

BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
INDIAN WELLS VALLEY WATER DISTRICT

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WATER MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES

THURSDAY, JUNE 30, 2022 – 2:00 P.M.

BOARD ROOM  
500 W. RIDGECREST BLVD., RIDGECREST

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Attendees: Stan Rajtora, Mallory Boyd, Don Zdeba, Renee Morquecho and Tim Parker (via telephone)

**1. Call to Order**

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

**2. Committee/Public Comments**

None.

**3. Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority**

Director Rajtora reported on the June 8, 2022, Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority (IWVGA) Regular Board meeting and actions taken:

- The Annual Report release process was not discussed at the last board meeting, but should be discussed at the next meeting on July 13, 2022. There is a push for the Annual Report to be board approval document.
- Director Rajtora is still encouraging the use of planning tools. There are currently 3 major projects in the works, however, there are currently no schedules or budgets for these projects.
- Capital Core Group is making progress with regards to obtaining grant money for the Ridgecrest Wastewater Treatment Plant.
- The 2020 Audit Report was given and the auditor did suggest a number of corrective actions for the IWVGA financial process. The IWVGA General Manger did state that all of the corrective actions have been done. Director Rajtora suggested that the IWVGA start on the 2021 Audit Report as soon as possible and the General Manager stated that it will be on the agenda for the upcoming July meeting.
- Director Rajtora's primary project activity concern remains the lack of a validated method to measure the change of groundwater and storage. This makes it difficult to calculate the recharge and estimate the safe yield.
- The Request for Proposals (RFP) for the alignment portion of the Imported Water Pipeline went out May 23<sup>rd</sup> and proposals were due back on June 27<sup>th</sup>. This will most likely be a topic on next month's agenda as well.
- Stetson did indicate the Section 5 of the Recycled Water Report was released to the Technical Team on June 6<sup>th</sup> and a draft technical memo for late 2022.

**4. Brackish Water Study**

The Brackish Study Group has not formally met since January 27<sup>th</sup>. Tim Parker has a call with Wade Major tomorrow during which he will share results from the Ramboll

analysis that combines the SkyTEM data with the reprocessed seismic data as well as borehole log data in a more detailed interpretation of basin geology. The intent would be to utilize those results to focus on the Northern Agricultural Area to see if there is something else to look at in that area that may allow the project to move forward. As has been previously reported, currently the project would be considered infeasible due to the cost of treating the high TDS and high boron water at depth. If another target area or zone can be identified, that may change things from infeasible to potentially feasible in the future. After a review of the data the focus will be finishing the draft analysis and getting the report ready for review. The revised completion date for the study is March 30, 2023.

## **5. Alternate Water Sources**

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

At the January 19th workshop, the Board approved up to \$200,000 to obtain and reprocess additional remote sensing/seismic data collected during the 1980's within the El Paso sub-basin area and update the Hydrological Conceptual Framework. Total projected cost, including the cost to update the HCF, is \$173,223.30, below the budgetary figure.

We have acquired 59 miles of the 1982 seismic data as well as 40 miles of 1988 seismic data. John Jansen, with Collier Geophysical, was able to negotiate with SEI, the seismic line wholesaler, to give us three more miles on the east end of Line EC-HNT-1W-1 at no additional charge due to the fact they had mislocated the line on their original maps. The new mileage extends mapping across line 92-01 and to the eastern side of the El Paso or very close.

John has completed the attribute analysis and has delineated the sand and clay bodies using the same parameter as for the previous work. He expects to get the percentage of net sand calculations completed soon. He and Tim Parker are discussing the timing on completing his report and whether Tim wants an interim report now or wants to wait until we get the new miles incorporated.

Tim Parker added that the work on the seismic data is progressing nicely and it is really helping to fill in the data gaps. Work on the China Lake portion of the data is mostly done and they have begun looking at adding in the aquifer parameters. The section of the data where the El Paso basin joins the China Lake area has shown that there is a raised area of bedrock which is what is believed to be constricting the water flow and slowing it down. The additional data that was just received may give more information in regards to finding a range of flux and discharge coming from the El Paso area. He believes that it will be more cost effective to not have an interim report done and just wait until all of the data is processed.

## **6. Public Health Goals Report**

This is a non-enforceable report that the Indian Wells Valley Water District (IWVWD) is required to present to the District Board every 3 years. The report lists any constituents

that exceed Public Health Goals (PHG) or Maximum Contaminant Level Goals (MCLG) between 2019 and 2021. Most of the PHG goals listed are set so low that they are undetectable by most standard lab tests, therefore are usually unattainable. However, the district is required to list all contaminants that fit the parameters. The two contaminants listed in the report are Fluoride and Arsenic.

Fluoride – Many water systems have to add fluoride to their water to obtain an optimal level (1ppm), however, the Indian Wells Valley’s optimal level is considered to be .8ppm with a range of .7ppm-1.3ppm. The IWV’s groundwater has naturally occurring fluoride with a level of .7ppm which means we are not required to add fluoride to the water. The PHG and MCLG state that the maximum level is 1ppm and there are two wells in the district that have levels that exceed this. Wells 9A (1.3ppm) and 10 (1.1ppm) are both above the maximum however these wells are also treated for arsenic and therefore the water from these wells is blended with water from other wells. Blending is considered a method for reducing fluoride in water, so no other treatment is used.

Arsenic – The Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) for arsenic is 10ppb and we do have wells that are above the MCL. We treat those wells and most of the time they are treated below the lab’s detectable level which is 2ppb. However, the PHG and the MCLG have arsenic listed as 4ppt, this means that all of wells in the valley have arsenic above that level. The highest recorded level of arsenic in the treated wells during this time period was Well 17 at 8.5ppb which is below the MCL.

With all of that being said, the water that is produced by the Indian Wells Valley Water District is safe and there are no contaminants in the water that are above the Federal Maximum Contaminant Level.

**7. Future Agenda Items**

None.

**8. Adjournment**

Meeting was adjourned at 2:30 pm