

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

March 19, 2009 – 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 Glenn Harris and seconded by Leroy Corlett to accept the February 19, 2009 Discussion Notes as presented. The Motion was carried, unanimously.

Public Comment for Items on the Agenda: None.

RAWS Update: Glenn Harris reported that there is approximately \$9,700.00 remaining in the account for maintenance on the Remote Automated Weather Stations (RAWS). Mr. Harris spoke with the National Interagency Fire Center in Boise, Idaho for converting the temporary type weather stations to permanent stations. There is a possibility for funding to do the conversion. Mr. Harris is looking at the possibility of installing a weather station at the top of the Scodie Mountains and Bird Springs Pass. Other areas to consider for a weather station would be China Lake Naval Weapons Station. Mr. Harris is researching using Kern County rain gauges for recording snowfall data. Mike Stoner commented that he did not think that there would be any issues regarding the installation of a RAWS at the China Lake Naval Weapons Station. There are two spots that have been cleared and could be a possibility for a RAWS.

Brackish Water Treatment Project: Tom Mulvihill reported that the brackish water treatment plant will be in operation up through the month of May. Mr. Mulvihill announced that if you are interested in touring the facility to notify Rose Koch to make arrangements.

Water-Efficient Landscape Ordinance Update: Tom Mulvihill reported that the Indian Wells Valley Water District Water Management Committee met with the City of Ridgecrest Community Development Committee (CDC). This meeting was posted as a Special Board Meeting so that other Board Members could attend and make comments. Board Members in attendance were Leroy Corlett, Peggy Breeden, and Don Cortichiato. The CDC was appreciative of the District's efforts and wanted to continue working with the District. The proposed ordinance has been referred to a sub-committee composed of Ron Carter and Jason Patin (CDC), Peggy Breeden and Leroy Corlett (Water Management Committee), and staff from the City and District. The sub-committee will report back to the CDC. The CDC also expressed the desire to involve the City's planning commission. After this process, the proposed ordinance will be brought forward to the City's Council. Mr. Mulvihill added that at the January Board of Director's Workshop, the Board decided that the District will enforce the ordinance. The District will adopt an identical ordinance to the City's. This will enable the District to also enforce in the County areas within the District. The proposed ordinance is for new construction only.

LeRoy Marquardt inquired whether or not contractors were invited to attend the City and District joint meeting. Mr. Mulvihill responded that the Citizens Advisory Committee, which came up

with the basic idea behind the ordinance, consisted of a contractor, landscaper, realtor, two citizens-at-large, and representatives from the Chamber of Commerce, garden clubs, and IWV Cooperative Groundwater Management Group. The City also participated. Invitations to participate were sent to all contractors in the yellow pages of the telephone book.

IWVWD 2007/2008 Water Supply Improvement Project: Tom Mulvihill informed the Group that Tony Morgan, IWVWD hydrology consultant, continues to work on the project. The District staff and Mr. Morgan have decided rather than have phased reports, that there will be only one final report. The final report should be ready by the end of April and could be presented to the Group at the May meeting.

Integrated Regional Water Management Program: Leroy Corlett reported that the District hosted an Inyo-Mono Integrated Regional Water Management Program (IRWMP) meeting a couple of weeks ago. Topic of discussion included the IRWMP boundaries. A representative from the Mojave Water Agency will ask the MWA to abandon the area that overlaps with the Inyo-Mono area. This means that the Indian Wells Valley, Salt Wells Valley, and Searles Valley will be in the Inyo-Mono watershed. Mr. Corlett also reported that the Sierra Nevada Conservancy decided to abandon the idea of pursuing grant funding for writing the plan. The Sierra Nevada Conservancy will present the idea of using the material that would have been used in the grant application and writing their own plan. The cost of writing the plan would be approximately \$350,000.00. Participating agencies that would be solicited for funding would most likely be the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, City of Bishop, and the Indian Wells Valley Water District, and property owners. The idea of the IRWMP is to have the plan ready by June of 2010 when grant funding is available.

Solar Millennium Scoping Meeting: Glenn Harris reported that Solar Millennium has submitted the application to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). Mr. Harris informed the Group that they have asked for authorization to do geotechnical type of work on the site. Solar Millennium is beginning to produce information which has been lacking. Solar Millennium has several projects. Mr. Harris stated for the Group's information that Chevron may be associated with Solar Millennium. Construction may begin at sites near Phelan, Blythe, and Ridgecrest as soon as the fourth quarter of 2010. Solar Millennium will be using a dry-cooling technology for the process which uses approximately 13% of the water that would be used in a wet-cooling system. The water is needed for sanitation, make-up water for boilers, cleaning the mirrors, dust control, etc. The right-of-ways requested from the BLM for the site near Ridgecrest is almost 5,000 acres of land, but will only occupy 1,740 acres. Water sources may come from either the Water District or from a well on site. An application has been submitted to drill a test well on site located just off Brown Road, one mile west of the intersection of South China Lake Boulevard and Highway 395. The BLM is making recommendations to Solar Millennium regarding the test well and that the BLM obtains the data set and samples from the drilling. Solar Millennium is currently doing botanical sampling. BLM is also requesting that a series of about 35 75-foot core holes be drilled around on the site primarily for engineering stability type of studies to determine where turbines can be placed.

Other projects proposed in the valley consisted of a solar facility using photovoltaic technology located south of the BLM's wild horse and burro facility. This facility will produce 422 megawatts.

City of Ridgecrest Waste Water Effluent as a Commodity: Dennis Speer was not present.

Future Water Situation in the Valley, Letter from Mr. Tiedemann Dated June 11, 1991: The letter stated that goals had been adopted by the IWVWD, ICSD, Inyokern Airport District, and the IWV Well Owners Association. Goals included: 1) Reduce large-scale pumping from areas that are already severely impacted, 2) Distribute water extraction over the basin in a manner that minimizes interference between wells and the effects of the water table and maximize the long-term supply to the Valley, 3) Reduce water-intensive agriculture from the Valley, 4) Aggressively pursue water conservation policy and education, 5) Encourage the use of reclaimed water and lower quality water where appropriate and economically feasible, 6) Prevent new long-term water exportation from the Valley, and 7) Explore water transfers, water banking and other Statewide programs that are beneficial to the Indian Wells Valley water supply. At last month's meeting LeRoy Marquardt had asked the Group to review the goals and to discuss each item at this meeting.

Mr. Marquardt reiterated that it is time for the Group to get serious about the goals stated in Mr. Tiedemann's letter and to take action to protect the water resources for everyone in the valley. Concerns were specifically pointed at reducing water-intensive agriculture from the valley and the individual well owners in the valley. Individual well owners and coops have no options for additional resources.

Tom Mulvihill asked LeRoy Marquardt if the Kern County Specific Plan was going to deal with looking at the zoning of properties which may be a way of dealing with the agriculture issue. Mr. Marquardt responded that the plan will deal with that problem. Once the Kern County Specific Plan is in effect, there will be no future large-scale agriculture development in the Indian Wells Valley.

Other goals stated in Mr. Tiedemann's letter were discussed. After an extensive discussion regarding Inyo County water level monitoring, LeRoy Marquardt suggested that the Group write a letter to the Inyo County Planning Commission informing them about the IWVCGWMG and inviting them to a meeting. LeRoy Marquardt will provide information on who to send the letter.

Watershed Coordinator Job Description Review: Glenn Harris informed the Group that the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) had discussed the Watershed Coordinator position. The state guidelines are not available. The guidelines will be available on April 15th. The TAC discussed the background of the Watershed Coordinator and drafted a position description from no general guidelines. The next TAC meeting will be April 16th and will review the guidelines and look at preparing the grant application.

Water Production Data Update: Production data is still needed from Meadowbrook Dairy, City of Ridgecrest, Inyokern CSD, and Private Wells. Don Zdeba reported that he has been in

contact with Eddie Imsand for Meadowbrook Dairy production data. Mr. Zdeba will call Janet Stuebner at Inyokern CSD.

2008 In-Kind Services Update: 2008 In-Kind Services are needed from Inyokern CSD, KCWA, and Kern County. Don Zdeba will contact Janet Stuebner at Inyokern CSD.

2009 In-Kind Service Commitment Update: 2009 In-Kind Service Commitments are needed from Inyokern CSD, KCWA, and Kern County.

Project Review Report: Nothing to report.

Technical Advisory Committee Report: Mike Stoner updated the Group on the status of the Ridgecrest Hospital well. Last month the Ridgecrest Hospital Board had not yet voted whether or not to keep the well for monitoring purposes. The hospital had given permission to the Group to monitor the well if they were to keep the well. No formal notification has been given from the hospital. Tom Mulvihill will follow up with David Mechtenberg, Hospital Administrator.

Potential Grant Opportunities: Donna Thomas reported that she submitted the application for the Remote Well Rehabilitation Project. The application was submitted on February 27th. The application packet included a map of the location of nine wells for rehabilitation. Ms. Thomas is waiting to hear whether the project will be funded. Ms. Thomas also reported that she is waiting for a letter of authorization for the two lumber mill wells. As soon as she receives the letter of support, they will add it to the application packet. They Navy may also be sending a letter of support. At the Resource Conservation and Development meeting, the project coordinator was asking for a list of shovel-ready projects. This project may be a shovel-ready project and should be added to the list.

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 April meeting agenda.

With regards to Item 100: Provide water production data for 2007 to Rose, LeRoy Marquardt reported 1,800 AF for Private Well Owners. This figure will be used for both 2007 and 2008.

Items for the April Agenda: Items for the April Agenda include: 1) RAWS Update, 2) Brackish Water Treatment Project, 3) Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance Status, 4) IWVWD 2007/2008 Water Supply Improvement Project, 5) Integrated Regional Water Management Program, 6) Solar Millennium Scoping Update, 7) City of Ridgecrest Waste Water as a Commodity, 8) Future Water Situation in the Valley: Letter from Mr. Tiedemann Dated June 11, 1991, 9) Watershed Coordinator Job Description Review, 10) Water Production Data Update, 11) 2008 In-Kind Service Update, 12) 2009 In-Kind Service Commitment Update, 13) Project Review Report, and 14) TAC Report, Evaluate Additional Well Sites, Ridgecrest Regional Hospital Well, and Potential Grant Opportunities.

The following Agency Reports were made:

Navy: Mike Stoner reported that in November the Seabees drilled a well across and north of Sierra Breeze Mobile Home Park. The well was drilled and cased to 620 feet. It was screened from 500 to 600 feet. The water level, as of yesterday, is 255.75 feet below land surface. The other well located 200 to 300 feet east of the Southern California Edison substation on Highway 178 was drilled to 720 feet. The well was cased to 690 feet and screened from 460 to 500 and again 570 to 670 feet. The water level is 258.8 feet below land surface.

Bureau of Land Management: Glenn Harris reported that there is a budget. Mr. Harris is not sure of the amount in the budget.

Eastern Kern County Resource Conservation District: LeRoy Marquardt reported he has been working on well data and spot checking wells using the new satellite photos. Donna Thomas announced that the Resource Conservation and Development Council (RC & D) will have a booth at the Home & Leisure Show. The RC & D will be having a native plant sale.

Kern County Water Agency: Terry Rogers announced that the State Water Project is reported to be running at 15% to 20%.

Quist Farms: Pat Quist reported on agricultural water use for the State of California.

Indian Wells Valley Water District: Tom Mulvihill announced that the Board of Directors approved voluntary summer watering guidelines effective May 1st through October 31st to specific days and hours. Even numbered addresses will water on Wednesday, Friday, and Sunday and odd numbered addresses will water on Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday. Recommended hours are between 8:00 p.m. and 8:00 a.m. The District will have a manned booth at the Home and Leisure Show on March 28th and 29th. There will be many water-saving devices and water conservation information. Two water wise garden seminars will be held on Saturday: Table-Top Garden – Raised Beds and Xeriscape-To-Go – Herb Garden. At the end of this month, an arsenic notice will be mailed to customers notifying them of exceeding the maximum contaminant level. This notice, which is required by the California Department of Public Health, will be mailed quarterly until the arsenic treatment plant is in operation. Mr. Mulvihill also reported that Well 17, located at the corner of Pinto Street and Inyokern Road, was flushed last week. The flushed water is being disbursed onto an expanded onsite pond. Chlorination should begin next week.

Searles Valley Minerals: Don Zdeba reported that beginning Monday Steve Cole from Overland Park will be the new Corporate President for Searles Valley Minerals. Mr. Zdeba announced that Searles Valley Minerals also received a compliance letter from the California Department of Public Health and has also issued the quarterly announcement to customers. Well 36, which has a high arsenic reading, will be shut down until an arsenic treatment facility is running. This may be in late November. Well 36 is located west of Jack Ranch Road and south of Hwy. 178.

General Public Comment: LeRoy Marquardt proposed that in the minutes of this meeting that we ask the Group to give some thought on how we involve the whole community in solving water availability problems. Donna Thomas recommended that it be added to the watershed coordinator position. Mr. Marquardt recommended putting together information and to send this information to all of the coops asking for their ideas.

Judie Decker inquired about water use at Cerro Coso College and felt that was one area that could reduce the water usage. Leroy Corlett responded that the District has been working with the college to reduce the amount of water being used for landscaping. Ms. Decker also suggested that the Group have a column on the editorial page of the local newspaper to give suggestions on cutting back water consumption. LeRoy Marquardt suggested that the information come from a neutral source and to include radio and web advertising.

Leroy Corlett suggested that an item be added to the agenda for May: Outreach to the Community.

Glenn Harris offered the use of the BLM conference room for the May meeting.

With no further comments or discussion to come before the Group, motion was made by Don Zdeba and seconded by Glenn Harris to adjourn the meeting at 2:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Rose Koch
Recording Secretary

The next meeting is scheduled for April 16, 2009.

