

INDIAN WELLS VALLEY GSA-ELIGIBLE AGENCIES
TELECONFERENCE MEETING NOTES

Dec. 3, 2015 – 2:30-4:00 PM

ATTENDEES:

Alan Christensen, Phil Hall, Mick Gleason, Leigh Ann Cook, Craig Murphy – Kern County
Tim Parker, Parker Groundwater – Consultant to Kern County
Dale Schaefer, DWR Facilitator
Bob Harrington, Inyo County
John O’Gara, Mike Stoner- US Navy
Chick Griffin, Renee Morquecho, IWVWD
Peggy Breeden, City of Ridgecrest

1) & 2) November 19th Open Meeting Summary and Comments from October 23, 2015 Public Meeting

- Alan Christensen noted that the documents are posted on the Kern County website
- Additions and corrections to the public meeting summary
 - Answer #3 – cross out sentence in parentheses concerning the Navy
 - Question and answer #5 – need clarification
 - Answer #9 – GSA will have the ability to charge fees, not taxing authority
- **Agency members to review notes and provide input to Alan within one week**
- **Alan will made corrections and finalize**

3) Key Policy Decisions for Moving forward with IWV GBA

- General Principles for Developing Groundwater Sustainability
 - **Agency members to review General Principles with their constituencies and provide input to Alan by Dec. 14 COB.**
- JPA vs. MOU unless there are indemnities. A JPA Board can adopt a plan, for example, the Groundwater Sustainable Plan.
 - **Kern County recommends that the agencies form a JPA rather than a MOU. This would be its own public agency and subject to transparency laws, and would have a board.**
 - MOU more conducive to area of multiple GSAs and GSPs to coordinate
 - For MOU or MOA, GSP has to be adopted by individual boards, but JPA only one Board to adopt
 - MOU or MOA process much more difficult to bring in regulated water companies or mutual water companies, so would have to rely on other agencies powers
 - **Agency members requested County Counsel provide a summary of differences between JPA and MOU**
- Board representation - What to Consider/ Pros and Cons

- Most members seemed to favor formation of the GSA with GSA-eligible agencies only, before considering whether to invite other agencies and in what capacity (Board member? Advisory committee member?)
- Most members see the above with only GSA-eligible agencies as the way to form this quickly and start to work on solutions
- Form the GSA with only GSA-eligible agencies and develop framework and organizational chart for advisory committee(s) also
- Forming a more diversely represented GSA board would take longer to structure but be would likely be more durable
- Comments
 - Searles Minerals can be represented by San Bernardino County.
 - There are several mutual water companies in the Valley – How will they be involved and represented?
 - What about mutual water companies that don't reside in the basin?
 - If mutual water companies are not invited to participate during formation, this could result in adjudication.
 - Mutuels could participate in contributing funds to the GSA.
 - About 20 years ago had approximately 80 mutuels.
 - IWVWD serves several mutual water companies in San Bernardino County.
 - **Possible solution – When forming the GSA with eligible agencies, the agencies could also form advisory committees to bring in other possible participants from the beginning so they could be part of the solution. The advisory committee members would not necessarily be voting members. They could perform an advisory function or a technical function to the GSA.**
 - **As the GSA members move forward to form the GSA, they could also invite others in as voting members if they decided it was appropriate.**
- Board Decision Making
 - The concept of seeking to make decisions by consensus was discussed by members.
 - **A chart detailing the different possibilities resulting in consensus decision making will be distributed to the member agencies for their review with their Boards and Councils and will be discussed at the December 17, 2015 meeting.**
 - It was noted by Supervisor Gleason that Kern County will not relinquish its police powers. This led to a discussion of just what actions and decisions may a GSA make?

- Funding and Finance
 - Agencies will have to decide how to fund the GSA – should funding be provided by Board member contributions, and/or pumping fees? Should residential well owners contribute?
 - **Tim Parker will compile a draft operating budget to aid the members in making these decisions.**

4) Next Steps and Action Items

- **Phil Hart draft a fact sheet describing a JPA in contrast to MOU for all agencies to discuss with the Boards and/or Council and legal counsel by December 11 (if possible by December 9).**
- **Agency Members to discuss JPA versus MOU with their respective Boards/Council and legal counsels and come prepared to discuss on December 17th.**
- **Agency Members to review Principles for GSA formation and come prepared to discuss on December 17th.**
- **Tim Parker and Phil Hart will compile a list of actions and decisions that can be made by a GSA for discussion at the December 17, 2015 meeting.**
- **A handout detailing the possibilities resulting in consensus decision making will be distributed to the member agencies for their review with their Boards and Councils and will be discussed at the December 17, 2015 meeting.**
- **Tim Parker will prepare a rough operating budget to aid the members in making these decisions.**
- **Tim Parker will provide a draft GSA Board and Advisory(s) organization strawman for review at the December 17 meeting. At that time feedback could be solicited from the stakeholder in attendance.**
- Progress on Kern County Stressed Counties Grant application - \$500,000 limit
 - **IWV will apply for \$250,000 (1/2) of the grant funds available for Kern County.**
- Process and Meeting Schedule
 - It was suggested that agencies continue to have in person meetings monthly and continue conference calls as needed between meetings.
 - **Staff will provide a list of proposed telecom and face-to-face meeting dates for the next three months via email.**

NEXT MEETING: December 17, 2015 at 3:00PM at IWVWD offices