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## RECHARGE COMMITTEE MEETING

Chino Basin Water Conservation District  
District Office  
4594 San Bernardino Street  
Montclair, CA 91763

Friday, January 29, 2021

## MINUTES

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**CALL TO ORDER** – Committee Chair Aldaco called the meeting to order at 5:05 p.m.

### **ROLL CALL**

Committee Members Present:      Committee Chair Gil Aldaco  
Director Terry King  
Director Ryan Sonnenberg

Staff Present:                              Executive Director Elizabeth Skrzat  
Administrative Services Manager Toyasha Sebbag  
Facilities & Operations Manager Dave Schroeder

Visitors Present:                         Bob Wagner, Wagner & Bonsignore  
Dave Lounsbury, Wagner & Bonsignore

**ADDITIONS OR CHANGES TO THE AGENDA** – None.

**PRESENTATIONS** – None.

**PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS** – None.

### **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

#### **1.     Confluence Project Review.**

Executive Director Skrzat presented this item to the Recharge Committee (Committee) recommending that the Committee review, discuss, and provide direction to staff and a recommendation to the Board regarding next steps on the Confluence project. Several years ago, the District completed the purchase of the Confluence Property for \$4.5 million. A Ramboll Study was conducted in partnership with the Chino Basin Watermaster and there were concerns about its abilities to percolate water. The study found that once the basin

was created, the soil left would not percolate very well. Mr. Bob Wagner also stated that since the purchase a significant number of borings, lab work, and geologic surface geology data was collected on the site and it was concluded that the basin would not percolate well. Therefore, as an alternative it was suggested to pump the water north to collect water via a pipeline. A Parcel Study was conducted of the parcels along the proposed route for the pipeline and 300 parcels were identified as being impacted by the building of a pipeline. Easements would need to be individually negotiated for each parcel. Parcels included are private, public, and commercial properties. An analysis was conducted to determine how much water is available at the project site. It was found that 15 of the 31 years studied had an annual discharge of 5,000 acre-feet per year or less. The list of species that might be impacted were also discussed. Executive Director Skrzat presented options to the Board for their consideration which include: further develop the Confluence Project; hold the property as an asset and continue to lease it; list the property for sale and hold revenues in reserves; list property for sale and direct staff to evaluate other properties for percolation basins; and list the property for sale and direct that sale proceeds be used to develop smaller groundwater recharge facilities throughout the District's service area. Director King suggested listing the property for sale and returning the proceeds to taxpayers as an option. Furthermore, Director King stated that the Confluence Project, as currently envisioned, cannot be built with the District's current funds and moves for the option to pause. Chairman Aldaco and Director Sonnenberg agreed with Director King.

It was moved and seconded to make a recommendation to the Board to permanently stop moving forward with the pumping project, hold the property as an asset, continue to lease the property, with the idea that at a future date the Board could choose to research other options.

**Motion carried on 3-0-0-0 vote to recommend to the Board that the District permanently stop moving forward with the pumping project, hold the property as an asset, continue to lease the property, and research other options at a later date.**

**MOVED: Aldaco**

**SECOND: Sonnenberg**

**APPROVED: 3-0-0-0**

AYES: Aldaco, King, Sonnenberg

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

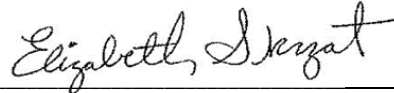
**ORAL REPORTS** – None.

**CLOSED SESSION** – None.

**ADJOURN**

**Committee Member Aldaco adjourned the meeting at 6:11 p.m. to the next Regular Meeting of the Chino Basin Water Conservation District, to be held on February 8, 2021 at 2:00 p.m. online at: <https://zoom.us/j/98961622935>.**

**APPROVED AND ADOPTED THIS 8<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF MARCH 2021.**



Elizabeth Skrzat, Executive Director

ATTEST:



Alicia Fernandez, Acting Sr. Administrative Assistant