

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
INDIAN WELLS VALLEY WATER DISTRICT

WATER MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2023 – 2:00 P.M.

BOARD ROOM
500 W. RIDGECREST BLVD., RIDGECREST

Attendees: Ron Kicinski, Stan Rajtora, Don Zdeba, Jason Lillion, and Ty 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

Discussion of actions taken at the February 8, 2023, Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority (IWVGA) Regular Board meeting:

- The IWVGA Board approved three documents for the imported water project.
- There was discussion regarding the compensation for the repairs made to the Heritage Village well and the topic was tabled until the March IWVGA regular board meeting.
- The annual report was presented to the IWVGA Board and staff; however, the topic was tabled until next month's meeting as there was not sufficient time to review that all comments were taken into account.
- The next IWVGA Regular Board meeting is scheduled for March 8, 2023

Public Comment regarding the IWVGA –

- Mike Neel requested that the Indian Wells Valley Water District (IWWVD) Board remind the IWVGA Board that the shallow well mitigation program was created for potable/residential water wells, not community irrigation wells.

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

During discussion of Item A2 on the agenda of the January 24th Board Workshop, Board discussion of potential Strategic Planning Effort, the Board requested to add recycled water as an agenda item for this committee meeting.

The committee discussed ways to approach the City of Ridgecrest regarding working together to find a mutually beneficial plan for the recycled water project. The IWWVD Board initially sent a letter to the City of Ridgecrest in 2020 but did not receive a response. The Board will request a project update from Krieger & Stewart (who has been working with Stetson on the Recycled Water Project) to see where the project currently stands. Once the Board has been updated, they shall draft and send a new letter to the

City of Ridgecrest.

5. Brackish Water Study

There is nothing significant to report since last month. The 2022 Annual Report is still being prepared to submit to the Department of Water Resources. Last month it was reported four hypothetical scenarios for treatment methods have been developed. The costs for additional system components such as extraction wells, pipelines, reservoirs, etc. are still being developed. The amended project completion date is December 30, 2023.

6. Alternate Water Sources

a. Exploration of sub-basins within the valley

At the January 19, 2022, 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.

John Jansen, with Collier Geophysical, continues to work on the final draft of his report on interpretation of the 104 miles of seismic data that has been reprocessed.

It was agreed John would include determination of net clay percentages along with the net sand percentages he had already completed for each HG zone since clays can contain groundwater as well.

At the January 24, 2023, Board workshop, the Board tasked staff with drafting a plan for exploring potential of the El Paso Subbasin to provide a water supply not currently being fully utilized. Tim Parker, Dave Scriven and I had an initial call this past Monday to discuss the approach being taken and progress to date. Tim will be reviewing the aerial electromagnetic data from the SkyTEM flyover as well as geologic logs in the area to assist in identifying sites to consider for drilling exploration wells. We expect to circle back on a call sometime next week. This effort will build on the work previously performed by Krieger & Stewart in 2021.

7. Future Agenda Items

None.

8. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 2:57 pm