



## OJAI VALLEY SANITARY DISTRICT

A Public Agency

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### **MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS' CEQA REVIEW/ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE**

The CEQA Review/Environmental Committee held a meeting at the District Office, 1072 Tico Road July 12, 2017 beginning at 9:32 a.m.

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:** William Ulrich  
Stan Greene  
Russ Baggerly, Chairman

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:** None

**STAFF PRESENT:** Jeff Palmer, General Manager  
Brenda Krout, Administrative Officer  
Ronald E. Sheets, Operations Superintendent

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Robert N. Kwong, District Legal Counsel

1. **Select Chairman For The Committee**  
Director Baggerly was selected to serve as Chairman of the Committee.
2. **Call the Meeting to Order**  
Chairman Baggerly called the meeting to order at 9:32 a.m.
3. **Public Comment - (Items not on the agenda - 3 minute limit)**  
None

**ITEMS FOR COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION, DISCUSSION & POSSIBLE RECOMMEN-  
DATION TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

4. **Review of California Environmental Quality Act (Pub. Res. Code Section 21000 et seq.) Requirements and Procedures in general and in relation to OVSD Activities**

Mr. Palmer and Mr. Kwong reviewed the CEQA process and procedures based on the CEQA Process Flow Chart published by the California Environmental Resources Evaluation System. It was explained that the CEQA process is not an approval process for a project, it is a disclosure process, disclosing to the public and other agencies the extent and scope of a project. The objectives and limits of CEQA were discussed as well as the difference between ministerial and discretionary projects under CEQA.

The District's Administrative Supplement to the State CEQA Guidelines, adopted by the Board on February 28, 2011, was reviewed and discussed noting that this document identifies the typical types of District projects and what Class each of them are under CEQA.

Mr. Palmer explained that in the CEQA procedures there are four different EIR processes:

- Negative Declaration
- Mitigated Negative Declaration
- Focused EIR
- EIR

Mr. Palmer briefly reviewed the path for each of the four.

The effect of the Native American Tribes consultation as required by AB52 was discussed. Mr. Palmer explained that this consultation fits into the CEQA flow process along with the evaluation of other sensitive issues, such as protection of endangered species, etc.

It was discussed that the City of Ojai enacted a Preliminary Archaeological Assessment (PAA) requirement in response to AB52 and the local Native American Tribe's concerns about cultural preservation. A PAA is required prior to obtaining a permit from the City for any type of excavation activity; any sewer repair within the City that involves digging up the ground requires a PAA. Mr. Palmer explained that since the City enacted the PAA every City encroachment permit issued to the District has required a PAA. Mr. Palmer stated that to date this added PAA process has not created a problem for the District.

The Committee expressed their desire to identify a method for the District to respond to the local Tribal concerns in addition to the CEQA requirements. It was agreed that adding some Best Management Practice (BMP) statements to the District's Administrative Supplement to the State CEQA Guidelines, acknowledging the District's commitment to protecting artifacts would be an effective method.

The Committee unanimously agreed that another meeting of the Committee will be scheduled in order to develop BMPs which will then be presented to the Board with a recommendation to amend the District's Administrative Supplement to the State CEQA Guidelines.

5. **Reports**

b. Committee Members pursuant to Government Code §54954.2

None

c. General Manager on District Activities related to this Board Committee.

None

6. **Adjournment**

The CEQA Review/Environmental Committee Meeting adjourned at 11:42 a.m.

Minutes submitted by Brenda Krout, Clerk of the Board