

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

December 15, 2011 – 1:00 p.m.

Chairman Don Zdeba called the meeting to order at 1:10 p.m.

Approval of Discussion Notes: Motion was made by LeRoy Marquardt and seconded by Leroy Corlett to accept the November 17, 2011 Discussion Notes as presented. The motion was carried, unanimously.

Public Comment for Items on the Agenda: None

Revised Groundwater Management Plan (GWMP): Mike Stoner stated that everything is moving, but the Group is still waiting for the Navy review and approval process to be completed.

Discussion on Complying with the Monitoring Requirements as it Pertains to California Statewide Groundwater Elevation Monitoring (CASGEM): Adam Bingham reported that the TAC got together today and completed the packet that needs to be uploaded to CASGEM. At the present time, the Group is the official monitoring entity and once the data is uploaded everything will be complete.

Kern County Specific Plan Update: LeRoy Marquardt reported that it may be February 2012 before the next meeting is scheduled, but Lori Acton was not present to confirm.

Articles on Water for Publication in Local Media: Don Zdeba stated that the first seven articles have been printed. Mike Stoner reported that the next article is not ready yet, but he will try to have it out to the Group for review next week.

Inyo-Mono Regional Water Management Group (IRWMP): Leroy Corlett reported that the IRWMP has been conducting CEQA workshops up and down the valley, but noted that Bishop had more applicants than elsewhere. Mike Stoner inquired about a survey that had been submitted to the Group for input. Mr. Corlett stated if Mr. Stoner wanted to complete it, it would be appreciated. Mr. Stoner agreed to complete a draft for review by the Group.

Indian Wells Valley Water District Water Supply Improvement Project: Tom Mulvihill reported that the District accepted written comments to their WSIP Environmental Impact Report (EIR) until Friday, December 9th and that the District is in the process of putting together their responses. Mr. Mulvihill stated that Public Agencies are entitled to have the finalized (EIR) 10 days before the public hearing. The date for the Public Hearing has not been set yet, but he hopes to have it in the month of January 2012.

Reports:

A. Project Review – Nothing to report.

B. Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) – Adam Bingham reported that the TAC met this morning. The TAC did not receive any new updates from Tim Parker. Mr. Bingham stated that ACWA was soliciting information about the IWV Water Management Group as part of

the process of creating a guide for others. Mr. Bingham asked if the Group wanted to complete the survey.

Mr. Parker also sent out a draft of what they are thinking of doing for regulations on a State level for ASR (Aqua for Storage and Recovery) projects. They are trying to put together regulations to control water storage.

The transducer data loggers have not yet been purchased. There were some changes in the locations and the TAC wanted to make sure they worked correctly in the new location. The TAC will place the order when information is received.

Glenn Harris sent an update on the RAWs station that was stolen – it has been replaced and was moved to a more secure location.

- C. Watershed Coordinator Update Report** – William Foster submitted his report via a handout. Mr. Foster updated the Group on his position. Mr. Foster reported that he has been meeting with local private well owners, specifically East Inyokern Water Mutual Company that has issues with their wells. He stated that the group asked for his assistance in funding and technical assistance.

Tom Haslebacher and Mike Stoner invited Mr. Foster to future TAC meetings for direction.

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: 1) Election of Officers; 2) Groundwater Management Survey – ACWA; 3) Revised Groundwater Management Plan; 4) Discussion on Complying with the Monitoring Requirements as it Pertains to California Statewide Groundwater Elevation Monitoring (CASGEM); 5) Kern County Specific Plan Update; 6) Articles on Water for Publication in Local Media; 7) Inyo-Mono Regional Water Management Group; 8) Indian Wells Valley Water District Water Supply Improvement Project; 9) Project Review Report; 10) TAC Report and 11) Watershed Coordinator Update Report.

The following Agency Reports were made:

Indian Wells Valley Water District: Tom Mulvihill first thanked the Navy for the letter he received from Captain Dodson regarding the discharge from the District's well along Highway 178 (Inyokern Road). Mr. Mulvihill announced that for the 2012 calendar year the Directors elected Don Cortichiato for President and Leroy Corlett for Vice President. He then reported that at the Board Meeting the Directors gave direction to Staff to move ahead on the Cost of Service Study and mailing of the Prop 218 notice. The District will have their rate hearing at the regular Board Meeting of February 13, 2012.

Mr. Mulvihill reported that for the month of November the District produced 448.5 acre-feet of water, gallons compared to 513.9 acre-feet of water in November of last year. The District has received a letter from DWR informing it that DWR has reviewed the District's 2010 Urban Water Management Plan and found that it has addressed all of the required legislative elements of the California Water Code and, therefore, the District will be reported to the State Legislature as being in compliance.

Well 18 has been down for a considerable period of time because it has been filling with gravel and last month the District obtained a video of the well and found that the gravel intrusion is in the sounding tube.

It can be isolated and the well will not need to be replaced. The District is looking to have it back in service by June 1, 2012.

Leroy Corlett asked if it would be OK to send a letter to IRWMP to withdraw from the Flood Control Grant request process. Chairman Zdeba agreed that a letter would be appropriate.

Bureau of Land Management: Robert Pawelek reported that the 5 Mile Canyon station recorded 106 mph maximum wind speeds around 4:00 a.m. and Carl Symons will be the new Acting Field Manager.

Kern County Water Agency: Terry Rogers informed the Group that Lois Henry reported in the *Bakersfield Californian* that the KCWA is having financial issues. Mr. Rogers stated their position.

Eastern Kern County Resource Conservation District: LeRoy Marquardt reported Kirschenman's Well Drilling is no longer. They have completely closed down and now they have to come from Kennedy Meadows, Lake Isabella or Mojave.

U. S. Navy: Mike Stoner reported that the Seabees will be back in the field on the third Monday in January and will be drilling on the west side.

Searles Valley Minerals: Don Zdeba reported they got the Agreement with the City signed to relocate the sand separator for SVM's No. 2 well from Freedom Park to the well site north of the Senior Center. This will allow the City to landscape the area within the Park.

General Public Comment: Public making comment was Lyle Fisher. Mr. Fisher inquired of Tom Mulvihill as to how many letters were received in response to the Draft EIR. Mr. Mulvihill stated that he did not have a count on the number of letters.

Open Discussion: None.

With no further comments or discussion to come before the Group, motion was made by LeRoy Marquardt and seconded by Leroy Corlett to adjourn the meeting at 2:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Patty

Montenegro

Recording Secretary

The next meeting is scheduled for January 19, 2012.



