

Minutes

Sacramento Suburban Water District
Facilities and Operations Committee
Thursday, May 21, 2015

Call to Order

Chair Bob Wichert called the meeting to order at 5:03 p.m.

Roll Call

Directors Present: Chair Bob Wichert and Kevin Thomas.

Directors Absent: None.

Staff Present: General Manager Robert Roscoe, Assistant General Manager Dan York, David Espinoza, Heather Hernandez-Fort, Dave Jones, John Valdes, James Arenz.

Public Present: William Eubanks

Public Comment

None.

Consent Items

1. Minutes of the April 20, 2015 Facilities and Operations Committee Meeting

Director Kevin Thomas moved to approve the Minutes; Chair Wichert seconded.

AYES:	Thomas and Wichert.	ABSTAINED:	
NOES:		RECUSED:	
ABSENT:			

Items for Discussion and Action

2. Potential Proposition 84 IRWM Grant Projects

General Manager (GM) Robert Roscoe gave a brief background of the Grant Projects.

Chair Wichert inquired if there is any benefit to limiting the list to the Districts highest priority projects. Mr. John Valdes replied that this project list is currently in order of priority. He also noted that the District is already receiving funding from the Proposition 84 program through the IRWM process for the Antelope Pump Back project, and the Enterprise/Northrop inter-tie. Mr. Valdes stated that the District presently has 16 projects on the list for funding.

Chair Wichert inquired if there is any reason why the manganese treatment is lower on the list. Mr. Valdes responded that in some cases, the wells that are further down on the list for manganese treatment may have other concerns as well. He went on to state that the new Verner Well is higher on the priority list because when the well was constructed there were no issues with manganese, however, currently there are. Some of the other

sites may have older facilities, which may not be as high of a priority for manganese treatment.

Director Thomas asked if the District was still considering putting a master manganese treatment center at the Verner Well site location. GM Roscoe replied that the District has considered this however; one of the difficulties is that the cost of manganese treatment at a well head doesn't buy much transmission main to move the raw water to that location. The tradeoff is the extra cost for manganese treatment, and the cost of pipe versus the local cost of two separate manganese treatment units. The difference between that doesn't warrant purchasing a lot of pipe. Mr. Valdes added that the District has considered drilling one or two more wells at that Verner Well site and having a larger manganese treatment facility there.

Chair Wichert suggested adding language regarding the possibility of including a power recovery turbine unit to the Capehart system's connecting main pressure reducing valve. Staff agreed to include this language.

Director Thomas suggested the possibility of having an inter-tie with the Carmichael Water District (CWD), and that SSWD would need a PRV to intertie with them. He believes that this would be a good idea and suggested to include this on the list as well. GM Roscoe pointed out that a potential concern with having an inter-tie with the CWD is that they are at a higher elevation, which has increased water pressures.

Mr. Valdes verified that the District has had discussions regarding a potential water transfer with the CWD. GM Roscoe stated that with the support of the CWD, the District could put an inner-District project on the list. GM Roscoe offered to have a discussion with the CWD regarding this possibility.

Chair Wichert asked what would happen if the District got all of projects approved. GM Roscoe replied that there would be some cost sharing involved where staff would prioritize the projects for funding to go before the Board for approval, however, this is an unlikely scenario.

Mr. Valdes noted that the Meter Retrofit Project is the highest priority on the list due to the State mandate. He added that the District has been successful in getting grant funding for Meter Retrofit Projects in the past. Chair Wichert further agreed that grant funding for the Meter Retrofit Project is a real budget savings.

Mr. William Eubanks had a comment regarding McClellan Business Park, suggesting that the McClellan project be placed at the bottom of the list. He also recommended not entering into an inter-tie with another district, due to the Gallons per Day Per Capita (GPCD) for drought purposes. GM Roscoe clarified that the Districts' GPCD would not be affected by an inter-tie with the CWD, and that the District would be able to subtract the water sold to CWD from our GPCD, based on the fact that it goes to their customers, not the District's customers.

Chair Wichert agreed that he would also like to see the McClellan project moved closer to the bottom of the priority list. GM Roscoe clarified that although the facilities would

be located at McClellan Business Park, the McClellan project would benefit customers throughout the entire north service area.

GM Roscoe summarized that staff's purpose is to update the Committee of the IRWM current project list. He stated that staff has received good feedback on prioritizing the manganese treatment, adding an inline turbine to the discussion of the Capehart inter-tie, and having a discussion with the CWD on potentially adding an inter-tie with them, then including it on the list as well.

3. Improvement Standards and Technical Specifications

GM Roscoe gave a brief description of the report, reminding the Committee that there was a request at the last Facilities and Operations meeting to bring this item back with additional information.

Chair Wichert acknowledged staff's recommended changes. Director Thomas recapped that the changes were based on the Committee's recommendations from the last Facilities and Operations meeting.

Mr. Valdes pointed out the survey staff conducted of other districts in the region where most other districts required between a 15 to 20 foot easement width. Mr. David Espinoza also noted the correction to the discrepancy of staff's recommendation of a 20 foot easement from the consultant's recommendation of a 10 foot easement. He stated that staff believes a 20 foot easement width, with adding the flexibility for the GM to accept a narrower easement width under extenuating circumstances, is acceptable based on the further research included in the report.

Chair Wichert stated that he believes staff could have similarly recommended a 15 foot easement width based on the research. His concern was that a 20 foot easement width could be taking value from the Districts' customers, indicating that although it is preferred by staff, it may not necessarily be preferred by the customers.

GM Roscoe clarified that if there is new development a 20 foot easement width lowers the Districts exposure to liability, and ultimately benefits all of the Districts customers in that staff has sufficient room to work in order to maintain the line. He went on to state that the GM would exert flexibility if there is an existing pipeline that may require accommodating a narrower easement width.

Director Thomas agreed with GM Roscoe. He thinks that the District can recommend the 20 foot easement, with adding the flexibility for the GM to accept a narrower easement width under extenuating circumstances. Director Thomas thinks that the proposed language is appropriate.

Chair Wichert and Director Thomas directed staff to finalize staff's recommendation.

4. Easements Needed from Fulton/El Camino Recreation and Park District

Mr. Dave Jones explained the staff report. He presented both the worst and best case scenarios. He stated that there is a possibility that the Fulton/El Camino Park District

(FECPD) may request the District to participate in some other type of agreement in exchange for easement.

Assistant General Manager (AGM) Dan York stated that he recently spoke with Mr. Mike Grace, the General Manager of the FECPD. AGM York stated that they have renounced their request for monetary exchange for the easement; however, they are still strongly considering the potential partnership of a drought resistant garden.

Chair Wichert asked if FECPD understands that these special amenities are funded by the ratepayers. AGM York stated that he did explain that to the FECPD Board.

GM Roscoe gave a brief history on the Districts drought resistant gardens located at the Antelope Reservoir and at William Pond Park. He noted that the proposed drought resistant garden located at Howe Park would be closer to District boundaries, as well as being a highly populated and traveled area.

Chair Wichert inquired about site one, the Santa Anita Park, asking why FECPD would want this project to move forward. Mr. Jones stated that the District has an easement at this location, however, it is not accessible due to the overgrown trees, other utility lines, and the initial access into the easement is inaccessible as well. He stated that in order to utilize the current easement, the District would have to remove some of the trees.

Chair Wichert asked if the Districts preservation of the trees at this site would make FECPD amenable to getting an alternate easement. Mr. Jones stated that staff has not addressed that with FECPD, however, believes that they would be amenable to it. Mr. Jones further stated that staff was unaware of the existing easement when the initial discussion occurred. He also stated that FECPD is only prepared to give the District a 10 foot easement at this site as well as Sites 2 and 3.

AGM York noted that Site 3 is where FECPD is recommending developing the drought resistant garden. He believes that once FECPD is made aware of the estimated \$225,000.00 for this project, they may better understand why this could be difficult for both parties to partake in.

Director Thomas inquired what the maintenance cost is for the drought resistant garden at William Pond Park. Mr. Jim Arenz clarified that the cost to maintain that drought resistant garden is between \$100.00 to \$200.00 per month. AGM York indicated that FECPD has offered to maintain the proposed drought garden.

Chair Wichert asked what the District would contribute other than labor, to this drought resistant garden project. GM Roscoe explained that the District would contribute the cost, and the conservation staff efforts to design what the garden would include such as a design of different irrigation methods, different plant methods, and the type of display.

Chair Wichert stated that this proposed drought resistant garden could be an educational tool for the District. He suggested monetizing the educational benefit to the District, then requesting a budget item from the full Board, and then presenting it to the FECPD.

Director Thomas supported the project, contingent upon a controlled budget. He recommended publicizing it to District rate payers, highlighting the two districts working together on drought efforts.

More discussion ensued regarding the benefits of this project with regards to the current drought situation.

GM Roscoe indicated that AGM York will be attending the FECPD Board meeting later that evening. He stated that AGM York will report that this discussion was presented to the Facilities and Operations Committee, where the Committee welcomed the opportunity to do some educational work at their park, with a budget that is commensurate with the benefit.

5. Antelope Pump Back Project Operation and Maintenance Agreement

Chair Wichert found the language to be perfectly acceptable. Director Thomas agreed.

The Committee recommended accepting the changes and directed staff to present this to the full Board with a recommendation of approval.

6. Rutland Well Landscaping

Mr. Valdes gave a brief report of the Rutland Well landscaping project to include a drip system where the source of water would be water that normally goes to waste.

GM Roscoe noted that the District had an agreement with the adjacent school district at the time the property was purchased that the District would provide screening landscaping. This agreement was offered as part of the initial study; therefore, no additional mitigation measures were required. GM Roscoe indicated that the District is trying to do this without the use of potable water supply; however, there would be additional costs involved. He noted that cost is nominal compared with the overall cost of this new pump station.

Director Thomas asked if a drip system would be sufficient. GM Roscoe stated that yes, the drip system would be sufficient, less expensive, and the source of water would be water that normally goes to waste.

Chair Wichert inquired if there is a way to customize or modify the drip system, so that it doesn't need a pump. GM Roscoe stated that staff would look into it.

Discussion ensued regarding signage, and the potential teaming with the neighboring school district to use the additional grey water for their landscaping.

Adjournment

Chair Wichert adjourned the meeting at 5:55p.m.

Robert S. Roscoe
General Manager/Secretary
Sacramento Suburban Water District