

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

April 16, 2009 – 1:00 p.m.

Chairman Don Zdeba called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

Approval of Discussion Notes: Motion was made by LeRoy Marquardt and seconded by Mike Stoner to accept the March 19, 2009 Discussion Notes as presented. The Motion was carried, unanimously.

Public Comment for Items on the Agenda: None.

RAWS Update: Glenn Harris was not present at the Group meeting. Report was made at Item 5.B. Technical Advisory Committee by Tom Haslebacher. Glenn Harris was present at the Technical Advisory Committee Meeting.

Brackish Water Treatment Project: Reneé Morquecho reported that the brackish water treatment plant will run for approximately five more weeks. The unit has been running smoothly with the Electrodialysis (EDR) unit and the Reverse Osmosis (RO). At this time the pilot facility is running at 86% overall recovery of the water. After 1,000 hours, the unit will be pushed to obtain a higher recovery rate. Tours of the facility can still be arranged through Rose Koch.

Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance Update: Leroy Corlett reported that the Indian Wells Valley Water District continues to work with the City of Ridgecrest sub-committee on the Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance. The sub-committee is reviewing the draft ordinance and will meet again with the District to present revisions to the draft.

The Group discussed other desert communities such as: Sparks, Nevada, Las Vegas, Nevada, and Tucson, Arizona, that have landscape ordinances, and noted that they were beautiful communities.

IWVWD 2007/2008 Water Supply Improvement Project: Reneé Morquecho announced that the final report is due by the end of April.

Integrated Regional Water Management Program: Leroy Corlett reported that there will be a meeting with the state next month to firm up boundaries and to discuss the next effort. Funding is critical. State funding is frozen. Cal Trout has contributed and recently Madera County has contributed \$10,000. The Sierra Nevada Conservancy is looking for contributions to keep moving forward to write a grant application.

Solar Millennium Scoping Meeting: Glenn Harris was not present to report. Mike Stoner reported that Solar Millennium will be coming to China Lake on April 29th to talk about the Navy's water conservation policy. China Lake does not currently have a water conservation policy, but does have an outline that Commander Kloss has developed. China Lake Planning

will discuss potential sewer water, etc. Tom Haslebacher reported that Solar Millennium has been talking to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) about drilling a test well. Solar Millennium will be using dry technology for solar facility, but will need make-up water. They will need approximately 250 acre-feet of water a year. The TAC would like to be involved with the well construction. If this well does not meet their expectations, the TAC may be interested in using it as a monitoring well.

Craig Peterson announced that the BLM Steering Committee Meeting is scheduled for Thursday evening, April 23rd. Hector Villalobos will be giving an update on all solar and wind projects that BLM has received applications from for this area.

Mike Stoner reported that there are photo-voltaic cell technology solar projects proposed for China Lake at: 1) Parking Lot 3 East of Hangar, 2) Michelson Lab East Parking Lot, 3) Commissary Parking Lot, and 4) RCC Parking Lot. All are roof-mounted photo-voltaic panels for shaded parking. The only ground mounted photo-voltaic project is an area located east of Burroughs High School.

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: Last month Don Zdeba was tasked to write a letter to the Inyo County Planning Commission to inform them about the Group and invite them to a meeting. After looking onto the website (www.inyowater.org) for Inyo County for more information to address the letter to, Mr. Zdeba stated that his first reaction was that Inyo County does not need any help from the Group. The website contains a lot of data such as water production. They have a technical group made up of five representatives from Inyo County and five representatives from the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) technical staff. The letter was to be addressed to Dr. Harrington. He has a PhD from Berkley and seventy-five percent of the reports on the website were written by Dr. Harrington. Mr. Zdeba stated that he does not know what the Group can offer in terms of help. LeRoy Marquardt stated that the intent of the letter was to inform them of what was going on in the Indian Wells Valley as far as water. Mr. Marquardt added that in a recent conversation with an Inyo County Supervisor he had found out that Inyo County does not have a water monitoring program. Mr. Marquardt felt that we could share information on the monitoring program. Peggy Breeden added that she has been to two of the Inyo County water commissioner meetings and staff is very impressive. Don Zdeba will finish drafting the letter to Dr. Harrington.

LeRoy Marquardt had written a thought paper on how to attain an equitable water availability policy for all users, potential users, landowners, etc. The thought paper had been distributed to the Group via email and at the meeting. Mr. Marquardt suggested a legislative-approved management district. If that is the case, it is time to lay out the plans on how to do that. Each parcel in the IWV basin has a need for water and should be required to pay a pump tax into a fund to manage water resources. It would be necessary to establish a management structure which would give basin-wide representation such as a board of directors.

Peggy Breeden feels that all water users should have the same right to an elected official that everyone else has. Ms. Breeden added that if one of our goals as a Group is to find a way to buy out water intensive activity, she would hate to tell the water intensive activity that they should give up their livelihood for the good of the valley. There are other alternatives the Group should be pursuing, such as water conservation. Everyone knows that we need to reduce water usage by 20% by 2020. This will be very difficult if there are just a few entities trying to do it. Everyone will have to do it. Donna Thomas added that there are other entities that send water out of valley, such as the brewery and bottled water industry.

Mr. Marquardt stated that we need to get general information out to the public regarding more water being taken out than is being replenished. The general information must come from a mutual source, not just from the Water District. Mr. Marquardt feels that if it says the Water District on it, they are not going to buy it. There needs to be a different way to get information out. What you want to accomplish is an equitable water supply for everyone.

Terry Rogers accused the Water District of giving out a very rosey outlook of the water supply with no basis for it. Mr. Rogers added that the Water District is very optimistic and feels that when people read it there is no problem. Mr. Rogers stated that there may be a problem and no one is talking about it. The flow model should be able to tell us something if it is done right and he has not seen anything. Mike Stoner stated that they have two or three scenarios which are being run now.

After Group discussion, the consensus of the Group is to educate everyone in the valley: City, Navy, well owners, etc. It should be done cooperatively and now is the time to do something.

Peggy Breeden suggested forming a sub-committee to come up with options along with alternatives and present it to the Group. Leroy Corlett recommended making a motion to form a sub-committee to come up with options and present it to the Group. Don Zdeba suggested that the Group consider what has been presented today and to have another discussion next month and possibly entertain Leroy Corlett's motion to form a sub-committee. Leroy Corlett withdrew his motion.

The discussion for next month brought up member schedule conflicts with the May 21st meeting. Don Zdeba suggested moving the meeting to the week before, May 14th. Don Zdeba will contact Glenn Harris to see if the BLM Conference Room would be available for that date.

Watershed Coordinator Job Description Review: Report was made at Item 5.A. Technical Advisory Committee Project Review by Tom Haslebacher.

2008 Water Production Data Update: 2008 Production data is still needed from City of Ridgecrest.

2008 In-Kind Services Update: 2008 In-Kind Services are needed from KCWA. Craig Peterson reported that Kern County is the same as 2007. Tom Haslebacher has promised to get 2008 In-Kind Services next week.

2009 In-Kind Service Commitment Update: 2009 In-Kind Service Commitments are needed from KCWA. Craig Peterson reported that Kern County is the same as 2008. Tom Haslebacher reported that the 2009 In-Kind Service Commitments are the same as 2008 In-Kind Service Commitments.

Project Review Report: Nothing to report.

Outreach to the Community: Discussion was had under **Future Water Situation in the Valley, Letter from Mr. Tiedemann Dated June 11, 1991.**

Technical Advisory Committee Report: Tom Haslebacher reported on the TAC Meeting:

The TAC reviewed tasks for the Watershed Coordinator Position. Donna Thomas will send an outline to the TAC. According to Donna Thomas, the Watershed Coordinator Program will be funded through Proposition 84 and she recommends having the grant application ready to submit. Guidelines were supposed to be out April 15th. The Department of Conservation is working on posting the guidelines on their website. There is a scheduled high desert meeting in Tehachapi on May 8th. A representative from the Department of Conservation will be present. The Watershed Coordinator will work under the grant applicant.

With regards to Solar Millennium, the TAC made their report under **Solar Millennium Scoping Meeting.**

The Blue Max and Walker Pass Remote Automated Weather Stations (RAWS) are operating. The BLM Fire Service is going to take over the funding for Blue Max and Walker Pass. Funding may be available for another RAWS possibly located in the Bird Springs area. The Forest Service is discussing picking up the station at Horse Peak. The temporary battery operated Chimney Peak RAWS has ceased operation. Glenn Harris is going to continue working with the BLM Bakersfield Office to make the Chimney Peak RAWS a permanent station. The TAC also discussed the potential for installing RAWS at China Lake: central and southern Argus.

The TAC has been working with the well data received from LeRoy Marquardt. The TAC is working with Tony Morgan. Mr. Morgan will look at the quantity of the data, but would also like to see the water quality.

Potential Grant Opportunities: Donna Thomas reported that they are waiting for the grant funds suspension to be lifted.

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 May meeting agenda.

Items for the May Agenda: Items for the May 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:

Indian Wells Valley Water District: Reneé Morquecho announced that fliers were available at the meeting for the next Xeriscape Workshop in May. Reservations must be made. Also available are the Voluntary Summer Water Guidelines. Well 17 is now running again after pump repair. Ms. Morquecho reminded everyone that Assemblyperson Jean Fuller will be giving a workshop/presentation on statewide water issues tomorrow at 2:30 p.m. in the Board Room.

Quist Farms: Pat Quist updated the Group on the pistachio recall. It is one pistachio processor and it is not the one Quist Farms deals with. The processor was selling to Kraft. Quist Farms is currently performing routine set up of the water system.

Inyokern Airport District: Nancy Bass reported that the bid for the new terminal is out and are due to be opened in May. The successful bidder will have approximately 100 days to begin construction. The Royal Air Force has departed, but will be back in May. The Airport conducted five tours in the last six weeks. There are three more tours scheduled.

Kern County Water Agency: Terry Rogers announced that the State Water Project is reported to be running at 30%.

Eastern Kern County Resource Conservation District: LeRoy Marquardt reported he has been working on well locations and inventory.

Kern County: Craig Peterson reported that Bowman Rd. paving between the city limits and the landfill has been stopped until next year. They are finishing Las Flores Ave., from Downs St. to Jacks Ranch Rd. Sunland St. and Dolphin Ave. in College Heights are being prepared to be paved. They will also be doing some paving out in the Brown Rd. area. Mr. Peterson also announced that the County may have a 15 to 30% reduction in force and possibly furloughs. Homeowners may be receiving a letter from the County notifying them that they are reducing the assessed value of their homes.

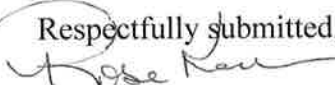
Navy: Mike Stoner reported that Bakersfield Well and Pump are on the south range putting in a production well to replace Well 25. The new site is at the arsenic treatment plant.

Searles Valley Minerals: Don Zdeba reported this week they have begun a scheduled utility outage, which will continue into next month. The first boiler went down this week. In conjunction with the outages, the Westend Plant is down for maintenance and repair, but should be back up this weekend. Part of the Argus Soda Ash Plant is down as well for that period of time. Two weeks ago a 24" transite line from the Argus brine tank to the bicarbonation part of the plant blew out. It did quite a bit of damage; exposed a gas line and washed out the railroad tracks. The responding crew did not have the materials to repair the pipe. A temporary fix was

made by piecing clamps together. It blew out again the following weekend and another temporary fix was made. The plant is running at a restricted rate until special couplings are fabricated.

General Public Comment: None.

With no further comments or discussion to come before the Group, motion was made by LeRoy Marquardt and seconded by Mike Stoner to adjourn the meeting at 2:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rose Koch
Recording Secretary

The next meeting is scheduled for May 14, 2009.

I.W.V. COOPERATIVE GROUNDWATER
MANAGEMENT WORKING GROUP

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