



Frequently Asked Questions Regarding the Technical Working Group New Analyses

Why did the Indian Wells Valley Water District participate in the Technical Working Group?

The Water District participated in the Technical Working Group (“TWG”) in an effort to ensure that the best available science is being used to develop the most accurate estimates of the IWV groundwater basin and local groundwater supplies. The Water District believes in using the best science available and that science evolves and is ongoing. Before the valley begins moving forward with projects that will cost hundreds of millions of dollars it is critical to invest in the science and to ensure the most cost-effective solutions are implemented moving forward.

It is difficult to ignore the significant differences between the current values presently being used in the GSP and the estimates developed by the TWG. The values are as follows:

	<u>GSP</u>	<u>TWG</u>
Safe Yield	7,650 AFY	13,400 AFY
Potable Groundwater In Storage	1.85 Million AF	40 Million AF

Why are the TWG estimates significantly different from the GSP estimates?

Using renowned experts in hydrology, engineering and geology, the TWG estimates were determined using a comprehensive analysis of the most complete, up-to-date data sets available and state of the art analytical methodology. Previous studies that pre-date the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act were never focused on, or intended to, determine the specific requirement of the new law. These studies sometimes analyzed only smaller portions of the valley, did not include some potential sources of recharge, and were limited by the technology

available at the time. The study performed by the Technical Working Group specifically addressed all potential sources of recharge and the entire basin storage.

What Pumpers Comprise the TWG?

The TWG is comprised of 6 professional groundwater science and engineering consulting firms appointed by pumpers who accounted for more than 80% of the groundwater pumping during the 2022 Water Year. The Pumpers who appointed firms to the Technical Working Groups are the Indian Wells Valley Water District, Mojave Pistachios, John Thomas Conaway, Nugent Family Trust, and Sierra Shadows Ranch, Searles Valley Minerals, and Meadowbrook Dairy Real Estate. The 6 professional groundwater science and engineering consulting firms that comprise the TWG are:

Krieger & Stewart (K&S): K&S has provided civil and environmental engineering consulting services to public agency clients throughout California. K&S has served as the District's consulting engineer since 1976. Charles Krieger was appointed to serve on the TWG. He is a registered professional civil engineer (RCE 44545) in California and has extensive experience in all facets of groundwater resource management, including evaluating/identifying well locations, designing production and monitoring wells (diameter, depth, screened interval, casing material), prescribing well maintenance programs, and analyzing groundwater response to pumping activities. Kreiger & Stewart were appointed to the TWG by the Indian Wells Valley Water District.

Parker Groundwater: Founded in 2009 by President and Principal Hydrogeologist, Timothy K. Parker. Parker Groundwater provides both public and private clients with groundwater resource management, including the District for the past 10 years. Parker's experience spans some 30 years and includes water policy analysis, groundwater resources development, groundwater recharge & storage, groundwater management, modeling, monitoring, contaminant hydrogeology and more. He is a California Professional Geologist, Certified Engineering Geologist and Certified Hydrogeologist. Parker Groundwater was appointed to the TWG by the Indian Wells Valley Water District.

Ramboll: Ramboll is a global engineering, architecture and consultancy company with more than 18,000 experts that create sustainable solutions for governments and companies all over the world. Ramboll operates across 35 countries and combines deep local insight and experience with a global knowledge base to create sustainable societies and drive positive change. Ramboll was appointed to the TWG by the Indian Wells Valley Water District.

Aquilogic: Aquilogic has been working in the Valley for over a decade and is composed of a team of professionals who are committed to the development and application of solutions that deliver value to clients while protecting and restoring the environment. Combining exceptional technical capability with a personal approach to service, Aquilogic has proven itself as a leader in the fields of environmental and hydrological consulting services. Aquilogic was appointed to

the TWG by Mojave Pistachios, John Thomas Conaway, Nugent Family Trust, and Sierra Shadows Ranch.

Geoscience Support Services Inc.: For more than 45 years Geoscience Support Services has created groundwater models, designed wells and provided critical support for managing groundwater basins. Geoscience Support Services, Inc. is comprised of an esteemed team of engineers, geologists, and hydrologists focusing on groundwater resource needs. Leveraging technology, their degreed staff get the science right and deliver consistent, reliable results. Geoscience Support Services Inc. was appointed to the TWG by Searles Valley Minerals.

Luhdorff & Scalmanini Consulting Engineers: Founded in 1980, Luhdorff & Scalmanini Consulting Engineers comprises of a team of engineers, geologists, hydrogeologists, and hydrologists with extensive experience in groundwater management matters. Luhdorff & Scalmanini Consulting Engineers were appointed to the TWG by Meadowbrook Dairy Real Estate.

When will the Reports Supporting the TWG’s estimates be available for Public Review?

Unfortunately, the Water District is presently unable to publicly disclose the Reports. The Reports were prepared in furtherance of the Comprehensive Groundwater Adjudication lawsuit and are confidential at this time. The Reports were not just prepared by the Water District and no one party can release the result without the consent of the other members of the TWG.

The results were released to counter the Groundwater Authority’s claims to the Court that the state of the IWV groundwater basin is dire based on the GSP estimates. The Water District looks forward to the day when we are able to disclose and discuss the reports. The Water District will say that this is not “old” information as some allege. The TWG estimates were determined using a comprehensive analysis of the most complete, up-to-date data sets available and state-of-the art analytical methodology.

Will these New Estimates by the TWG Impact District Rates and Charges?

There are no current plans to adjust any District Rates or Charges as a result of these new estimates.

The District does collect the Groundwater Extraction Fee (\$105 AF) and the Replenishment Fee (\$2,130 AF) on behalf of the Groundwater Authority. 100 % of the fees collected by the Water District go directly to the Groundwater Authority. Any adjustments to Groundwater Authority fees must be done by the Groundwater Authority Board of Directors.

Will these New Estimates Lead to Lower District Rates and Charges and/or Lower Groundwater Authority Fees?

The Water District cannot speak for the Groundwater Authority, but we do not believe these new estimates will lead to any near term adjustments of any fees or charges.

The Water District does believe that these new estimates show that a serious evaluation of all available data (including the GSP) is needed. It is imperative we use the best available science, prior to imposing additional fees and financial burdens on our future generations.