

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

October 16, 2008 – 1:00 p.m.

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

Approval of Discussion Notes: Motion was made by Nancy Bass and seconded by LeRoy Marquardt to accept the September 18, 2008 Discussion Notes as presented. The Motion was carried, unanimously.

Public Comment for Items on the Agenda: None.

RAWS Update: Glenn Harris reported that the Remote Automated Weather Stations (RAWS) are working and have been collecting data. As soon as the fire season calms down, Mr. Harris has been discussing with the Bureau of Land Management the proposed RAWS unit at Chimney Peak. Mr. Harris will continue to look for information regarding Webcams. Tom Haslebacher was not present for this meeting, but had phoned Don Zdeba to add to the RAWS Update. The county alert station has been removed from Horse Peak. The chart was changed at the Sand Canyon weir. It was noted that it is dry behind the Sand Canyon weir and that there is quite a bit of vegetation that needs to be cleaned up. Glenn Harris added that he would like to investigate changing out the chart recorders at Grapevine and Sand Canyons to electronic recorders. The Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) will look into resources for cleaning up the weirs.

Brackish Water Treatment Project: Tom Mulvihill reported that the brackish water treatment facility remains off line until the delivery of the Electrodialysis Reversal (EDR) unit. The EDR expected delivery is mid-November. A report was presented to the Board of Directors by Graham Juby of Corollo Engineering. After the first six weeks using the Reverse Osmosis (RO) unit without the EDR unit, his report can be summarized as well water quality is stable, minimal fouling to the RO filters, and good removal of iron and manganese from the pre-treatment process. The RO unit has been working well. This project is in two phases. In the first phase the RO unit is operated in one direction. In the second phase, as a fairly new technology, the flow will reverse back and forth in order to extend the life of the filters between chemical clean up times. Expected operation of the facility is in mid-November.

Groundwater Flow Model Project: Tom Mulvihill reported that the Groundwater Flow Model Project final report should be made to the Group in November. Brent Cain of Brown & Caldwell has asked for additional information from the Navy and Kern County Water Agency. The Group meeting will also be noticed as a Special Board Meeting for the Indian Wells Valley Water District so that all the Board Members can attend and participate in the discussion.

Water-Efficient Landscape Ordinance Update: Tom Mulvihill reported that the District and City staff need to meet to review the comments and concerns made by the City's attorney after review of the draft water-efficient landscape ordinance.

IWVWD 2007/2008 Water Supply Improvement Project: Tom Mulvihill informed the Group that the Phase 1 report of the Water Supply Improvement Project is expected soon from the District's consultant Tony Morgan, hydrogeologist. Phase 1 will cover wells which he will identify as having unused production capacity. Phase 1 will need to address issues such as engineering and the impact of increased capacity. Phase 2 will cover new well locations.

2007 Water Production Data Update: LeRoy Marquardt informed the Group that Mike Stoner is looking into providing satellite imagery maps to plot wells drilled since 1996. They will then verify the wells. There are many wells that are not producing. The Group inquired whether or not Heritage Village or the hospital were contacted to determine if their wells could be used as monitoring wells before they are destroyed. LeRoy Marquardt will contact the hospital. Don Zdeba will check to determine what the result was of the Heritage Village well.

Develop an Integrated Regional Water Management Program: Leroy Corlett reported that Inyo-Mono Integrated Regional Water Management Program (IRWMP) is collecting agreements of Version No. 11 of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). Version No. 11 covers the pre-planning phase. Inyo-Mono approved the boundary to include the Indian Wells Valley Water District in the Inyo-Mono area. Discussions continue between Kern County, Antelope Valley, Mojave IRWMP, and Southern Sierra IRWMP to review boundaries. Department of Water Resources wants everyone to be included in an area IRWMP. Ted James represents Kern County. The Mojave Desert Mountain Resource Conservation and Development Council has applied for the position of fiscal agent for the Inyo-Mono IRWMP.

Solar Millennium Scoping Meeting: Glenn Harris reported that there is nothing new on this project, but he suspects that Solar Millennium may be waiting for the EIS process to move forward. Mr. Harris distributed an article that was in the Las Vegas Sun regarding the BLM and solar projects.

City of Ridgecrest Waste Water Effluent as a Commodity: Dennis Speer reported that there have not been any further discussions on this topic.

Proposed Valley-Wide Flood Control District: Dennis Speer has been researching flood control issues and flood studies in Indian Wells Valley. He is also investigating the process of creating a Flood Control District and the different and number of agencies that could be involved. Mr. Speer would like to include the Group in any discussions regarding this project. In terms of flood control studies, there have been five major studies performed for various locations of the Indian Wells Valley; two from the Army Corp of Engineers and one from Kern County, City of Ridgecrest, and Eastern Kern County Resource Conservation District. There has not been one study for the entire Indian Wells Valley. With Group discussion, members provided Mr. Speer with information to proceed further into his investigation for the development of a flood control district. Terry Rogers offered his assistance.

Proposals for By-Laws Revision: Don Cortichiato and Craig Peterson were tasked with reviewing the Cooperative Groundwater Management Plan for the Indian Wells Valley and Bylaws of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and making recommendations to the Group. Don Cortichiato reported that they had received an email from Steve Schuett, Kern

County Council Office. Briefly, Steve Schuett has been with the Kern County Council Office for 20 years. He is currently the assistant County Council and directly supervises the advisory section. Mr. Schuett provides direct legal services to the Grand Jury and is an expert on the Brown Act and public meeting issues. The email from Mr. Schuett summarized that the Group is not doing anything illegal with regard to the TAC meetings being held as a non-public meeting. Therefore, Don Cortichiato and Craig Peterson do not recommend any changes to the Cooperative Groundwater Management Plan for the Indian Wells Valley or Bylaws of the TAC. Terry Rogers noted that the TAC is not subject to the Brown Act and that nobody ever said it was. Mr. Rogers remembered that when the Group was formed that it was essentially going to be an open process and to voluntarily keep it subject to the Brown Act. The TAC Bylaws say that it can be closed and is inconsistent with the original plan. Mr. Rogers said that it is not the philosophy the Group was using when the Group was set up. The Group originally wanted an open meeting because there was a lot of technical work going on behind closed doors.

DISCUSSION: Don Zdeba noted that the laws for the Working Group were drafted before the TAC came into being. He recalled that the Group was a larger Group and that the meetings were not being productive. Members of that sub-committee felt that in order to be more productive, a more narrow Group would be able to focus on technical issues and get things accomplished. Mr. Rogers felt that the meetings back then were very productive. Mr. Zdeba reminded Mr. Rogers that the Group had taken a vote of confidence of the TAC and received the votes from the Group.

Glenn Harris informed the Group that there has been a philosophical change with the TAC. Now the Working Group directs the issues that the TAC is working on. Having directed issues, the public format is not as productive. Nancy Bass added that eventually these issues are brought back to the Working Group.

Don Zdeba reminded the Group that the Bylaws do provide for attendance from members of the Working Group and also for subject-matter experts for specific issues. Mr. Harris stressed that there is nothing going on at those meetings that cannot be brought up at the Working Group meetings. There are directives and that's what the TAC reports on at the Working Group meeting.

LeRoy Marquardt suggested that if someone wants to have input at the TAC, then it should be put on the Working Group Agenda where it can be discussed. Mr. Rogers feels that there is no technical discussion at the Working Group meetings. Unless you are engaged in the technical committee, you do not know what the issues are. LeRoy Marquardt agreed that he would like to see more technical discussion at the meetings.

Mr. Rogers left the meeting.

Tom Mulvihill noticed in the TAC Bylaws, Section 2. Membership Criteria, that any signatory member can attend the TAC meetings as an observer, and informed the Group that he does just that.

Don Zdeba summarized the process to the Group: Assignments are given to the TAC to work on specific issues and report back to the Working Group. This seems to be working fine. A vote of

confidence of the TAC has been made in the past to the Working Group. Mr. Zdeba asked whether or not a motion should be made that the TAC continue in its existing format, with the Group as it is, with representatives from the Working Group able to attend as observers, with subject matter experts called in as needed, and are not open to the general public.

It was the consensus of the Group that a motion was not needed for the TAC Bylaws to remain as they are.

Group Discussion: Future Water Situation in the Valley: LeRoy Marquardt reported that although this is a very sensitive issue, you need to start looking at how you're going to change the land use and water use. Mr. Marquardt went to the Eastern Kern County Resource Conservation District (EKCRCD) Board and asked whether he should come to the Working Group to volunteer to take the lead in gathering information from all the Groups on land use relative to water issues which may need to be incorporated into the Kern County Specific Plan. The EKCRCD Board agreed. The Group needs to concentrate on what is needed to be incorporated into the specific plan relative to water issues.

MOTION: was made by Glenn Harris and seconded by Leroy Corlett to support the Eastern Kern Resource Conservation District in their effort to work with Kern County on the specific plan relative to water issues. The motion was carried, unanimously.

Project Review Report: Tom Mulvihill reported: 1) A 10.17-acre site being subdivided into four 2.53-acre parcels for Residential use. This project is located on the southwest corner of Sierra Vista Street and Rodecker Avenue, Inyokern. 2) A site plan review at 241 Balsam Street, a 5,000 sf building for a restaurant, China Express. 3) A site plan review at 1110 W. Ridgecrest Boulevard, a 3,600 sf metal commercial building on one acre.

Technical Advisory Committee Report: Don Zdeba reported that Tom Haslebacher and Mike Stoner were not able to attend the TAC meeting; therefore there was no meeting today and nothing to report.

Potential Grant Opportunities: LeRoy Marquardt reported that Donna Thomas is attending the Resource Conservation & Development Council meeting today. There is no news as to whether or not the grant application for the Indian Wells Valley Remote Well Rehabilitation Project was disqualified due to not having documentation on the environmental requirements and photos.

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 November meeting agenda.

The following three items were added:

1. Evaluate resources to clean and maintain the weirs in Sand and Grapevine Canyons. (TAC)
2. Assess the status of the "Hospital Well" as a monitor well. (Working Group)

3. Review existing wells being monitored and assess the validity of the data to determine which wells should continue to be monitored. (TAC)

There was discussion regarding whether the Heritage Village Well had been added to the well monitoring list. Don Zdeba will review this and report back to the Group.

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

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 and they have already received entries.

Bureau of Land Management: Glenn Harris reported that they have just started the new fiscal year and have a continuing authorization until March. The budget was not passed. With only a continuing authorization, the agency cannot fill vacant positions.

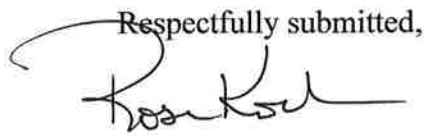
Indian Wells Valley Water District: Tom Mulvihill announced that the District will have a manned booth at the Fall Desert Empire Fair scheduled for October 16th thru the 19th. Conservation items and information will be distributed. Staff will also be encouraging people to complete a customer survey. Mr. Mulvihill also announced that the 2008 Fall Xeriscape Workshop will be held at the historic USO building on Saturday, November 8th, from 9:30 a.m. to noon. Special guests will be Kathy LaShure, California Native Plant Society, presenting "Bringing Hummingbirds, Butterflies and Bees to your Garden" and Marianne Kistler, Master Gardener, demonstrating xeriscape planting. Reservations are being accepted. Admission is free. The Desert Artists' League will also be hosting an art exhibit "Water Wise is Beautiful" from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

City of Ridgecrest: Dennis Speer reported that there was one new sewer connection and almost six million gallons of waste water reclaimed in September. Mr. Speer informed the Group that Carollo has completed the final report for waste water treatment plant 2. A presentation of the final report will be made to the City Council on November 5th. For your information, there are approximately 1,700 buildable lots in the City. At 120 gallons of water per capita a day per household, an additional 510,000 gallons per day would be needed. In addition to these existing lots, there are tentative maps that account for another 1,200 lots, bringing the total to 870,000 gallons of water per day needed.

Searles Valley Minerals: Don Zdeba announced that Filtronics has just completed the pilot testing for removing arsenic at two water system locations; Hill Top Tank and Indian Wells chlorinator. Layne Christensen has been contacted to perform the pilot testing as well. Searles Valley Minerals (SVM) is trying to get all of their pilot testing completed by the end of the year. An evaluation will be done during the first quarter of next year. SVM hopes to have the equipment in place by the end of the second quarter of next year. Mr. Zdeba also announced that the Gem and Mineral Show was held last weekend, and public attendance continues to grow.

General Public Comment: Judie Decker suggested that the TAC present a written committee report at the Group meeting.

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 2:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Rose Koch
Recording Secretary

The next meeting is scheduled for November 20, 2008.

I.W.V. COOPERATIVE GROUNDWATER
MANAGEMENT WORKING GROUP

October 16, 2008

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