

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

**February 18, 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 Glenn Harris to accept the January 21, 2010 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 (District) is still waiting for the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) to review the final draft of the Brackish Water Treatment Project Report. He suggested that the Group not wait any longer and that next month he invite Renée Morquecho to give a report. Tom stated that Renée is not expecting any significant changes by DWR and could always have the actual final approved report available for circulation.

**Integrated Regional Water Management Program:** Leroy Corlett reported that the Integrated Regional Water Management Program (IRWMP) meeting for this month was postponed because they are still discussing the governance issues to determine how they want it governed. The IRWMP group is supposed to meet in about 2 weeks and asked for input on section 4 – handout made available to the Group (Response to Request for Input on Inyo-Mono Integrated Regional Water Management Plan Section 4: Issues and Needs: Indian Wells Valley Water District). Would like input from Water District by 1 March.

Discussion was heard on water export to Searles Valley and how long it has been happening. The first export on record was documented in 1917.

Should the draft come from the Group or the District? Don Zdeba suggested it should come from the Group. He asked to have it emailed to the Group, reviewed by all and to have comments submitted by Friday, February 26<sup>th</sup>.

**Solar Millennium Project Update:** Glenn Harris reported that he is waiting for a draft document for him to do his review. He will have one week to review it. The process is moving forward. The site they are looking at does have some biological issues that they are not sure can be resolved. They have made several attempts at looking at some other alternate sites that may or may not have any more or less issues. Peggy Breeden asked where they have been looking and was told one of the sites was across the road and south of the County Landfill from where they are looking at now. It was looked at earlier and rejected for some other reasons and there still may be some engineering reasons. There are some big historic washes that don't have running water now, but have some dirt that has to be moved to make it work.

Terry Rogers asked about an article he read in the *Times* about California City, stating that there is legislation that you can't use drinking water for Solar. Glenn Harris said that the California Energy Commission is dealing with those issues.

Glenn Harris returned to the topic on alternate sites and stated that the BLM can't tell them they have to go to private land. One of the sites they looked at is around the mouth of Red Rock Canyon, the old abandoned alfalfa field. He stated that he had a photo of the site showing it's all under water. At some point there will be a public document that can be shared, but not at this time.

Tom Mulvihill announced that there will be a mandatory Ridgecrest Solar Project status conference on Wednesday, February 24<sup>th</sup> at 2:00pm that will be available on the internet being broadcast from Sacramento to anybody who wants to listen in.

**2009 Water Production Data Update:** Water production has been received from the Navy and Quist Farms. Meadowbrook Dairy is the lone producer that has not reported their production.

**2009 In-Kind Service Update:** Agencies who have not reported their 2009 In-Kind Services include Kern County and Kern County Water Agency.

**2010 In-Kind Service Commitment Update:** Agencies who have not reported their 2010 In-Kind Service Commitments include Indian Wells Valley Water District, Kern County and Kern County Water Agency.

Don Zdeba asked that we target the next meeting to get the 2009 In-kind Service update and 2010 In-kind Service Commitment update complete.

**Indian Wells/Searles Valleys Watershed Issues:** Covered earlier during IRWMP report. To repeat, provide feedback to Patty by Friday, February 26<sup>th</sup>.

**Project Review Report:** Tom Mulvihill reported on one project: 1) Application to amend land use in zoning in the county. The applicants are Gene and Alice Gibson. Parcel of property that is on the south side of Dolphin, between Brady and Mahan. The parcel is 2.75 acres gross, 2.55 acres Net.

**Technical Advisory Committee Report:** The Technical Advisory Committee met on Thursday, February 18<sup>th</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, but is back in service now. Mr. Harris stated that they were able to capture most of the data except for the rainfall data. Apparently they don't capture snow data.

Watershed Coordinator Job Description Review: Glenn Harris announced that it has been pushed back. If they ever get the state going again on grants, we might find something happening there.

Future Water Situation in the Valley: Mr. Harris reported that Tom Haslebacher provided a map that partitions the valley into about 6 compartments that they will use as a way to look at data.

**Compliance with Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Monitoring Program with SBX7-6:** Nothing new to report.

**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 March meeting agenda.

**Items for the March Agenda:** Items for the March 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) Compliance with Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Monitoring Program with SBX7-6.

**The following Agency Reports were made:**

**Kern County:** Craig Peterson reported that at last month's council meeting the Board of Supervisors put a hiring freeze on the County and put all of the departments on notice that they were going to submit budgets that would reflect a 20% cut in general fund monies. The estimate of what the State is going to take from the County is between \$30 - \$40 million dollars, in addition to the \$100 million they took last year. This year will be a layoff year.

**BLM:** Glenn Harris talked about Solar Millennium awaiting one of three Environmental Impact Statements, one for geothermal leasing in the Rose Valley. One big issue up there is going to be water and just getting going. He's dealing with one for a power line for an area north of Mojave from the substation there – from Pine Creek Canyon to L.A. All of those are getting documents that we will be reviewing shortly.

**Eastern Kern County Resource Conservation District:** LeRoy Marquardt reported that the NRCS (National Resource Conservation Service) has abandoned wells and thought we may want to put them on the web-site. It might be worth having Tom Haslebacher look at it to see whether or not it's in Kern County.

**Kern County Water Agency:** SBX7-6 – wants to see In-kind documentation going all the way back to show how much has been given. Task given to Patty to put together an In-kind report by signatory and task going as far back as possible.

Terry Rogers reported to the Group on a Water Bank Dedication Ceremony he attended in Rosamond. The Semitropic-Rosamond Water Bank Authority (SRWBA) merged a portion of the Semitropic Water Storage District's Stored Water Recovery Unit (SWRU) and the Antelope

Valley Water Bank (AVWB) providing water bank customers with a diversity of assets, operational flexibility and unparalleled reliability. Mr. Rogers provided informational handouts.

**Indian Wells Valley Water District:** Tom Mulvihill announced that the Board had the rate hearing on February 8<sup>th</sup> and passed the new rates unanimously. The new rates come into effect March 1<sup>st</sup> and the rate increases for this coming year are not terribly bad. February 1, 2011 they will increase significantly and the series of rate increases are for four consecutive years. The new rates are based on paying for arsenic treatment, a 10-year capital improvement program and also typical operating costs. The rates are distributed more towards the high-end users with an effort to minimize the impact on the lower end users so that the lowest two tiers are for an allocation of indoor domestic use, with minimum impact. The third tier is an allocation for xeriscape. The first three tiers are relatively less impacted than the others. The District will be doing a lot of education and outreach in the next few months to get the public ready for what is to come. Effective in April is the increase to hook-up charges. The two hook-up charges are the capital facility fee and the distribution system fee. There is about a 30% increase; the last increase was three years ago. Also in April, the Landscape Covenant takes effect so that new development will be affected by the restriction on turf. We will be calling on the ten highest users to educate about conservation.

**Searles Valley Minerals:** Don Zdeba reported that starting Monday they have a brackish water well replacement in Inyo County by Indian Valley Wells. Thursday, they had a crew doing some pot-holing across from the old Taco Bell and they are still on target for having a line replaced and in service by the end of June from the west side of the intersection on California and China Lake down California to Sunland – north on Sunland to Ridgecrest Blvd – and then all the way up to the tank on the hill. That whole section will be replaced.

**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 Glenn Harris to adjourn the meeting at 2:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Patty Montenegro  
Recording Secretary

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

I.W.V. COOPERATIVE GROUNDWATER  
MANAGEMENT WORKING GROUP

February 18, 2010

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