

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

September 18, 2008 – 1:00 p.m.

Chairman Don Zdeba called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m.

Approval of Discussion Notes: Motion was made by LeRoy Marquardt and seconded by Craig Peterson to accept the August 21, 2008 Discussion Notes as presented. The Motion was carried, unanimously.

Public Comment for Items on the Agenda: None.

RAWS Update: Glenn Harris was not present for the meeting but had provided an email update for the Group. There are no changes with the Remote Automated Weather Stations (RAWS). The RAWS have been working and are collecting data. Mr. Harris has not been able to find information regarding Webcams for the RAWS.

Brackish Water Treatment Project: Tom Mulvihill reported that Indian Wells Valley Water District staff and Carollo Engineering are reviewing the data from the operation of the Reverse Osmosis (RO) unit. The project is currently shut down and is awaiting the delivery of the Electro Dialysis Reversal (EDR) unit. The EDR expected delivery is mid-November.

Groundwater Flow Model Project: Tom Mulvihill reported that the District, Navy, and Searles Valley Minerals (partners) met with Brown & Caldwell. Mr. Mulvihill reported that Steve Brooks and Brent Cain from Brown & Caldwell expect to make a presentation to the Group in November. The draft report should be presented mid-October, followed by the final report in mid-November. LeRoy Marquardt asked if they are going to exercise the model before the final report. Mr. Mulvihill responded that it will not be part of the final report and that the partners are working on two scenarios to run using the model. This may occur after the final report. The first scenario will be a recharge program with 10,000 AF of water in the Freeman Wash area. This will be an importation project off the aqueduct and what effect it will have on the groundwater over a 50-year period. Mr. Marquardt recommended that the first scenario should be a project that can be validated, such as what could happen if you take hay fields located at the north end of the Valley out of production. Mike Stoner agreed with Mr. Marquardt and explained that the model has been ran and validated against historical data.

Water-Efficient Landscape Ordinance Update: Tom Mulvihill reported that the City attorney is reviewing the draft Water-Efficient Landscape Ordinance and that it will go before the City Community Development Committee in either October or November which will be a joint meeting with the District's Water Management Committee. Mike Stoner added that Navy Captain Peterson is really pushing conservation and may want to be involved or be able to obtain information. Captain Peterson's goal is a reduction of 25%.

IWVWD 2007/2008 Water Supply Improvement Project: Tom Mulvihill informed the Group that the District's consultant Tony Morgan had identified District wells that have unused production capacity. Mr. Morgan has not yet run projected drawdowns to determine the influence on other wells, which will be the next thing to do. Mr. Morgan will also be looking at new wells.

2007 Water Production Data Update: LeRoy Marquardt informed the Group that there are over 500 wells that have been located using old satellite imagery. Information regarding any developments, orchards, or water related items was also noted. Mr. Marquardt has located over 200 acres of trees (orchards). These orchards can use from 1,000 to 1,500 AF/year. There are approximately 300 residential wells at about 1 AF/year. This is using data up to 1996.

Develop an Integrated Regional Water Management Program: Tom Mulvihill reported that boundaries are still being looked at for the Inyo-Mono Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWMP).

Solar Millennium Scoping Meeting: Glenn Harris via email reported that he has no additional information on solar projects. The Las Vegas newspaper had a recent article saying that the BLM was dragging their feet because they had not issued a single authorization yet. They thought the solar projects were so beneficial that they should be exempt from the environmental reviews. They thought that the BLM was told not to issue any permits by political pressure from above. In California the average power plant permitting time by the energy commission is 10 years. The newspaper thought that the BLM should be authorizing in less than one year with no environmental review.

City of Ridgecrest Waste Water Effluent as a Commodity: Dennis Speer was not present. No report or discussion.

Proposed Valley-Wide Flood Control District: Dennis Speer was not present. No report or discussion.

Project Review Report: Tom Mulvihill reported that the project Wild Pointe Ranch, applicant PAM Ridgecrest Venture LLC, encompasses 161.5 gross acres. It has come forward as a tentative tract map, general plan amendment, and zone change. The property is located between Las Flores Ave. on the north, Mahan St. and Brady St. on the east and west, and Ridgecrest Blvd. on the south. The project proposes 128.1 gross acres of (E-1.5) Estate 20,000 sf min. development which would allow 192 lots. The project would also entail 13.1 acres of (E-2) Estate 10,000 sf min. which would allow 36 lots. In addition to the residential portions, the project would include an 8.0 net acre (CS) Commercial Service Site (9.4 gross acres), a 4.8 net acre Park/Sump Site (6.0 gross acres) and a 4.2 net acre Park (5.0 gross acres). The developer plans to utilize City utilities and District water hookups.

Technical Advisory Committee Report: Don Zdeba reported that Tom Haslebacher, Glenn Harris, and Tony Morgan were not able to make it to Ridgecrest and therefore there was no TAC meeting. Nothing to report.

Public Attendance at Meetings: Don Zdeba made four notes regarding the TAC By-Laws: 1) The TAC is a sub-committee of the Working Group receiving its direction from the Working Group. Specific tasks are assigned as a result of the actions taken by the Working Group. 2) TAC meetings are essentially staff level meetings and are not open meetings. The TAC reports to the Working Group. 3) Data generated and discussions within the context of the TAC meeting should not be released to the public until it is presented or discussed in the Working Group meeting. And, 4) Open meeting format would likely limit the effectiveness of the TAC given relatively small amount of time that the committee meets each month.

The TAC is asking for concurrence from this Group that the TAC meeting remains a staff-level meeting limited to TAC members and signatory agency representatives as stated in Article IV Sections of the TAC Bylaws and is not an open public meeting.

DISCUSSION: Terry Rogers stated that he had presented the bylaws of the Group to the KCWA legal council. According to the Group's Bylaws Item 3B, Meetings will be open to the public and posted at locations according to the Brown Act. Mr. Rogers also noted that the Group Bylaws state that public participation on agenda items is encouraged at all meetings. It is Mr. Roger's feelings that if this went before a judge, they would say, "since you did not exclusively exclude the TAC as not being covered by the Bylaws of the whole Group, you have to live by this." The Group's Bylaws predate the TAC Bylaws. Mike Stoner suggested that the Group either change the Bylaws or open the meeting up to the public. Concerns addressed were: if it were open to the public, some items may not be discussed, such as draft documents and maps that should not be released to the public. Don Zdeba agreed that the Group should get the information from the TAC before it is given to the public. LeRoy Marquardt added that at the ethics training he had recently attended, he had inquired specifically about whether or not draft reports are releasable to the public. The response was that draft reports are not releasable to the public. The public cannot review a draft of any document. Craig Peterson mentioned that only two organizations present at the Group meetings are subject to the Brown Act. Tom Mulvihill added that if there are two Indian Wells Valley Water District Directors present at the Group meeting, the agenda is posted according to the Brown Act. The TAC consists of District staff and is therefore not a public meeting according to District legal council.

MOTION: was made by LeRoy Marquardt and seconded by Mike Stoner to appoint two signatories to review the Bylaws of the Group and Technical Advisory Committee (TAC). Any recommendations will be brought to the Group at the next meeting. Motion was carried with one opposing vote.

The Group elected Don Cortichiato and Craig Peterson to review the Bylaws and make recommendations as needed.

It was by Group consensus that the TAC meetings remain closed meetings until review of the Bylaws is accomplished.

Potential Grant Opportunities: Donna Thomas reported that she had submitted the grant for the remote well locations on September 2nd. The grant may be disqualified due to not having documentation on the environmental requirements and photos for the project. If it is eliminated,

Ms. Thomas suggested that the Group get all the documentation needed so that it is ready for the next funding cycle.

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 October meeting agenda.

The following three items were added:

1. Provide letters of support for Sierra Nevada Alliance grant proposal to Donna Thomas.
2. Review the Working Group and TAC by-laws and present recommendations to update and make the by-laws consistent with each other and the Group's conduct.
3. Report the balance in the Group's general fund account for fund reimbursement for gathering data. (LeRoy Marquardt)

Don Cortichiato asked for clarification that the goal of the Group is to keep the TAC meeting a closed meeting. It is the consensus of the Group that Don Cortichiato and Craig Peterson review the by-laws of the Group and TAC and what the options are. The options will be presented at next month's Group meeting. It is also the consensus of the Group that the goal is to keep the TAC meeting closed to the public.

Items for the October Agenda: Items for the October Agenda include: 1) RAWs Update, 2) Brackish Water Treatment Project, 3) Groundwater Flow Model Project, 4) Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance Status, 5) IWVWD 2007/2008 Water Supply Improvement Project, 6) 2007 Water Production Data Update, 7) Integrated Regional Water Management Program, 8) Solar Millennium Scoping Update, 9) City of Ridgecrest Waste Water as a Commodity, 10) Proposed Valley-Wide Flood Control District, 11) Proposals for By-Laws Revision, 12) Project Review Report, and 13) TAC Report, Evaluate Additional Well Sites and Potential Grant Opportunities.

LeRoy Marquardt suggested the Group address the long-term water situation of the Valley.

The following Agency Reports were made:

Inyokern Airport District: Nancy Bass reported that the Royal Air Force will be at the airport with their C-130 Hercules aircraft in November. The art contest is in progress. The architecture and engineering are being done for the new terminal. Service between Inyokern and Pt. Mugu was previously provided by Flight International. The new contractor based at Pt. Mugu will be using an G-1 aircraft. Due to the popularity of off-road recreation in the Dove Springs and Jawbone Canyon area, Kern County will be stationing a man and truck at a remote location on the weekends to handle all medical emergencies. Fire Station 73 in Inyokern is now projected to be a four-man station instead of three.

Navy: Mike Stoner reported that the Seabees are working across from Sierra Breeze Mobile Home Park. There were casing and mechanical failures. The Seabees will be back to finish the well in November. The Navy continues to work on the north range fire suppression ponds.

Kern County: Craig Peterson reported that tomorrow there may be word from the State about the impasse regarding the budget. Kern County Engineering Survey Services sent out letters notifying residents that FEMA has changed their flood plain maps and as a result there are 850 people in the Inyokern area that have been placed in a flood plain area. This means their insurance will increase. Kern County must follow FEMA's rules. This will be in effect the end of September.

Desert Mountain Resource Conservation and Development: Donna Thomas reported that they have been working with the Oasis Garden Club to sponsor a native plant sale. Ms. Thomas distributed to the Group order forms for plants that are hard to find, water efficient, and are California and Southwest native plants. These plants do well in this area. Orders must be received with payment by October 4th. Pick up for the ordered plants will be on October 11th at the fairgrounds.

Eastern Kern County Resource Conservation District: Donna Thomas announced that a new coordinator, Deanna Taylor, has been hired and will be reporting to work on October 14th. Ms. Taylor comes from the State of Washington. LeRoy Marquardt shared with the Group a section corner which was used by surveyors in the past. This section corner will be displayed temporarily at the Resource Conservation District office.

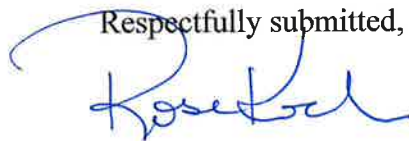
Indian Wells Valley Water District: Tom Mulvihill reported that the District is preparing construction plans and drawings for the arsenic treatment facility. Bid documents will also be prepared and should be available at the first of the year. The District's construction crew is replacing mainline pipe in the southeast section of community on Sky Place, north of Springer Ave. and west of Gateway Blvd. Mr. Mulvihill also reported that last week, the pump seized on Well 17. The pump has been pulled and is now being examined. Mr. Mulvihill also announced that there are approximately 3,000 automated radio read meters installed.

Searles Valley Minerals: Don Zdeba announced that three out of five wells have in the past exceeded the new arsenic standard of 10 ppb. Searles Valley Minerals has been taking quarterly samples, one of these wells has an average below the 10 ppb. That leaves only two wells that are exceeding the 10 ppb standard. Based on this, the Searles Domestic Water Company will send out customer notices next week informing them of the new standard and what steps are being taken. Beginning September 29th, SVM will begin pilot testing on the two water systems located at hill top tank and at the Indian Wells chlorinator. This test will run for a week. SVM has signed a contract with Marmac Field Services for engineering and permitting on replacing the potable water line on the Westend system, beginning on the east side of China Lake Blvd. and ending up at the hill top tank. The engineering should be completed by this fiscal year (March 31st). Beginning April 1st, construction should begin the first stage. The first stage will end at County Line Rd. The second stage will continue up to the hill top tank. The President of SVM, John Tancredi, is retiring this week. The interim CEO is Chief Financial Officer Manny DiTeresi. He will be acting president no later than February, 2009. The current company, Nirma, is putting together a new organizational chart which should be in place by February, 2009.

General Public Comment: None.

With no further comments or discussion to come before the Group, motion was made by LeRoy Marquardt and seconded by Nancy Bass to adjourn the meeting at 2:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Rose Koch", with a large, sweeping flourish at the beginning.

Rose Koch
Recording Secretary

The next meeting is scheduled for October 16, 2008.

I.W.V. COOPERATIVE GROUNDWATER
MANAGEMENT WORKING GROUP

September 18, 2008

Page 1

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