

Minutes

Sacramento Suburban Water District
Facilities and Operations Committee
Friday, February 12, 2016

Call to Order

Director Locke called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m.

Roll Call

Directors Present: Craig Locke and Neil Schild.

Directors Absent: None.

Staff Present: Assistant General Manager Dan York, David Espinoza, Heather Hernandez-Fort, Dave Jones, John Valdes, James Arenz, Lynne Yost, Annette O’Leary and Mitch Dion.

Public Present: William Eubanks and Mike Finnegan

Public Comment

None.

Consent Items

1. Minutes of the January 8, 2016 Facilities and Operations Committee Meeting

Director Schild requested clarification on the phrase “drill down into the maps” from page 2, paragraph 13 of the Minutes of the January 8, 2016 meeting.

Director Schild also requested clarification of the statement “Director Locke stated that the metric used to determine what point an asset becomes a liability” on page 3, paragraph 4. He requested to have the word metric changed to measurement.

Director Schild also requested to have the word constituents changed to contaminants on page 3, paragraph 5.

Director Locke moved to approve the minutes with the suggested changes; Director Schild seconded. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

AYES:	Schild and Locke.	ABSTAINED:	
NOES:		RECUSED:	
ABSENT:			

Items for Discussion and Action

2. Fulton/El Camino Recreation and Park District Easement Update

Assistant General Manager Dan York (AGM York) introduced the staff report.

John Valdes (Mr. Valdes) presented the PowerPoint presentation.

Director Schild expressed concerns about the easement, stating that if the property changed in the future, the easement may not be large enough. He suggested to have a recording put on the deed that if there is ever a change in ownership, that the easement could be enlarged.

Mr. Valdes expressed that he can suggest this recommendation.

Regarding the Santa Anita Park, Director Schild expressed his support for option 3, expressing that the District needs a demonstration garden at Howe Avenue Park. Option 3 states “The Fulton/El Camino Recreation and Park District (FECRPD) would like to partner with the District to build a Drought Demonstration Garden at Howe Avenue Park.” The FECRPD has committed to maintain the Garden after it is constructed in exchange for the value of the easements. The amount of funding needed for this option is unknown as the concept details for the partnership or the scope of the Garden have not been determined. The monetary value of the easements would be used to determine the District’s commitment to the Garden partnership.

Director Locke recommended proceeding with option 3 and presenting the information to the full Board.

Director Schild expressed his support for option 3, however requested further information regarding the easement.

Mr. Valdes clarified the easement information.

Director Locke expressed his support for Option 3.

AGM York informed the Committee that the District and FECRPD have been working together for the past 2 years on a possible exchange of property for the District’s well at Santa Anita Park. AGM York stated that staff does not recommend pursuing that option.

Both Director Locke and Director Schild agreed that they were not willing to give a District well to the FECRPD in exchange of property.

Mr. Valdes explained to the Committee that this particular well was listed in the top 10 of well scheduled to be abandoned.

AGM York informed the Committee the FECRPD has requested that the District determine if it could wheel groundwater through its water well infrastructure and they would pay for electricity, O&M and CIP.

Director Locke noted that if the District agreed to something like that, it would be setting the precedence for future similar agreements. He further expressed that he is not interested in wheeling other people’s water through the District’s pipes.

Director Schild expressed that he is not in favor of either joint use nor giving up the District’s well, expressing that it is not a benefit to the ratepayers.

Director Locke expressed that he is interested in working with FECRPD to reach an agreement.

AGM York clarified that the Committee is recommending for staff to bring option 3 to the full Board for approval.

Director Locke recommended supporting option 3, and suggested including a cost estimate.

Director Schild recommended requesting a statement from FECRPD expressing that they are willing to agree on a joint effort in developing a Garden in conjunction with the District.

Director Locke requested information on the FECRPD Board meeting.

3. Easements and Improvements at McClellan Business Park

AGM York presented the staff report explaining that staff will discuss the easements and will be postponing the discussion on the improvements for a future meeting. He informed the Committee that a meeting has already been scheduled for February 26, 2016.

Director Schild stated that he didn't agree with the current contract that the District had with McClellan Business Park (MBP).

AGM York stated that MBP and the District have been discussing the opportunity to place an end date to the current contract.

David Espinoza (Mr. Espinoza) presented the discussion on the easements. He further explained that staff is requesting for the District's legal counsel to review and approve the added language for the acquisition of the new easement.

Director Schild inquired what the estimated cost was to do that. AGM York answered it would cost roughly \$500-\$700 dollars.

Director Locke clarified what the added language meant.

Mr. Espinoza further clarified the easement language.

Director Locke inquired if MBP will be responsible for all the construction. Mr. Espinoza explained that they will.

Director Locke agreed to have District legal counsel review the added language.

The Committee requested for legal counsel to review the documents, then bring back the updated report to the full Board for approval.

4. Long Term Warren Act Contract Update

AGM York presented the staff report and PowerPoint presentation. He introduced the District's consultant Mike Finnegan (Mr. Finnegan).

Discussion ensued regarding the history of the attempts to obtain a Long Term Warren Act Contract and the current 5 year contract.

Discussion ensued regarding the rates and charges portion of the contract.

Director Locke inquired if all contracts are negotiated equally among districts. Mr. Finnegan explained that there is a standard form of contract.

Director Locke inquired about the risks. Mr. Finnegan explained that a potential risk is that the District could put money into this contract, and not get it done before the window closes. Further explaining that it's all speculative and that there is no assurance but that there are benefits to it as well. AGM York informed the Committee that there are significantly more risks by opening 1 year and 5 year contracts.

Director Schild noted that there could be other alternatives as well.

Director Schild inquired how much has been spent to date on this project.

AGM York expressed that the District has spent approximately \$15,000 dollars so far and that staff expects to spend roughly \$200,000 dollars all together with the majority being spent on the environmental analysis.

AGM York requested direction on if staff should continue moving forward with this project.

Director Schild conveyed his support with moving forward, explaining that he is concerned about the cost of supplemental analysis such as the environmental study.

Director Locke inquired if the District could partner with other agencies on the environmental study.

Mr. Finnegan further explained PCWA modeling.

Discussion ensued regarding middle fork water.

William Eubanks (Mr. Eubanks) commented.

Director Locke expressed his support declaring that he did however, have some concerns with it.

Director Schild expressed his concerns about committing without any assurance.

Director Locke inquired when the District will have to spend a significant amount of money on this project.

AGM York expressed that there is a meeting scheduled with the Bureau of Reclamation, and that staff will have more answers after that meeting.

Director Schild recommended bringing the information back to the March Board meeting.

The Committee recommended staff continue to pursue the Long Term Warren Act Contract as long as not a significant amount of money is being spent, and directed staff to find out what the cost benefit is.

5. Groundwater Monitoring Wells Project

Mr. Valdes presented the staff report.

He explained that staff is recommending approval to the full Board to award a contract to Roadrunner Drilling & Pump Company for the construction of two groundwater monitoring wells consistent with the project definition and the District's Local Groundwater Assistance grant.

Director Locke inquired if it's possible to sample at different levels. Mr. Valdes expressed that samples are gathered at different levels.

Mr. Eubanks commented.

Mr. Valdes expressed that Aerojet has monitoring wells; however, they are guarded with their data. He expressed that if the District drills its own wells, staff will have better access to the data to monitor the plume.

Discussion ensued regarding the grant funding, proposition 1 funding, and the District's portion of the cost.

Director Locke requested for staff to find out how much additional funding the District could possibly get from proposition 1. He also requested for staff to find out what the grant application will cost.

Director Locke additionally requested if the grant money would be reduced if the District decided to only drill one groundwater monitoring well.

The Committee recommended bringing this item to the full Board for discussion and consideration to approve.

6. Succession Plan Recommendation to Fill Current Vacancy in Engineering Department

AGM York presented the staff report.

Director Schild stated that Succession Planning is a goal of the General Manager and that this is a decision of the General Manger, not a Board level decision.

AGM York explained that staff wanted to bring the item to the Committee for comments as the position is at a higher level.

Director Schild stated that the staff report sounds reasonable but reiterated that the decision is up to the General Manager.

Mr. Eubanks commented.

Director Schild stated that he wouldn't elevate this to the full Board as it is the General Managers responsibility.

Director Locke commented that it is up to the General Manager if he wants to bring this item before the full Board.

Adjournment

Chair Locke adjourned the meeting at 3:58 p.m.

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