

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
INDIAN WELLS VALLEY WATER DISTRICT

WATER MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2023 – 3:00 P.M.

BOARD ROOM
500 W. RIDGECREST BLVD., RIDGECREST

Attendees: Ron Kicinski, George Croll, Jason Lillion, Renee Morquecho, and Ty Staheli

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 3:02 p.m.

2. Committee/Public Comments

None.

3. Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority (IWVGA)

Director Kicinski attended the last IWVGA Board meeting on October 11th.

The Committee discussed the IWVGA's stance on Assembly Bill 779 and how it will apply to the Indian Wells Valley Water District.

Director Kicinski also reported that the IWVGA is recommending that Don Decker represent the independent pumpers in the adjudication.

Director Kicinski will be attending the next IWVGA Board meeting on November 8th.

Mike Neel made a comment regarding the IWVGA's attorneys representing the independent pumpers and how it would be smart for the pumpers to find their own attorney to represent them.

a. **Discuss feasible alternatives to the pipeline project.**

The District staff has been looking at different options and the amount of water that the District would require from the pipeline project.

4. Future LADWP Aqueduct Water Release

Committee wants to continue working on a long-term project for the capture of future LADWP Aqueduct releases. Mr. Croll plans to meet with LADWP to discuss the options that the District has for capturing released water. He has spoken to the District's engineering consultants and verified that the pressure coming from the aqueduct should be enough to utilize shallow injection wells.

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

The project is currently at a standstill as the IWVGA has voted to not pursue any future

funding for recycled water. The District, however, would like to continue working with the City of Ridgecrest to utilize the recycled water.

Mr. Neel feels that the water from the wastewater treatment plant should automatically be credited to the District as the customers have already paid the fees to pump the original water.

George Croll comments that he has been in discussions with the City of Ridgecrest and how they are working on finding funding for not just the wastewater plant but a treatment plant as well.

6. Brackish Water Study

The Committee discussed that the first phase of the study is almost completed but since the majority of the brackish water is believed to be under the Navy Base and to this point the Navy has not permitted drilling or sampling of that water for this study. As a result, the Brackish Water Study group is unlikely to pursue a second phase for this project.

7. Alternate Water Sources

a. Exploration of sub-basins within the valley

The Committee believes that it is important to monitor and capture the rainfall and water that comes into this El Paso Valley. It is believed that the excess water in the El Paso subbasin is flowing into the Fremont Valley, not the Indian Wells Valley, which makes further exploration necessary.

8. Future Agenda Items

None

9. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 3:38 p.m.