

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

**May 20, 2010 – 1:00 p.m.**

Chairman Don Zdeba called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m.

**Approval of Discussion Notes:** Motion was made by Glenn Harris and seconded by Leroy Marquardt to accept the April 15, 2010 Discussion Notes as presented. The Motion was carried, unanimously.

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

**IWVWD Water Supply Improvement Project:** Tim Parker, Layne Geosciences, summarized the presentation. Groundwater levels continue to decline approximately 1' to 1-1/2' per year. There are a number of alternatives being considered to increase water supply reliability proactively, which include a Brackish Water Project, a project to bring new water into the Valley by working with Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, conservation programs, and the Water Supply Improvement Plan. These options together are just a portfolio of options in place to address the long-term water level decline in the Valley. Some of the projects being considered are going to take a lot longer to implement than others. The Water Supply Improvement Plan that is being considered is a plan that can be implemented on a shorter term incrementally and is to help meet the peak demand in the summer that cannot be met on the short-term (a few years). This plan is to distribute the pumping and help address the water level decline on a short-term and minimize some of the local impacts. Well capacity and efficiencies were looked at to identify wells that were capable of increased production on a short-term basis with little or no adverse effects. Water quality (TDS and Arsenic) and prioritized wells with unused capacity were also considered. One alternative is to maximize pumping from existing wells. Other alternatives include maximum pumping from the Southwest Well Field and installing new wells. Existing data with regards to TDS and the transmissivity were overlaid on a map, and using the existing Brown & Caldwell Model to look at the pumping impacts for six different development scenarios based on Tony Morgan's work, the study looked at 2008 to 2020 to see how much more or less decline may occur. Looking at the worst case scenario in terms of the largest magnitude of impact and then looking at maximum magnitude in terms of declines and recovery will give potential options for this particular program.

Comments and questions were taken. Leroy Marquardt and Terry Rogers requested a refresher of the original presentation on the groundwater model given in November 2008. The Group asked to have a refresher placed on the June agenda. Tom Mulvihill offered to call Brown & Caldwell for a presentation. All agreed that members of the TAC should be invited.

**Discussion of Letter Submitted to CEC from Judie Decker:** Several members of the Group stated they were impressed with the letter written by Don Zdeba in response to Mrs. Decker's letter.

**MOTION:** was made by LeRoy Marquardt and seconded by Nancy Bass to send the letter written by Don Zdeba to the CEC in response to the letter written and submitted by Judie Decker. Motion was carried, unanimously.

**IRWMP Draft Mission Statement and Vision Statement:** Leroy Corlett stated that the IWVWD Board of Directors recommended approval. Terry Rogers stated he thought it sounded very ambitious.

**MOTION:** was made by LeRoy Marquardt and seconded by Glenn Harris to recommend approval of both the IRWMP Mission Statement and the IRWMP Vision Statement as submitted. Motion was carried, unanimously.

**Integrated Regional Water Management Program:** Leroy Corlett requested that the Group review the IRWMP Memorandum of Understanding (handout) and have recommendations by the June meeting.

**Solar Millennium Project Update:** Glenn Harris reported that the BLM is currently in a review stage with the documents that are out for review. They're separating the State process from the Federal process because the sections go in different directions and time scales have to be met. The closing for the Federal EIS is July 8<sup>th</sup> as reported last month. The BLM is trying to meet a deadline of November to get the Federal money for the project.

**2010 In-Kind Service Commitment Update:** Agencies who have not reported their 2010 In-Kind Service Commitments include Kern County. Don Zdeba recommended using the numbers from 2009. Group concurs.

**Project Review Report:** None

**Technical Advisory Committee Report:** The Technical Advisory Committee met that morning, Thursday, May 20<sup>th</sup>. Mike Stoner stated that he had shown a couple of graphs that he had put together and what it showed is that there is a lot of scatter in the way that the regions are set up. What he's trying to do now is put together metrics to gauge how the regions are doing. There is too much spotty data to get it going right now. The Committee discussed choosing marker wells by using the wells that have the best long-term data including the aquifer source.

Glenn Harris shared with the Group that the Committee spoke about getting some more data loggers. The ones that were put in with the AB303 project several years ago have batteries in them that run out after about 5 years. Some are now starting to drop off. Also needed are data loggers in some of the canyons instead of using the chart recorders. The BLM is going to put a proposal together on data loggers with cost for the Group. Mr. Harris will put together a presentation for the Group on everything that is needed and hopes to have the information ready for the June meeting.

**RAWS Update:** Glenn Harris had a handout for the Group on how to find weather information in the valley including the Weather Bureau frequency found on radio station am 1610. The Weather Bureau information is up-to-the-minute data. Also on the handout is website information on where to locate data, which keeps information for averages when needed.

**Watershed Coordinator Job Description Review:** Not discussed.

Future Water Situation in the Valley: Adam Bingham and Tom Haslebacher continue to work on the well data update.

Compliance with Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Monitoring Program with SBX7-6: The Committee is still waiting for some guidance from the State. The consensus is that the TAC probably has the data they are looking for and it's going to be a case of setting up the agreements when they're ready.

**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 June meeting agenda.

**Items for the June Agenda:** Items for the June Agenda include: 1) IRWMP Discussion of the MOU, 2) Review of the Brown & Caldwell Groundwater Model, 3) Integrated Regional Water Management Program, 4) Solar Millennium Project Update, and 5) TAC Report.

LeRoy Marquardt asked if the Navy could report on water quality at the June meeting.

**The following Agency Reports were made:**

**U.S. Navy:** Mike Stoner reported that two water system inspections were conducted in late April – one from the State and one from the Public Health Department. Part of last week and all of this week they've had visitors looking at the water systems/waste storage/environmental issues. The Seabees are in the process of drilling a well 3/4 of a mile east of the Kerr McGee Well 17, and they're almost at target. Mr. Stoner will have reports for the meeting next month.

**BLM:** Glenn Harris reported that the BLM is dealing with litigation issues surrounding the West Mojave plant. Judgment made was that the Fish and Wildlife Service's biological opinion was adequate, but thought that the route designation process needed more work. The Center for Biological Diversity thinks the entire EIS process needs to be written and put a proposal in for the Judge, which includes BLM cancelling all decisions made since 2006.

**Eastern Kern County Resource Conservation District:** LeRoy Marquardt had nothing new to report.

**Kern County Water Agency:** Terry Rogers reported the he went to a session on the SBX7-6 given by Mary Scruggs from the DWR who is in charge of implementation. Mr. Rogers thought the presentation wasn't thought out and was not clear. Ms. Scruggs did say that the basic requirement is that the data be compatible with the water data marker. There are a bunch of DWR wells around the state that are monitored.

On another subject, the Judge just came out with a ruling that will place a temporary restraining order to stop the implementation of pumping restrictions related to the salmon in the Delta because the biological opinions only addressed pumping restrictions without considering all alternatives as required in an environmental study. There are a lot of other stressors in the Delta and one of the bigger ones is the ammonia discharge from the Sacramento sewer pipes that's basically killing everything. They feel it was a big victory, because up until now, the Judge was unfavorable and now says everything has to be reviewed and that the Waste Water Treatment Plant is in violation of the Clean Water Act.

**Inyokern Airport District:** Nancy Bass reported there will be a bathroom in the terminal area after passengers check in to take a flight.

**Indian Wells Valley Water District:** Tom Mulvihill reported that the Water District is getting ready to release a Request for Bid on construction of a new tank in the “D Zone” area, which is the tank above Belle Vista. The District’s construction of Arsenic Removal Facilities is moving along nicely – very few adjustments for days – less than half a dozen days because of weather so they’re still looking at a September completion date for Wells 9 & 11 along Mahan.

Also at the last Board Meeting, the Board of Directors of the IWVWD approved a bid for the construction of the Raw Water Pipeline that will connect the Wells at 11 & 13 along Mahan.

In preparation to install a second pipeline tie-in to the China Lake Acres customers, the District elected to do the biological survey for Mohave Ground Squirrels and unfortunately caught a pregnant one. The next step is to get an Incidental Take Permit.

Kern Asphalt is finishing the streets and removing the temporary patching. There are numerous other small sights all around the community that will be finished. The same contractor also has a work order to raise the valve cans along China Lake Blvd.

**Searles Valley Minerals:** Don Zdeba reported that they submitted their annual report to the Department of Public Health this week for the water system and received final approval for the Water Line Replacement Project. Contracts will be put together for W.A. Rasic to do the construction and Marmac Field Services to do the construction management.

**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 Marquardt to adjourn the meeting at 3:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Patty Montenegro  
Recording Secretary

**The next meeting is scheduled for June 17, 2010.**

ATTENDEE

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