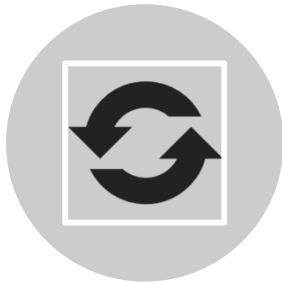




Indian Wells Valley  
Water District  
Board Meeting  
February 13, 2023

# Work Plan Overview: Key Tasks



PROCESS  
INITIATION



STAKEHOLDER  
ASSESSMENT



PUBLIC  
MEETINGS

Apr 2022

Feb 2023



# Stakeholder Assessment Process



## What We Did

- June – Sept. 2022
- Evaluate needs and conduct an internal and external environmental scan:
  - Evaluate conditions for collaboration
  - Clarify non-technical risks
  - Determine the best engagement techniques for the circumstances
- Interview participants: 48, Survey responses: 137



# Assessment Findings Workshop

- Hybrid workshop on October 4, 2022
- ~45 participants
- Asked the public to validate, correct, and augment what we heard
- There was general consensus on the key issues the basin is facing related to groundwater management

# Key Themes



Communications



Transparency



Equity issues – Trona and InyoKern CSD



Best available science



Addressing the needs of small mutuals



Other projects and management actions on the table for community discussion

# Suggested Additions



Mitigating impacts to domestic wells



Identifying and addressing the needs of water haulers



# Collaborative Conditions for Success



# Stakeholder Collaborative Conditions for Success

**Sponsors:** Financial, societal, and informational commitment to the process is imperative;

**Assessments:** Situation assessments are conducted to clarify issues, conditions, trends, goals, stakeholders and similar information;

**Stakeholders:** Stakeholders must be identified and categorized (e.g., essential, affected, interested, deal-makers and deal-breakers);

**Process Design:** Stakeholders need to be involved in process design and process evolution;

**Process Approach:** Interest-based and systemic;

**Decision-Making:** Decision-making must be transparent and collaborative;

**Resources:** Technical, policy and programmatic resources must be made available from stakeholders / sponsors; and

**Implementation:** Stakeholders must create a commitment to sustainable implementation of the process (es).



# Feedback on the Collaborative Conditions

- Feedback collected during November 30<sup>th</sup> IWVGA PAC meeting
- Survey distributed to IWVGA PAC, Planning Committee, and through the IWVWD Facebook and listserv

# Identified Gaps

- Addressing transparency and trust / legitimacy issues
- Open, transparent discussion of technical issues
- Engaging all basin GW users in identifying the problem and prioritizing solutions;
- Pooling resources to work together/collaboration
- Direct engagement with communities (meeting them where they're at)





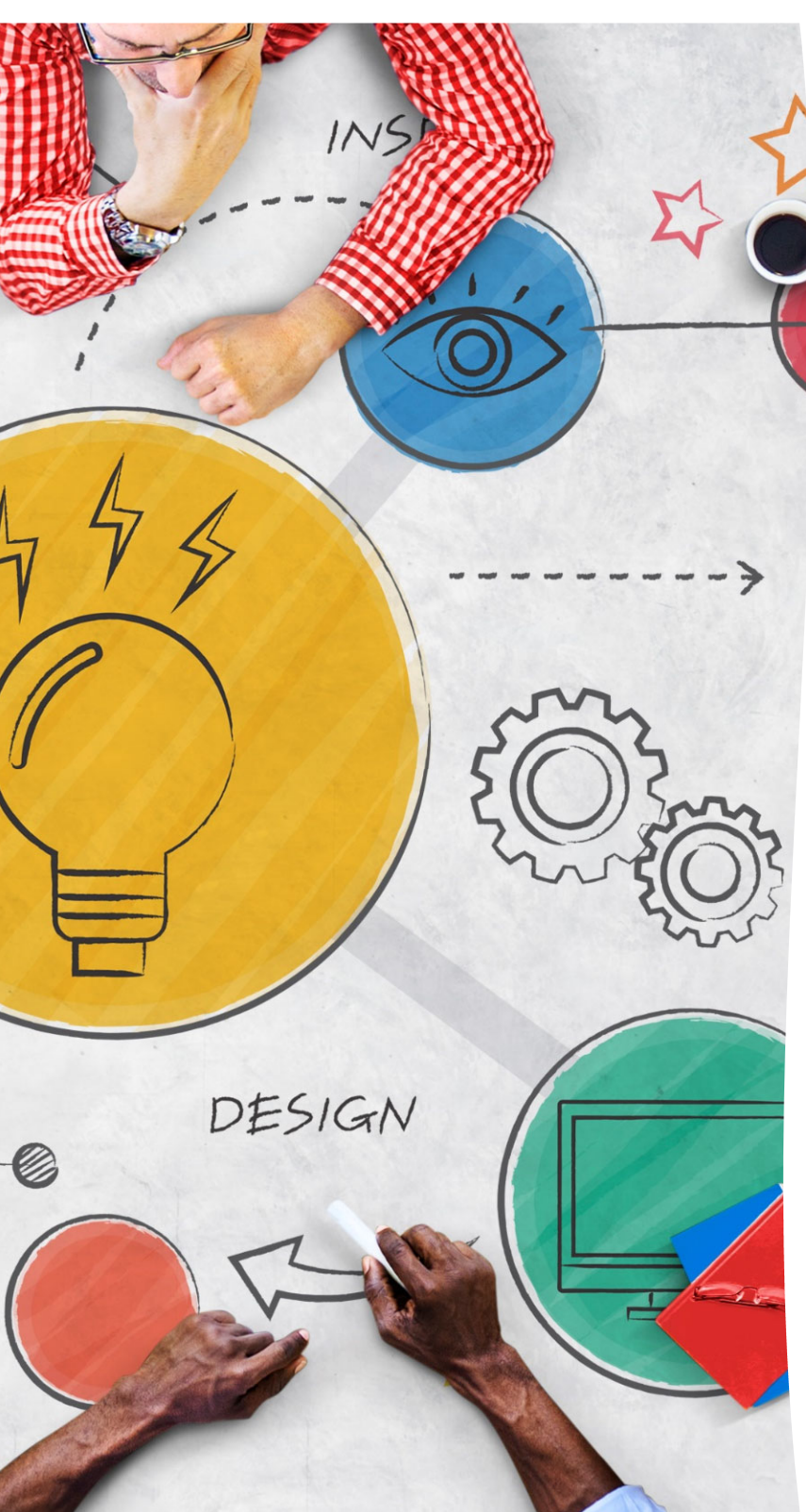
# Stakeholder Collaborative Conditions for Success

- Sponsorship
  - Financial and societal commitment is largely present
  - Informational commitment where people can bring info to the table is low
- Assessments
  - Facilitation helped to identify key issues
  - Additional assessments are needed to identify which technical issues can be discussed



# Stakeholder Collaborative Conditions for Success

- Stakeholders
  - Groups have been identified
  - More outreach is needed to underrepresented communities
- Process Design and Approach
  - Negotiating the shape of the table
  - Need to acknowledge everyone's experience and decide the most productive way forward
- Decision-Making
  - Public isn't fully engaged with how decisions are made
  - Gaps in communication and education



# Stakeholder Collaborative Conditions for Success

- Resources
  - Policy and technical resources are available but not effectively used
  - Inability to pool resources effectively due to ongoing litigation
- Implementation
  - Need buy-in on the process design and the options to be considered
  - Courts are favorable to stakeholder generated solutions

# Facilitation Process Reflections



Successful in  
taking the  
temperature down



Brought in community  
perspectives who  
previously felt left out



Engaging groups who  
previously did not want  
to participate



## Future Options

- Joint fact finding
- Targeted outreach to historically underrepresented communities
- Increased communication and education
  - Focus on transparency
- Opportunities to revisit this process with GSP 5-Year Update





Questions?