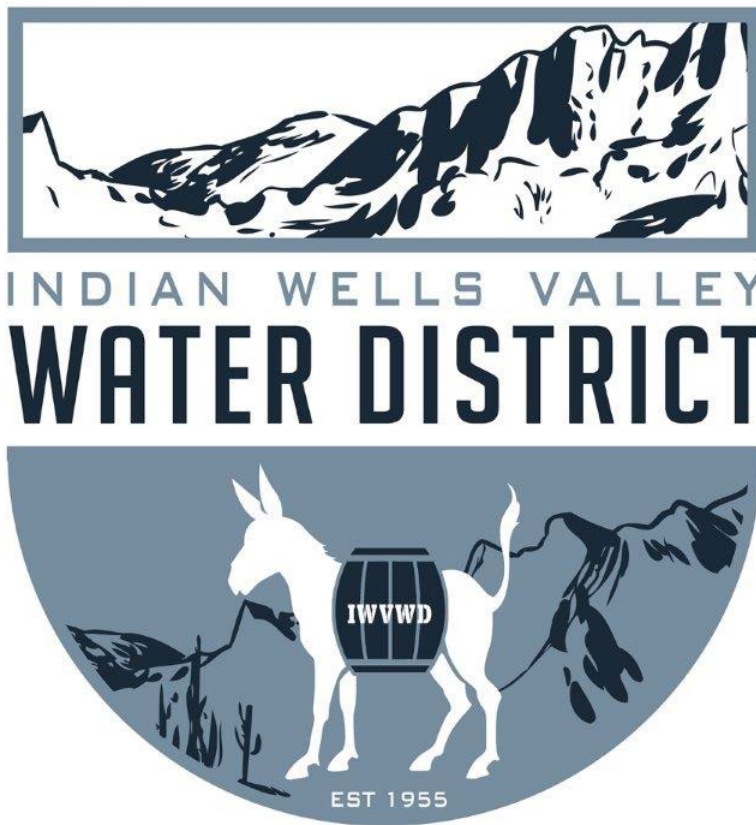


INDIAN WELLS VALLEY WATER DISTRICT

Board of Directors Meeting



September 9, 2024



INDIAN WELLS VALLEY WATER DISTRICT



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Ronald R. Kicinski, President
David C. H. Saint-Amand, Vice President
Mallory J. Boyd
Charles D. Griffin
Stanley G. Rajtora

George D. Croll
General Manager
Krieger & Stewart, Incorporated
Engineers
McMurtrey, Hartsock, Worth & St. Lawrence
Attorneys-at-Law

2024 COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

ADMINISTRATION/EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (KICINSKI/SAINT-AMAND)

Personnel, Legal Matters, General Plan, Community Relations, Board Meeting Agendas, Ordinances, Rules, Regulations, Policies, Procedures, Customer Service, Variances, Director’s Manual, etc.

FINANCE COMMITTEE (KICINSKI/SAINT-AMAND)

Rates, Cost-of-Service, Budget, Audits, Cost Allocation, Investments, Financial Services, Insurance, Loans/Grants, Water Sales & Service Policy Manual, Accounting, Assessment Districts, Billing, etc.

PLANT & EQUIPMENT COMMITTEE (BOYD/RAJTORA)

Transmission/Distribution System, Vehicles & Equipment, Wells, Reservoirs, Real Property Management, Telemetry, etc.

WATER MANAGEMENT (BOYD/GRIFFIN)

Groundwater Sustainability Act, Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority, Water Management, Water Policy, Water Quality, Conservation, Urban Water Management Plan, California Urban Water Conservation Council, Title 22 Compliance, Alternative sources for water supply including Blending, Importation, Reuse, etc.

Committee Meetings are generally scheduled on a regular day and time.
Committee Meetings are subject to change.

Administration/Executive
Finance
Plant & Equipment
Water Management

Wednesday before the Board Meeting at 2:00 p.m.
Tuesday before the Board Meeting at 2:30 p.m.
Tuesday before the Board Meeting at 2:00 p.m.
Wednesday before the Board Meeting at 3:00 p.m..

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
INDIAN WELLS VALLEY WATER DISTRICT

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

AGENDA

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2024
CLOSED SESSION - 4:30 P.M.
OPEN SESSION - 6:00 P.M.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS' HEARING ROOM
500 W. RIDGECREST BLVD., RIDGECREST

All District meetings are streamed live through Zoom

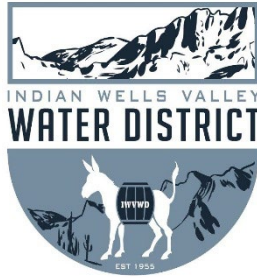
Join Zoom Meeting at: https://zoom.us/j/9649549487 Meeting ID: 964 954 9487	One tap mobile: 669-900-9128, 9649549487# US (San Jose) 669-444-9171, 9649549487# US Dial by your location: 669-900-9128 US (San Jose) 669-444-9171 US 253-215-8782 US (Tacoma)
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(In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you are a disabled person and you need a disability-related modification or accommodation to participate in this meeting, please contact Lauren Smith at (760) 384-5502. Requests must be made as early as possible and at least one full business day before the start of the meeting. Pursuant to Government Code section 54957.5, any materials relating to an open session item on this agenda, distributed to the Board of Directors after the distribution of the agenda packet, will be made available for public inspection at the time of distribution at the following location: Indian Wells Valley Water District, 500 W. Ridgecrest Blvd., Ridgecrest, CA.)

1. Call to Order
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Roll Call
4. Posting of Agenda Declaration
5. Conflict of Interest Declaration
6. Public Questions and Comments on Closed Session
7. Closed Session
 - A. Potential Litigation
Conference with Legal Counsel
2 Matters
(Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(2)(4))

- B. Existing Litigation
Conference with Legal Counsel
Mojave Pistachios, LLC v Indian Wells Valley Water District, et al.
Orange County Superior Court Case No. 30-2021-01187275-CU-OR-CJC
(Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(1))
 - C. Existing Litigation
Conference with Legal Counsel
Mojave Pistachios, LLC v Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority, et al.
Orange County Superior Court Case No. 30-2021-01187589-CU-WM-CXC
(Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(1))
 - D. Existing Litigation
Conference with Legal Counsel
Searles Valley Minerals Inc., v Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority, et al.
Orange County Superior Court Case No. 30-2021-01188089-CU-WM-CXC
(Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(1))
 - E. Personnel Matter
One Position: General Manager
(To consider the performance of a Public Employee)
(Pursuant to Government Code Section 54957)
8. Public Questions and Comments
(This portion of the meeting is reserved for persons desiring to address the Board on any matter not on the agenda and over which the Board has jurisdiction. However, no action may be taken by the Board of Directors on any item not appearing on the agenda. Non-agenda speakers are asked to limit their presentation to five minutes. Public questions and comments on items listed on the agenda will be accepted at any time the item is brought forth for consideration by the Board. When you are recognized by the chairperson, please state your name for the record.)
9. Current Business/Committee Reports
- A. Consent Calendar
Description: Approval of Board Meeting Minutes and Accounts Payable Disbursements.
 - 1. Approval of Minutes:
 - i. August 12, 2024, Regular Board Meeting
 - ii. August 28, 2024, Special Board Meeting
 - 2. Approval of Accounts Payable Disbursements
 - B. Rademacher Way Mainline Extension
Description: Board to discuss and consider approval of the Rademacher Way Mainline Extension, including Reimbursement Agreement with the IWVGA and direct staff to file a Notice of Exemption.
 - C. Clean Energy Capital Final Report on Imported Water Pipeline Cost Analysis
Description: Board to receive Clean Energy Capital's Final Report on Imported Water Pipeline Cost Analysis.

- D. Resolution No. 24-05: Opposing the Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority’s Proposed 50-Mile Water Pipeline from AVEK to Ridgecrest
Description: Board discussion and consideration of adopting Resolution No. 24-05 Opposing the IWVGA’s proposed Pipeline from AVEK to Ridgecrest.
- E. Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority
Description: Report and discussion regarding previous meetings of the Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority (IWVGA). Including, Board discussion and consideration of issues of importance requiring action by the IWVGA. Next meeting is scheduled for September 11, 2024.
- F. Comprehensive Adjudication
Description: Report and discussion regarding the status of the Comprehensive Adjudication.
- G. General Manager and Staff Update (The Board will consider and may act on the following items):
1. Water Production, New Services, and Personnel Safety Record
Description: Water produced from all District wells, report of the new services installed in the District, and personnel safety record for the preceding month.
 2. Public Outreach
Description: Public Outreach Report.
 3. NW Transmission Pipeline
Description: Update on this Project.
 4. Dune 3 and Hometown Water Consolidations Update
Description: Update on these Projects.
 5. Financial Status
Description: Report on the District’s current financial status.
 6. Conservation
Description: Update on the Conservation Program and discussion on water conservation related items.
 7. Arsenic Treatment Facilities
Description: Staff will update the Board on maintenance issues and production.
 8. Operations
Description: Staff report on operations.
10. Board Comments/Future Agenda Items
11. Adjournment



Committee Reports

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
INDIAN WELLS VALLEY WATER DISTRICT

PLANT AND EQUIPMENT COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING

REPORT

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 2024 – 2:00 PM
BOARD ROOM
500 W. RIDGECREST BLVD., RIDGECREST

Attendees: Mallory Boyd, Stan Rajtora, George Croll, Ty Staheli, Jason Lillion and Renee Morquecho.

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 2:01 pm.

2. Committee/Public Comments

None.

3. GIS System: Staff Update

The District recently moved its GIS system to a new contractor – Nobel Systems. To date Nobel has been very responsive and staff is pleased with how the system is running and enhancing daily operations and inventory tracking. Staff will be presenting some of the functions of the new system during the next Board meeting.

4. NW Transmission Pipeline Replacement Project: Update

Nicholas Construction is running two crews. Crew 1 is working on Victor Street connecting to Well 30. Crew 2 continues installing the new pipeline up to Jack's Ranch Road. They expect to be crossing under Jacks Ranch Rd next week. They also plan to fill and hydro test from Victor Street to Pinto Street.

5. Water System Consolidations: Update

The funding agreements for both Dune 3 and Hometown are being reviewed by the Department of Financial Assistance. The legal department must then review and approve the agreements before being sent for signature. Staff expects to receive the agreements from the State within the next few weeks.

Staff is working on preparation of the Statement of Qualifications for the Drinking Water Administrator Program. Staff also continues to work with the IWVGA on the Rademacher Way project. This project will most likely be completed in two phases.

6. Arsenic Treatment Facilities: Update

Plant 1 is online with both Wells 11 and 13 running through the system. Troubleshooting at Plant 2 has continued and the system should be back online in the next few days.

7. Future Agenda Items

- Lead service line inventory update
- La Mirage Housing Area Grant Funding
- Transmission pipeline(s) inspection
- Springer Ave pipeline schedule
- Imported pipeline infrastructure upgrades

8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:20 pm.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
INDIAN WELLS VALLEY WATER DISTRICT

FINANCE COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING

REPORT

TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 3, 2024 – 2:30 PM
BOARD ROOM
500 W. RIDGECREST BLVD., RIDGECREST

ATTENDEES: David Saint-Amand, Ron Kicinski, George Croll, Ty Staheli, Jason Lillion, and Renee Morquecho

1. Call to Order

The Finance Committee Meeting was called to order at 2:30 pm.

2. Committee/Public Comments

None.

3. Fraud Risk Discussion

Description: Discuss potential or actual fraud risks within the organization.

None to report.

4. GA Imported Water Costs

Description: Discuss imported water costs and potential impact to customers' bills

Committee discussed the lack of response from the Groundwater Authority and the City regarding the cost analysis and bill impact of the GA's proposed imported water pipeline project.

Committee also discussed several questions regarding the GA's imported water pipeline project, including; the discrepancy in House vs Senate funding of the GA's pipeline project, \$50 million vs. \$5 million, the required matching funds, and how the GA plans to collect those funds.

5. Second Quarter 2024 Investment Reports

Description: Presentation to Committee of the quarterly investment earnings of the District's reserves in the Kern County Treasury and the State Treasury's Local Agency Investment Fund (LAIF).

**INDIAN WELLS VALLEY WATER DISTRICT
 QUARTERLY INVESTMENT REPORT
 QUARTER ENDING JUNE 2024**

INVESTMENTS	UNRESTRICTED	RESTRICTED	TOTAL
Cash in Bank	\$ 1,371,255	0	
Local Agency Investment Fund	334,745		
Kern County Treasurer	7,441,251	3,663,978	
BNY Mellon 2024 Bond Project Fund		7,495,712	
Total Water District Investments	<u>\$ 9,147,252</u>	<u>\$ 11,159,691</u>	<u>\$ 20,306,943</u>

RESERVES	DISTRICT DESIGNATED	RESTRICTED	TOTAL
Capital Improvements & Replacements (Committed)	\$ 1,332,900		
Vehicle Replacement (Assigned)	350,710		
Computer Equipment Replacement (Assigned)	100,203		
Emergency Reserve (Committed)	3,318,659		
Alternate Water Supply/Future Source of Supply (Assigned)	2,005,617		
Miscellaneous Capital (Assigned for projects postponed)	90	3,000,000	
Customer Deposits & Credits (Nonspendable)	342,192		
Prepaid Connection Fees (Nonspendable)	408,610		
Post-Retirement Health Benefits - Kern County (Assigned)	333,071		
Emergency Reserve (Uncommitted)	955,199		
AD 87-1 Reserve Funds (Restricted to pay Prop 55 Loan)		593,617	
2024 Bond Project Funds		7,495,712	
Capital Facility Fees		<u>70,361</u>	
Total Water District Reserves	<u>\$ 9,147,252</u>	<u>\$ 11,159,691</u>	<u>\$ 20,306,943</u>

In the event of an emergency, the District may be required to use any or all unrestricted funds in Mission Bank, Kern County Treasury and LAIF

6. Financial Statements August 31, 2024 (preliminary)

Description: Presentation to Committee financial reports and graphs depicting current revenue and expense trends compared to budget and previous fiscal year actuals.

Estimated year-to-date revenues as of August 31, 2024, are \$2,502,811 and expenses are \$2,714,047, therefore expenditures exceeded revenues by \$211,237, which is better than budget by \$685,148.

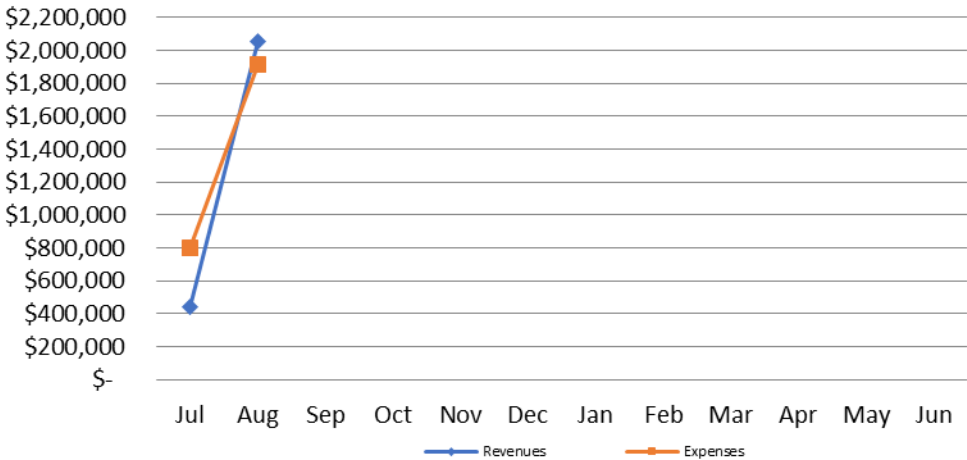
To date, the District has paid the Groundwater Authority \$15,184,092 in fees.

Staff presented the following spreadsheet, which compares August year-to-date actual to budgeted revenues and expenses by category:

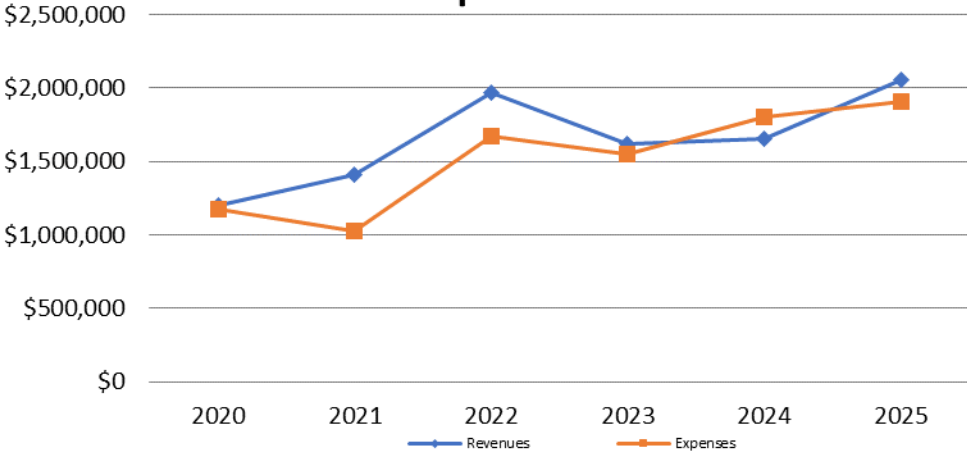
Indian Wells Valley Water District
Revenues vs. Expense
Actuals & Budget through August 2024 (Preliminary)

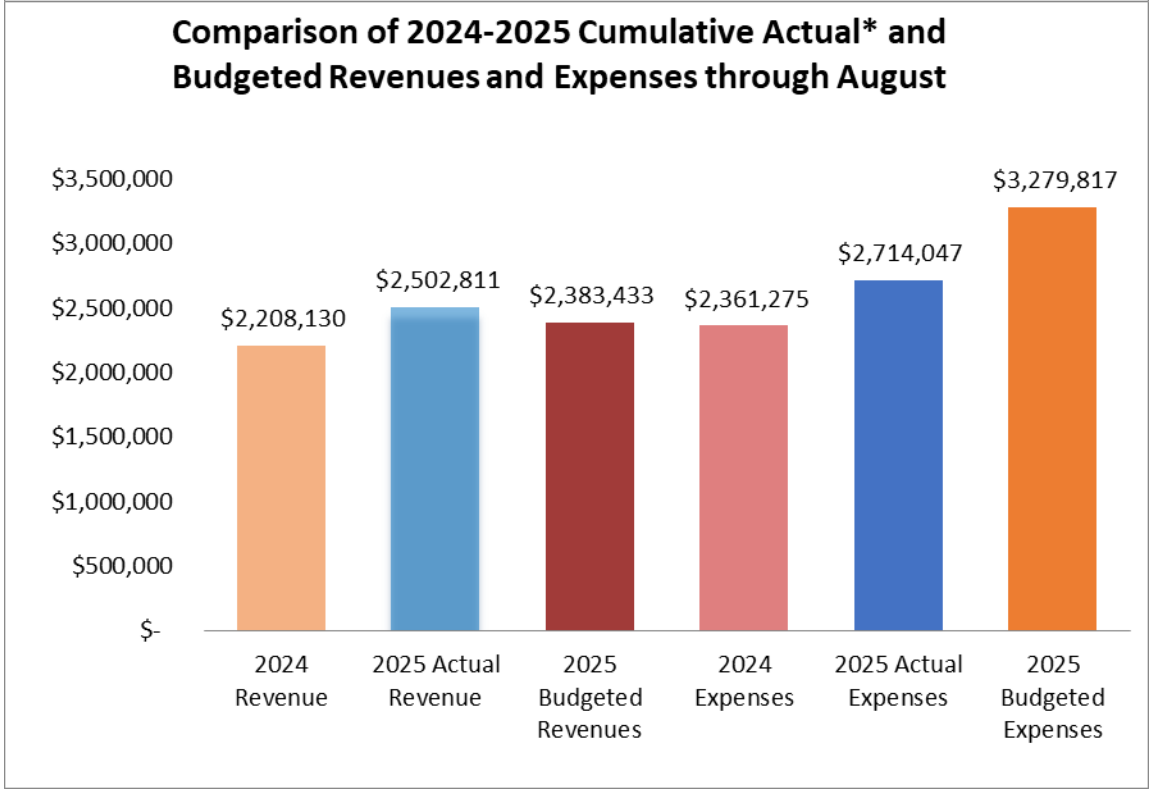
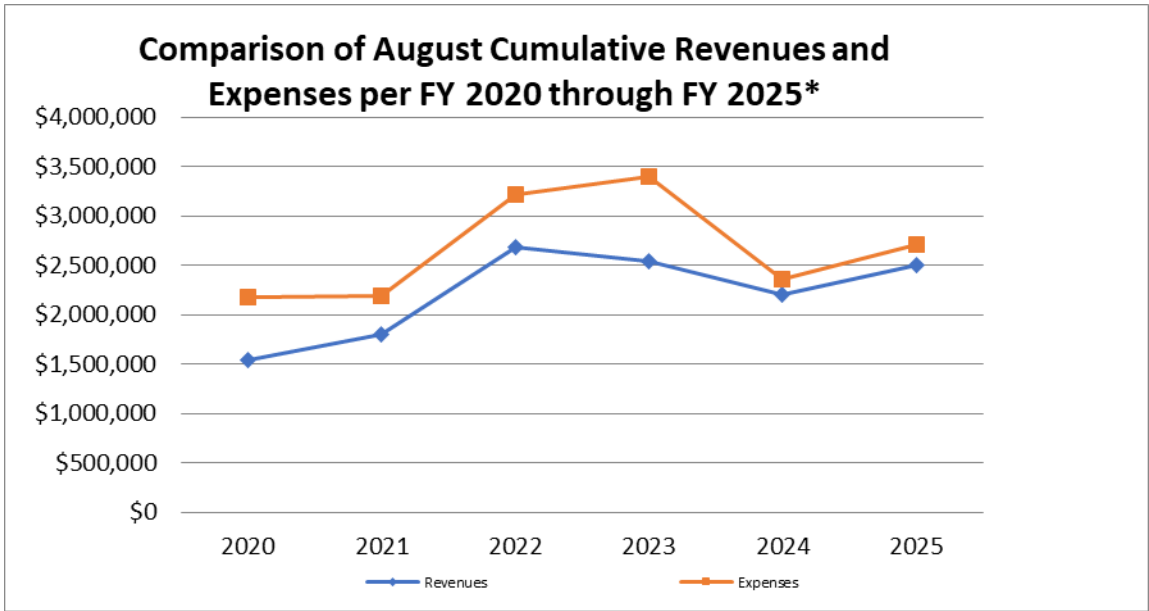
	Budget	Actuals	Δ
Revenues			
Total Water Sales	1,844,715	1,603,711	-241,004
GSA Fees	439,483	754,394	314,911
Total Water Service Revenue	53,077	72,340	19,263
Total Non-Operating Income	21,815	29,168	7,352
Capital Contributions	24,343	43,198	18,855
Total Revenues	2,383,433	2,502,811	119,378
Expenses			
Water Supply	274,395	200,006	-74,388
Arsenic Treatment Plants	77,231	73,574	-3,658
Transmission & Distribution	377,132	226,530	-150,602
Engineering	122,273	73,489	-48,784
Customer Service	87,354	65,385	-21,969
Field Services	96,422	54,530	-41,892
General & Administration	466,512	365,416	-101,096
Legal	321,290	62,171	-259,119
Legislative	20,191	8,902	-11,289
Depreciation	550,000	550,000	0
Non-Operating, Interest	291,193	291,193	0
Non-Operating, Miscellaneous	48,363	47,980	-383
GSA Fees	526,123	690,973	164,851
Non-Operating, Conservation	5,783	1,975	-3,808
Non-Operating, Alternate Water	15,557	1,925	-13,632
Total Expenses	3,279,817	2,714,047	-565,770
Net Revenue Increase (Decrease)	-896,384	-211,237	685,148
Capital Expenditures		2,148,595	
Debt Service Principle		185,277	
Total GSA Extraction Fee Paid		2,805,108	
Total GSA Replenishment Fee Paid		12,378,984	
		15,184,092	

Comparison of FY 2023-2024 Revenues and Expenses by Month



Comparison of August Revenues and Expenses per Fiscal Year





**Actual Revenues and Expenses are Estimated*

Committee discussion also included overview of the current budget and financial health of the Water District. Slides included.

7. Accounts Payable Disbursements

Description: Presentation to Committee of Accounts Payable Disbursements reports for Board approval.

The Committee recommended approval of accounts payable disbursements totaling \$1,454,173.42 as follows:

Checks through:	<u>8/1/24</u>	<u>8/15/24</u>	<u>8/29/24</u>
Prepaid	\$ 0.00	\$ 51,507.27	\$ 49,965.05
Current	<u>291,585.69</u>	<u>910,391.38</u>	<u>150,724.03</u>
Total	<u>\$ 291,585.69</u>	<u>\$ 961,898.65</u>	<u>\$ 200,689.08</u>

8. Future Agenda Items

None

9. CLOSED SESSION

President Kicinski recessed the meeting and adjourned to Closed Session at 3:04 p.m.

The meeting was reconvened in Closed Session at 3:07 p.m.

The meeting was reconvened to Open Session at 3:46 p.m.

No action was taken that requires disclosure under the Brown Act.

10. Adjournment

The Committee adjourned at 3:52 pm.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
INDIAN WELLS VALLEY WATER DISTRICT

ADMINISTRATION/EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 2024 – 2:00 P.M.

BOARD ROOM
500 W. RIDGECREST BLVD., RIDGECREST

Attendees: Ron Kicinski, David Saint-Amand, George Croll, Jason Lillion, Ty Staheli, and Renee Morquecho

1. **Call to Order**
The meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m.
2. **Committee/Public Comments**
None.
3. **Outstanding Public Record Requests (PRR)**
Legal and staff are working through the list of current outstanding PRRs.
4. **Draft Agenda for the Regular Board Meeting of September 9, 2024**
The Committee reviewed the agenda and made minor changes.
5. **Future Agenda Items**
None.
6. **Adjournment**
The meeting adjourned at 2:10 p.m.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
INDIAN WELLS VALLEY WATER DISTRICT

WATER MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 2024 – 3:00 P.M.

BOARD ROOM
500 W. RIDGECREST BLVD., RIDGECREST

Attendees: Mallory Boyd, Chuck Griffin, George Croll, Jason Lillion, Tyrell Staheli, and Renee Morquecho

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 3:01 p.m.

2. Committee/Public Comments

None.

3. Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority (IWVGA)

Director Griffin reported that the August IWVGA Board Meeting was canceled due to a lack of quorum. The next meeting is scheduled for next Wednesday, September 11, 2024.

a. Discuss feasible alternatives to the pipeline project.

The IWVGA board has asked the District to attend their board meeting in order to discuss any feasible alternatives to the proposed pipeline project. The committee feels that it is important to provide the public with all of the information that is available. This decision shall be taken to the board for discussion and approval at next week's board meeting.

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

With all of the future limitations that are being placed on the District by the State of California, it would be very beneficial for the basin to have a recycled water plant. Director Griffin feels that the District should reopen the lines of communication with the City of Ridgecrest so that the two entities can work together to find a solution. Mr. Croll will reach out to the City Manager with regards to setting up a meeting. Director Boyd suggests that an Ad hoc committee would be advantageous as it would open more discussions and focus directly on the possibilities, research, and costs.

5. Alternate Water Sources

a. Exploration of sub-basins within the valley

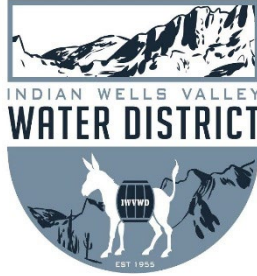
The committee discussed the possibility of drilling more monitoring wells in the future and the financial cost of doing so.

6. Future Agenda Items

None.

7. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 3:21 p.m.



Approval of Minutes

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
INDIAN WELLS VALLEY WATER DISTRICT

AUGUST 12, 2024

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Indian Wells Valley Water District was called to order by President Kicinski at 4:30 p.m. in the Board of Directors Hearing Room, 500 West Ridgecrest Boulevard, Ridgecrest, California. **CALL TO ORDER**

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mallory Boyd. **PLEDGE**

DIRECTORS PRESENT: President Ronald R. Kicinski
Director Mallory J. Boyd
Director Charles D. Griffin
Director Stan G. Rajtora **ROLL CALL**

DIRECTORS ABSENT: Vice President David C.H. Saint-Amand

STAFF PRESENT: George Croll, General Manager
Jim Worth, Attorney
Jason Lillion, Operations Manager
Renée Morquecho, Chief Engineer
Tyrell Staheli, Chief Financial Officer
Lauren Smith, Recording Secretary

AGENDA DECLARATION **AGENDA DECLARATION**
Recording Secretary, Lauren Smith, reported that the agenda for today's Regular Board Meeting was posted on Thursday, August 8, 2024.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATION **CONFLICT OF INTEREST**
None.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS ON CLOSED SESSION **PUBLIC COMMENTS**
None.

With no further Board or Public comments, President Kicinski recessed the meeting and adjourned to Closed Session at 4:32 p.m.

CLOSED SESSION **CLOSED SESSION**
The meeting was reconvened in Closed Session at 4:34 p.m.

Closed Session was adjourned at 6:05 p.m.

The meeting was reconvened to Open Session at 6:08 p.m.

No action was taken that requires disclosure under the Brown Act.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

The Board heard public comment from Mike Neel and Renee Westa-Lusk.

**PUBLIC
COMMENTS**

JULY WORKSHOP DEFERRED ITEMS

George Croll provided an update on WaterView.

**JULY W.S.
WATERVIEW**

Renee Morquecho provided a report on the District's water losses, consumption, and production. (PowerPoint available on website.)

**WATER LOSSES,
CONSUMP.,
PRODUCTION**

The Board discussed ongoing goals, such as recycled water and Los Angeles Department of Water & Power (LADWP) water release into Indian Wells Valley.

GOALS

CONSENT CALENDAR

MOTION: was made by Directors Boyd and seconded by Director Rajtora approving the Minutes of the July 8, 2024, Regular Board Meeting, Minutes of the July 18, 2024, Special Workshop, and Payment of Accounts Payable totaling \$908,908,48. Motion was carried, unanimously. (Ayes: Boyd, Griffin, Kicinski, Rajtora. Nays: None. Absent: Saint-Amand.)

**CONSENT
CALENDAR**

PLANT & EQUIPMENT COMMITTEE

Staff presented the Board with information regarding the Drinking Water Administrator Program and the requirement to submit a Statement of Qualifications (SOQ). The State Water Resources Control Board Drinking Water Program has requested that the District submit an SOQ in preparation for possible request to become the Administrator of the Inyokern Community Services District.

**P&E:
DRINKING
WATER ADMIN
PROG.**

The Board heard public comment from Judie Decker, Renee Westa-Lusk, and Mike Neel.

MOTION: was made by Director Griffin and seconded by Director Boyd approving the District to submit a Statement of Qualifications (SOQ) to the State Water Resources Control Board to become a Drinking Water Administrator. Motion was carried, unanimously. (Ayes: Boyd, Griffin, Kicinski, Rajtora. Nays: None. Absent: Saint-Amand.)

The Notice of Exemption for possible Rademacher Way pipeline project is to be tabled until ready.

**RADEMACHER
MAINLINE EXT.**

ADMINISTRATION EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Board previously agreed to not create a policy regarding CCWs, and to permit firearms in accordance with state law pertaining to CCWs. However, upon inspection of the Personnel Manual, a mention of firearms was brought to legal's attention. The Personnel Manual states that "Possession or use of firearms or alcohol while on duty or at any District facility" is prohibited.

**ADMIN/EXEC
CM:
CCW**

Legal and staff to revise the Personnel Manual accordingly.

MOTION: was made by Director Griffin and seconded by Director Boyd directing staff to revise the Personnel Manual accordingly to meet state requirements. Motion was carried, unanimously. (Ayes: Boyd, Griffin, Kicinski, Rajtora. Nays: None. Absent: Saint-Amand.)

Staff requests the office to be closed on Thursday, December 26th and Thursday, January 2nd, as the office will already be closed on the Wednesdays prior in observance of Christmas and New Years holidays. **REQUEST FOR OFFICE CLOSURE**

MOTION: was made by Director Boyd and seconded by Director Rajtora approving request to close the District on Thursday, December 26th and Thursday, January 2nd in Observance of preceding holidays. Motion was carried, unanimously. (Ayes: Boyd, Griffin, Kicinski, Rajtora. Nays: None. Absent: Saint-Amand.)

Resolution item tabled until a future Board meeting.

RESOLUTION NO. 24-05

California Occupational Safety and Health Standards requires employers to develop and implement a "Heat Illness Prevention in Indoor Places of Employment" to establish required safety measures for indoor places of employment to prevent employee exposure to the risk of heat illness.

HIP PLAN

Jason Lillion reviewed the draft Heat Illness Prevention (HIP) Plan with the Board.

MOTION: was made by Director Griffin and seconded by Director Rajtora approving the Indoor Heat Illness Prevention Plan as presented. Motion was carried, unanimously. (Ayes: Boyd, Griffin, Kicinski, Rajtora. Nays: None. Absent: Saint-Amand.)

INDIAN WELLS VALLEY GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY (IWVGA)

IWVGA

The Board discussed action items from the July 10th meeting, including:

- Discussion on the use of the \$3.3 million Consolidation Grant
- Federal Funding award for the interconnection pipeline project
- Presentation on updates to the basin groundwater model

The August IWVGA meeting was cancelled due to lack of a quorum. The next meeting is scheduled for September 11th.

The Board heard public comment from Judie Decker, Mike Neel, and Renee Westa-Lusk.

COMPREHENSIVE ADJUDICATION

COMPREHENSIVE ADJUDICATION

Jim Worth reported on the Adjudication Hearing held on August 5th. Searles Valley Minerals (SVM) had filed a motion to schedule a Phase 2 trial on the issue of safe yield. The IWVGA argued that because the Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) was approved by the DWR, that the court was prohibited from taking evidence other than what was in the GSP to establish safe yield. At the October Hearing, a Phase 2 trial date will be set. At the August Hearing, the Judge made it clear that during the Phase 2 trial, the Technical Working Group (TWG) will be able to present its evidence regarding safe yield to the Court for consideration.

The TWG will produce the Safe Yield White Paper to the public at least 30-days after the Hearing, around the first week of September. The TWG hopes the IWVGA, for transparency, will release its groundwater model to the public also.

The next Hearing is scheduled for October 2nd at 1:30 p.m.

The Board heard public comment from Judie Decker, Renee Westa-Lusk, and Mike Neel.

GENERAL MANAGER AND STAFF UPDATE

**GENERAL
MANAGER AND
STAFF UPDATE**

Mr. Croll reported the monthly water data for July. Water produced: 258,484,300 gallons, water consumed: 204,480,012 gallons (11% commercial, 4% other, 85% residential), and estimated loss 13,586,025gallons (which is water lost to meter inaccuracy, flushing, and theft, etc.)

Nicholas Construction has been removing the old 30-inch CMLC pipe and has completed removal up to Primavera. After further investigation, a decision was made to also replace the CMLC pipe in Victor up to Well 30 (the closest to Hwy 178). This is approximately 700 additional feet of 24-inch PVC. The cost is approximately \$213,000 but Nicholas has submitted a request to use native soil for backfill which will give the District a credit of \$200,000. NW TRANSM. PIPELINE

The District received a draft general counsel opinion letter and request for a letter designating the authorized representative from the District to sign documents for the Hometown Water System consolidation funding. Staff and legal are reviewing them at this time. Staff expects to receive the same type of request soon for the Dune 3 consolidation. CONSOLIDATION PROJECTS

The estimated year-to-date revenues as of July 31, 2024, are \$518,204 and expenses are \$769,660. Expenditures exceeded revenues by \$251,456, which is better than budget by \$627,945. To date, the District has paid \$14,493,119 in GA Fees to the Groundwater Authority. FINANCIAL STATUS

Mr. Staheli reported on the following conservation items: State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) Water Waster Report - there have been 12 water waste reports received with 12 contacts made. There has been one formal Second Notice and one penalty issued. CONSERVATION

Plant 1 is now online and running at half capacity. After all the bugs have been worked out, staff will bring the Plant to full capacity. Plant 2 experienced an error in the meter, it was reporting erroneous flows. Staff is investigating the source of the error. ARSENIC TREATMENT

Mr. Lillion reported for the month of July, 11 services were repaired and 21 were replaced. The NO-DES truck made zero runs in July. Since inception, the NO-DES truck has filtered 9,428,891 gallons. Six valves were exercised. He further reported District staff is working with Nobel Systems to bring the new GIS system online. The new system provides a more streamlined approach to work orders and workflow. Staff is planning on giving a demonstration to the Board at a future meeting. OPERATIONS

George Croll reviewed a slide regarding the IWVGA 2030 pumping correction. Mr. Croll clarified the IWVGA wanted to correct that the table was not an allocation table. (Slide available on website.)

BOARD COMMENTS/FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

**BOARD
COMMENTS**

Director Boyd thanked staff for their help with Inyokern CSD.

Director Rajtora thanked Jason Lillion for his report on the Inyokern Transmission Mainline for the newspapers. He also urged the Board to move forward with the Resolution formally opposing the IWVGA's water pipeline from AVEK to Ridgecrest.

Director Griffin echoed Director Rajtora's comments on the IWVGA pipeline and hopes to see the Resolution on the September agenda.

ADJOURNMENT

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lauren Smith
Recording Secretary

APPROVED: _____

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL BOARD MEETING

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
INDIAN WELLS VALLEY WATER DISTRICT

AUGUST 28, 2024

The Special Board Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Indian Wells Valley Water District was called to order by President Kicinski at 4:00 p.m. in the Board of Directors Hearing Room, 500 West Ridgecrest Boulevard, Ridgecrest, California.

CALL TO ORDER

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by George Croll.

PLEDGE

DIRECTORS PRESENT: President Ronald R. Kicinski
Director Mallory J. Boyd
Director Charles D. Griffin (*absent at roll call*)
Director Stan G. Rajtora

ROLL CALL

DIRECTORS ABSENT: Vice President David C.H. Saint-Amand

STAFF PRESENT: George Croll, General Manager
Jason Lillion, Operations Manager
Lauren Smith, Recording Secretary

VIA TELECONFERENCE: Jim Worth, Attorney

**AGENDA
DECLARATION**

AGENDA DECLARATION

Recording Secretary, Lauren Smith, reported that the agenda for today's Special Board Meeting was posted on Monday, August 26, 2024.

**CONFLICT OF
INTEREST**

CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATION

None.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

None.

**PUBLIC
COMMENTS**

With no further Board or Public comments, President Kicinski recessed the meeting and adjourned to Closed Session at 4:02 p.m.

**CLOSED
SESSION**

CLOSED SESSION

The meeting was reconvened in Closed Session at 4:12 p.m.

Closed Session was adjourned at 6:06 p.m.

The meeting was reconvened to Open Session at 6:12 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

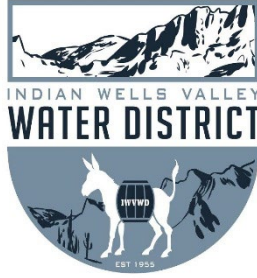
ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 6:13 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lauren Smith
Recording Secretary

APPROVED: _____



9.B.

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

To: Office of Planning and Research
P.O. Box 3044, Room 113
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

From: Indian Wells Valley Water District
500 W. Ridgecrest Blvd.
Ridgecrest, CA 93555

County Clerk, County of Kern
1115 Truxtun Avenue
Bakersfield, CA 93301

Project Title:

Rademacher Way Mainline Extension Project

Project Location:

The project will be located within Rademacher Way, south of Springer Avenue in Kern County, just outside the City of Ridgecrest.

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project:

Phase 1 of the Project is the installation of 1000±L.F. of 8-inch PVC water pipe within Rademacher Way to include service to two abutting parcels and installation of two fire hydrants. The beneficiaries of the Project are the residents of Rademacher Way that currently are served water from wells that no longer produce potable water.

Phase 2 will consist of the installation of an additional 1000±L.F. of 8-inch PVC water pipe within Rademacher Way (north of Phase 1 pipeline); 1600±L.F. of 8-inch PVC water pipe within China Lake Blvd. (running southwesterly); and 1200±L.F. of 8-inch PVC water pipe within S. Gordon Street (running south), where it will tie into the District's Springer Pipeline. Phase 2 further consists of installation of lateral water lines and meters connecting the residences to the 8-inch pipe and installation of two fire hydrants is needed to consolidate those remaining residences with the District ("Phase 2).

Public Agency Approving Project:

Indian Wells Valley Water District

Agency Carrying Out Project:

Indian Wells Valley Water District

Exempt Status:

Statutory Exemption: State CEQA Guidelines Section 15282(k)

Reasons Why Project is Exempt: The new pipeline is needed to prevent or mitigate the loss of a potable water supply for those residents impacted by failing well(s).

14 Cal. Code Reg. § 15269(c): Specific actions to prevent or mitigate an emergency.

Reasons Why Project is Exempt: This is the installation of a new pipeline that does not exceed one mile in length.

14 Cal. Code Reg. § 15282(k): The installation of new pipeline or maintenance, repair, restoration, removal, or demolition of an existing pipeline as set forth in Section

21080.21 of the Public Resources Code, as long as the project does not exceed one mile in length.

Agency Contact Person:

Telephone

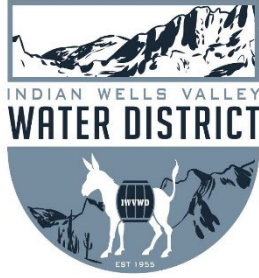
George Croll

(760) 375-5086

Date: _____

Signature: _____

George Croll, General Manager



9.D.

RESOLUTION NO. 24-04

RESOLUTION OF THE INDIAN WELLS VALLEY WATER DISTRICT, KERN AND SAN BERNARDINO COUNTIES, CALIFORNIA, OPPOSING THE INDIAN WELLS VALLEY GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY'S PROPOSED WATER PIPELINE FROM AVEK TO RIDGECREST

WHEREAS, the Indian Wells Valley Water District (District) is a county water district formed and operating pursuant to California Water Code sections 30000 et seq.; and

WHEREAS, the District is the primary water supplier to residents and businesses in and around the City of Ridgecrest; and

WHEREAS, the Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority ("Authority") was formed after enactment of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act ("SGMA") for the purpose of becoming the exclusive Groundwater Sustainability Agency for the Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Basin ("IWV Basin"); and

WHEREAS, the Authority adopted its Groundwater Sustainability Plan, with proposed management actions, to achieve sustainability for the IWV Basin on or about January 16, 2020 ("GSP"); and

WHEREAS, the Authority has determined that the only way to achieve sustainability is to construct a 50-mile pipeline from the Antelope Valley-East Kern Water Agency ("AVEK") to Ridgecrest ("Authority Pipeline") to transport imported water to be purchased by the Authority; and

WHEREAS, the mission of the District "is to deliver the highest quality water at the best possible price while continuing to serve as respectful stewards of the environment"; and

WHEREAS, the District has conducted its own analysis of the feasibility of the Authority Pipeline and, as a result, hereby opposes any Authority actions to construct the Authority Pipeline; and

WHEREAS, the Board considered several factors, including the following, in reaching its determination to formally oppose the Authority Pipeline:

1. An independent cost analysis prepared by Clean Energy Capital ("CEC") estimates the cost of the Authority Pipeline to be approximately Three Hundred Million Dollars (\$300,000,000.00) and not the Two Hundred Million Dollars (\$200,000,000.00) estimated by the Authority.
2. The costs to import water include not only the cost to construct the Authority Pipeline, but also annual Operation & Maintenance costs for the Authority Pipeline, the cost to purchase the imported water, and various miscellaneous annual fees, all of which need to be considered as costs for the Authority's imported water project.
3. Operations and Maintenance for the Authority Pipeline alone is estimated to be Eight to Ten Million Dollars per year.
4. Since 2021, the District has paid over Twelve Million Three Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$12,300,000.00) to the Authority in Replenishment Fees to purchase imported water; yet, to date, no water has been purchased.
5. The Authority has failed to consider or comment on the cost analysis prepared by CEC, even though the District provided the cost analysis to the Authority prior to finalizing and expressly requested input from the Authority.
6. The Authority has failed to adequately address technical concerns the District has raised with respect to the Authority Pipeline, including matters such as the "tie-in" to District facilities, the District's ability to accept all of the water, as well as ultimate use or storage of the imported water.
7. Notwithstanding the high price of the Authority Pipeline to the community and District customers, the Authority has failed to complete any economic feasibility studies on the potential social and economic impacts on the community.
8. The Authority has failed to explain how the overall costs of the Authority Pipeline and the imported water project costs will be charged to and paid by the community and District customers.
9. The District estimates that the costs of the Authority's imported water project could cause an increase in District water rates approaching 190% of what District customers currently pay.

10. The Authority's justification for the Authority Pipeline is based on the premise that the sustainable yield of the IWV Basin is only 7,650 acre-feet per year and that usable groundwater in storage is less than two million acre-feet according to the Authority's GSP.

11. The District does not believe that the Authority's GSP, or conclusions, are based on the best available science; therefore, the District and other major pumpers in the IWV Basin formed the Technical Working Group ("TWG") for the purpose of using the best available science to estimate the IWV Basin's safe yield and amount of groundwater in storage.

12. The TWG estimates that the IWV Basin's safe yield is approximately 14,300 acre-feet per year and that usable groundwater in storage exceeds thirty million (30,000,000) acre-feet.

13. The Judge in the District's comprehensive groundwater adjudication recently ruled that the Authority's estimate of sustainable yield is subject to judicial review in the Court's setting of a Phase 2 trial on safe yield and is not protected from scrutiny notwithstanding DWR's "approval" of the GSP.

14. The District believes it is in the best interest of the community and District customers to stop work on the Authority Pipeline until there is a final court determination on safe yield and related issues.

15. The District believes that the Authority has failed to adequately investigate alternatives to the Authority Pipeline.

16. The District believes that recycled water should be the top priority when developing new or additional water supplies for the IWV Basin as the water and any needed infrastructure would be located within the IWV Basin.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

Section 1. That all of the foregoing is true and correct.

Section 2. Any District authorized representative is hereby directed to take such further action as may be necessary, appropriate or advisable to effectuate the foregoing Resolution.

The undersigned hereby certifies that the foregoing resolution was duly adopted by the Board of Directors at the meeting referenced herein, and that the documents attached are the true copies of the documents referenced in those resolutions.

All the foregoing being on the motion of Director and seconded by Director, and authorized by the following vote, namely:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing resolution is the resolution of Indian Wells Valley Water District as duly passed and adopted by said Board of Directors at a legally convened meeting held on the 9th day of September, 2024.

WITNESS my hand and the official seal of said Board of Directors this 9th day of September, 2024.

ADOPTED AND APPROVED this 9th day of September, 2024.

Ronald R. Kicinski
President, Board of Directors
INDIAN WELLS VALLEY WATER DISTRICT

ATTEST:

George D. Croll
Secretary, Board of Directors
INDIAN WELLS VALLEY WATER DISTRICT

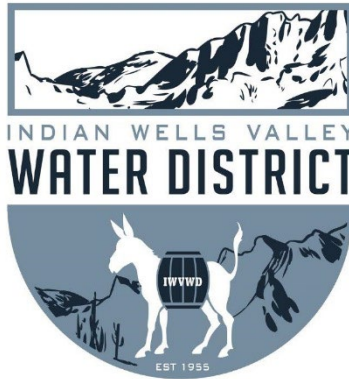
(SEAL)



9.G.6.

SWRCB Water Waster Report

	# of water waste reports received	# of contacts made (written or verbal)	# of formal warning actions	# of penalties issued
Jan-24	0	0	0	0
Feb-24	2	2	0	0
Mar-24	4	4	1	1
Apr-24	1	1	0	0
May-24	1	1	0	0
Jun-24	4	4	0	0
Jul-24	0	0	0	0
Aug-24	3	3	1	0
Sep-24				
Oct-24				
Nov-24				
Dec-24				
SUBTOTAL 2015	378	376	40	10
SUBTOTAL 2016	406	399	28	3
SUBTOTAL 2017	70	68	10	4
SUBTOTAL 2018	60	58	7	4
SUBTOTAL 2019	56	56	8	1
SUBTOTAL 2020	42	42	8	2
SUBTOTAL 2021	131	131	12	4
SUBTOTAL 2022	106	106	6	0
SUBTOTAL 2023	64	64	24	7
SUBTOTAL 2024	15	15	2	1
TOTAL	1313	1300	143	35
TOTAL PENALTIES BILLED				\$3,450
TOTAL PENALTIES COLLECTED				\$3,050



The Mission of the

Indian Wells Valley Water District

is to deliver the highest quality water at the best possible price while continuing to serve as respectful stewards of the environment.

The Vision of the

Indian Wells Valley Water District

is to provide for self-sustaining water resources now and for generations to come.

Board of Directors