

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

November 19, 2009 – 1:00 p.m.

Chairman Don Zdeba called the meeting to order at 1:04 p.m.

Approval of Discussion Notes: Motion was made by Peggy Breeden and seconded by Leroy Corlett to accept the October 15, 2009 Discussion Notes as presented. The Motion was carried, unanimously.

Leroy Marquardt had the presentation of the Kern County Specific Plan by Lorelei Oviatt, Kern County Planning Department Division Chief transcribed. The transcription, which has not been proofed, will be added to the October 15 Discussion Notes.

Public Comment for Items on the Agenda: None.

Brackish Water Treatment Project: Tom Mulvihill reported that the Indian Wells Valley Water District (IWVWD) received a draft report from Carollo Engineers and the report has been distributed to the members of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC). The TAC is attempting to schedule a meeting early December to review and share comments on the draft report. The IWVWD is hoping to get the final report to the Department of Water Resources by the end of December. The final report will be made available to the public.

Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance Update: Tom Mulvihill reported that no action was taken by the City Council on November 18th. The Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance has been referred to a Special City Council Meeting that will be held on Tuesday, November 24th at 5:00 p.m. The meeting is public if you'd like to come and voice an opinion.

Integrated Regional Water Management Program: Leroy Corlett reported that there were 44 Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWMP) applications submitted to the State. Of the 44, 33 were approved. May 31, 2010 is the target date to have the plan ready to be submitted to the State by July 1st. If it is not ready by this date, grant funding may not be available for a couple of years. The Inyo-Mono IRWMP is asking for \$5,000 donations to prepare the plan. They need approximately \$100,000. Work is being done in-house and a contractor will put the plan together. The Indian Wells Valley Water District has funded \$5,000 for the preparation of the plan. There will be meetings every month beginning in December through May 2010 to work on the plan. The Indian tribes are beginning to attend the meetings to learn what is going on. Mono County received several millions of dollars in grant funds from the Federal Government Bureau of Reclamation. The Bureau of Reclamation implied that there are funds available to give out.

Solar Millennium Scoping Meeting: Glenn Harris reported via email that Solar Millennium is getting ready to announce the dates for the hearings. Leroy Corlett added that Solar Millennium

has been applied for three sites including Blythe and Ridgecrest. The start date will be September 30th with one year to complete the environmental work.

Report from Committee to Update Objectives: The draft of the Working Group 2010/2011 Objectives was emailed to the Group for review. Copies of the draft were available at the meeting. The committee (Tom Mulvihill, LeRoy Marquardt, Mike Stoner, Don Zdeba and Glenn Harris) had met on October 6th to revisit the current objectives and propose changes for the 2010/2011 Objectives. Also a draft metric with fictitious information was available to review. Based upon the TAC's report, "2009 Groundwater Conditions", the TAC had identified six sub-basins within the basin and developed three metrics for each sub-basin: Annual Water Levels Decline in Inches, Average Well TDS, and Water Production. Terry Rogers updated the Group on the Water Package that had recently passed and recommended to the Group incorporating the water monitoring and water conservation issues into the Working Group 2010/2011 Objectives. The Group discussed the proposed changes and made the following Motions:

Motion was made by LeRoy Marquardt and seconded by Nancy Bass to add to Planning Objective No. 6 "Formalize the groundwater monitoring program to comply with SBX7-6." The Motion was carried, unanimously.

Motion was made by LeRoy Marquardt and seconded by Leroy Corlett to add to Planning Objective No. 4 "Develop a plan to comply with SBX7-7 regarding water conservation." The Motion was carried, unanimously.

Objectives will be updated and sent to Rose Koch for posting onto the iwvgroundwater.org website.

With regards to the metrics, the Group agreed by consensus to the format presented and to assign the TAC with entering the data needed for the three metrics for each of the six sub-basins in the valley.

Project Review Report: None.

Technical Advisory Committee Report: The Technical Advisory Committee did not meet this month. A tentative date of Monday, December 7th at 1:00 p.m. or 2:00 p.m. has been scheduled for the TAC to review the draft report for the Brackish Water Treatment Pilot Study.

RAWS Update: Glenn Harris reported via email that they are getting ready for the annual maintenance of all five Remote Automated Weather Stations (RAWS); Five-Mile Canyon, Indian Wells Canyon (2), Walker Pass, and El Paso Peak. There is no money needed at this time.

Watershed Coordinator Job Description Review: Glenn Harris reported via email that they are still waiting to receive 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: No discussion.

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 December meeting agenda.

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

The following Agency Reports were made:

Kern County: Craig Peterson announced that the State projects a \$21 billion deficit over the next 18 months. Their budget office is estimating between \$10 and \$15 million per year for the next 4 to 5 years. The effect on Kern County may be bad. The County will be cut approximately \$60 to \$80 million. Since cuts have already been made, jobs will be cut from this point forward. The cuts may affect the County, City of Ridgecrest, Inyokern Community Services District, Airport District, etc.

Kern County Water Agency: Terry Rogers reported that the Kern County Water Agency met with Assemblyperson Jean Fuller. Several items were covered. There will probably be a clean-up bill in January 2010 on the new water legislation. Assemblyperson Fuller had pointed out that the bill must be in writing 3 days prior to voting. The bill had been voted upon without seeing the language. Legislation had seen previous versions, but not the final. This is not uncommon. The water package had included many items that had nothing to do with water; such as bike paths. The bond which is part of the water package will not pass, based on public mood. The people in favor of the bond are industrial, urban, agricultural interests, and environmental interest groups. Mr. Rogers also reported on the Educational Revenue Augmentation Fund (ERAF).

City of Ridgecrest: Dennis Speer reported that there were 5 new sewer connections and 3.5 million gallons of waste water reclaimed last month. Twenty seven single family building permits have been issued year-to-date. Mr. Speer also reported that the Waste Water Treatment Plant Project is moving ahead.

Indian Wells Valley Water District: Tom Mulvihill reported that Drummond Avenue mainline has been installed. The crews are pressure and leak testing. Once this is completed, they will be installing permanent patching. The current patch is temporary. At the last District Board Meeting, the Board awarded a construction contract for arsenic treatment and permanent Well 34 facilities to Pascal & Ludwig in the amount of \$12,062,467. \$498,000 will be used for the permanent facilities for Well 34. There were six bids with the highest being \$15,180,000.00. The water that is being treated will cost \$350 per acre-foot compared to the current costs of \$150 per acre-foot. The Cost of Service Study has not been completed. The current numbers show that it will cost a residential ¾" meter about \$10.00 additional per month for arsenic-free water.

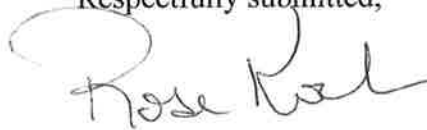
The District expects to be mobilizing with pre-construction meetings for the month of December. The timeline shows beginning construction in January with completion of construction in November. This work does not include a half-mile of pipeline which will be installed in-house and cost approximately \$750,000. Mr. Mulvihill announced and invited everyone to come to the District's 1st annual blood donation drive on Wednesday, December 2nd from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Please call Rose Koch for an appointment time.

Searles Valley Minerals: Don Zdeba reported that Burnell Blanchard has been named the Vice-President of Operations. Mr. Blanchard joined SVM after a 30-year career at Proctor & Gamble.

General Public Comment: Public asking questions and making comments was Judie Decker.

With no further comments or discussion to come before the Group, Motion was made by Leroy Corlett and seconded by Craig Peterson to adjourn the meeting at 2:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rose Koch". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed name.

Rose Koch
Recording Secretary

The next meeting is scheduled for December 17, 2009.

I.W.V. COOPERATIVE GROUNDWATER
MANAGEMENT WORKING GROUP

November 19, 2009

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| <u>ATTENDEE</u> | <u>ADDRESS</u> | <u>PHONE NUMBER</u> | <u>E-MAIL</u> |
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