

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
INDIAN WELLS VALLEY WATER DISTRICT

ADMINISTRATION/EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES

THURSDAY, JULY 6, 2023 – 3:00 P.M.

BOARD ROOM
500 W. RIDGECREST BLVD., RIDGECREST

Attendees: Mallory Boyd, Ron Kicinski, Don Zdeba, Jason Lillion, Ty Staheli, and Justin Thompson

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 3:00 p.m.

2. Committee/Public Comments

None.

3. Status on Los Angeles Department of Water & Power (LADWP) Releases into the valley

Don Zdeba reported LADWP continues to release water from the aqueduct at two of the five locations in the Indian Wells Valley; Sage sand trap and Freeman sluice gate. After significant daily changes in the leading edge of the releases, this week flow has extended north of Inyokern Road onto the base, but had receded once again this morning before advancing once again north of Inyokern Road this afternoon. The movement of the releases continues to be monitored regularly.

As of yesterday, an estimated 9,124.5 acre-feet have been released into the basin. LADWP is providing regular updates on release points and rates and the information is being passed on to interested parties including the Navy, the Coso geothermal operation, and Stetson staff.

Fish and Wildlife finally acknowledged the Stream Alteration Agreement application staff submitted May 19th on June 19th. In their response they requested much more detail on the project including the source of material to be used, if it will be imported, how the temporary dams will be dismantled and the material disposed of, how the determination will be made when to remove the dams, and how impacts to desert tortoise and Mojave ground squirrel will be avoided if flows overtop the banks of the wash. They also advised to allow 30 days for their staff to review the new information and 60 days to approve the agreement. The information requested would require additional staff time and resources and it is highly likely the releases from the aqueduct will have ceased by then. Staff believes resources should focus on long-term recapture solutions for future releases.

4. Draft Agenda for the Regular Board Meeting of July 10, 2023

The Committee reviewed the agenda and made no changes.

5. Future Agenda Items

The Committee recommends adding an item to the July 25th IWVWD Workshop agenda discussing the appropriation of \$3,000,000 for IWVWD reliable water supply.

6. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:12 p.m.