

**INDIAN WELLS VALLEY COOPERATIVE GROUNDWATER
MANAGEMENT WORKING GROUP
DISCUSSION NOTES**

July 17, 2008 – 1:00 p.m.

Chairman Don Zdeba called the meeting to order at 1:03 p.m.

Presentation: Aquifer Storage and Recovery Site Reconnaissance Level Report: Tom Mulvihill introduced Kerry Cato, a licensed geologist with Cato Geosciences, and David Scriven, Senior Engineer for Krieger and Stewart, who will be presenting the Aquifer Storage and Recovery Site Reconnaissance Level Report. This is a draft version and the final will be available to the public in the near future.

The Ground Water Banking Site Evaluation Reconnaissance Level Assessment (Assessment) is intended to identify, evaluate and rank potential, generalized sites within the Indian Wells Valley for a possible future ground water banking program to be performed in cooperation with the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, and using water from the L.A. Aqueduct. The Assessment includes review of existing reports and data, field review of potential sites, evaluation of relevant geological, hydrogeological, engineering, environmental, land use, and regulatory issues for each identified potential site areas. Eight initial, potential site areas were identified, all located within four miles of the L.A. Aqueduct on the west side of the Indian Wells Valley. Using GIS mapping software and a weighted, itemized scoring system, the Assessment eliminates some of the initial site areas and ranks the remaining site areas in order of favorability. The site area ranked as most favorable is located in the southernmost portion of the west side of Indian Wells Valley, just east of Highway 14. Finally, the Assessment provides phased recommendations for further investigation; including drilling, pumping, and sampling of test wells, drilling of monitoring wells, construction of pilot testing facilities, and performance of percolation or injection pilot tests using water from the L.A. Aqueduct.

At the conclusion of the presentation, questions were asked and concerns were discussed regarding the banking project.

Approval of Discussion Notes: Motion was made by Glenn Harris and seconded by Nancy Bass to accept the July 17, 2008 Discussion Notes as presented. The Motion was carried, unanimously.

Public Comment for Items on the Agenda: None.

RAWS Update: Glenn Harris reported that he continues to work with the Bakersfield District on an additional Remote Automated Weather Station (RAWS) unit at Chimney Peak. There is currently a temporary station in operation at this site and it is collecting data. Mr. Harris added that he continues to work with the U.S. Forest Service on the proposed RAWS unit for Horse Peak. Mr. Harris has been working on the Clover and Piute Fires that are currently burning.

Brackish Water Treatment Project: Tom Mulvihill reported that the extraction well is operational. The excess water is being channeled to the well to the north and injected into that well without any problems. At this time, the Reverse Osmosis (RO) unit is operating. The pre-filters and valve system are working. The Indian Wells Valley Water District has not yet received the Electro Dialysis Reversal (EDR) unit. This is the second major unit which is also part of the first treatment train. Expected delivery of the EDR unit is mid-August. The total operating time is expected to be 150 days. Once it is operating, tours will be scheduled.

Groundwater Flow Model Project: Mike Stoner read highlights from an email he had received from Brent Cain of Brown and Caldwell yesterday. Mr. Cain had reported that the water levels, groundwater pumping, borehole lithology, and geology databases are all complete and archived for future delivery. The geological 3-Dimensional (3-D) model has been completed and a series of 3-D animations have been finalized and archived. The 3-D flow model has been constructed and is fully capable of simulating groundwater flow in the basin. The District has been asked to get pumping scenarios put together for Brown and Caldwell to work on. They are working on a technical memorandum which should be received by the end of next week. Completion of the final report will be initiated immediately after performing the future predictive simulations.

IWVWD 2007/2008 Water Supply Improvement Project: Tom Mulvihill announced that there is nothing new to report.

2007 Water Production Data Update: Tom Haslebacher will be working with the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) summer student tomorrow to begin work plotting most of the domestic wells to a map. Then they will set up a database to post data from individual wells.

Develop an Integrated Regional Water Management Program: Leroy Corlett will attend an Inyo-Mono Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWMP) meeting next Monday in Mammoth. They will be determining the boundaries and signing the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). Mr. Corlett believes that the Indian Wells Valley will be included in the Inyo-Mono IRWMP. They are looking for someone to monitor the grant (a financial and legal representative), to write the grant proposal to the Department of Water Resources (DWR) to obtain a grant to develop the plan. There is \$27 million dollars available for watershed money to the South Lahontan Area and up and along the Sierra. There is \$50 million dollars in flood money available if projects can be linked to floods. Any future grant projects must demonstrate how it will benefit the entire region. Mr. Corlett added that the DWR will not allow any small IRWMP's and that you must be part of a large area. Mr. Corlett plans to continue to attend monthly meetings in Mammoth. Mike Stoner announced that the Navy will support whatever the Group decides. The Group can either join the Inyo-Mono, Antelope Valley, or Mojave area. Craig Peterson shared that he also attended the meeting in Mammoth. When he returned he spoke to Ted James (County Planning) who will be attending the meetings. He also announced that the Resource Conservation and Development Council (RC & D) had expressed interest in possibly being the fiscal agency for the groundwater management plan to work with DWR. They are looking for either a public entity or non-profit that has prior experience with DWR.

The local RC & D does meet those criteria. Craig Peterson offered to have Ted James give his point of view of the meeting from the Group's perspective in Kern County.

Solar Millennium Scoping Meeting: Don Zdeba announced that the letter to Hector Villalobos in regards to support for dry-cooling technology for any solar project was mailed. Mr. Villalobos suggested also sending the letter of concern to Solar Energy Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) Scoping Argonne National Laboratory. The letter was mailed on July 10, 2008 to Solar Energy PEIS. Leroy Corlett stated that the Nevada BLM has put a moratorium on all solar energy projects to reassess the entire situation. Glenn Harris added that the entire BLM is included in the moratorium..

City of Ridgecrest Waste Water Effluent as a Commodity: Dennis Speer reported that Searles Valley Minerals has met with City and staff regarding City effluent. There are currently three solar firms that are also interested in the City effluent. The City Administrator has met with the solar firms.

Project Review Report: Tom Mulvihill reported that there was a proposal for a Conditional Use Permit to allow construction of a Baptist church, located on the southeast corner of North Mahan Street and Ward Avenue.

Technical Advisory Committee Report: Tom Haslebacher reported that the TAC met today. At the June Group meeting, the TAC was tasked to initiate a scope of work or choose a project to pursue grant funding through the Sierra Nevada Conservancy. Funding through Proposition 84, \$9,000,000 is available in this program. Up to \$500,000.00 is available for individual grant funding. Mike Stoner brought four projects to the table: 1) Precipitation in the canyons along with water quality and levels, 2) Rehabilitation of old windmill wells for water quality information and adding to the water well monitoring program to clean up data gaps, 3) Aquifer testing using pairs of Seabee wells from the AB303 program and look at the Water District wells that pumps have been pulled and adding them to the monitoring wells, and 4) Work with the geothermal plant of the Navy to obtain grant funding to process the number of seismic lines that run through the basin. In order to obtain funding from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy, the projects need to be related to watershed and water quality enhancement. The TAC agreed that the rehabilitation of old windmill wells would most likely be the scope of work that will be presented for this program. The application deadline is September 2nd and can apply for up to \$250,000.00. The TAC will write the scope of work. Donna Thomas asked that a one-to-two page letter along with costs be written and for her to deliver to the staff at the Mariposa or Bishop office of the Sierra Nevada Conservancy. The letter should be presented at least one month in advance of the deadline.

MOTION: was made by Pat Quist and second by Nancy Bass for the TAC to write a scope of work letter for grant funding for rehabilitation of old windmill wells for water quality information and adding to the water well monitoring program to clean up data gaps. Donna Thomas will deliver the letter to the Sierra Nevada Conservancy. Motion was carried, unanimously.

AB303 Update: Tom Haslebacher reported that the AB303 Report has been completed and should be removed from the Agenda.

Evaluation of Additional Well Drilling Sites Update: This item was not discussed.

Potential Grant Opportunities: Discussed above.

Review Action Register: The Action Register was reviewed and changes made. An updated version of the Action Register will be sent to the Group with the August meeting agenda.

The following items were added:

Item 116: Glenn Harris to provide the Group with information to access the Chimney Peak weather station.

Item 117: Mike Stoner to draft a project scope and provide to Donna Thomas for a grant application to the Sierra Nevada Conservancy.

Items for the August Agenda: Items for the August Agenda include: 1), Presentation by Ted James, Kern County: IRWMP, 2)RAWS Update, 3) Brackish Water Treatment Project, 4) Groundwater Flow Model Project, 5) IWVWD 2007/2008 Water Supply Improvement Project, 6) 2007 Water Production Data Update, 7) Develop an Integrated Regional Water Management Program, 8) Solar Millennium Scoping Meeting, 9) City of Ridgecrest Waste Water as a Commodity, 10) Project Review Report, and 11)TAC Report, Evaluate Additional Well Sites and Potential Grant Opportunities.

The following Agency Reports were made:

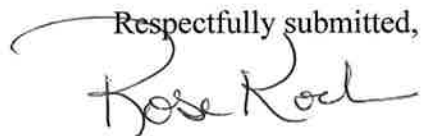
City of Ridgecrest: Dennis Speer reported that there were six new sewer connections and 6.4 million gallons of waste water was reclaimed in June. Mr. Speer also reported that building permits issued have slowed down. There were only 16 building permits issued this year, of which two were issued in June. There was 1 triplex permit issued this year.

Quist Farms: Pat Quist informed the Group that they continue the routine. Responding to a question from the public regarding trees being planted, Ms. Quist informed everyone present that they will be planting approximately 12, 000 trees. Ms. Quist also informed the Group that they've been farming since 1974 and issues have been brought up recently from an anonymous person regarding non-compliance. She stressed that they are in compliance.

Inyokern Airport District: Nancy Bass reported that the Royal Air Force (RAF) is gone, but will be returning in the Fall. The airport is purchasing sweepers. During the month of June, there were ten school tours of the airport and fire department.

Eastern Kern County Resource Conservation District: Donna Thomas announced that the vacant director's seat has been filled by Charles Quinlan. Ms. Thomas asked on behalf of the RC & D whether or not they should add becoming a signatory to the Group to the RC & D

With no further comments or discussion to come before the Group, motion was made by Glenn Harris and seconded by Nancy Bass to adjourn the meeting at 3:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Rose Koch
Recording Secretary

The next meeting is scheduled for August 21, 2008.

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