

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

**June 17, 2010 – 1:00 p.m.**

Vice-Chairman Mike Stoner called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m.

**Approval of Discussion Notes:** Motion was made by Peggy Breeden and seconded by Leroy Corlett to accept the May 20, 2010 Discussion Notes as presented. The Motion was carried, unanimously.

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

**IWVWD Water Supply Improvement Project:** Not discussed.

**Review of the Brown & Caldwell Groundwater Model:** Martin Steinpress will be here in July for the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and Groundwater Group meetings. He will be discussing modifications to the Brown & Caldwell Model sensitivity analysis and update it. Vic Kelson from Layne GeoSciences will meet with the TAC by teleconference and will be present for the Groundwater Group meeting.

**Discussion on Support for a Regular Column in the News Review on Water Issues:** LeRoy Marquardt spoke with Don Zdeba on what can be done to make this Group more visible. Mr. Marquardt spoke to Pat Ferris about an article in the News Review. Discussion was heard on the different items, questions, articles, etc. that can be offered to the community. Ms. Ferris said a 400-500 word column would be great. Mr. Marquardt suggested perhaps different members of the Group would consider taking turns writing articles. Peggy Breeden suggested that the columns be offered to all media outlets. The Group considered having articles published monthly to start and Mike Stoner asked to have the item placed on the Action Register.

**MOTION:** was made by LeRoy Marquardt and seconded by Glenn Harris to move to consider publishing articles on Water for Public Use and made available to all media publications. Motion was carried, unanimously.

**Integrated Regional Water Management Program:** IRWMP moving forward. Department of Water Resources (DWR) kicking in money to hire previous facilitators to come back and start working, to get things moving. The Water Resource Objective and Water Management Strategy have been sent out, and the group is looking to have the first draft sent out in July. The Vision and Mission statements have been sent out for review. There's been a lot of discussion on whether or not the IRWMP is going to be covered by the Brown Act. The next meeting is scheduled for next week.

**Solar Millennium Project Update:** Mike Stoner announced that there was a comment made from the NAWIS Commander at Navair to the CEC, which was posted to the California Energy Commission website. Mr. Stoner was curious how the comment got out with the Commander's

signature. The CEC will be here on Thursday and asked that a representative from the Navy attend the workshop to testify. Mr. Stoner thought that perhaps Captain Dodson would be there, but didn't know for sure. Mr. Stoner wanted to make sure that the Group was aware that the comments that were made to the CEC were not the official Navy stance that got to the CEC. He suggested that they were misrepresentations and that the reference was to a memo that the Navy wrote to the Water District that was taken out of context.

Glenn Harris spoke to the Group about the solar screens and the way they are placed. Discussion was heard on the deflection and heat of the solar panels. According to Mr. Harris, the military had done a study on this topic.

Tom Mulvihill brought up discussion on a cooling tower. Mr. Mulvihill stated that the cooling tower is not for the operation of the plant, it was for the oil generator. Mr. Harris said that they pump a fluid around it and use it to flush steam through the turbine and then through a radiator-type set up. In Coso and some others that currently have solar power, they use part of the water in the cooling stream for evaporation and then they have the cooling towers with the fans and the steam coming off of them. In this case, they are doing that; they are running the air through a radiator type of set up. There is a cooling tower, but it's quite different than anything seen in other solar operations.

Comments and questions were taken.

**2010 In-Kind Service Commitment Update:** Not discussed – remove from future agendas.

**Project Review Report:** Tom Mulvihill reported on three projects: 1) Dr. Tahari has applied to the City of Ridgecrest to build a new 14,000 sf. medical office building located at 1200 N. China Lake Blvd with parking spaces, seven suites and a surgery center; 2) Emerald Point Development's concept plan was approved by the Water District Board of Directors on Monday night. The development consists of 40 lots, 10,000 sf. minimum residential sub-division, on 14 acres located on the N/E corner of Drummond and Mahan; and 3) PAM Ridgecrest Ventures – tentative tract map 6679 – will have 22 Acres located at the northwest corner of Gateway and Upjohn for 87 residential lots.

**Technical Advisory Committee Report:** The Technical Advisory Committee didn't meet this month.

Glenn Harris shared with the Group that one task that the TAC is looking at is data loggers. The batteries are starting to go dead. Mike Stoner informed the group that the data loggers would cost about \$300 to \$500 each and Leroy Corlett that we should get them all now. Mr. Harris thought that the BLM will probably purchase three. Peggy Breeden asked if there were interns available to help with analyzing the data. Mr. Stoner was tasked with making calls to Cal State Bakersfield and inquiring on the availability of an intern.

RAWS Update: Not discussed.

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: Mike Stoner brought in a copy of the Groundwater Monitoring Plan put together in 1998. The plan was divided into three different areas; a transition area (between Ridgecrest and Inyokern), a southeast Ridgecrest area and a Brown Road northwest area. The Group had planned on going out and sampling annually until the data showed something, but they never got the funding so they never followed through with it. They'll update at the next TAC meeting.

**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 July meeting agenda.

**Items for the July Agenda:** 1) Publishing Articles on Water for Public Use; 2) Presentation of the Brown & Caldwell Groundwater Model; 3) Integrated Regional Water Management Program; 4) Solar Millennium Project Update; and 5) TAC Report.

**The following Agency Reports were made:**

**City of Ridgecrest:** Dennis Speer introduced to the Group the new City Engineer, Loren Culp. Mr. Culp officially started on June 14, 2010, coming from Red Lodge, Montana. Peggy Breeden invited Mr. Culp to join the Group at its monthly meeting.

**BLM:** Glenn Harris reported that the BLM is dealing with litigation issues surrounding the West Mojave plant. He said it is a busy season for him and others from BLM to work in the field. The Center for Biological Diversity has put in a request for BLM to vacate all decisions and pull back all authorizations made since the West Mojave Plant was completed.

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

**Kern County Water Agency:** Terry Rogers reported that Department of Water Resources (DWR) wells around the state are being monitored. He advised everyone they really need to have CEQAs in order.

**City of Ridgecrest:** Dennis Speer reported that, to date, the City has had more building permits this year than in the last 4 years. Also, the City has reclaimed 2.6 million gallons of water last month. Tom Mulvihill asked him to look at the correlation of when the permits had been issued compared to the Water District's hookup fees increasing on April 9<sup>th</sup>.

**Indian Wells Valley Water District:** Tom Mulvihill reported that the Water District Conservation Ordinances and Landscape Covenants are in effect since April 2010. One contractor requested two variances. One was granted at the June 14<sup>th</sup> Board meeting. The other must go to committee for further evaluation. The contractor stated that he has no problems with the Landscape Ordinance and intends to comply with the Ordinance with his remaining lots.

The District Board of Directors is going to be discussing the future direction of the Landscape

Ordinances at the mid-year workshop being held on Friday, July 9<sup>th</sup> at 9:05am. Mr. Mulvihill stated that he sent an invitation to Harvey Rose and invited all who would like to attend.

The District now has a Conservation Specialist, Andrew Peters, who was hired and is going to spend 20 weeks doing enforcement of the Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance. Mr. Mulvihill spoke to Andrew a couple of days ago and asked him what kind of interaction he has had with the community. Andrew explained that he was pleasantly surprised that he's only had a very few people who have been upset and after he spoke to them they were happy with his explanation.

The District's negotiations with the LADWP regarding future water banking in the valley are currently quiet. LADWP is very preoccupied with the problems they are having with their budget and the sale of facilities out of state. The District is not doing anything at the moment, but is attempting to schedule a meeting.

The District's arsenic construction project is on schedule, which means that the District is looking at completion of one arsenic treatment facility near Mahan and Las Flores by early September and the other treatment facility on Primavera to be completed by early December. The permanent facility for Well 34 is also on track for an October completion. Recently, the District released a bid request for the D-Zone tank and expects to open bids on July 5<sup>th</sup>. The pipeline replacement project on Sunland Avenue should be finished shortly.

Last month the District produced 596 acre feet of water equaling 194,192,000 gallons of water, which is an average daily production of 6.26 million gallons.

The Fitch Rating Firm has increased the District's credit rating on bonds from A+ to AA-.

**Searles Valley Minerals:** Adam Bingham reported that Searles Valley is breaking ground on the new water line replacement soon. SVM will be starting to drill a replacement for one of the South Brackish Field wells.

**U.S. Navy:** Mike Stoner brought in a log of the last SeaBee Well that was finished on the western boundary of the base and asked to have it distributed. The well was drilled to 805 feet and cased it to 620 feet. These are quarterly drillings on a 6" monitor well.

**General Public Comment:** None.

With no further comments or discussion to come before the Group, Motion was made by LeRoy Marquardt and seconded by Glenn Harris to adjourn the meeting at 2:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Patty Montenegro  
Recording Secretary

**The next meeting is scheduled for July 15, 2010.**

