

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

**May 14, 2009 – 1:00 p.m.**

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

**Presentation: IWVWD 2007/2008 Water supply Improvement Project:**

Tony Morgan, Hydrogeologist from Layne GeoScience, gave a Powerpoint presentation regarding the District's Water Supply Improvement Project.

The Water Supply Improvement Project was presented in a two-phase summary: Re-equipping wells and new wells.

Phase 1 was to explore maximizing production from existing wells. Factors determining which of the District wells included water quality constraints on the use of those wells and possible hydrogeologic impacts from enhanced use of those wells.

In the event that Phase 1 improvements do not allow the District to increase production from the existing wells to a point to satisfy projected demand, Phase 2 activities will begin with the evaluation of where new production wells could be located. The criteria for the new wells would include: water quality (Total Dissolved Solids (TDS) and Chloride), production rates, and current water level changes in the valley.

Mr. Morgan presented an estimated production demand table through the year 2020. The table included current well pumping rates and their estimated production pumping capacity and maximum day demand plus a 20% buffer. These two factors determined a current deficiency of 3,000 gallons per minute (gpm) increasing to 6,000 gpm in 2020.

During the Phase 1 study, all District wells were reviewed to determine unused production capacity by looking at static and pumping water levels and specific capacity. Considering transmissivity and water quality (TDS and arsenic), the wells most likely to be candidates for enhanced pumping activity were 18, 30, 31, 33, and 34. The impact of the valley's water levels if the pumping was increased was also evaluated.

Phase 2 evaluation of new well sites considered water quality (TDS and Chloride), transmissivity, well data from Kern County Water Agency, District files, U. S. Navy, and miscellaneous hydrogeologic reports, and current drawdown rate. The best quality of water was found in the south and west part of the basin. Consideration was also given to water quality and the depth of wells.

There are three options available to the District to meet the increased pumping demand by 2020:

1. Increase the pumping rates at prioritized Wells 18, 30, 31, 33, and 34 from 1,200 - 1,400 gpm to 2,200 - 2,300 gpm, resulting in a total increase in capacity by 4,800 gpm and drill one new well.
2. Increase the pumping rates at three prioritized wells and drill two to three new wells.
3. Drill three to five new wells.

Mr. Morgan recommended that the Board take action in phases: re-equip and operate one or two wells, monitor water quality, review the results, then decide on what action the District should take next.

**Approval of Discussion Notes:** Motion was made by LeRoy Marquardt and seconded by Leroy Corlett to accept the April 16, 2009 Discussion Notes as presented. The Motion was carried, unanimously.

**Public Comment for Items on the Agenda:** None.

**RAWS Update:** Glenn Harris announced that this report will be given in the Technical Advisory Committee Report.

**Brackish Water Treatment Project:** Tom Mulvihill reported that the District continues to operate the brackish water treatment facility. TDS in the feed water has dropped from 2,200 to 1,500. The plant will continue operation until the end of this month. The recovery of the Reverse Osmosis (RO) unit has been increased to 72% and the Electrodialysis Reversal (EDR) unit is now at 80% for an overall recovery of 90%. There will be bench testing on the final residue. The Department of Water Resources has granted an extension for the project until October 31, 2009.

**Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance Update:** Tom Mulvihill reported that the City has made changes to the ordinance. The next step is for the District's Water Management Committee to review those changes.

**IWVWD 2007/2008 Water Supply Improvement Project:** Presentation was given by Tony Morgan at the beginning of the meeting.

**Integrated Regional Water Management Program:** Leroy Corlett reported that the Inyo-Mono Integrated Regional Water Management Program (IRWMP) has submitted their draft to the Department of Water Resources (DWR). The draft defines all of the boundaries and how it relates to Inyo-Mono. The next step is to meet with DWR in June for the region acceptance process and develop a plan.

**Solar Millennium Scoping Meeting:** Glenn Harris reported on a conference call with the California Energy Commission regarding drainage issues. Solar Millennium will be using dry technology for solar facility, but will need make-up water. The idea of a new well has been dropped. They will need approximately 250 acre-feet of water a year. Mike Stoner reported that Solar Millennium had talked with the Navy and are looking for offset. Solar Millennium does have a xerifitic program planned.

**City of Ridgecrest Waste Water Effluent as a Commodity:** This agenda item was tabled.

**Future Water Situation in the Valley, Letter from Mr. Tiedemann Dated June 11, 1991:**

LeRoy Marquardt stated that he has given a lot of thought on the future water situation in the Valley. Palmdale has increased their water rates by 300%. There are television infomercials, etc. Every time you pick up something, there is water, water, water. If we continue to do nothing, we cannot ask the State Board of Water Resources for water. Mr. Marquardt stressed that it is time to get proactive and to start doing something ourselves and protect ourselves. It could be as simple as making the Indian Wells Valley Water District valley wide. Mr. Marquardt suggested they choose a committee of three members to review Mr. Tiedemann's eight options in the letter and make recommendations. Only recommendations would be made, no commitments. Mike Stoner suggested Terry Rogers, Peggy Breeden, and Don Zdeba. Mr. Marquardt suggested himself, Mike Stoner, and Leroy Corlett. Craig Peterson was concerned about speaking for the Kern County Board of Supervisors.

Glenn Harris made a motion and seconded by Peggy Breeden to appoint Terry Rogers, LeRoy Marquardt, Leroy Corlett, and Mike Stoner to the Ad HOC Water Committee. LeRoy Marquardt will be the lead and coordinate a meeting date. The motion was carried with one abstention. Quist Farms will abstain from all voting related to this Agenda Item.

Quist Farms asked LeRoy Marquardt if this was a personal letter from him or was it a RCD letter. Mr. Marquardt's response was that he was the President of the RCD and that gave him the right to submit the Thought Paper.

**Watershed Coordinator Job Description Review:** Donna Thomas reported that she attended a meeting Friday in Tehachapi. A representative from the Department of Conservation was in attendance. The guidelines have been delayed due to the State revision of the budget and the special election results. The guidelines should be out in June or July. Ms. Thomas recommended that they proceed with putting together a work plan. Ms. Thomas will put together a list and have members of the sub-committee review. The list will then be put together into a three year work plan. Ms. Thomas is going to review past reports and look at what other watershed coordinators have done. The Sierra Nevada Conservancy had sent out an email on their guidelines for upcoming grants for 2009 and 2010. There is no date when it will be approved, but they want to be prepared.

**2008 Water Production Data Update:** The 2008 Production Data was presented. Tom Mulvihill noticed that some numbers have changed radically. He suggested the TAC review numbers and give an educated analysis. Discussion was had about the private well owners, whether it included the agriculture farms, and how accurate the figures were. LeRoy Marquardt explained why the numbers had changed drastically and how it is being calculated today. It was also suggested that Quist Farms be looked at. Mr. Mulvihill added that someone with technical background should look at the production table data and determine whether it is good data.

**2008 In-Kind Services Update:** The draft 2008 In-Kind Services was distributed for review and will be presented in final form in June.

**2009 In-Kind Service Commitment Update:** The draft 2009 In-Kind Service Commitments was distributed for review and will be presented in final form in June.

**Project Review Report:** Tom Mulvihill reported on a Kern County tentative Parcel Map No. 11673, proposing to divide a 5.01-acre parcel of record into two 2.5-acre parcels for residential use; development variation to the Land Division Ordinance to allow deletion of Type B road improvements. Applicant is Edward and Debra Copeland by Burke Engineering. Property is located on the southwest corner of Athel Avenue and Placer Street, Inyokern area.

**Outreach to the Community:** LeRoy Marquardt suggested a project for Mesquite kids regarding water usage. Glenn Harris mentioned that it may be easy to add a module to the Sand Canyon Environmental Education Program (SEEP). Peggy Breeden reported that the Indian Wells Valley Water District Water Management Committee is currently looking into ways to reduce water usage such as Cash for Grass. The District is always doing small programs throughout the year. Currently, the Conservation Coordinator Lucinda Crosby is trained and approved to go to all schools.

**Technical Advisory Committee Report:** Glenn Harris reported on the TAC Meeting:

Mr. Harris has been talking to the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) regarding maintenance of the aqueduct. For your information, Mr. Harris presented figures given by LADWP on water that was dumped out of the pipe for maintenance: at Sand Canyon they dumped 4.3 af of water, at San Antonio Wash at Jaw Bone they dumped 1.2 af, and at the Pine Tree Canyon 6.6 af of water.

Mr. Harris announced that the BLM Fire Service will be picking up funding for the Indian Wells Canyon and Walker Pass East Remote Automated Weather Stations (RAWS). This will free up funds for additional stations: Bird Springs Pass area and at China Lake central and southern Argus. All RAWS are operating.

The TAC discussed the well data and the GIS layer. Right now there is no consistent place for all the data. The TAC is trying to work on a system to bring the data together. The Water District's summer intern may be able to build a table using data sets.

**Potential Grant Opportunities:** Donna Thomas reported that the Southern Nevada Conservancy guidelines will be coming out soon. There was a comment made at a recent Resource Conservation District meeting was to encourage the Southern Sierra portion of the Sierra Nevada Conservancy to submit more grant applications because each region is allocated a certain amount of funds for grants. Southern Sierra Region has not had as many applications. If the funds are not used, they may be allocated to other regions.

**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 June meeting agenda.

**Items for the June Agenda:** Items for the June 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, 14) TAC Report, and 15) Potential Grant Opportunities.

**The following Agency Reports were made:**

**Indian Wells Valley Water District:** Tom Mulvihill announced that the Request for Bids for the Arsenic Treatment Facility will be ready in August. The District appreciates your support for the Voluntary Watering Guidelines. Mr. Mulvihill also distributed information on the Xeric Ambassador Program.

**Navy:** Mike Stoner reported that he has been invited to attend the Command Energy Board. The Board covers energy and water conservation. Wells 28 and 31 are currently off line for rehabilitation for approximately 60 days.

**Bureau of Land Management:** Glenn Harris reported that they are drilling a monitoring well in Rose Valley. They are down about 140 ft. at 13 ft. per day. They immediately hit basalt (rock).

**City of Ridgecrest:** Dennis Speer reported that there were six new sewer connections and 1.5 million gallons of waste water reclaimed last month.

**Kern County Water Agency:** Terry Rogers reported that the Agency is waiting to see what happens with the budget.

**Kern County:** Craig Peterson reported that there is a number of things that depend on whether the initiatives on the ballot pass or not.

**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 3:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
  
Rose Koch  
Recording Secretary

**The next meeting is scheduled for June 18, 2009.**

I.W.V. COOPERATIVE GROUNDWATER  
MANAGEMENT WORKING GROUP

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