

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
INDIAN WELLS VALLEY WATER DISTRICT

PLANT AND EQUIPMENT COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING

REPORT

TUESDAY, JULY 2, 2019 – 2:00 PM

BOARD ROOM
500 W. RIDGECREST BLVD., RIDGECREST

Attendees: David Saint-Amand, Stan Rajtora, Don Zdeba, Renee Morquecho, Ty Staheli and Jason Lillion.

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 2:00 pm.

2. Committee/Public Comments

None.

3. Hometown Town Water Association: Consolidation

The District was recently contacted by California Rural Water Association (CRWA) regarding a small, 12-connection water association within the District's boundary in the China Lake Acres area just west of Pinto Street. The State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Drinking Water, is requesting that the association consolidate with the District due to maintenance and redundancy issues. At this point, the CRWA needs to know if the District is willing to pursue consolidation and then the process will continue to include a grant application for monies to cover any planning, construction, and connection fees. Due to the location of the Hometown system, consolidation with the District would be relatively straight-forward and staff has no objection to the consolidation. The District should be able to perform engineering design and construction in-house. The Committee recommended the District pursue consolidation with Hometown Water Association.

4. Well 35 Solar Facilities: Notice of Exemption

Last month the Board approved signing an Alternate Energy Agreement with ENGIE Services US for construction of solar facilities at Well 35. Because this is a "project" under CEQA, the Board must adopt a CEQA document or determine that the project is exempt. Staff has prepared a Notice of Exemption for the project because the project is being constructed on land that was cleared and fenced for the drilling of Well 35. All construction activities will take place inside the fenced area. There is no possibility of a significant effect on the environment. The Committee recommended the Board adopt the Notice of Exemption for the Well 35 solar facilities project.

5. Public Health Goals: Report

Staff presented the Committee with a report mandated by the California Health and Safety Code. The report must be prepared every 3 years to provide additional water quality information to the public beyond that given in the Annual Water Quality Report. This report covers the years 2016-2018 and lists any constituents found exceeding Public Health Goals (PHGs) or Maximum Contaminant Level Goals (MCLGs). The report has been posted to the District's website at <http://www.iwvwd.com/public-documents/water-quality-reports/> and a public hearing will be held during the August 12, 2019 Board meeting.

6. Bulk Water Station Upgrades: Update

Since the new bulk station was put online, there have been some connection issues that has caused intermittent delays in receiving data at the office, but staff recently made some changes to the cellular data package and expects a higher data limit to solve this issue.

During the June Board meeting, customers voiced concern over the requirement to pre-pay on their account and the Board asked staff to look into billing the bulk haulers in the same manner as other metered customers. Staff recommends staying with the pre-pay system due to the burden of setting up a new billing route, sending late notices, charging late fees, etc. The usage from the bulk hauling station would need to be manually entered into the billing software system each month. This would be cumbersome for staff that is already quite busy.

7. WSIP/Well 35: Update

Krieger & Stewart is finishing up the plans and specifications and staff expects to have them final review early next week with the project going out to bid at the end of the week.

8. Arsenic Treatment Facilities: Update

Both plants are now online. Plant 2 was put online last Friday. Staff will be contacting Filtronics again to let them know both are online if they are interested in doing any testing during while both plants are in operation.

9. SCADA System Upgrade Project: Update

ATSI was in Ridgecrest last week for the discovery phase of the project. The project now moves to the design phase. Staff expects ATSI to be back next month and to begin running tests on new equipment at their office for staff observation/inspection.

10. Evaporative Cooler Study: Update

Meters were installed on six (6) staff evaporative coolers in June. The meters will be read this week and the data presented at the next Board meeting.

11. AMI Pilot Project: Update

A little over 5,100 AMI registers have been installed to date. The iWater software that will be used to automate the register changes is being tested this week by staff. WaterSmart was here last week training staff and, pending confirmation of email addresses, it is now ready for employees and Directors to review before being rolled out to all customers. Staff is still working on some data transfer issues, but they are minor.

12. Solar Production: Report

The Committee reviewed the report provided by ENGIE Services for July 2018 to June 2019. The guaranteed savings during that time was \$485,410.01 and actual savings was \$508,744.23.

13. Future Agenda Items

None.

14. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:57 pm.