

BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
INDIAN WELLS VALLEY WATER DISTRICT

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WATER MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES

THURSDAY, APRIL 29, 2021 – 2:00 P.M.

BOARD ROOM  
500 W. RIDGECREST BLVD., RIDGECREST

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Attendees: Stan Rajtora, David Saint-Amand, Don Zdeba, Renee Morquecho, and Tyrell Staheli

**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)**

a. The Committee discussed the April 14th IWVGA Regular Board Meeting and actions taken.

- The imported water effort continues but it is unclear if an affordable entitlement is available or if the IWVGA can afford to purchase it if it is available.
- The Shallow Well Mitigation study is beginning
  - i. The Shallow Well Impact Reporting Form was approved by the IWVGA Board.
- The Recycled Water Alternative study continues
- Technical Support Services (TSS) monitoring well in El Paso is continuing, samples are being analyzed, and a report should be out soon.
- Drilling of the monitoring well, funded through the Navy-Coso royalty program, is to begin in the fall of 2021.
- The 2022 Coso royalty project is being finalized
- Annual Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) Report for 2020 was sent to the Department of Water Resources (DWR) on April 1<sup>st</sup> and the IWVGA board was briefed on April 14<sup>th</sup>.
- IWVGA financial status is unknown at this time. No finance reports were provided to the board at the April 14<sup>th</sup> meeting; the data is still being collected for that report.
- At this time, only the Water District is paying the Replenishment Fee. Searles Valley Minerals has filed a temporary restraining order to block the IWVGA from collecting the replenishment fee from them. The IWVGA has set a public hearing on this matter for May 6<sup>th</sup>. The court held a preliminary hearing April 28<sup>th</sup> and set a hearing on May 20<sup>th</sup> to further discuss the matter.
- The status of the transition pool is unknown at this time.

- A new agenda item was requested for the next IWVGA meeting to discuss the idea of a single legal counsel representation.
- b. The Water District staff will provide this committee with a copy of the Navy-Coso Project List and any future project lists developed so that the committee can review and discuss possible grant options.

#### **4. Brackish Water Study**

- The Mojave Pistachios aquifer test ran for 10 days, starting on April 5<sup>th</sup> and ending at 10:30 am on April 15<sup>th</sup>. Aqualogic has downloaded the data and Wade Major hopes to have it all reviewed/analyzed by the end of the week. If this is possible than the results of the test should hopefully be brought to the Brackish Water group within the next week or two.
- At the next IWV Water District board meeting on May 10<sup>th</sup>, a memo from Tim Parker with more information regarding whether or not the state will allow us to consider the treated Brackish water as new water in the basin will be available.

#### **5. Alternate Water Sources**

- a. The Committee to discuss possible future water resources.
  - i. Having the El Paso area water levels report reviewed and verified to see if the water levels in that area have truly been increasing over the last few years. While also looking into the feasibility of using water in the El Paso area in our main basin, however, this would not help with the State expectations.
  - ii. The reclaiming of the brackish water on the playa will have many roadblocks including: environmental issue and Navy restrictions.
    - 1. Treating the brackish water would (in theory) be more cost effective than importing water from another region.
  - iii. Finding more water in the El Paso area, the brackish water on the playa, or adding new wells in the southwest well field would not be considered “New Water” by the State but reviewing the recharge rates could help with our current status.

#### **6. Future Agenda Items**

None

#### **7. Adjournment**

Meeting was adjourned at 2:49 p.m.