

BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
INDIAN WELLS VALLEY WATER DISTRICT

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WATER MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

THURSDAY, MAY 25, 2023 – 2:00 P.M.

BOARD ROOM  
500 W. RIDGECREST BLVD., RIDGECREST

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Attendees: Ron Kicinski, Don Zdeba, Renée Morquecho, and Jason Lillion

**1. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m.

**2. Committee/Public Comments**

None.

**3. Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority (IWVGA)**

Director Griffin was not present; thus, no updates were provided from the May 10, 2023, IWVGA Regular Board meeting.

The next IWVGA meeting is scheduled for June 14, 2023, at which time the Audit Report is expected to be reviewed and discussed.

**4. LADWP Aqueduct Water Release**

Don Zdeba reported that releases continue from three of five sites within the Indian Wells Valley. Boulder Draw remains shut off since April 17<sup>th</sup> and Bird Springs was shut off May 5<sup>th</sup>. As of yesterday, an estimated 5,486.6 acre-feet had been released.

During the May 2<sup>nd</sup> Special Board meeting a Notice of Exemption (NOE) was approved to file for a project involving placement of temporary sandbag dikes to be hand-placed within the banks of Little Dixie Wash to slow flows in an effort to help protect to facilities at the China Lake Naval Air Weapons Station (NAWS) on the China Lake playa from potential flooding and subsidence damage as well as encourage percolation into the groundwater basin. Available resources limited any effort to only the District's Watkins property and it is unlikely barriers could be constructed on all four locations.

An amended NOE was filed May 16<sup>th</sup> with language that does not limit the project to hand-placing sandbags because other less costly and laborious alternatives are under consideration including sand dams similar to those Kern County placed in 2017. The amended NOE has restarted the 30-day clock. The Navy provided a letter in support of the District taking action to slow the flow through the wash that has been included with the revised NOE as well as with the Stream Alteration Agreement application submitted to Fish and Wildlife May 19<sup>th</sup>. While work can start after the NOE is filed, we must await approval from Fish & Wildlife for a Stream Alteration Agreement. It is noteworthy the leading edge of the release

has receded significantly. At one point it had reached Highway 395, however it has now receded west of Red Rock Canyon Road. Staff continues to monitor regularly and if there is no significant advance occurring, we should reconsider incurring any additional cost for temporary solutions and focus on long-term recapture solutions for future releases.

**5. Potential Impact of Recycled Water on District’s Need for Imported Water**

Mr. Zdeba reported that during discussion of Item A2 on the agenda of the January 24<sup>th</sup> Board Workshop, Board discussion of potential Strategic Planning Effort, the Board requested to add recycled water as an agenda item for the Water Management Committee. In particular, the Board is interested in discussions with the City concerning recycled water being credited against the District’s requirement for an imported water supply to meet its needs.

**6. Brackish Water Study**

On May 16<sup>th</sup> Wade Major, with aquilogic, completed and submitted the 2022 4<sup>th</sup> quarter Quarterly Report, Invoice Package No. 6, a Technical Memorandum entitled, “RO Membrane Performance Modeling – Additional Scenarios,” and the 2022 Annual Report to the Department of Water Resources for review and comment. This week, staff received notice payment of Invoice Package No. 6 in the amount of \$19,317.54 was approved May 22<sup>nd</sup>. The final steps before compiling the draft Feasibility Study document include efforts to evaluate shallow well impacts in the study area based on existing predicted drawdowns using the DRI model. The completion date for the study is December 30, 2023.

**7. Alternate Water Sources**

**a. Exploration of sub-basins within the valley**

Following approval of a proposal to revise the draft seismic report to include net clay analysis, John Jansen, with Collier Geophysical, completed the calculations and shared them with Tim Parker for review and comment. Mr. Parker has completed his review allowing Mr. Collier to continue work on the report. Earlier this week Mr. Collier reported he needed to change out a couple of tables and add a figure for the Net clay imaging and it would be ready for review. He mentioned lately he has been on travel frequently which has resulted in the delay finalizing the report.

There is nothing significant to report since the April meeting on drafting a plan for exploring the potential of the El Paso Subbasin to provide a water supply not currently being fully utilized. Tim Parker, Dave Scriven, and Don Zdeba did have a call with Paul Gosselin and Tim Godwin last month during which they acknowledged the benefits of exploring the El Paso area and wanted to make sure the Groundwater Authority was in support of the project and the District submitting an application for funding. Earlier this week, staff and consultants were advised Stetson Engineering is preparing a Technical Memo with recommendations on exploration of the El Paso area. The intent is to have a draft Technical Memo to the Technical Advisory Committee next month and the study would be included in the 5-year update of the GSP.

**8. Future Agenda Items**

None.

**9. Adjournment**

Meeting was adjourned at 2:24 pm