

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

December 17, 2009 – 1:00 p.m.

Chairman Don Zdeba called the meeting to order at 1:03 p.m.

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

Public Comment for Items on the Agenda: None.

Brackish Water Treatment Project: Tom Mulvihill reported that Indian Wells Valley Water District staff met with the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) to review the draft report from Carollo Engineers. Comments and recommendations from the meeting will be incorporated into the final draft. The final draft report should be completed by the end of this month and will be available to the public shortly after completion. Glenn Harris added that recommendations were made in the presentation to make it easier to follow.

Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance Update: Tom Mulvihill announced that the City of Ridgecrest adopted the Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance last night. Landscaping requirements are voluntary and water waste and no water runoff is mandatory for existing single family dwellings. Restrictions include: watering down your driveway requires a self-closing spray nozzle and no watering between 8:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. during the months of May through October. For the multi-family, commercial and/or institutional new development, a limitation of 50% on turf and water thirsty plant material will be enforced. A landscape design plan will be reviewed by the City of Ridgecrest during the site-plan review. The first violation is a warning. The second violation is a fix-it ticket. The third violation would be an infraction punishable by a civil fine. The Water District staff will work on a mirror ordinance to bring to the Board of Directors in the next couple of months for approval. Due process, enforcement, and penalties will be part of the Water District's ordinance.

Integrated Regional Water Management Program: Leroy Corlett was not present.

Solar Millennium Scoping Meeting: Glenn Harris announced that the first public workshop was held on Tuesday, December 15th at City Hall Chambers from 8:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. There were two sessions of public comments that could be addressed to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), California Energy Commission (CEC), and Solar Millennium. Data requests had been made by the BLM and CEC to Solar Millennium. This meeting was to clarify those data requests, which included water resources in terms of consumption and water resources in terms of runoff and wildlife issues. The second public workshop is scheduled for Tuesday, January 5th at City Hall Chambers from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. There will be a field session after 2:00 p.m. The second public workshop will be attended by two members of the CEC who have

been assigned to the project and will be chairing the meeting. Mr. Harris will keep the Group informed.

Project Review Report: None.

Technical Advisory Committee Report: The Technical Advisory Committee met on Monday, December 7th.

RAWS Update: Glenn Harris reported that maintenance has been performed on all five Remote Automated Weather Stations (RAWS); Five-Mile Canyon, Indian Wells Canyon (2), Walker Pass, and El Paso Peak. Equipment was changed out and certifications made on all instrumentation. All of the counters have been reset. Rain Gauges were replaced. In a recent storm, the lower Indian Wells Canyon RAWS reported .37" and the upper Indian Wells Canyon RAWS reported .87". Capturing snow fall remains a concern. Research is being done on gauges that measure by weight rather than the tipping bucket type rain gauges.

Watershed Coordinator Job Description Review: Glenn Harris reported that there is no new information. 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.

The TAC reviewed the draft Brackish Water Treatment Pilot Study Report and made recommendations.

Future Water Situation in the Valley: Mr. Harris reported that the TAC is still working on the report. Mike Stoner has written some of the report that the TAC will be reviewing. Solar Millennium has written a good report on groundwater. The TAC will be reviewing the report and may incorporate some of the detail into the new report. Mr. Harris will email a copy of Solar Millennium's groundwater report to the Group. The California Energy Commission (CEC) has a specific page on their website devoted to the Ridgecrest Solar Power Project: http://www.energy.ca.gov/sitingcases/solar_millennium_ridgecrest/index.html . Mr. Harris distributed the section of the report on Water Resources. The TAC is still gathering data for the report on the Future Water Situation in the Valley.

LeRoy Marquardt reported he and Terry Rogers discussed following up on formalizing the Groundwater Monitoring Program to comply with SBX7-6. Terry Rogers distributed a copy of Senate Bill No. 6.

MOTION: was made by Craig Peterson and seconded by Peggy Breeden to add to the TAC Agenda the following item: Compliance of Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Monitoring Program with SBX7-6.

Tom Haslebacher announced that he emailed this morning to all the TAC members updated hydrographs for review. If they are okay, he would like to send to Tom Bozack for posting onto the website.

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 January meeting agenda.

Items for the January Agenda: Items for the January Agenda include: 1) Presentation by Doug Landon: Results of the Groundwater Monitoring Program at Ridgecrest Sanitary Landfill, 2) Election of Officers, 3) Brackish Water Treatment Project, 4) Integrated Regional Water Management Program, 5) Solar Millennium Project Update, 6) 2009 Water Production Data Update, 7) 2009 In-Kind Service Update, 8) 2010 In-Kind Service Commitment Update, 9) Project Review Report, 10) TAC Report, and 11) Potential Grant Opportunities.

The following Agency Reports were made:

Indian Wells Valley Water District: Tom Mulvihill reported that the Board passed two ordinances; one for new single family dwellings and one for new multi-family, commercial and/or institutional development. Single family dwellings will have restrictions in the front yard on turf and water-thirsty plants that are not on an approved list. The new owner will be required to sign a covenant which will be recorded against the property. New multi-family, commercial and/or institutional development will be limited to 50% on turf and water-thirsty plants. They will also be required to sign a covenant which will be recorded against the property. These two ordinances will become effective on April 9th, the same perspective date the new Capital Facility Fee will become effective. Mr. Mulvihill also reported on the Cost of Service Study. Every three years the District performs a Cost of Service Study to determine what water rates should be. Recommendations were made to the Board. Staff received approval to proceed with publishing the Prop 218 notices, which will be mailed by December 23rd. The notices will display the proposed rates for the next four years beginning March 1, 2010 for the first year and February 1st for the following three years. The tier structure proposed for single family residential are reasonable for the low users, but the high users will have more of an effect. A bill calculator will soon be available on the website to determine what your water bill may be in the future. A Public Hearing for the Cost of Service will be held on February 8th at 7:00 p.m. in the Board Room. Mr. Mulvihill made available the results of the Voluntary Watering Guidelines. The baseline used in the calculations was the average usage per account for the years 2003 through 2007. The result was a 6.1% decrease in 2008 and a 2.7% decrease in 2009 for an overall decrease in water consumption of 8.8% from the five-year baseline. Mr. Mulvihill announced that Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) is interested in moving ahead with the conceptual proposal that was given to LADWP. District staff will be meeting with them to negotiate a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). The Water District will build, own and operate a water banking facility in the Indian Wells Valley for the use of LADWP. The LADWP will finance the banking facility and the District will be the lead agency for permitting and control. Mr. Mulvihill asked for any input and/or suggestions. The construction of the Arsenic Treatment Facilities will begin right after the first of year.

City of Ridgecrest: Dennis Speer reported that there were three new sewer connections and 1.8 million gallons of waste water reclaimed last month. Thirty one building permits have been issued year-to-date. Mr. Speer also reported five Statements of Qualifications have been

received for the Waste Water Treatment Plant Project. They are being reviewed by a committee and interviews will be scheduled shortly after the first of the year.

Kern County Water Agency: Terry Rogers reported that he had attended the ACWA Conference. Items of interest included the push to go towards green energy, Senate Bill No. 40 which is regarding potable water use for cooling towers with mitigation, and SBX7-6 being the Groundwater Measuring Program.

Eastern Kern County Resource Conservation District: Leroy Marquardt announced that Don Joe McKernan has filled the vacant seat on the Board.

Bureau of Land Management: Glenn Harris reported that they have received several wind energy anemometer location applications. Areas of interest include Robbers Roost, Dove Springs, Little Lake, Pearsonville and Rose Valley. The BLM is also working on a law suit which is challenging the West Mojave Plan.

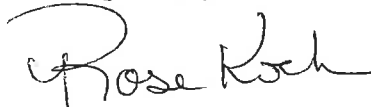
Kern County: Craig Peterson reported that the State projected a \$21 billion deficit over the next 18 months. The County will be looking at what the effect will be on the Kern County.

Navy: Mike Stoner announced that Well No. 28, located near the SNORT track, is back on line. There are some reservoirs that are going to be inspected by the State Department of Public Health.

General Public Comment: Public asking questions and making comments was Lyle Fisher.

With no further comments or discussion to come before the Group, Motion was made by LeRoy Marquardt and seconded by Craig Peterson to adjourn the meeting at 3:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Rose Koch
Recording Secretary

The next meeting is scheduled for January 21, 2010.

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MANAGEMENT WORKING GROUP

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