated. The term of the agreement is 10 years. This week, MWD approved moving forward with this agreement, he advised.

Director Longville opined that it is good to enable exchange of SWP, but objected to the shifting to stored groundwater. Under only two circumstances would this make sense, she stated: upon the return of high groundwater, or in an extreme emergency. She pointed out that well levels are dropping, and strategy is being developed to keep water in the basin. Mr. Tincher assured that it would be an exchange, not a sale; the basin would see only a temporary reduction. Longville pointed out that exchange assumes that supplies will be available. Mr. Tincher assured that exchange would be evaluated on a case-by-case basis, and it does not mean that Valley District would agree.

In response to Director Harrison, Tincher assured that such exchanges would not be done without Board approval.

Chief Executive Officer/General Manager Heather Dyer added the integrated model has predicted a situation of a lot of groundwater in the eastern part of the basin, and there may be a scenario where it is advantageous to send some water to MWD, and when it is returned, to try to get it to the west part of the basin.

Director Botello said he appreciated the planning for the future and that the agreement seems to prepare with guardrails. Mr. Tincher added that it was James Bodnar at MWD who approached Valley District with this proposed agreement.

Vice President Hayes noted prior sale of water to MWD and asked if water had been purchased from MWD. Mr. Tincher said he was not aware of prior need of water from MWD and explained that MWD is a safety valve and confirmed they have previously purchased water from Valley District.

President Kielhold asked about the individual agreements. Mr. Tincher explained that legal counsel will work with MWD and the Department of Water Resources on the agreement based on the terms outlined in the staff report and bring it back for Board approval.

Action Item(s): The Board voted to move this item forward for consideration to a regular Board of Directors meeting by the following roll-call vote:

There was no motion or second.	APPROVED: 5-0
AYES:	Botello, Harrison, Hayes, Kielhold, Longville
NOES:	None
ABSTAIN:	None
ABSENT:	None

4.2 Consider a Consulting Agreement with Scheevel Engineering to Design and Construct Native Fish Habitat Enhancement Structures in the Santa Ana River.

Environmental Compliance Program Manager Kai Palenscar introduced the habitat enhancement project in the main stem Santa Ana River. It is associated with the already-permitted Sterling Natural Resource Center (SNRC), as that project will remove

approximately 22 percent of the river flow for recycling purposes. The baseline measures set forth for the SNRC are built into the Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) and need to be in place as the HCP moves forward and before SNRC can begin taking water out of the river, he explained.

Mr. Palenscar reviewed past pilot projects and advised another pilot project will begin in February or March 2022. He provided background on Scheevel Engineering and noted Valley District has worked previously with Nate Scheevel on several projects, but this project is not part of the existing contract.

Mr. Palenscar explained the current project and noted it is a long-lived project which should result in coarsened streambed year-round at two sites with six habitat nodes where structures will be built in the Riverside area of the river. Construction is expected in the fall of 2022, he stated, to get permits in place and construct the features after the end of the nesting bird season and native fish spawning season.

The next pilot project can be built now, and the SNRC will receive some benefits in the stream to begin moving water, Mr. Palenscar continued. He explained the instream islands, and creation of artificial islands to create habitat uplift. This is an East Valley Water District project, he noted, but Valley District is responsible for placement of the mitigation obligations, although expenses are reimbursable. The total for design, construction and monitoring with Scheevel Engineering is \$267,200. Staff is also requesting approximately \$5,500 to permit the project.

Director Harrison pointed to the pilot project history and stated no one knows for sure what water will do. He asked what the engineering firm will do to overcome the problem of the constructions washing out. Mr. Palenscar indicated it is designed to withstand a high flow event, but over 8,000 cfs, "all bets are off." Ms. Dyer added that this is a dynamic system. Even though a project may be considered to have failed, the material may still be there but buried by sand and able to become exposed again if the river shifts and will start providing habitat value again. She reminded the Board the HCP specifically proposes to reduce the base flow of the Santa Ana River by almost 30 percent, a big impact to a river that already has endangered fish. The biological opinion issued to Valley District in 2017 states the base flow can be reduced for the recycled water project, but in exchange, the District must find a way to build more habitat with less water. The only way to do this is to build these projects,

she said. She explained the project concept and advised that this is in exchange for the water that will be put into the Weaver Basins.

Ms. Dyer also pointed out Valley District is the lead agency due to the specialized skill set needed, therefore it is advantageous to be led by the experts on Valley District staff.

Director Longville said she was impressed with Scheevel's work with the Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority. She pointed to the nature-based solutions and commended staff on their foresight to implement these activities before finalization of the HCP.

Action Item(s): The Board voted to move this item forward for consideration to a regular Board of Directors meeting by the following roll-call vote:

There was no motion or second.	APPROVED: 5-0
AYES:	Botello, Harrison, Hayes, Kielhold, Longville
NOES:	None
ABSTAIN:	None
ABSENT:	None

4.3 Consider Contract with Innovative Federal Strategies for Consulting and Strategic Advocacy Services.

Strategic Communications Manager Kristeen Farlow presented the contract for a term of calendar years 2022 and 2023. She provided background on Innovative Federal Strategies (IFS), which has served as the District's federal advocate in issues related to the District. She reviewed the activities of IFS over the past 24 months and noted that the current agreement ends December 2021.

The rate of \$6,500 per month for the new agreement has been unchanged for several years, Farlow noted. The agreement includes:

- Advocating for programs and positions that support the District's priorities
- Supporting engagement
- Coordinating with other advocacy organizations on issues of importance, including meetings within the District, in Washington, D.C., and on the national HCP Coalition.

Director Harrison opined that the relationship with IFS is invaluable, pointing out that the number of times the District has relied on them for information and relationships with various legislators. He noted that the fees are the same and complimented IFS for being on top of things.

Director Botello agreed with Director Harrison on the benefit from IFS and indicated he was glad that the fees had not increased. He asked if the two-year contract term was standard. Ms. Farlow noted the previous two agreements have been two-year terms.

Director Botello recommended the District develop a legislative platform. Ms. Farlow indicated that an ad hoc Policy and Initiatives Engagement Committee, and a Legislative Committee were set up in 2020 but have not been active. Ms. Dyer added that staff has discussed this, and a legislative platform is a goal for 2022, working through the established committees now that there is a strategic plan in place. It will help staff focus on issues that arise and determine to what the District should respond.

Director Harrison concurred that a legislative platform would allow staff to respond immediately to legislation and requests from the California Special Districts Association (CSDA) and Association of California Water Agencies.

Action Item(s): The Board voted to move this item forward for consideration to a regular Board of Directors meeting by the following roll-call vote:

There was no motion or second.	APPROVED: 5-0
AYES:	Botello, Harrison, Hayes, Kielhold, Longville
NOES:	None
ABSTAIN:	None
ABSENT:	None

4.4 Discuss Opportunity to Host the Association of San Bernardino County Special Districts Dinner in 2022.

Strategic Communications Manager Kristeen Farlow explained that Valley District is a member of the local branch of the CSDA, the Association of San Bernardino County Special Districts (ASBCSD) which holds a monthly dinner and Valley District has hosted previously in August at Najwa's Mediterranean Cuisine in Loma Linda. She explained the hosting requirements and indicated that Valley District has been invited to host in 2022.

Directors concurred on support for hosting the ASBCSD dinner in 2022 and directed staff to move the venue around. Staff will work with directors to identify locations within each division, starting with Division 1, Ms. Dyer clarified.

4.5 Evaluation of Rain Barrels as a Component of the District's Water Conservation Program.

Deputy General Manager/Chief Water Resources Officer Bob Tincher reminded the Board of the request to investigate rain barrels as a strategy for water conservation. The results of the Water Use Efficiency Assessment prepared for Valley District by Maureen Erbeznik were summarized in the staff report. This strategy is not cost effective in this region, Mr. Tincher stated, primarily because there are not enough storms to fill the barrels to get a lower unit cost.

Staff is not proposing strategies be evaluated on a case-by-case basis, Mr. Tincher continued. He pointed to the new approach to be presented by Water Resources Manager Adekunle Ojo in the spring, which moves away from looking at strategies and costs and refocuses on water savings.

Mr. Ojo's discussions with retail agencies are already having an impact, Mr. Tincher advised; they are looking at their own programs differently. Staff believes this approach will achieve more water saved and result in more strategic investment, he said. The new program will offer flexibility for retailers, be capped at the avoided cost of SPW, and will provide reporting in water savings.

Director Longville pointed out that on the grocery bags being handed out by Valley District the number one tip shown is a rain barrel. It is an age-old practice to divert water from a storm, she continued, and it is satisfying to take a bucket of water from a rain barrel to water a tree.

It should not be up to the retailers to determine if the item is available, Director Longville noted. Mr. Tincher assured that Valley District does not dictate to the retailers what strategies to choose; they are free to offer rain barrels in their programs. This is a response as to whether Valley District should invest in them as a strategy, he said.

President Kielhold indicated support for the refocus on strategy at the programmatic level and pointed out retailers know what works best in their areas.

Director Harrison opined that rain barrels should remain shown in outreach materials as it is one further indication and reminder that the District supports saving water.

Director Longville noted support for the proposed strategy but said her research indicates that rain barrels are mostly favored by those desiring a tree canopy around their structure. As efforts increase to promote tree canopy to deal with warming, deep watering with a bucket can be effective.

Director Botello reminded the Board that he had recommended this discussion include the retailers, as they need to handle this, and they know what their customers want. Data shows rain barrels are not a good idea, he noted, and said he appreciated staff's transparent and data-based assessment. He opined that the inclusion of rain barrels on the outreach materials does not undermine the trust of the community or the strategic plan.

Vice President Hayes explained her water collection from air conditioner condensate. It is up to the retailers to determine what they want to offer and is not for Valley District to decide their strategies, she added.

Ms. Dyer noted that it is not proposed to discourage use of rain barrels. The analysis desired by the Board was whether it is a good investment for Valley District to buy rain barrels and give them away, or rebate them, she noted. The analysis looked at cost per acre-foot and water saved, and how it compares to other methods that may be able to achieve water savings. Having rain barrels on the bags may spur action by those interested, she noted, and rebates are available. It is not necessarily a bad idea; it is a particular market and retail agencies are the right vehicle to do this; but the analysis was prepared for the Board to consider whether to make an investment from Valley District's perspective of dollar per acre-foot for water saved.

Action Item(s): Receive and file.

5. Future Business – None noted.

6. Adjournment

Chair Hayes adjourned the meeting at 3:23 p.m.

Staff Recommendation

Receive and file.



DATE: January 6, 2022

TO: Board of Directors Workshop – Resources

FROM: Joanna Gibson, Executive Director, Upper SAR HCP Program

SUBJECT: Presentation on Upper SAR HCP Comprehensive Adaptive Monitoring and Management Program (CAMMP) and Demonstration of the Online Data Portal

Staff Recommendation

Receive and file.

Summary

In early 2019, recognizing that development of a long-term management plan would be a requirement of Incidental Take Permit (ITP) issuance by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) for the Upper SAR HCP, Valley District applied for Planning Assistance funding under Section 6 of the Cooperative Endangered Species Act Conservation Fund to assist with this last component of the HCP development process. This was the fourth Planning Assistance grant application Valley District submitted to the USFWS associated with development of the Upper SAR HCP. The proposal included the development of a robust, multifaceted monitoring program, an adaptive management toolkit, and the development and launch of a database and web-based platform to store and present data and information on the HCP for use by HCP staff, Permittees, Regulatory Agencies, and the general public. In March 2020 the USFWS recommended full funding of Valley District’s grant proposal, and on May 19, 2020, the Board approved Resolution No. 1103, accepting the Section 6 grant award of \$875,000. The grant term ended August 1, 2021. All grant deliverables were successfully submitted to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife

(CDFW) and the USFWS, and Valley District has been reimbursed the \$875,000 in awarded grant monies. Dr. Scott Fleury from ICF Jones and Stokes will provide a brief presentation on the online data portal.

BACKGROUND

Due to numerous endangered and threatened species issues associated with water supply projects in the upper Santa Ana River watershed an HCP is being collaboratively developed by staffs from Valley District and other agencies in our region with projects needing endangered and threatened species permit coverage. On April 15, 2014, the Board of Directors authorized Valley District’s participation and role as lead agency for the development of the HCP. The HCP currently has eleven funding partners, including Valley District.

Since 2014 Valley District has submitted four proposals for Planning Assistance funds under Section 6 of the Cooperative Endangered Species Act Conservation Fund to assist with development of the Upper SAR HCP. All four proposals have been successful, and each has been funded at the full amount requested. Each of the Section 6 grant proposals and funding amounts are provided below:

Year	Program Component	Grant Amount	Matching Funds
2014	HCP Development	\$ 635,345.00	\$ 965,969.00
2015	Native Fishes Surveys	\$ 119,963.00	\$ 238,636.00
2017	SAR Integrated Model	\$ 996,621.00	\$ 904,783.00
2019	Long-Term Monitoring & Management Program	\$ 875,000.00	\$ 875,000.00
	TOTAL	\$ 2,626,929.00	\$ 2,984,388.00

Development of the Upper Santa Ana River HCP Long Term Monitoring and Adaptive Management Program

The objective of this effort was the development of a Long-Term, Comprehensive Adaptive Management and Monitoring Program (CAMMP) for the Upper SAR HCP to provide a landscape-scale, strategic approach to verifying the estimates of project impacts and conservation benefits identified using predictive tools developed specifically for the HCP. Because many of the estimated impacts in the HCP are based on modeling, development of a multi-disciplinary and robust plan was identified as a critical component of the HCP to

ensure that resultant impacts of Covered Activities stay within the terms of the ITP, and that conservation actions achieve stipulated success criteria, in both the short, and long-term.

The project included three components:

1. Development of an Integrated Strategy for the CAMMP
2. Preparation of the CAMMP
3. Development of a database and web-based reporting platform to effectively store and present the CAMMP's scientific results, and track HCP performance

The 12-month grant term awarded by the USFWS to complete this effort ran from August 1, 2020, through August 1, 2021. Today, Dr. Scott Fleury of ICF Jones and Stokes will present on some of the accessible information and capabilities of the CAMMP online portal (<https://www.uppersarhcp.com>).

Fiscal Impact

No fiscal impact, informational only.