

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

**January 21, 2009 – 1:00 p.m.**

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

**Presentation by Kern County, Doug Landon and Eric Greenwood: Results of the Groundwater Monitoring Program at the Ridgecrest Sanitary Landfill and Future Plans:**

Doug Landon, Director of Waste Management, and Eric Greenwood, Supervisor of Groundwater Gas Program, from the Kern County Waste Management Department gave a Power Point presentation on the Ridgecrest Sanitary Landfill Update for Expansion Project and Groundwater Impacts. The proposed project is to expand the landfill 20 feet vertically and then to expand the landfill 27 acres laterally (lined). The new landfill lifespan is estimated to be 2045.

The current landfill operator contract will expire late 2011. The contract will be rebid and will include other landfill sites such as Mojave, Boron, and Ridgecrest landfills.

The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Document will be ready to go to the Kern County Board of Supervisors in October 2010. Once the Board of Supervisors has approved the CEQA, the regulatory permit work will be completed by 2011. The water quality, water supply, traffic study, geotechnical, and waste stability California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Studies have been completed. The air quality analysis CEQA is in progress.

Mr. Landon announced that a special waste facility located at the landfill has begun operations on January 9, 2010. There were 71 customers in one day and over 3,536 pounds of hazardous waste collected. The special waste facility will be open 2 days per month: 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday to the public and the following Wednesday to businesses by appointment. A grand opening will be held on March 5<sup>th</sup>, 2010.

Eric Greenwood presented the environmental monitoring and control history. Groundwater monitoring began in 1987. In 1996, 9 gas monitoring probes were installed and in 1998, 3 deep gas monitoring probes were installed. Based on the results, there were high concentrations of VOC's, but no contamination of groundwater. The design and permit landfill gas system was completed in 2000 and the construction of the landfill gas system was completed in 2001. In 2002 the first VOC detection was discovered in the groundwater. A Groundwater Delineation Report was completed in 2002, and a Groundwater Remediation Study was completed in 2003. In 2007, an additional down gradient monitoring well was installed and in 2008, 24 soil gas monitoring probes were installed. In 2009, an updated Groundwater Remediation Study was performed, along with vertical expansion studies. Mr. Greenwood presented a diagram of the Diagrammatic Cross Section for the Environmental Monitoring System and the Environmental Monitoring System.

Freon 12 (Dichlorodifluoromethane) was detected in the groundwater in 2009 at an average concentration of 0 – 2.2 ppb. The Drinking Water Level of Freon 12 is 1000 ppb. Tetrachloroethene (PCE) concentration was detected in the groundwater in 2009 at an average concentration of 0 – 2.8 ppb. The Drinking Water Level of PCE is 5 ppb. To protect the groundwater the special waste facility was built, load checks are performed, and recycling. Remediation includes the landfill gas system operation and monitoring natural attenuation. Mr. Landon presented a diagram of the percent of Methane in one of the monitoring wells (RD1-16) and the effective use of the Flare System. Concentrations have decreased since the new gas Flare System has been utilized. Freon 12 and PCE in Soil pore gas have also decreased. Monitoring will be continued.

The Group thanked Mr. Landon and Mr. Greenwood for the presentation.

**Approval of Discussion Notes:** Motion was made by Glenn Harris and seconded by LeRoy Marquardt to accept the December 17, 2009 Discussion Notes as presented. The Motion was carried, unanimously.

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

**Election of Officers:** Motion was made by LeRoy Marquardt and seconded by Glenn Harris that Chairman Don Zdeba remains in the position of Chairman. Without further discussion, the Motion was carried, unanimously. Motion was made by LeRoy Marquardt and seconded by Leroy Corlett nominating Mike Stoner as Vice-Chairman. Without further discussion, Motion was carried, unanimously.

**Brackish Water Treatment Project:** Tom Mulvihill reported that Indian Wells Valley Water District (District) is waiting for the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) to review the final draft of the Brackish Water Treatment Project Report. As soon as the District has heard from DWR, the report will be released.

Due to bad weather conditions for agencies commuting out of town, the following Agenda Item **6.D. Compliance with Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Monitoring Program with SBX7-6** was moved forward: Michelle Casterline reported that she met last week with Fresno DWR staff. Tomorrow, Tom Haslebacher and Michelle Casterline will participate in a conference call with Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA). At this point, they are not clear on how this senate bill will affect agencies. It appears that because Kern County Water Agency (KCWA) has been monitoring over 600 wells on the west side of the Sierra Mountain Range, KCWA will be the responsible agency. It also appears that KCWA will be held potentially as the responsible agencies on the east side of the Sierra as well. KCWA will be required to report to DWR. If it is just a data dump, it would be an easy task. If it is report writing, it may become tedious. DWR inquired of KCWA what is being monitored, what constituents, which wells, etc. Suggestions were made to have a monetary commitment to monitoring. DWR is monitoring the same wells as KCWA and would like to cease efforts which are duplicated and look at other areas that are not being monitored. Tom Haslebacher added that the DWR has set up KCWA with protocol for monitoring in the past (1960 or 1970's). KCWA has followed this protocol since then. DWR has also sent KCWA a list of wells to monitor two times a year. The reason

for the duplication was basically for quality control. There were quite a few wells that KCWA monitored that the DWR did not. DWR and KCWA will be meeting to eliminate the duplications. DWR has promised KCWA access to their database and better access for Well Completion Reports.

The direction of the TAC was to try and get the program put together into a presentable format that can be presented to the Group and then on to the DWR. No direction has been given by the Fresno DWR on how to present the monitoring program. Leroy Corlett suggested writing a letter to the Glendale DWR inviting them to give a presentation to the Group. Michelle Casterline and Tom Haslebacher will get contact information and continue to report back to the Group regarding SBX7-6 pertaining to groundwater monitoring.

**Integrated Regional Water Management Program:** Leroy Corlett reported on the Integrated Regional Water Management Program (IRWMP). Mono County is now involved with the IRWMP process. Minutes from the January 13<sup>th</sup> Inyo-Mono WRMP Planning Committee Meeting were emailed to the Group.

**Solar Millennium Project Update:** Glenn Harris reported that he will arrange for the Group to receive Solar Millennium (SM) news releases regarding the Ridgecrest Project. You can get updated information from the California Energy Commission (CEC) website: [http://www.energy.ca.gov/sitingcases/solar\\_millennium\\_ridgecrest/index.html](http://www.energy.ca.gov/sitingcases/solar_millennium_ridgecrest/index.html) . The BLM is expecting an internal draft document for staff report/EIS package from the CEC. The staff report is equivalent to a state EIR. The federal NEPA/EIS document is being worked on at that time. Another public meeting will be held in the near future. SM is facing issues with wildlife and is not sure at this time how they will solve it. SM's project will use approximately .5% of the Valley water and are researching offsets for that water use.

Mike Stoner questioned whether the Group or TAC should put comments together regarding the Ridgecrest SM Project. Glenn Harris replied that SM is taking comments. Motion was made by LeRoy Marquardt and seconded by Leroy Corlett that the TAC review the SM document pertaining to groundwater and provide cumulative comments from agencies. A letter will be formalized to the CEC summarizing the agency comments. Motion was carried, unanimously.

**2009 Water Production Data Update:** Water production has been received from Searles Valley Minerals and Indian Wells Valley Water District. Per LeRoy Marquardt, nothing has changed in Inyokern and should use the previous year production amount. Glenn Harris suggested adding the County parks to the Production Data Report. Agencies who have not reported their production data include: Kern County, City of Ridgecrest, Navy, and Quist Farms.

**2009 In-Kind Service Update:** Agencies who have not reported their 2009 In-Kind Services include: Bureau of Land Management, Kern County, Navy, Quist Farms, Kern County Water Agency, and IWV Airport District.

**2010 In-Kind Service Commitment Update:** Agencies who have not reported their 2010 In-Kind Service Commitments include: Bureau of Land Management, Indian Wells Valley Water District, Kern County, Navy, Quist Farms, Kern County Water Agency, and IWV Airport

District. LeRoy Marquardt reported that it will be the same In-Kind Service Commitment as reported in 2009.

**Project Review Report:** Tom Mulvihill reported on two projects: 1) The Four Square Church has applied to City of Ridgecrest to build a new 6,400 sq. ft. church on three lots located at the southwest corner of Church Avenue and South Norma Street, and 2) Steve and Diana Zissos have applied to the City of Ridgecrest requesting to create a 2-lot E-2 Residential (10,000 sq. ft. minimum) subdivision on 22,609 sq. ft. lot on the SE corner of Arroyo Street and Judy Way.

**Technical Advisory Committee Report:** The Technical Advisory Committee met on Thursday, January 21<sup>st</sup>.

RAWS Update: Glenn Harris reported that all five Remote Automated Weather Stations (RAWS); Five-Mile Canyon, Indian Wells Canyon (2), Walker Pass, and El Paso Peak are functioning. The RAWS located south of the Valley went off the air last Friday. Mr. Harris tried to get to this RAWS, but was snowed out. It may be repaired within a couple of weeks.

Watershed Coordinator Job Description Review: Glenn Harris announced that there is nothing new to report. This may be tied up with the new water bond. LeRoy Marquardt relayed from Donna Thomas to continue working on the plan and the budget.

Future Water Situation in the Valley: Mr. Harris reported that Tom Haslebacher has been working on the new report under the direction of the TAC. The TAC is still gathering data for the report on the Future Water Situation in the Valley.

**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 February meeting agenda.

**Items for the February Agenda:** Items for the February Agenda include: 1) Brackish Water Treatment Project, 2) Integrated Regional Water Management Program, 3) Solar Millennium Project Update, 4) 2009 Water Production Data Update, 5) 2009 In-Kind Service Update, 6) 2010 In-Kind Service Commitment Update, 7) Project Review Report, 8) TAC Report, 9) Potential Grant Opportunities, and 10) Compliance with Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Monitoring Program with SBX7-6.

**The following Agency Reports were made:**

**Navy:** Mike Stoner announced that Well 28, located near the SNORT track in the intermediate well field, is back on line. Well 31 will be back on line next week. A contract is in place for the GPS. Mr. Stoner will go out and survey redundant sites and additional wells. Mr. Stoner offered if anyone would like to have a monitoring and/or production wells surveyed and have permission to do so, he could do it. Mr. Stoner also reported that the Navy has applied for an amendment for the basin plan for the Installation Renovation Project (IRP) sites to clean up on Navy property. Lahontan Board voted to delegate staff and funds for the basin plan project. Mike

Stoner suggested inviting Jim McDonald or Mike Cornell (Navy Representatives) for a presentation to the Group.

**Indian Wells Valley Water District:** Tom Mulvihill announced that Thursday, January 28<sup>th</sup>, the Indian Wells Valley Water District will have 2 public Cost of Service Workshops on the proposed rates at noon and 6:00 p.m. in the City Council Chambers. The proposed rates will have more of an impact on the high water users. The first 3 tiers are designed more for indoor domestic use and low water use landscape. The next 4 tiers are designed more for outdoor use such as turf and water thirsty landscape. There is a bill calculator on the District's website for the public to view/calculate future bills with the proposed rate increase. There are also proposed increases for Capital Facility Fees and Distribution System Charges. Mr. Mulvihill reported that the Arsenic Treatment Facilities are currently under construction. The Arsenic Facility for Wells 11/13 will be the first to go on line in August and the second facility for the Primavera Well Field should go on line by the end of November. District staff is currently working on a mirrored ordinance of the City of Ridgecrest's Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance. The District has passed 2 new landscape ordinances which are restrictive on new development. The single family residential development landscape ordinance will restrict turf and water-thirsty plants in the front yards. The multi-family, commercial, and/or institutional development landscape ordinance will allow no more than 50% of turf and thirsty landscape. Leroy Corlett announced that the District will be listening in on the CEC webcast for the Ridgecrest Solar Millennium Project in the District's Board Room at 9:45 a.m. on January 22<sup>nd</sup>. The status of the Ridgecrest Solar Millennium Project will be presented along with other large solar projects. Director Corlett reported that the U.S.G.S. did an evaluation of Brown & Caldwell's model for Rose Valley and found a few discrepancies when they were doing their report. The U.S.G.S. will do an evaluation (peer review) of Brown & Caldwell's model for Indian Wells Valley if we so desire.

**Eastern Kern County Resource Conservation District:** Leroy Marquardt announced that there will be a Jobs Forum/Town Hall Meeting held in Inyo County at the Mount Whitney Hostel in Lone Pine, California from noon until 2 p.m. on January 26th. A handout was made available to the Group.

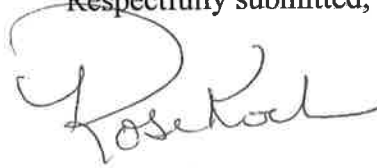
**Searles Valley Minerals:** Don Zdeba reported that they are going through their budget process for the next fiscal year. The next fiscal year begins April 1<sup>st</sup>. Mr. Zdeba reported that the engineering and permitting is about 97% complete for the Westend Water Line Project. There are no issues with the City of Ridgecrest and are addressing issues with CalTrans. The construction bid package is about 30% complete. Searles Valley Minerals is estimating project completion by the end of June 2010.

**City of Ridgecrest:** Dennis Speer reported that there were two new sewer connections and 948,000 gallons of waste water reclaimed last month. Thirty six building permits have been issued year-to-date.

**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 3:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Rose Koch". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Rose Koch  
Recording Secretary

**The next meeting is scheduled for February 18, 2010.**

I.W.V. COOPERATIVE GROUNDWATER  
MANAGEMENT WORKING GROUP

January 21, 2009

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