



COOPERATIVE WATER
MANAGEMENT GROUP

WORKING GROUP 2010/2011 OBJECTIVES

Planning Objective No. 1

Limit additional large scale pumping in areas that appear to be adversely impacted.

- Continue to measure water quality and level changes throughout the basin and produce an annual summary document that can be used as a tool for future planning.

Planning Objective No. 2

Distribute new groundwater extraction within the Valley in a manner that will minimize adverse effects to existing groundwater conditions (levels and quality), and maximize the long-term supply within the Valley.

- Collect baseline data for new pumping areas and continue monitoring for changes.
- TAC will be available to assist major producers in the location of new wells.

Planning Objective No. 3

Aggressively pursue the development and implementation of water conservation policy and education programs.

- Continue development and support of the Cooperative Groundwater Management Group's website.
- Conservation tips and new information pertaining to water resources in the Indian Wells Valley will continue to be part of the Working Group's website.
- Continue annual support of the SEEP Program.
- Encourage the use of drip irrigation systems.
- Publicize and distribute resources including the booklet on Xeriscape landscaping, the Working Group's water conservation policy, and the pamphlet on re-use of gray water.
- The Indian Wells Valley Water District (Water District) will:
 - Hold Xeriscape workshops.
 - Continue the Xeric Ambassador program for educational outreach.
 - Participate in public events such as the Home and Leisure Show to distribute water saving devices (shower heads, hose nozzles, and faucet aerators) and conservation information.
 - Recognize xeriscape landscapes.
 - Publish a quarterly newsletter with conservation page for its customers.
 - Provide assistance for water use and leak detection.
 - Evaluate SmartSet timers for large area applications that will adjust landscape watering based on weather conditions.
- The Navy will:
 - Continue to implement their Water Conservation Policy (revised in 2008).
 - Continue to replace older irrigation systems with SmartSet timers that adjust to local weather conditions.

- Continue to educate the NAWS-China Lake community and residents with water conservation information and newsletters/articles.
 - Continue to support the Cooperative Groundwater Management Group's website with water conservation tips and information.
 - Continue its leak detection and storage reservoir rehabilitation program.
 - Recognize Xeriscape landscape and replace turf with low-water use, drought-tolerant plants where practical.
 - Support the Indian Wells Valley Water District Xeriscape workshops.
 - Continue to submit quarterly reports to NAVFAC in support of the Environmental Management System (Significant Aspect-Natural Resource Consumption (potable water)).
- Searles Valley Minerals will:
 - Replace a significant portion of their Westend system potable water production line between China Lake Boulevard and their storage tank east of Ridgecrest along Highway 178. This portion of the system has been prone to frequent failure due to the age of the pipeline.
 - Review their metering system for potable water production and use and update the weekly production and use report to improve accountability for water use.
 - The Water District and the City of Ridgecrest, with the involvement of Kern County, will develop a landscape ordinance for new development that meets or exceeds State requirements.
 - Recognize and target State mandates for water conservation.

Planning Objective No. 4

Encourage the use of treated water, reclaimed water, recycled, gray and lower quality water where appropriate and economically feasible.

- Explore the feasibility of transferring water from the treatment facility operated by the City of Ridgecrest for beneficial use within the Indian Wells Valley or at Searles Valley Minerals' facilities in Searles Valley to possibly offset existing production.
- The Naval Air Weapons Station (NAWS) continues to use reclaimed water from the wastewater treatment facility to water the golf course.
- NAWS will continue to explore projects to re-use additional water from the wastewater treatment facility.
- Develop a plan to comply with SBX7-7 regarding water conservation.

Planning Objective No. 5

Explore the potential for other types of water management programs that are beneficial to the Valley.

- The Water District is exploring an aquifer storage and recovery project.
- Continue to pursue funding for a Watershed Coordinator.
- Continue participation in and support for development of the Integrated Regional Water Management Plan.

Planning Objective No. 6

Continue cooperative efforts to develop information and data which contributes to further defining and better understanding the groundwater resource in the Indian Wells Valley.

- With completion of the second AB303 Grant, pursue implementation of recommendations for future potential grant proposals for acquisition of drilling sites, installation of monitoring wells in the major canyons, chemical and isotope analysis of canyon groundwater systems, development of representative chemical/isotope flow paths in the canyon groundwater systems, development of a lithologic model for the entire basin, regular chemical samples of water wells and increased groundwater level monitoring.
- Work toward standardization of data reporting that will facilitate establishing and maintaining a basin-wide database.
- Continue aquifer data collection to support further refinement of the groundwater flow model for the basin developed in 2009.
- Continue support of Remote Automated Weather Stations (RAWS) to collect weather/climate data and evaluate installation and support for additional sites.
- Continue to compile annual production information.
- Develop a map with well locations to indicate production areas and intensity of pumping.
- Continue to evaluate water quality and level changes throughout the Valley as resources allow.
- Formalize the groundwater monitoring program to comply with SBX7-6.

Planning Objective No. 7

Develop an inter-agency management framework to implement and enforce the objectives of this Plan.

- This objective was achieved with the drafting and acceptance of the Steering Committee Operating Guidelines in January 1997.