

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

September 17, 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 Peggy Breeden to accept the August 20, 2009 Discussion Notes as presented. The Motion was carried, unanimously.

Public Comment for Items on the Agenda: None.

Don Zdeba introduced Steve Walker. Mr. Walker attended last month's meeting because he is interested in groundwater issues. At last month's meeting, Don Zdeba had directed Mr. Walker to the iwvgroundwater.com website to see the Group's current objectives and hydrographs. Mr. Walker distributed an analysis of the iwvgroundwater.com website with regard to quality metrics and made recommendations. Mr. Walker stated that although there is a lot of data on the website, it lacks metrics (analyzed information) for performance. He said that the Group has done an excellent job putting together the working objectives, but the objectives themselves are a plan to operate and not a measure of how effective they are as far as achieving the goals. Mr. Walker proposed metrics for the objectives and suggested noting the Group's accomplishments and entering all the data into a useful database. Glenn Harris informed Mr. Walker that Kern County Water Agency has a large customized database of data. Mr. Walker offered his assistance to the Group to work on establishing a user-friendly database.

Brackish Water Treatment Project: Tom Mulvihill reported that the Indian Wells Valley Water District (IWWVD) is waiting for the final report. The District's engineer is working with Carollo Engineering to complete the report and then it will be presented to the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC).

Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance Update: Tom Mulvihill reported that District staff met with Mike Avery (Ridgecrest City Administrator) to review the latest draft of the water efficient landscape ordinance. Additional changes were agreed upon. The City will send the revision to their attorney, bring it to the District, review again with the City, and forward to the District's attorney. After that, it will be referred to the District's Board of Directors and then back to the City for the first reading. The emphasis on the latest ordinance is to be completely voluntary for single-family dwellings and mandatory for new commercial and multi-family residential. Commercial and multi-family residential will have a limitation of 50% turf. There will be mandatory provisions for waste and absolutely no runoff. Once the City adopts the ordinance, the District would adopt and enforce an identical ordinance with due process.

Integrated Regional Water Management Program: Leroy Corlett announced that the Inyo-Mono Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWMP) did not get the \$100,000 grant from Lahontan to write the plan. They are looking for volunteers and funds to work on writing

the plan. The IWVWD submitted a list of projects for consideration for grant funding. The list of projects was distributed to the Group.

Solar Millennium Scoping Meeting: Glenn Harris reported on the Solar Millennium project. Solar Millennium has filed an Application for Certification (AFC) with the California Energy Commission (CEC). The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has been in discussion with the CEC and has a number of documents to review. A joint NEPA/CEQA document will be written by the CEC. The BLM is preparing to publish a notice for preparation of Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). Scoping meetings will be scheduled for public input. Currently, Solar Millennium is proposing use of 144 AF of water: 38 AF for power-cycle makeup water, 53 AF for mirror cleaning, 10 AF dust control, etc. These are preliminary numbers and may change. Tom Mulvihill added that the IWVWD had approved an agreement with Solar Millennium. The agreement has not been signed. Solar Millennium has requested revisions to the agreement and the District's attorney is reviewing the proposed revisions. Staff will review the revisions and bring forward to the Board of Directors. Solar Millennium has been informed that they'll either have to wait until the next Board Meeting or pay to have a Special Board Meeting. Solar Millennium indicated that they would pay for a Special Board Meeting. Don Zdeba clarified that although the District will have an agreement, Solar Millennium will need to go through the process of the environmental impact, mitigation, etc. Craig Peterson reported that he had heard at a meeting that the state is raising the stakes for alternative energy from originally 20% by 2020 to 33%.

Form Committee to Update Objectives: The objectives were approved in April 2008. This item was placed on the agenda to discuss forming a group to revisit and propose changes to the objectives as needed for the next couple of years and possibly add metrics. The last group to work on the objectives was LeRoy Marquardt, Tom Mulvihill, Mike Stoner, Nancy Bass, and Don Zdeba.

Motion was made by Leroy Corlett and seconded by Craig Peterson to form a committee of Tom Mulvihill, LeRoy Marquardt, Mike Stoner, and Glenn Harris to revisit the current objectives and propose changes as needed for 2010/2011. Vote was carried, unanimously.

Project Review Report: Tom Mulvihill reported that the IWVWD approved a new concept plan for Developer D.R. Horton for 67 single-family residences located in College Heights. The original concept plan was for 200 single-family residences. The District is asking the developer to xeriscape the front yards in lieu of turf.

LeRoy Marquardt informed the Group that the Kern County Planning Department has proposed an amended land use to open space at property located in Walker Pass.

Technical Advisory Committee Report: There was a TAC meeting held on September 17th.

RAWS Update: Glenn Harris reported that the BLM has picked up all of the maintenance costs for the five Remote Automated Weather Stations (RAWS) located at Five-Mile Canyon, Indian Wells Canyon (2), Walker Pass, and El Paso Peak . All stations are functioning and collecting data.

Watershed Coordinator Job Description Review: Glenn Harris reported that they have not received the information on what the new rules will be for the job description. Until the information is received, the grant package will not be completed.

Future Water Situation in the Valley: Glenn Harris reported that he received a report from the Navy regarding the Lahontan Basin Plan. The Lahontan Water Quality Control Board has produced this plan for the Lahontan Basin. In that plan, most water is listed as municipal water, including the China Lake Playa. It contains requirements for municipal water and they want everything to meet this standard. When the TDS is high, such as China Lake, it is hard to do. They do not worry if you're not moving water around, but when you start moving it like the Navy would like to do during remediation, they require the exiting effluent to meet municipal water standards. Lahontan has opened the process and its requirements for the tri-annual review of the basin plan. At this point, they take comments and recommendations to changes in the basin. The Navy is proceeding, primarily in the shallow zone, making it so that it doesn't have to meet municipal standards. There has not been any feedback from Lahontan regarding the Navy letter sent to the Lahontan Water Quality Control Board. Mike Stoner added that Jim McDonald had briefed the Navy that they are hoping to get on the priority list with Lahontan with the letter.

Mike Stoner has been preparing a report on Group accomplishments. A draft was presented to the TAC for written comments. As soon as the comments and recommendations are received, he will be emailing it to the Group.

Regarding the task to review the questions raised by the Ad Hoc Water Committee, Glenn Harris distributed a preliminary outline of what will be addressed by the TAC. Glenn Harris reported that there is a lot of data that is not in one place with no analysis of it. As soon as it is put together, a lot of projections can be made. The TAC is working on a draft report.

Potential Grant Opportunities: No discussion.

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 October meeting agenda.

Items for the October Agenda: Items for the October 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) Report from Committee to Update Objectives, 7) Project Review Report, 8) TAC Report, and 9) Potential Grant Opportunities.

The following Agency Reports were made:

Navy: Mike Stoner reported that Wells 28 and 31 are currently off line for rehabilitation and should be back on line within a month.

Eastern Kern Resource Conservation District: LeRoy Marquardt reported that he continues to work on the well report with Tom Haslebacher by identifying data gaps. Four new wells north of Inyokern have been located and may be added. The EKCRCDD applied for grant funding to eliminate the Yellow Star Thistle in the Kern Valley.

Searles Valley Minerals: Don Zdeba reported that Well 36 located south of Inyokern Road had been vandalized sometime Labor Day weekend. The lock on the breaker panel had been cut. The vandals got into the junction box, pulled the wire off of the motor, and appeared they took a knife to remove the tape to get to the wire cable. The fence had also been cut to get into the area. Large motion detector lights have been installed at all their well sites as a result of the vandalism. The project for the Arsenic Treatment Facility has been approved by corporate and will begin March 2010 and conclude December 2010. The project to replace the water main up on Ridgecrest Boulevard up to the tank has not been approved yet. Mr. Zdeba is hopeful that it will be approved next week. There were two more leaks this week.

Quist Farms: Pat Quist informed the Group they continue to harvest.

Kern County Water Agency: Terry Rogers gave an update on the legislative session held on Friday. All water bills presented failed. A special session will be held to re-address the water bills (groundwater monitoring, 20 x 2020, etc.). More time will be given to review the bills. Mr. Rogers distributed a handout of the conceptual options for the peripheral canal in the Delta. The 200 ft. tunnel underneath the Delta seems to be the preferred option.

Indian Wells Valley Water District: Tom Mulvihill announced that he will be meeting tomorrow with Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) regarding the water banking facility proposal submitted June 2009. The banking facility proposed will be owned, operated, and controlled by the IWVWD but paid for by LADWP. The objective is to do a partnership where the District will have the ability to use LADWP facilities to bring water into the valley, if water becomes available. Mr. Mulvihill reported that the District has been looking into a regional legislative alliance. The District has been concerned about issues such as the proposed 20% savings required by 2020 mandate by the state, not from the standpoint that we don't want to save water, but from the standpoint we want the determination of the base allocation to consider the desert communities already conserving water. The Board of Directors had asked District staff to look into a desert legislative alliance. Staff discovered an existing entity Regional Legislative Alliance (RLA). There are currently seven members of the alliance which include the City of Victorville, Antelope Valley, and Mojave Water Agency. After listening to one of the RLA's monthly telephonic meetings, the District's Water Management Committee recommends the District join the RLA. It will be presented to the Board for consideration next month. Mr. Mulvihill also reported that the mainline replacement on Drummond Avenue between Norma and Downs Streets has been proceeding slowly due to soft sugar sand. This has caused the construction crew to use shoring.

Craig Peterson asked if the District had considered inquiring of the League of California Cities? Mr. Peterson said that it is a desert group and will be meeting in Bishop on Friday, October 23rd and will send an invite to Tom Mulvihill.

Leroy Corlett announced that the Desert Mountain Resource Conservation and Development Council is having their 10th anniversary celebration on October 2nd at LeRoy Jackson Park from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Craig Peterson said that it is a celebration and the invitation is for friends and partners that the DMRCDC has worked with over the past 10 years to come and participate in seminars, visit, and eat food.

General Public Comment: Public comments were heard from Judie Decker.

With no further comments or discussion to come before the Group, Motion was made by Glenn Harris and seconded by Craig Peterson to adjourn the meeting at 2:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Rose Koch
Recording Secretary

The next meeting is scheduled for October 15, 2009.

I.W.V. COOPERATIVE GROUNDWATER
MANAGEMENT WORKING GROUP

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