

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

December 18, 2008 – 1:00 p.m.

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

Don Zdeba welcomed and congratulated newly elected Director of the Indian Wells Valley Water District, Peggy Breeden. Mr. Zdeba also welcomed the new coordinator, Deana Taylor, of the Desert Mountain Resource Conservation and Development (DMRC&D).

Approval of Discussion Notes: Motion was made by Nancy Bass and seconded by LeRoy Marquardt to accept the November 20, 2008 Discussion Notes as presented. The Motion was carried, unanimously.

Public Comment for Items on the Agenda: None.

RAWS Update: Glenn Harris reported that all of the Remote Automated Weather Stations (RAWS) have had their annual maintenance and are functioning well. Mr. Harris also reported that although it has been snowing, the RAWS rain gauges do not register snow fall accurately. He is currently looking at modifications to better record the snowfall data. The Western Regional Climate Center has been recording the data for the Blue Max and Walker Pass stations, but for some reason it is not displaying on the website.

Brackish Water Treatment Project: Tom Mulvihill reported that the Electrodialysis Reversal (EDR) unit for the brackish water treatment facility has been delivered. Indian Wells Valley Water District staff has been working on the installation and is awaiting a technician from General Electric to start the EDR unit. At this point, the facility should be running by the first part of January for three months. Next month, if everything goes as planned, tours will be scheduled.

Water-Efficient Landscape Ordinance Update: Tom Mulvihill reported that he had spoken to Jim McRea of the City of Ridgecrest. Mr. McRea had informed him that he had not heard anything back from the City attorney. There appeared to be a miscommunication between City staff and the City attorney. The City attorney had sent over a City waste water ordinance and thought that it had been done. Once changes have been made to the landscape ordinance by the City attorney, City staff and District staff will meet to review those changes. The next step will be to take it to a joint committee of the District's Water Management Committee and the appropriate City committee.

Indian Wells Valley Water District Director Leroy Corlett announced that the State of California landscape efficiency ordinance will be in effect March 2009.

IWVWD 2007/2008 Water Supply Improvement Project: Tom Mulvihill informed the Group that District staff is reviewing a draft phase 1 report from Tony Morgan, District's hydrology

consultant. Phase 1 report will focus on the expansion of production for existing wells. Phase 2 report will be on proposed new well sites. The District will also have a third report which would consolidate the first two to determine what the impacts would be with the two phases together. There is not a final report at this time.

2007 Water Production Data Update: LeRoy Marquardt reported that he should be receiving the latest aerial imagery maps from Kern County. He has been in contact with Tom Haslebacher to access copies of the drilling logs and is currently seeking someone to go to Kern County Water Agency to make copies of the 1995 to present drilling logs. Mr. Marquardt has been working on plotting and gathering the data; location, when it was drilled, how deep it was drilled, and the size of the well, from the drilling logs he has obtained from Indian Wells Valley Water District. Mr. Marquardt also suggested that it may be a good idea to look at replacement wells. With regards to the well monitoring program, Mr. Marquardt reported that he has been in contact with Harry Mertz to research the idea of a monitoring the well near Sierra Breeze.

Integrated Regional Water Management Program: Leroy Corlett reported that he had received an e-mail from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy urging member agencies to send letters to the Department of Water Resources requesting the release of funds for the Integrated Regional Water Management Program (IRWMP) planning grant. The Governor has issued a decree that all grant money will be distributed to projects that turn dirt, before planning effort projects are considered. The Nevada Conservancy is looking for funding for support. The Sierra Nevada Conservancy and the Trout Conservancy have funded everything to date. The next meeting will be held January 12, 2009.

Terry Rogers reported on the San Joaquin IRWMP. The members of this IRWMP are funding their planning. Member agencies are currently gathering a list of projects.

Solar Millennium Scoping Meeting: Glenn Harris reported that there is nothing new to report.

City of Ridgecrest Waste Water Effluent as a Commodity: Dennis Speer reported that there have not been any further discussions on this topic. Mr. Speer presented to the Group and the Indian Wells Valley Water District the final engineer's report for the waste water treatment plant #2 in CD format. Mr. Speer also informed the group of the contents of the draft version of the Request for Proposal (RFP), which will consist of the environmental permitting and design. The Infrastructure Committee is reviewing the draft RFP.

Proposed Valley-Wide Flood Control District: Dennis Speer informed the Group that there is nothing new to report on the proposed Valley-wide flood control district and that it should be removed from the agenda until further notice.

Group Discussion: Future Water Situation in the Valley: LeRoy Marquardt reported that he is waiting for the information from Lorelei Oviatt regarding the Kern County Specific Plan for the Indian Wells Valley. Mr. Marquardt will distribute the information to the Group once he has received it. The Group should review the information and make recommendations, as far as land use, to the Specific Plan before it is approved by Kern County.

Watershed Coordinator Job Description Review: Don Zdeba directed the Group to review the draft Watershed Coordinator job description and send all comments to LeRoy Marquardt.

Project Review Report: Tom Mulvihill reported: 1) A public hearing for a proposal to divide a 161.5-acre parcel into four parcels ranging in size from 40.35 acres to 40.40 acres for residential/agricultural use. Property location: Northeast corner of North Hawk Street and Solo Road, Inyokern area. 2) A Mitigated Negative Declaration for project site 151.5-acre parcel located on the southeast corner of Inyokern Road (Highway 178) and Black Mountain Boulevard in Inyokern, CA. The applicant, Beth Sumners, proposes to rezone the northern 76-acre portion of the parcel from A-1 MHH (Limited agriculture - Mobile home Combining-Airport Approach Height Combining) to M-2 PDH (Medium Industrial – Precise Development Combining-Airport Approach Height Combining). Applicant requests approval of a Conditional Use Permit to allow for the construction and operation of a chemical blending and manufacturing facility. Water will be provided by the Inyokern Community Services District, and a private septic system will be installed.

Technical Advisory Committee Report: Don Zdeba reported that the Technical Advisory Committee meeting was cancelled due to weather conditions.

Potential Grant Opportunities: None.

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 January meeting agenda.

The following items were added to the Action Register: 1) 2008 Water Production Data, 2) 2008 In-Kind Services Update, and 3) 2009 In-Kind Service Commitment Update.

Items for the January Agenda: Items for the January Agenda include: 1) Election of Officers, 2) RAWS Update, 3) Brackish Water Treatment Project, 4) Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance Status, 5) IWVWD 2007/2008 Water Supply Improvement Project, 6) 2007 Water Production Update, 7) Integrated Regional Water Management Program, 8) Solar Millennium Scoping Update, 9) City of Ridgecrest Waste Water as a Commodity, 10) Watershed Coordinator Job Description Review, 11) 2008 Water Production Data Update, 12) 2008 In-Kind Service Update, 13) 2009 In-Kind Service Commitment Update, 14) Project Review Report, and 15) TAC Report, Evaluate Additional Well Sites and Potential Grant Opportunities.

The following Agency Reports were made:

Inyokern Airport District: Nancy Bass reported that the art contest is complete. Winning art is displayed in the terminal. There were 700 to 800 entries. The Royal Air Force has left, but will return in January. They are now scheduled to come five times a year instead of two. There were no delayed commercial flights due to the recent weather conditions. Ms. Bass believes that it may be due to a particular type of asphalt called P402 that is laid on Runway 20. Instead of forming ice beneath the snow, P402 asphalt allows the melting snow to go through the pavement and come out the sides. There were no private flights in or out of the airport during this time. Ms. Bass welcomed Peggy Breeden.

City of Ridgecrest: Dennis Speer reported that there were two new sewer connections and that the City reclaimed approximately 2.5 million gallons of waste water.

Navy: Mike Stoner reported that the Navy Seabees will be back in February/March. The first monitoring well will be located near Navy Well 18, Jack Ranch Road and ½ mile west. Another will be located by the substation, Well 30.

Kern County: Craig Peterson announced that the State has not given a revised budget for the State of California. The State is presently in the process of shutting down public works projects and is due to run out of money by about February. Unemployment funds are running out. Theoretically, there should be plenty of money in the unemployment funds, but the legislature redirected funds to other projects. They may be calling the Federal government for money in order to pay the unemployment. The State currently has a hiring freeze.

Kern County Water Agency: Terry Rogers informed the Group that the endangered deltamelt has put the Kern County Water Agency in dire need of their State Water Project allocation.

Quist Farms: Pat Quist reported that the water pumps have been off since September. They have employed eight workers to prune trees. Ms. Quist announced that she was elected President of the Resource Conservation District for the State of California.

Eastern Kern County Resource Conservation District: Deana Taylor reported the Sand Canyon Environmental Program was approved for the Sierra Nevada Conservancy Grant funding. The other three projects will be carried over.

Indian Wells Valley Water District: Tom Mulvihill announced that the District is ready to begin mainline replacement on China Lake Boulevard, from Church Avenue to Upjohn Avenue. District crews will begin saw cutting and potholing next week. One southbound lane will be closed during the day for approximately 60 days, the length of the project.

Bureau of Land Management: Glenn Harris reported that they have funding for the Sand Canyon Environment Program. Mr. Harris informed the Group that he has been working on a project with a large environmental impact statement involving Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) upgrading their power lines from the station south of Jawbone. A new six-wire line will be installed from that point south for moving renewable energy. LADWP will also be upgrading the existing power line. Mr. Harris also reported that the eight vacant job positions may not be filled due to lack of funds.

Searles Valley Minerals: Don Zdeba reported that a few months ago, Searles Valley Minerals was projecting significant price increases to their customers. This has all fallen through. In fact, the soda ash business has not been good. Their competitors, U.S. Borax, are laying off 14,000 personnel; most of them overseas. Bottom line is that in the last couple months, over \$30 million dollars has been wiped off the bottom line just in pricing. It will be a tough year ahead for them, not to mention new off-road and on-road diesel requirements. They anticipate replacing their

entire diesel fleet of vehicles due to new regulations. Mr. Zdeba also reported that the packaging plant was running at the lowest levels in November since September 1994.

General Public Comment: None.

With no further comments or discussion to come before the Group, motion was made by Glenn Harris and seconded by Leroy Corlett to adjourn the meeting at 2:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Rose Koch". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "R".

Rose Koch
Recording Secretary

The next meeting is scheduled for January 15, 2009.

I.W.V. COOPERATIVE GROUNDWATER
 MANAGEMENT WORKING GROUP
 December 18, 2008
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