

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

July 16, 2009 – 1:00 p.m.

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

Don Zdeba introduced Chuck Bromley who is a newly hired mining engineer for Searles Valley Minerals.

Presentation: City of Ridgecrest General Plan (Tentative): Presentation was postponed until further notice.

Approval of Discussion Notes: Motion was made by Glenn Harris and seconded by LeRoy Marquardt to accept the June 18, 2009 Discussion Notes as presented. The Motion was carried, unanimously.

Public Comment for Items on the Agenda: None.

Brackish Water Treatment Project: Reneé Morquecho reported that the field work for the Brackish Water Treatment Project was completed on June 19th. Graham Juby from Carollo Engineers gave a presentation to the Indian Wells Valley Water District (IWVWD) Board of Directors at the Regular Board Meeting on Monday, July 13th. A draft report will be brought to the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) for review next month. The final report is due at the Department of Water Resources in September. The facility is now being disassembled.

Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance Update: Reneé Morquecho reported at the last IWVWD Board Workshop the Board agreed with the City's revisions to the Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance with some modifications. It has now gone back to the City of Ridgecrest's sub-committee and then will be brought to the City's Community Development Committee and Planning Committee.

Integrated Regional Water Management Program: Leroy Corlett informed the Group that the State will be approving plans in September. Lahontan is offering \$80,000 to \$100,000 to help write the plan.

Solar Millennium Scoping Meeting: Glenn Harris reported that the BLM has issued a permit to Solar Millennium authorizing them to conduct geo-technical work. Solar Millennium is currently on site doing work. The geo-technical work includes shallow borings for footings. The BLM is reviewing the preliminary plan and development. When this is approved, a public notice will be issued for the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

Project Review Report: Reneé Morquecho reported that the IWVWD Board of Directors accepted a concept plan submitted by PAM Companies for Tract 6098 for 50-single family residences off of Drummond Avenue between Downs and Inyo Streets.

Technical Advisory Committee Report: There was no TAC meeting held this month.

RAWS Update: Glenn Harris reported that the BLM Fire Service has taken over funding for the maintenance and management of the Remote Automated Weather Stations (RAWS). Charges for the maintenance of the RAWS have been paid and have diminished the account for RAWS. There are no charges pending and funding is not needed at this time.

Watershed Coordinator Job Description Review: There is no direction from the State regarding the Watershed Coordinator Position. Donna Thomas reported that the most recent letter received from the Department of Conservation informed the Resource Conservation and Development Council that they have funding through December 31st, 2009 and are guaranteed for two more quarters. The Watershed Coordinator started back to work this week. Future funding is unknown. If you request funding before the next bond sale, it will be dependent upon how well the bond sale succeeds. This is only for existing grants.

Future Water Situation in the Valley: LeRoy Marquardt distributed a memo from Mike Stoner regarding the TAC compiling/analyzing hydrogeologic data and presenting a picture of the groundwater conditions with recommendations to the Group. Mr. Stoner believes that the Ad Hoc Committee has finished its task.

Terry Rogers informed the Group that the Kern County Water Agency (KCWA) has been conducting meetings on answering the basic questions that were presented at the last Group meeting. A letter from Kern County Water Agency to the Group was distributed. The letter informed the Group that it would be inappropriate for KCWA to provide comments on the document because the Agency is the independent data collection entity for Indian Wells Valley.

Discussion was held regarding the “management” of water resources as the Group. Mike Stoner, from the Navy’s perspective, believes that they help manage water resources by monitoring, sampling, drilling, moving wells to other locations based on information. Glenn Harris believes that by the Group cooperating with all involved agencies in the Valley, sharing data, is another form of “management”. Terry Rogers reported that the Kern County Water Agency has had discussions on whether or not there is a liability being in a group that claims to be “managing” water resources. It was the consensus of the Group that each entity has a part in protecting the same finite resource of water in the valley. Mike Stoner suggested that the Group use the website to highlight accomplishments of the Group. Peggy Breeden suggested that someone write a report about what the Group has accomplished cooperatively and post it on the website and offer the information to the newspapers.

MOTION: was made by LeRoy Marquardt and seconded by Peggy Breeden to have Mike Stoner write an article for the website citing achievements of the Group for the last 25 years. Motion was carried, unanimously.

Potential Grant Opportunities: Donna Thomas reported that the Sierra Nevada Conservancy grant for the Remote Wells and Rehabilitation Project has been delayed. The Sand Canyon

Environmental Education Program (SEEP) has been funded and will send an agreement. Funding will become available as it comes.

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 August meeting agenda.

Items for the August Agenda: Items for the August Agenda include: 1) Presentation by Kern County: Kern County Specific Plan, 2) Brackish Water Treatment Project, 3) Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance Status, 4) Integrated Regional Water Management Program, 5) Solar Millennium Scoping Update, 6) Project Review Report, 7) TAC Report, and 8) Potential Grant Opportunities.

The following Agency Reports were made:

Bureau of Land Management: Glenn Harris reported that the BLM continues to work on several projects related to energy development, including corridors to transport energy. Robert Pawelek has replaced David Sjaastad and may be coming to the meetings when Mr. Harris cannot attend.

City of Ridgecrest: Dennis Speer reported that there were six new sewer connections and that the City reclaimed approximately 1.5 million gallons of waste water. Mr. Speer announced that three single-family dwelling building permits were issued this month, the City Council awarded the Norma Street Project, and the City offices will be closed to the public every Friday.

Indian Wells Valley Water District: Reneé Morquecho reported on the following: 1) There were seven new residential services and one new commercial service installed during the month of June. 2) There is a XERIC® Seminar on Saturday, July 25th, at High Desert Home Center beginning at 9:00 a.m. 3) The Construction Crew has begun saw cutting in preparation of the mainline replacement on Drummond Avenue between Norma and Downs Streets. 4) The Arsenic Treatment Plant plans will be at 95% complete by next month. Construction could begin in the Fall.

Eastern Kern Resource Conservation District: LeRoy Marquardt thanked the Navy for providing maps. Mr. Marquardt reported that all overhead lines are being placed underground in Inyokern. The project should be completed by August 23rd. Inyokern will be celebrating their 100th anniversary on September 29th.

Quist Farms: Pat Quist informed the Group that they had to install sand filters on a well that had been pumping a lot of sand. The farm has six agricultural wells on rotation and one domestic well.

Kern County: Craig Peterson reported that they are having budget meetings next week. The State may have a budget by next week. The State has taken \$100,000,000 from Kern County and could go as high as \$150,000,000.

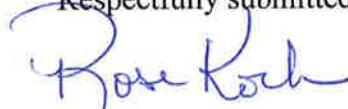
Searles Valley Minerals: Don Zdeba reported that last month Searles Valley Minerals (SVM) had awarded their arsenic treatment facility to Layne Christensen. The treatment facility will be located south east of the Westend Plant in Searles Valley. SVM had submitted a request for funding, but has not received approval. The project date could be moved to the first of the year.

General Public Comment: Public questions and comments were Judie Decker and Nancy Clemente.

Terry Rogers informed the Group that an 18" agriculture well located at Faller School was destroyed recently.

With no further comments or discussion to come before the Group, motion was made by LeRoy Marquardt and seconded by Glenn Harris to adjourn the meeting at 2:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Rose Koch
Recording Secretary

The next meeting is scheduled for August 20, 2009.

I.W.V. COOPERATIVE GROUNDWATER
MANAGEMENT WORKING GROUP

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