

INDIAN WELLS VALLEY GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY

Ridgecrest City Hall 100 W California Ave., Ridgecrest, CA 93555 760-499-5002

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

A G E N D A

Wednesday, July 12, 2023

Closed Session – 10:00 a.m.

Open Session – No earlier than 11:00 a.m.

Pursuant to California Government Code 54953(b)(1) two additional call-in locations have been established for Board Members who will attend this meeting via teleconference at 14955 Dale Evans Parkway Apple Valley, CA. 92307 and at 1360 N Main St Bishop, CA. 93514.

NOTICE: *In accordance with the evolving public health declarations, we will continue to provide live stream video for those wishing to participate virtually. Please see the Public Comment Notice below for detailed instructions on submitting public comment as well as websites for livestream broadcasting.*

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 April Keigwin at (805) 764-5452. Requests must be made as early as possible and at least one full business day before the start of the meeting. Documents and material relating to an open session agenda items that are provided to the IWVGA Board of Directors prior to a regular meeting will be available for public inspection and copying at Ridgecrest City Hall, 100 W California Ave, Ridgecrest, CA 93555, or online at <https://iwvga.org/>.

Statements from the Public

The public will be allowed to address the Board during Public Comments about subjects within the jurisdiction of the IWVGA Board and that are NOT on the agenda. No action may be taken on off-agenda items unless authorized by law. Questions posed to the Board may be answered after the meeting or at future meeting. Dialog or extended discussion between the public and the Board or staff will be limited in accordance with the Brown Act. All Public Comment portions of the meeting shall be limited to three (3) minutes per speaker. Each person is limited to one comment during Public Comments.

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

3. PUBLIC COMMENT ON CLOSED SESSION

4. CLOSED SESSION

- CONFERENCE WITH REAL PROPERTY NEGOTIATIONS –
(Government Code Section 54956.8) - Property: Jackson Ranch - Kings County
Assessor's Parcel Numbers 048-010-016, 048-010-018, and 048-020-030; Agency
Negotiator: Capitol Core Group; Negotiating Parties: Various; Under Negotiation: Price
and terms of payment.

- CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – INITIATION OF LITIGATION – (Government Code Section § 54956.9(d(4))) – 4 Cases.
- CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – EXISTING LITIGATION (Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(1)): IWVGA v. Inyokern CSD – Kern County Superior Court BCV-22-100281
- CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – EXISTING LITIGATION (Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(1) - Name of case: Searles Valley Minerals Inc v. Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority, et. al. - Orange County Superior Court 30-2022-01239487-CU-MC-CJC
- CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL- EXISTING LITIGATION (Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(1) - Name of case: Mojave Pistachios, LLC, a California limited liability company, et.al. v. Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority, a California Joint Powers Authority, et. al. - Orange County Superior Court 30-2022-0139479-CU-MC-CJC

5. OPEN SESSION – No earlier than 11:00 a.m.

- a. Report on Closed Session
- b. Pledge of Allegiance
- c. Roll Call

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

This time is reserved for the public to address the Board about matters NOT on the agenda. No action will be taken on non-agenda items unless authorized by law. Comments are limited to three minutes per person.

7. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

This time is reserved for comments by Board members and/or staff and to identify matters for future Board business.

8. CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Approve Minutes of Board Meeting June 14, 2023
- b. Approve Expenditures
 - *To view itemized invoices please visit <https://iwvga.org/iwvga-meetings>*
 - i. \$93,462.38 – Stetson Engineers
 - ii. \$24,414.25 – Regional Government Services – (Replenishment / Extraction)
 - iii. \$21,937.50 – Capitol Core Group – (Replenishment)
 - iv. \$369,045.78 – Provost & Pritchard – (SGMA IP Grant)
 - v. \$51,340.00 – OPC (now TranSystems) – (SGMA IP Grant)

9. REVIEW OF PROPOSED COMMUNICATION AND ENGAGEMENT WORK PLAN

10. APPROVAL OF MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN IWVGA, BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT, AND PROVOST & PRITCHARD CONSULTING GROUP FOR PREPARATION OF AN ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FOR THE IMPORTED WATER PIPELINE PROJECT

11. WATER RESOURCES MANAGER REPORT

- a. Grant Funding
- b. GSP Implementation Projects/Management Action Updates
 - i. Recycled Water Project
 - ii. Imported Water Project
- c. Miscellaneous Items
 - i. Data Collection and Monitoring
 - ii. IWVGA Basin Model Configuration Management Plan
 - iii. Rose Valley Subflow Update
 - iv. Update on LADWP Releases

12. GENERAL MANAGER’S REPORT

- a. Monthly Financial Report
- b. Report on IWVGA’s Water Marketer (Capitol Core Group)
- c. Legislative Update and Direction

13. PAC REPORT

14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – AUGUST 9, 2023

15. ADJOURN

PUBLIC COMMENT NOTICE

IWVGA meetings will be open to the public for physical attendance; However, for those who wish to continue using virtual alternatives please follow the directions below for access to live stream video as well as ways to submit public comment.

- **Watch meetings on-line:**
All of our meetings are streamed live at <https://ridgecrest-ca.gov/369/Watch> (4 second streaming delay) or on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/cityofridgecrest/live> (22 second streaming delay) and are also available for playback after the meeting.
- **Call in for public comments:**
If you wish to make verbal comment, *please call (760) 499-5010*. This phone line will allow only one caller at a time, so if the line is busy, please continue to dial. We will be allowing a 20-30 second pause between callers to give time for media delays and callers to dial in. Due to media delays, please mute your streaming device while making public comment. If you wish to comment on multiple items, you will need to call in as each item is presented.
**Please Note – This process will be a learning curve for all, please be patient.*
- **Submit written comments:**
We encourage submittal of written comments supporting, opposing, or otherwise commenting on an agenda item, for distribution to the Board prior to the meeting. Send emails to akeigwin@rgs.ca.gov written correspondence may be sent to April Keigwin, Clerk of the Board, 100 W. California Ave., Ridgecrest, CA 93555. Please specify to which agenda item your comment relates.
- **Large Groups:**
If you are part of a large group that would like to comment on an agenda item, please consider commenting in writing. This will be as impactful to the Board as having a large group in attendance.

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INDIAN WELLS VALLEY GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY

City of Ridgecrest, Indian Wells Valley Water District, Inyo County, Kern County, San Bernardino County

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES Wednesday, June 14, 2023

IWVGA Members Present:

Chairman Scott Hayman, City of Ridgecrest	Carol Thomas-Keefer, IWVGA General Manager
Phillip Peters, Kern County	Keith Lemieux, Legal Counsel
Chuck Griffin, IWVWD	Steve Johnson, Stetson Engineers
John Vallejo, Inyo County	Commander Benjamin Turner, US Navy, DoD Liaison
Tim Itnyre, San Bernardino County	April Keigwin, Clerk of the Board
Thomas Bickauskas, Bureau of Land Management	

Attending via teleconference is Tim Itnyre, John Vallejo, and Steve Johnson.

Meeting recording, public comment letters submitted, and all board meeting related documents are made available at:
<https://iwvga.org/iwvga-meetings/>

1. CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Hayman calls the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA:

Counsel Lemieux states there has been an amendment to agenda item 8.b.v – Garrison Brothers invoice changing the total invoice from \$85,838.30 to \$50,838.30.

Motion made by Phillip Peters and seconded by Chuck Griffin to approve adoption of the agenda with the amended invoice for agenda item 8.b.v.

Motion carries by the following roll call vote:

Chairman Hayman	Aye
Vice Chair Peters	Aye
Director Itnyre	Aye
Director Griffin	Aye
Director Vallejo	Absent

3. PUBLIC COMMENT ON CLOSED SESSION:

None.

Chairman Hayman calls the meeting into Closed Session at 10:02 a.m.

4. CLOSED SESSION:

- CONFERENCE WITH REAL PROPERTY NEGOTIATIONS – (Government Code Section 54956.8) - Property: Jackson Ranch - Kings County Assessor's Parcel Numbers 048-010-016, 048-010-018, and 048-020-030; Agency Negotiator: Capitol Core Group; Negotiating Parties: Various; Under Negotiation: Price and terms of payment.
- CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – EXISTING LITIGATION

(Government Code Section 54956.9(c)): IWVGA v. Inyokern CSD

- CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – EXISTING LITIGATION
(Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(1) - Name of case: Searles Valley Minerals Inc v. Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority, et. al. - Orange County Superior Court 30-2022-01239487-CU-MC-CJC
- CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL- EXISTING LITIGATION
(Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(1) - Name of case: Mojave Pistachios, LLC, a California limited liability company, et.al. v. Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority, a California Joint Powers Authority, et. al. - Orange County Superior Court 30-2022-0139479-CU-MC-CJC

Closed Session adjourns at 11:00 a.m.

5. OPEN SESSION – No earlier than 11:00 a.m.

Meeting reconvenes into Open Session at 11:04 a.m.

- a. Report on Closed Session – Counsel Lemieux reports no action was taken that would require disclosure under The Brown Act. Lemieux notes that the Las Posas Groundwater Adjudication received a signed statement of decision from the judge achieving a settlement between all pumpers in the basin and the GSA. One of the core elements of the settlement was the adoption of a TAC and PAC system that was replicated using the bylaws of the Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority as the foundation. Lemieux states the settlement was reached because the pumpers all agreed the physical solution was the adopted and approved Fox Canyon Groundwater Sustainability Plan.
- b. Pledge of Allegiance is led by Chairman Hayman
- c. Roll Call

Chairman Hayman	Present
Vice Chair Peters	Present
Director Itnyre	Present
Director Griffin	Present
Director Vallejo	Present

6. PUBLIC COMMENT:

The Board hears public comment from Judie Decker and Renee Westa-Lusk.

7. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS:

No Comment

8. CONSENT AGENDA:

- a. Approve Minutes of Board Meeting May 10, 2023
- b. Approve Expenditures

**To view itemized invoices please visit <https://iwvga.org/iwvga-meetings>*

- i. \$113,853.26 – Stetson Engineers
- ii. \$21,933.57 – Regional Government Services – (Replenishment / Extraction)
- iii. \$15,950.00 – Capitol Core Group – (Replenishment)
- iv. \$281,456.23 – Provost & Pritchard – (SGMA IP Grant)
- v. \$8,000.00 – Brown Armstrong – (Replenishment / Extraction)
- vi. \$85,838.30 – Garrison Brothers – (Rose Valley / Navy)

Motion made by Chuck Griffin and seconded by Phillip Peters to approve Minutes of Board Meeting May 10, 2023, and the following expenditures in the amount of, \$113,853.26 to Stetson Engineers, \$21,933.57 to Regional Government Services, \$15,950.00 to Capitol Core Group, \$281,456.23 to Provost & Pritchard, \$8,000.00 to Brown Armstrong, and amended total of \$50,838.30 to Garrison Brothers.

Motion carries by the following roll call vote:

Chairman Hayman	Aye
Vice Chair Peters	Aye
Director Itnyre	Aye
Director Griffin	Aye
Director Vallejo	Aye

9. BOARD TO RECEIVE AND FILE THE 2021 FINANCIAL AUDIT FROM BROWN ARMSTRONG:

Thomas Young of Brown Armstrong provides 2021 Financial Audit.

The Board hears public comment from Judie Decker.

Motion made by Phillip Peters and seconded by John Vallejo to receive and file the 2021 financial audit from Brown Armstrong.

Motion carries by the following roll call vote:

Chairman Hayman	Aye
Vice Chair Peters	Aye
Director Itnyre	Aye
Director Griffin	Aye
Director Vallejo	Aye

10. COMMUNICATION AND ENGAGEMENT PLAN UPDATES AND BOARD DIRECTION:

Carol Thomas-Keefer provides staff report and C&E plan updates from the Policy Advisory Committee.

The Board hears public comment from Judie Decker and Renee Westa-Lusk.

11. RESOLUTION 06-23 PROVIDING PROCEDURE TO ADDRESS LEGISLATIVE RESPONSE NEEDS OF THE AUTHORITY:

Co-General Counsel Phillip Hall presents Resolution 06-23 and corresponding staff report.

The Board hears public comment from Renee Westa-Lusk.

Motion made by Phillip Peters and seconded by John Vallejo to approve Resolution 06-23 Providing Procedure to Address Legislative Response Needs of the Authority.

Motion carries by the following roll call vote:

Chairman Hayman	Aye
Vice Chair Peters	Aye
Director Itnyre	Aye
Director Griffin	Nay
Director Vallejo	Aye

12. DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES REQUEST FOR SUPPLEMENTAL MONITORING TO ADDRESS WET CONDITIONS:

Carol Thomas-Keefer provides staff report and supplemental water monitoring request from Department of Water Resources.

Motion made by Phillip Peters and seconded by Chuck Griffin to approve the budget amendment in support of the supplemental water monitoring request from Department of Water Resources.

Motion carries by the following roll call vote:

Chairman Hayman	Aye
Vice Chair Peters	Aye

Director Itnyre	Aye
Director Griffin	Aye
Director Vallejo	Aye

13. WATER RESOURCES MANAGER REPORT:

Steve Johnson and Jean Moran provide updates on the following grants/programs:

- a. Grant Funding
- b. GSP Implementation Projects/Management Action Updates
 - i. Recycled Water Program
 - ii. Imported Water Program
- c. Miscellaneous Items
 - i. Data Collection and Monitoring
 - ii. IWVGA Basin Model Configuration Management Plan
 - iii. Rose Valley Subflow Update
 - iv. Update on LADWP Releases

The Board hears public comment from Judie Decker.

14. GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT:

Carol Thomas-Keefer provides the monthly financial report. Michael McKinney of Capitol Core Group provides a report on lobbying activities as well as legislative updates requiring board direction.

15. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – JULY 12, 2023

16. ADJOURN:

Chairman Hayman adjourns the meeting at 12:10 a.m. on June 14, 2023.

Respectfully submitted,

April Keigwin
Clerk of the Board
Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority

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Invoice

Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority
 Mr. Alan Christensen
 100 W. California Ave.
 Ridgecrest, CA 93555

Invoice Number: 2652-70
Invoice Date: 06/27/23

Project #: 2652 **Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority**

Professional Services through 5/31/2023

Water Resources Management 2023

01 - Meetings & Prep

Professional Services	<u>Bill Hours</u>	<u>Bill Rate</u>	<u>Charge</u>
Principal	13.00	\$237.00	\$3,081.00
Supervisor I	27.50	\$206.00	\$5,665.00
Senior Associate	5.00	\$128.00	\$640.00
GIS Manager	1.00	\$122.00	\$122.00
Associate III	3.00	\$111.00	\$333.00
Assistant I	5.25	\$98.00	\$514.50
<i>Professional Services Subtotal:</i>			<u>\$10,355.50</u>
			<u>Charge</u>
Reimbursables			
Reproduction (Color)			\$24.92
Car Rental			\$284.16
Lodging			\$178.54
Reproduction			\$10.80
<i>Reimbursables Subtotal:</i>			<u>\$498.42</u>
<i>Meetings & Prep Subtotal:</i>			<u>\$10,853.92</u>

01.01 - LADWP Release Coordination and Meetings

Professional Services	<u>Bill Hours</u>	<u>Bill Rate</u>	<u>Charge</u>
Principal	6.50	\$237.00	\$1,540.50
Supervisor I	2.50	\$206.00	\$515.00
Supervisor II	16.50	\$191.00	\$3,151.50
Associate I	26.00	\$122.00	\$3,172.00
Senior Assistant	50.75	\$103.00	\$5,227.25
<i>Professional Services Subtotal:</i>			<u>\$13,606.25</u>
			<u>Charge</u>
Reimbursables			
Car Rental			\$950.22
Field Supplies			\$34.77
Lodging			\$342.82
Meals			\$130.41
Mileage			\$1.77
<i>Reimbursables Subtotal:</i>			<u>\$1,459.99</u>
<i>LADWP Release Coordination and Meetings Subtotal:</i>			<u>\$15,066.24</u>

02 - Prop 1 / Prop 68 Grant Administration

Professional Services	<u>Bill Hours</u>	<u>Bill Rate</u>	<u>Charge</u>
Senior Associate	7.50	\$128.00	\$960.00



02 - Prop 1 / Prop 68 Grant Administration

<i>Professional Services Subtotal:</i>	<u>\$960.00</u>
<i>Prop 1 / Prop 68 Grant Administration Subtotal:</i>	<u>\$960.00</u>

02.01 - SGMA IP Grant Administration

Professional Services	<u>Bill Hours</u>	<u>Bill Rate</u>	<u>Charge</u>
Senior Associate	7.00	\$128.00	\$896.00
Assistant I	20.50	\$98.00	\$2,009.00
<i>Professional Services Subtotal:</i>			<u>\$2,905.00</u>
<i>SGMA IP Grant Administration Subtotal:</i>			<u>\$2,905.00</u>

03 - Grant Review & Application Preparation

Professional Services	<u>Bill Hours</u>	<u>Bill Rate</u>	<u>Charge</u>
Supervisor I	0.75	\$206.00	\$154.50
<i>Professional Services Subtotal:</i>			<u>\$154.50</u>
<i>Grant Review & Application Preparation Subtotal:</i>			<u>\$154.50</u>

04 - Data Mgmt System Support

Professional Services	<u>Bill Hours</u>	<u>Bill Rate</u>	<u>Charge</u>
Supervisor I	0.50	\$206.00	\$103.00
Senior III	5.00	\$134.00	\$670.00
Associate I	4.50	\$122.00	\$549.00
<i>Professional Services Subtotal:</i>			<u>\$1,322.00</u>
<i>Data Mgmt System Support Subtotal:</i>			<u>\$1,322.00</u>

05 - General Project Mgmt

Professional Services	<u>Bill Hours</u>	<u>Bill Rate</u>	<u>Charge</u>
Supervisor I	12.75	\$206.00	\$2,626.50
Supervisor II	2.50	\$191.00	\$477.50
Senior Associate	2.50	\$128.00	\$320.00
Contract Management	1.25	\$103.00	\$128.75
Administrative I	0.75	\$72.00	\$54.00
<i>Professional Services Subtotal:</i>			<u>\$3,606.75</u>
<i>General Project Mgmt Subtotal:</i>			<u>\$3,606.75</u>

06 - Model Transfer & Upgrade

Professional Services	<u>Bill Hours</u>	<u>Bill Rate</u>	<u>Charge</u>
Supervisor I	4.75	\$206.00	\$978.50
Supervisor II	28.00	\$191.00	\$5,348.00
GIS Manager	2.00	\$122.00	\$244.00
<i>Professional Services Subtotal:</i>			<u>\$6,570.50</u>
Sub-Contractors			<u>Charge</u>
Board of Regents			\$6,158.50
<i>Sub-Contractors Subtotal:</i>			<u>\$6,158.50</u>
<i>Model Transfer & Upgrade Subtotal:</i>			<u>\$12,729.00</u>

07.01 - Imported Water: Planning/Design/Environmental

Professional Services	<u>Bill Hours</u>	<u>Bill Rate</u>	<u>Charge</u>
Principal	19.00	\$237.00	\$4,503.00
Supervisor I	11.50	\$206.00	\$2,369.00
Associate III	3.00	\$111.00	\$333.00



07.01 - Imported Water: Planning/Design/Environmental

Professional Services	<u>Bill Hours</u>	<u>Bill Rate</u>	<u>Charge</u>
Assistant I	45.00	\$98.00	\$4,410.00
<i>Professional Services Subtotal:</i>			<u>\$11,615.00</u>
<i>Imported Water: Planning/Design/Environmental Subtotal:</i>			<u>\$11,615.00</u>

07.02 - Imported Water: Engagement/Outreach

Professional Services	<u>Bill Hours</u>	<u>Bill Rate</u>	<u>Charge</u>
Supervisor I	2.75	\$206.00	\$566.50
<i>Professional Services Subtotal:</i>			<u>\$566.50</u>
<i>Imported Water: Engagement/Outreach Subtotal:</i>			<u>\$566.50</u>

08 - Imported Water: Negotiations & Coordination

Professional Services	<u>Bill Hours</u>	<u>Bill Rate</u>	<u>Charge</u>
Supervisor I	6.25	\$206.00	\$1,287.50
<i>Professional Services Subtotal:</i>			<u>\$1,287.50</u>
<i>Imported Water: Negotiations & Coordination Subtotal:</i>			<u>\$1,287.50</u>

09 - Recycled Water

Professional Services	<u>Bill Hours</u>	<u>Bill Rate</u>	<u>Charge</u>
Supervisor I	2.75	\$206.00	\$566.50
Assistant I	1.00	\$98.00	\$98.00
<i>Professional Services Subtotal:</i>			<u>\$664.50</u>
<i>Recycled Water Subtotal:</i>			<u>\$664.50</u>

11 - Data Collection, Monitoring & Data Gaps

Professional Services	<u>Bill Hours</u>	<u>Bill Rate</u>	<u>Charge</u>
Supervisor I	15.00	\$206.00	\$3,090.00
Supervisor II	14.50	\$191.00	\$2,769.50
Senior Associate	0.50	\$128.00	\$64.00
Associate I	17.50	\$122.00	\$2,135.00
GIS Manager	5.00	\$122.00	\$610.00
Senior Assistant	19.50	\$103.00	\$2,008.50
<i>Professional Services Subtotal:</i>			<u>\$10,677.00</u>

Reimbursables	<u>Charge</u>
Equipment Rental Expense	\$412.18
Field Supplies	\$14.13
Overnight Mail	\$103.01
Other Expenses	\$42.75
<i>Reimbursables Subtotal:</i>	
	<u>\$572.07</u>

Data Collection, Monitoring & Data Gaps Subtotal: \$11,249.07

14 - Production Reporting, Transient Pool & Fee Support

Professional Services	<u>Bill Hours</u>	<u>Bill Rate</u>	<u>Charge</u>
Principal	2.00	\$237.00	\$474.00
Senior Associate	6.50	\$128.00	\$832.00
Associate I	23.50	\$122.00	\$2,867.00
Assistant I	14.00	\$98.00	\$1,372.00
<i>Professional Services Subtotal:</i>			<u>\$5,545.00</u>

Production Reporting, Transient Pool & Fee Support Subtotal: \$5,545.00

17 - Navy/Coso Royalty Fund: Develop FY24 Projects & Secure Funding



17 - Navy/Coso Royalty Fund: Develop FY24 Projects & Secure Funding

Professional Services	<u>Bill Hours</u>	<u>Bill Rate</u>	<u>Charge</u>
Supervisor I	2.25	\$206.00	\$463.50
Supervisor II	8.00	\$191.00	\$1,528.00
GIS Manager	1.50	\$122.00	\$183.00
<i>Professional Services Subtotal:</i>			<u>\$2,174.50</u>
<i>Navy/Coso Royalty Fund: Develop FY24 Projects & Secure Funding Subtotal:</i>			<u>\$2,174.50</u>

18 - Navy/Coso Royalty Fund: FY21 Rose Valley MW Permitting, Bid Doc Support & Dr

Professional Services	<u>Bill Hours</u>	<u>Bill Rate</u>	<u>Charge</u>
Supervisor I	14.00	\$206.00	\$2,884.00
Supervisor II	1.00	\$191.00	\$191.00
Associate I	2.50	\$122.00	\$305.00
<i>Professional Services Subtotal:</i>			<u>\$3,380.00</u>
Reimbursables			<u>Charge</u>
Car Rental			\$711.65
<i>Reimbursables Subtotal:</i>			<u>\$711.65</u>
<i>Navy/Coso Royalty Fund: FY21 Rose Valley MW Permitting, Bid Doc Support & Dr</i>			<u>\$4,091.65</u>

18.1 - Navy/Coso Cooperative Agreement

Professional Services	<u>Bill Hours</u>	<u>Bill Rate</u>	<u>Charge</u>
Supervisor I	3.75	\$206.00	\$772.50
<i>Professional Services Subtotal:</i>			<u>\$772.50</u>
<i>Navy/Coso Cooperative Agreement Subtotal:</i>			<u>\$772.50</u>

21 - General Engineering

Professional Services	<u>Bill Hours</u>	<u>Bill Rate</u>	<u>Charge</u>
Senior Associate	1.50	\$128.00	\$192.00
Associate I	2.00	\$122.00	\$244.00
<i>Professional Services Subtotal:</i>			<u>\$436.00</u>
<i>General Engineering Subtotal:</i>			<u>\$436.00</u>

22 - GSP 5-Year Update

Professional Services	<u>Bill Hours</u>	<u>Bill Rate</u>	<u>Charge</u>
Principal	3.00	\$237.00	\$711.00
Supervisor I	6.25	\$206.00	\$1,287.50
Supervisor II	16.00	\$191.00	\$3,056.00
Senior Associate	9.00	\$128.00	\$1,152.00
<i>Professional Services Subtotal:</i>			<u>\$6,206.50</u>
<i>GSP 5-Year Update Subtotal:</i>			<u>\$6,206.50</u>

25 - Allocation Plan & Rules & Regs on Pumping/Restrictions

Professional Services	<u>Bill Hours</u>	<u>Bill Rate</u>	<u>Charge</u>
Principal	4.00	\$237.00	\$948.00
Supervisor I	0.50	\$206.00	\$103.00
Associate III	0.75	\$111.00	\$83.25
<i>Professional Services Subtotal:</i>			<u>\$1,134.25</u>
<i>Allocation Plan & Rules & Regs on Pumping/Restrictions Subtotal:</i>			<u>\$1,134.25</u>

26 - Budget Support

Professional Services	<u>Bill Hours</u>	<u>Bill Rate</u>	<u>Charge</u>
GIS Manager	1.00	\$122.00	\$122.00



Project #: 2652

Invoice No: 2652-70

June 27, 2023

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26 - Budget Support

<i>Professional Services Subtotal:</i>	<u>\$122.00</u>
<i>Budget Support Subtotal:</i>	<u>\$122.00</u>
<i>Water Resources Management 2023 Subtotal:</i>	\$93,462.38
*** Invoice Total ***	<u>\$93,462.38</u>

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PO Box 1350
Carmel Valley, CA 93924

Invoice

Date	Invoice #
5/31/2023	15094

Bill To:
Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority 100 W California Ave Ridgecrest, CA 93555

P.O. No.	Due Date	Inv Sent
	6/30/2023	6/20/2023

Date	Description	Amount
5/31/2023	Contract Services for May - please see attached	24,114.25

Electronic Payment Information: Community Bank of the Bay ABA: 121142407 Account: 0365002245	Total \$24,114.25
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PO Box 1350
Carmel Valley, CA 93924

Invoice

Date	Invoice #
5/31/2023	15198

Bill To:

Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority
100 W California Ave
Ridgecrest, CA 93555

P.O. No.	Due Date	Inv Sent
	7/17/2023	7/03/2023

Date	Description	Amount
5/31/2023	Reimbursable Expenses for City of Ridegecrest Monthly Rent - please see attached	300.00

Electronic Payment Information: Community Bank of the Bay ABA: 121142407 Account: 0365002245	Total	\$300.00
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INVOICE



CAPITOL **CORE** GROUP

Capitol Core Group, Inc.
205 Cartwheel Bend (Operations
Dept.)
Austin, TX 78738

operations@capitolcore.com
512.568.3084
www.capitolcore.com

Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority

Bill to

Indian Wells Valley Groundwater
Authority
500 West Ridgecrest Blvd.
Ridgecrest, California 93555
USA

Invoice details

Invoice no.: 2023-030
Terms: Net 45
Invoice date: 07/03/2023
Due date: 08/17/2023

Invoice Period: June 2023
Vendor ID: 195953

Product or service	Amount
1.	\$0.00
Task 1: Secure Imported Water Supplies	
2. Intergovernmental Affairs	1 hr × \$275.00 \$275.00
Subtask A: Jackson Ranch call {Tatum}	
3. Intergovernmental Affairs	3 hrs × \$275.00 \$825.00
Subtask B: AVEK Meeting {Tatum}	
4. Intergovernmental Affairs	5 hrs × \$250.00 \$1,250.00
Subtask B: Preparation of materials for AVEK meeting, Meeting Preparation and AVEK Meeting {Simonetti}	
5. Intergovernmental Affairs	0.5 hrs × \$275.00 \$137.50
Subtask B: AVEK Director call	
6. Intergovernmental Affairs	6 hrs × \$275.00 \$1,650.00
Subtask D: 2023 Water Year Calls w/ various agencies and sellers {Tatum}	
7.	\$0.00
Task 1 Invoice Totals: \$4,137.50 (15.5 hours)	
8.	\$0.00
Task 2: Interconnection Pipeline Project	
9. Federal	2.5 hrs × \$275.00 \$687.50
Congressional/Agency: Environmental Infrastructure Project (219 of WRDA) Discussions with USACE HQ and Speaker McCarthy's Office; follow-up with Senator Padilla's office. {MWM}	
10. Federal	1 hr × \$275.00 \$275.00

Congressional: FY2024 Energy & Water Development Appropriations Act analysis USACE

11.			\$0.00
	Task 2 Invoice Totals: \$962.5 (3.5 hours)		
12.			\$0.00
	Task 3: Water Recycling Plant		
13.	Federal	1 hr × \$275.00	\$275.00
	Congressional: House/Senate FY2024 Energy & Water Development Appropriations Act analysis and Title XVI research {MWM}		
14.	California	1.5 hrs × \$275.00	\$412.50
	Agency: Office of Planning & Research -- Scoping Meeting concerning grant application and memorandum to client. {MWM}		
15.	California	4.5 hrs × \$275.00	\$1,237.50
	Legislative: Assembly Bill 444 (Addis): Cal-DCIP -- Direct Advocacy California State Senate Members of the Committee on Governance and Finance; letter development and Committee Consultant preparation {MWM}		
16.	California	1 hr × \$250.00	\$250.00
	Legislative: Assembly Bill 444 (Addis): California DCIP -- Direct Advocacy and coordination {Simonetti}		
17.			\$0.00
	Task 3 Invoice Totals: \$2,175.00 (8 hours)		
18.			\$0.00
	Task 4: Wastewater Treatment Plant		
19.			\$0.00
	Task 4 Invoice Totals: \$0.00		
20.			\$0.00
	Task 5: Other Projects in Support of the GSP		
21.	California	1 hr × \$275.00	\$275.00
	Legislative: FY2023-2024 State Budget Act analysis (multi-client split) {MWM}		
22.	California	14 hrs × \$275.00	\$3,850.00
	Legislative: Assembly Bill 560 (Bennett): Water Adjudications -- Direct Advocacy: Internal Client meetings, letter development, Committee Consultant briefings, amendment development, California Judicial Council meeting, Members of the Committee on Natural Resources and Water, testimony development, Members of the Committee on the Judiciary {MWM}		
23.	California	10 hrs × \$275.00	\$2,750.00
	Legislative: Assembly Bill 779 (Wilson): Water Adjudications -- Direct Advocacy: Internal client meetings, letter development, amendment development, Committee Consultant briefings, Assembly Member Wilson/Staff meetings, Members of the Committee on Natural Resources and Water; Members of the Committee on the Judiciary. {MWM}		
24.	California	6 hrs × \$275.00	\$1,650.00
	Legislative: Assembly Bill 1205 (Bauer-Kahan): Water Sales, Leases, and Transfers -- Direct Advocacy: Internal client meetings, letter development, amendment development, Committee Consultant briefings, Assembly Member Bauer-Kahan's staff, Members of the Committee on Natural Resources and Water, Agency Briefings. {MWM}		
25.	California	4.5 hrs × \$250.00	\$1,125.00
	Legislative: Assembly Bill 560 (Bennett): Water Adjudication -- Direct Advocacy Assembly Committee on Water, Parks, and Wildlife {Simonetti}		

26.	California	1 hr × \$250.00	\$250.00
	Legislative: Assembly Bill 560 (Bennett): Water Adjudication -- Direct Advocacy Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Water {Simonetti}		
27.	California	2.25 hrs × \$250.00	\$562.50
	Legislative: Assembly Bill 779 (Wilson): Water Adjudication -- Direct Advocacy Assembly Committee on Judiciary {Simonetti}		
28.	California	5.5 hrs × \$250.00	\$1,375.00
	Legislative: Assembly Bill 1205 (Bauer-Kahan): Water Sales, Transfers, and Leases -- Direct Advocacy Assembly Committee on Water, Parks and Wildlife; Meeting w/ staff; Meeting w/ Assembly Member Bauer-Kahan; Coalition Development {Simonetti}		
29.	California	3 hrs × \$275.00	\$825.00
	Coalition Development AB 1205 {Tatum}		
30.			\$0.00
	Task 5 Invoice Totals: \$12,662.50 (47.25 hours)		
31.			\$0.00
	Task 6: Project Administration		
32.	Administrative	2.5 hrs × \$275.00	\$687.50
	Board Meeting: June Board Meeting and Materials Preparation {MWM}		
33.	Administrative	2.5 hrs × \$275.00	\$687.50
	Board Meeting: June Meeting {Tatum}		
34.	Administrative	2.5 hrs × \$250.00	\$625.00
	Board Meeting: Materials Preparation and Board Meeting -- June {Simonetti}		
35.			\$0.00
	Task 6 Invoice Totals: \$2,000.00 (7.5 hours)		
36.			\$0.00
	***** Regulatory Compliance Reporting *****		
37.			\$0.00
	IWWGA Federal Reporting 2nd Qtr. \$4,062.50		
38.			\$0.00
	IWWGA Federal Reporting Invoice Amt. \$1,237.50		
39.			\$0.00
	IWWGA State of California Reporting 2nd Qtr. \$28,100.00		
40.			\$0.00
	IWWGA State of California Invoice Amt. \$13,187.50		
41.			\$0.00
	City of Ridgecrest Federal Reporting 2nd Qtr. \$593.75		
42.			\$0.00
	City of Ridgecrest Federal Reporting Invoice Amt. \$0.00		
43.			\$0.00

City of Ridgecrest California Reporting 2nd Qtr. \$0.00

44. \$0.00

City of Ridgecrest California Reporting Invoice Amt. \$0.00

45. \$0.00

***** End of Compliance Reporting Notes *****

Total **\$21,937.50**

Note to customer

Thank you for your business. Please make checks payable to Capitol
Core Group, Inc.

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April Keigwin
 Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority
 100 West California Avenue
 Ridgecrest, CA 93555

June 27, 2023
 Project No: 04101-23-002
 Invoice No: 101590

Project Name: IWVGA Imported Water Conveyance Design Services

Client Project #:

See Monthly Progress Report attached.

Professional Services from May 1, 2023 to May 31, 2023

Phase: 121P Coordination Meetings

Labor

	Hours	Rate	Amount	
Senior Engineer	8.80	195.00	1,716.00	
Principal Engineer	5.80	238.00	1,380.40	
Senior Technician	.80	150.00	120.00	
Totals	15.40		3,216.40	
Total Labor				3,216.40
				Total this Phase: \$3,216.40

Phase: 122S Stantec Coordination Meetings

Consultants

Consultants			12,029.00	
Total Consultants			12,029.00	12,029.00
				Total this Phase: \$12,029.00

Phase: 131P P&P General PM

Labor

	Hours	Rate	Amount	
Senior Engineer	42.90	195.00	8,365.50	
Principal Engineer	4.60	217.00	998.20	
Principal Engineer	.80	227.00	181.60	
Principal Engineer	23.20	238.00	5,521.60	
Project Administrator	.50	94.00	47.00	
Project Administrator	17.40	101.00	1,757.40	
Totals	89.40		16,871.30	
Total Labor				16,871.30
				Total this Phase: \$16,871.30

Phase: 132S Stantec General PM

Consultants

Consultants			503.13	
Total Consultants			503.13	503.13

Total this Phase: \$503.13

Phase: 211P Preliminary Design Coordination

Labor

	Hours	Rate	Amount	
Senior Engineer	.50	178.00	89.00	
Associate Engineer	2.00	156.00	312.00	
Principal Engineer	1.00	238.00	238.00	
Principal Engineer	3.50	248.00	868.00	
Project Administrator	3.00	94.00	282.00	
Totals	10.00		1,789.00	
Total Labor				1,789.00
				Total this Phase: \$1,789.00

Phase: 221P Env & ROW Consultant Coord

Labor

	Hours	Rate	Amount	
Senior Engineer	45.80	195.00	8,931.00	
Principal Engineer	4.50	207.00	931.50	
Project Administrator	.60	101.00	60.60	
Senior GIS Specialist	18.80	165.00	3,102.00	
Associate GIS Specialist	14.70	105.00	1,543.50	
Associate Biologist	1.00	130.00	130.00	
Totals	85.40		14,698.60	
Total Labor				14,698.60
				Total this Phase: \$14,698.60

Phase: 231P Surveying

Labor

	Hours	Rate	Amount	
1 Man Survey Crew	37.50	200.00	7,500.00	
Senior Technician	8.50	130.00	1,105.00	
Licensed Surveyor	44.50	180.00	8,010.00	
Travel Time	7.00	80.00	560.00	
Totals	97.50		17,175.00	
Total Labor				17,175.00

Reimbursable Expenses

Travel & Mileage			607.88	
Per Diem - Meals & Incidentals			349.60	
Total Reimbursables			957.48	957.48
				Total this Phase: \$18,132.48

Phase: 241P Utility Research/Coordination

Labor

	Hours	Rate	Amount	
Senior Engineer	8.90	195.00	1,735.50	
Assistant Engineer	28.80	126.00	3,628.80	
Associate Engineer	3.10	156.00	483.60	
Project Administrator	7.10	94.00	667.40	
Totals	47.90		6,515.30	
Total Labor				6,515.30

Total this Phase: \$6,515.30

Phase: 252G SEI Geotechnical Services

Consultants

Consultants	20,878.25
Total Consultants	20,878.25

Total this Phase: \$20,878.25

Phase: 271P BLM Special Use Permit

Labor

	Hours	Rate	Amount
Senior Engineer	30.80	195.00	6,006.00
Assistant Engineer	15.90	126.00	2,003.40
Project Administrator	.50	94.00	47.00
Senior GIS Specialist	21.80	147.00	3,204.60
Totals	69.00		11,261.00
Total Labor			11,261.00

Total this Phase: \$11,261.00

Phase: 274P Kern Roads Agreement/Encroachment Permit

Labor

	Hours	Rate	Amount
Senior Engineer	3.00	195.00	585.00
Principal Engineer	16.00	207.00	3,312.00
Totals	19.00		3,897.00
Total Labor			3,897.00

Total this Phase: \$3,897.00

Phase: 275P SCE Encroachment Permit

Labor

	Hours	Rate	Amount
Assistant Engineer	2.00	126.00	252.00
Principal Engineer	20.00	207.00	4,140.00
Totals	22.00		4,392.00
Total Labor			4,392.00

Total this Phase: \$4,392.00

Phase: 281P P&P Preliminary Design Report

Labor

	Hours	Rate	Amount
Senior Engineer	88.00	178.00	15,664.00
Senior Engineer	73.20	195.00	14,274.00
Associate Engineer	19.50	140.00	2,730.00
Assistant Engineer	18.20	112.00	2,038.40
Assistant Engineer	1.60	126.00	201.60
Associate Engineer	18.00	156.00	2,808.00
Principal Engineer	15.60	217.00	3,385.20
Principal Engineer	.50	207.00	103.50
Principal Engineer	52.80	227.00	11,985.60
Principal Engineer	12.80	238.00	3,046.40

Project	04101-23-002	IWVGA Imported Water Conveyance Design	Invoice	101590
Project Administrator	.50	94.00	47.00	
Associate GIS Specialist	7.60	105.00	798.00	
Principal Const. Manager	8.30	215.00	1,784.50	
Intern	2.00	65.00	130.00	
Totals	318.60		58,996.20	
Total Labor				58,996.20
Reimbursable Expenses				
Travel & Mileage			70.81	
Other Direct Reimb Expenses			3,058.95	
Total Reimbursables			3,129.76	3,129.76
			Total this Phase:	\$62,125.96

Phase:	282D	P&P Drafting Preliminary Design		
Labor				
		Hours	Rate	Amount
Senior Engineer	7.50	186.00	1,395.00	
Assistant Engineer	.80	105.00	84.00	
Senior Technician	.80	143.00	114.40	
Assistant Engineer	29.10	126.00	3,666.60	
Principal Engineer	.50	217.00	108.50	
Senior Technician	30.30	158.00	4,787.40	
Senior Technician	83.00	150.00	12,450.00	
Associate Technician	22.60	119.00	2,689.40	
Totals	174.60		25,295.30	
Total Labor				25,295.30
			Total this Phase:	\$25,295.30

Phase:	283S	Stantec Preliminary Design Report		
Consultants				
Consultants			10,185.55	
Total Consultants			10,185.55	10,185.55
			Total this Phase:	\$10,185.55

Phase:	285T	Bennett Trenchless Prelim Design Report		
Consultants				
Consultants			810.75	
Total Consultants			810.75	810.75
			Total this Phase:	\$810.75

Phase:	28T1	Preliminary System Hydraulics TM Stantec		
Consultants				
Consultants			20,389.50	
Total Consultants			20,389.50	20,389.50
			Total this Phase:	\$20,389.50

Phase:	28T2	Pipe Optimizations TM		
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Labor

	Hours	Rate	Amount
Principal Engineer	6.90	217.00	1,497.30
Totals	6.90		1,497.30
Total Labor			1,497.30

Total this Phase: \$1,497.30

Billing Limits

	Current	Prior	To-Date
Total Billings	234,487.82	419,003.36	653,491.18
Budget			3,770,969.00
Budget Remaining			3,117,477.82

Total this Invoice \$234,487.82

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April Keigwin
 Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority
 100 West California Avenue
 Ridgecrest, CA 93555

June 9, 2023
 Project No: 04101-23-001
 Invoice No: 101086

Project Name: Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority-CEQA/NEPA Documents and Permit Documentation

Client Project #:

TSK 1 Initial Coordination: Initial Coordination tasks with staff and agencies to keep project schedule on track. Weekly coordination meetings and tasks for project initiation. Process contract amendment for sub consultant tasks. Email correspondence.

TSK 2 Geotechnical Studies: Draft and QAQC Categorical Exemption document for Geotech. Internal discussion and revisions. Email correspondence. Pre-consultation meeting discussions and coordination. Draft SF-299 language for BLM submittal. Email correspondence.

TSK 3 Technical Studies: Preparation and research for botanical surveys. Field data collection. Conduct botanical and wildlife surveys. Prepare and revise maps. Meetings with BLM and CDFW regarding project. Coordination and delivery of information to sub-consultants for technical reports. Reimbursable expenses – travel & mileage, room & board, meals for biological field surveys. Ambient Invoice 929 – preparation of Air Quality/Greenhouse Gas and Noise Impact Analyses. ASM Affiliates Invoice 25871 – Technical Studies for Cultural Resources. Coordination and email correspondence with BLM regarding field authorization. Stantec Invoice 2080582 - Project Management tasks. Assistance with Geotechnical Investigations. Field survey for aquatic resources delineation. Research, preparations, reimbursable expenses. Assistance in preparation of Incidental Take Permit and Biological Assessment tasks. EnviroPlus Consulting LLC Invoice – Technical Studies assistance with Desert tortoise survey, preparation and execution. Email Correspondence.

TSK 4 Public Outreach: Initial coordination with sub consultant regarding scoping meeting preparation and execution. Email correspondence.

TSK 5 Regulatory Compliance and Permitting: Meeting with BLM to discuss permitting needs. Email correspondence. Project administration tasks for phase activities.

TSK 6 CEQA/NEPA Documentation: Weekly check-in meeting for CEQA & NEPA tasks and coordination. Research and continue drafting Project Description and Alternatives analysis needed for environmental documentation. Drafting and revising exhibits. Email correspondence.

Professional Services from May 1, 2023 to May 31, 2023

Phase: TSK1 Initial Coordination

Labor

	Hours	Rate	Amount	
Principal Engineer	1.20	217.00	260.40	
Project Administrator	.70	108.00	75.60	
Principal Planner	8.20	188.00	1,541.60	
Associate Biologist	1.20	130.00	156.00	
Principal Biologist	1.00	165.00	165.00	
Totals	12.30		2,198.60	
Total Labor				2,198.60

Consultants

Consultants			9,363.15	
Total Consultants			9,363.15	9,363.15
		Total this Phase:		\$11,561.75

Phase: TSK2 Geotechnical Studies

Labor

	Hours	Rate	Amount	
Project Administrator	2.00	108.00	216.00	
Principal Planner	4.70	188.00	883.60	
Totals	6.70		1,099.60	
Total Labor				1,099.60

Consultants

Consultants			9,642.75	
Total Consultants			9,642.75	9,642.75

Total this Phase: \$10,742.35

Phase: TSK3 Technical Studies

Labor

	Hours	Rate	Amount	
Project Administrator	1.90	94.00	178.60	
Project Administrator	2.60	108.00	280.80	
Senior GIS Specialist	17.40	147.00	2,557.80	
Principal Planner	4.40	188.00	827.20	
Associate Biologist	66.40	116.00	7,702.40	
Associate Biologist	135.00	130.00	17,550.00	
Assistant Biologist	84.10	100.00	8,410.00	
Principal Biologist	3.00	165.00	495.00	
Travel Time	35.00	80.00	2,800.00	
Totals	349.80		40,801.80	
Total Labor				40,801.80

Consultants

Consultants			40,980.25	
Total Consultants			40,980.25	40,980.25

Reimbursable Expenses

Travel & Mileage			5,276.20	
Other Direct Reimb Expenses			919.66	
Total Reimbursables			6,195.86	6,195.86

Total this Phase: \$87,977.91

Phase: TSK4 Public Outreach

Labor

	Hours	Rate	Amount	
Project Administrator	.10	108.00	10.80	
Principal Planner	1.30	188.00	244.40	
Totals	1.40		255.20	
Total Labor				255.20

Total this Phase: \$255.20

Phase: TSK5 Regulatory Compliance and Permitting

Labor

	Hours	Rate	Amount	
Project Administrator	.10	94.00	9.40	
Assistant Envir. Spec.	4.90	120.00	588.00	

Project	04101-23-001	CEQA/NEPA Documents and Permit Documenta	Invoice	101086
Principal Planner		2.70	188.00	507.60
Totals		7.70		1,105.00
Total Labor				1,105.00
Consultants				
Consultants				13,803.05
Total Consultants				13,803.05
			Total this Phase:	\$14,908.05

Phase:	TSK6	CEQA/NEPA Documentation		
Labor				
		Hours	Rate	Amount
Principal Engineer		.50	238.00	119.00
Project Administrator		2.60	108.00	280.80
Assistant Planner		35.20	110.00	3,872.00
Principal Planner		7.80	188.00	1,466.40
Senior Planner		6.50	173.00	1,124.50
Associate GIS Specialist		18.00	125.00	2,250.00
Totals		70.60		9,112.70
Total Labor				9,112.70
			Total this Phase:	\$9,112.70
			Total this Invoice	<u><u>\$134,557.96</u></u>

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TRANSYSTEMS

TranSystems Corporation

www.transystems.com

Invoice

Please remit payment to:
P.O. Box 71368
Chicago, IL 60694-1368

If you have any questions, please call:
(562) 304-2000

Client:

Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority
Attn: April Keigwin - Clerk of the Board
100 W California Ave.
Ridgecrest, CA 93555

Reference:

Invoice Date: 5/31/2023
Project No: P601230025
Invoice No: INV-0004130414

Project Name: IWV-Imported Water Pipeline

For professional services rendered through May 31, 2023 for the above referenced project.

Staff Type	Name	Rate	Hours	Amount
Labor				
Analyst II	Corey Nelson	135.00	49.00	\$6,615.00
Industry Specialist 2	Joi Speck	135.00	18.00	\$2,430.00
Industry Specialist III	Maria S. Martinez	135.00	2.50	\$337.50
	Angela Gabel	135.00	0.80	\$108.00
Project Consultant 3	April C. Harvey	250.00	16.00	\$4,000.00
	Donald M. Anderson	165.00	19.60	\$3,234.00
Total Labor			105.90	\$16,724.50
Reimbursables				
Title Services				\$900.00
Total Reimbursables				\$900.00
Invoice Total				\$17,624.50

TranSystems Corporation

Donald M. Anderson, SR/WA
Senior Project Manager

TERMS: PAYABLE UPON RECEIPT

1 1/2% INTEREST CHARGE PER MONTH WILL BE ADDED TO ALL PAST DUE INVOICES OLDER THAN 45 DAYS IF INDICATED IN THE CONTRACT TERMS

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Invoice

Please remit payment to:
P.O. Box 71368
Chicago, IL 60694-1368

TranSystems Corporation

www.transystems.com

If you have any questions, please call:
(562) 304-2000

Client:

Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority
Attn: April Keigwin - Clerk of the Board
100 W California Ave.
Ridgecrest, CA 93555

Reference:

Invoice Date: 3/31/2023
Project No: P601230025
Invoice No: INV-0004130006

Project Name: IWV-Imported Water Pipeline

For professional services rendered through March 31, 2023 for the above referenced project.

Staff Type	Name	Rate	Hours	Amount
Labor				
Analyst II	Corey Nelson	135.00	39.00	\$5,265.00
Industry Specialist III	Angela Gabel	135.00	5.80	\$783.00
Project Consultant 3	April C. Harvey	250.00	12.50	\$3,125.00
	Angela Castanon-Aguilera	120.00	14.00	\$1,680.00
	Donald M. Anderson	165.00	16.50	\$2,722.50
Real Estate Specialist 4	Katie M. Quick	135.00	2.30	\$310.50
R/W Specialist III	Alia N. Mills	135.00	10.00	\$1,350.00
R/W Specialist IV	Victoria A. Cook	250.00	5.00	\$1,250.00
Total Labor			105.10	\$16,486.00
Invoice Total				\$16,486.00

TranSystems Corporation

Donald M. Anderson, SR/WA
Senior Project Manager

TERMS: PAYABLE UPON RECEIPT

1 1/2% INTEREST CHARGE PER MONTH WILL BE ADDED TO ALL PAST DUE INVOICES OLDER THAN 45 DAYS IF INDICATED IN THE CONTRACT TERMS

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Invoice

Please remit payment to:
P.O. Box 71368
Chicago, IL 60694-1368

TranSystems Corporation

www.transystems.com

If you have any questions, please call:
(562) 304-2000

Client:

Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority
Attn: April Keigwin - Clerk of the Board
100 W California Ave.
Ridgecrest, CA 93555

Reference:

Invoice Date: 4/30/2023
Project No: P601230025
Invoice No: INV-0004130234

Project Name: IWV-Imported Water Pipeline

For professional services rendered through April 30, 2023 for the above referenced project.

Staff Type	Name	Rate	Hours	Amount
Labor				
Analyst II	Corey Nelson	135.00	61.50	\$8,302.50
Industry Specialist III	Angela Gabel	135.00	11.80	\$1,593.00
Project Consultant 3	April C. Harvey	250.00	12.50	\$3,125.00
	Daniel R. Coleman	135.00	3.70	\$499.50
	Donald M. Anderson	165.00	15.80	\$2,607.00
Real Estate Specialist 4	Katie M. Quick	135.00	0.50	\$67.50
Research Specialist III	Christian J. Hickey	120.00	3.00	\$360.00
R/W Specialist III	Alia N. Mills	135.00	5.00	\$675.00
Total Labor			113.80	\$17,229.50
Invoice Total				\$17,229.50

TranSystems Corporation

Donald M. Anderson, SR/WA
Senior Project Manager

TERMS: PAYABLE UPON RECEIPT

1 1/2% INTEREST CHARGE PER MONTH WILL BE ADDED TO ALL PAST DUE INVOICES OLDER THAN 45 DAYS IF INDICATED IN THE CONTRACT TERMS

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IWVGA ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

STAFF REPORT

TO: IWVGA Board of Directors **DATE: July 8, 2023**

FROM: Carol Thomas-Keefer, General Manager

SUBJECT: Agenda Item No. 9 – Communications and Engagement Work Plan

BACKGROUND

The Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) developed by the Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority includes a Communications and Engagement Plan (C&E Plan) as required by the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act. The C&E Plan for the IWVGA GSP was initially developed by the Policy Advisory Committee (PAC) in 2018 with a focus on GSP planning and development.

In 2022, following the state Department of Water Resources' approval of the IWVGA's GSP, the PAC performed a comprehensive review of the existing C&E Plan and has updated the Plan with expanded activities aimed toward educating and engaging the community on Basin groundwater management matters and the need to achieve sustainability. Dave Janiec, on behalf of the PAC, provided the updated C&E Plan recommendation to the IWVGA board at its October 12, 2022, meeting.

The IWVGA board recently directed staff to review the PAC's recommendations for C&E Plan updates and provide a proposed plan for implementation.

DISCUSSION

As directed, staff has distilled the PAC recommendations into specific tasks and prepared the attached proposed work plan for board consideration. The work plan would expand on current implementation of IWVGA C&E activities using available budget for the remainder of Calendar Year 2023; work would continue through 2024 using a similar budget estimate for 2024.

RECOMMENDATION

The IWVGA board should review and consider approval of the proposed work plan to implement the PAC's C&E Plan recommendations.

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Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority

Proposed Work Plan: PAC Recommendation for Communication and Engagement Plan for GSP Implementation Phase

BACKGROUND

The Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) developed by the Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority includes a Communications and Engagement Plan (C&E Plan) as required by the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA). SGMA requires that a GSP include a communications section that 1) explains the Groundwater Sustainability Agency's decision-making process; 2) identifies opportunities for public engagement and discusses how public input and response will be used; 3) describes how the GSA encourages the active involvement of diverse social, cultural, and economic elements of the population with the basin; and 4) identifies the GSA's method to inform the public about progress implementing the GSP.

The C&E Plan for the IWVGA GSP was initially developed by the Policy Advisory Committee (PAC) in 2018 with a focus on engagement for GSP planning and development. In 2022, following the Department of Water Resources' approval of IWVGA's GSP, the PAC performed a comprehensive review of the C&E Plan and has updated the Plan with expanded activities aimed toward educating and engaging the community on GSP implementation.

The PAC-recommended C&E Plan update identifies Desired Outcomes as well as Engagement Tools and Communications Methods to accomplish its objectives, as follows:

Outcomes:

- Maximum public awareness, knowledge and engagement
- Increased credibility and public trust
- Full basin sustainability through GSP implementation

Engagement Tools:

- Updated website
- Integrated projects and management action schedule with budget
- Brochures, fact sheets, hand-out materials
- Educational videos and infographics
- Surveys

Communication Methods:

- Regular meetings held in the evening
- Website

- Social media
- Workshops
- Email
- Newsletter
- Press releases and interviews
- Public notices
- Committees
- Postings at community-frequented locations

Details on the Engagement Tools and Communication Methods are included in the PAC recommendations.

IMPLEMENTATION AND PROPOSED WORK PLAN

As the PAC suggests, IWVGA’s C&E Plan and associated activities were initially focused on GSP planning. These activities began to shift in 2022 with the state approval of the IWVGA GSP and the award of a \$7.6 million SGMA implementation grant. With a limited time frame to use the grant funds, IWVGA has moved quickly over the past year to begin design and environmental work on the GSP’s primary sustainability project – the imported water connection pipeline. To support the progress toward GSP implementation, IWVGA routinely performs a variety of activities included in the C&E Plan; however, many of the PAC recommendations should be considered for an enhanced C&E Plan implementation.

That said, the PAC recommendations present a comprehensive approach to communications and engagement that would likely exceed IWVGA’s current budget. Consequently, staff has developed a proposed work plan that applies the current budgeted amount for Calendar Year 2023 (\$60,000 available for specific activities plus RGS staff time included in administrative budget), and plans for additional work and expense in CY 2024 and beyond.

For the remainder of 2023, staff recommends the following:

- 1) developing a new website that is user-friendly, easy to navigate and contains a broader amount of information to assist in educating the public;
- 2) developing a series of fact sheets along with a set of Frequently Asked Questions – these documents would be available on the website and as hand-outs or flyers;
- 3) creating an electronic newsletter summarizing IWVGA news and board meeting actions – this could be done monthly or quarterly, as appropriate;
- 4) initiating public meetings and workshops on timely topics, including the development of the imported water pipeline project and the pending groundwater adjudication;
- 5) beginning development of a master project schedule to describe and show progress and budget on GSP projects and management actions.

Work to be continued into CY 2024 would include:

- 1) completion and maintenance of the master project schedule;
- 2) additional public meetings and workshops as appropriate on IWVGA key projects;
- 3) explore use of social media on limited, non-interactive basis for posting notices;
- 4) consider development of informational videos to support GSP implementation efforts;
- 5) continue regular written/electronic communications, including newsletter, press releases, and newspaper op/eds.

PAC RECOMMENDATIONS REQUIRING FURTHER CONSIDERATION (NOT INCORPORATED IN WORKPLAN)

While most of the PAC recommendations are essential aspects of a comprehensive C&E plan, a few items have not been included in this work plan. Those include:

- 1) regular board meetings held in the evening
- 2) use of surveys to improve effectiveness of C&E efforts
- 3) appointment of a Communications Director for C&E implementation

1) Regular board meetings held in the evening: While IWVGA board meetings are an important source of agency information and activities, the timing of these meetings is, by necessity, a board decision based on the availability of board members to attend meetings. The structure of IWVGA – with representation from three different counties – can create a challenge for non-local board members to attend evening meetings. The board must weigh the added value (if any) of evening meetings as well as the potential additional costs or expenses that may be incurred.

2) Use of surveys to improve effectiveness of C&E efforts: This may be a useful tool at some point; however, considering the cost associated with creating, conducting and tabulating results of surveys, often through use of a consultant, staff recommends that, for the remainder of CY 2023 and for CY 2024 planning, IWVGA focus on the activities identified in the work plan, and, in CY 2024, determine if more information is needed to evaluate the C&E plan's effectiveness.

3) Appointment of a Communications Director for C&E implementation: While the PAC felt that the C&E Plan requires a dedicated staff person to be responsible for implementing C&E Plan activities, the current CY 2023 budget for IWVGA staff will not specifically accommodate an additional staff person with responsibilities outside of those in the current scope of work. The addition of a dedicated Communications Director in CY 2024 would require an increased budget and board approval. As an alternative, staff proposes that the General Manager, with assistance from the Clerk of the Board and use of some additional RGS staff as needed, will be able to implement the proposed work plan for CY 2023 and CY 2024 within planned budgets, and the board can re-evaluate those efforts when considering future budgets.

Proposed C&E Work Plan, Schedule and Budget – Remainder of CY 2023

Activity	Schedule	Budget
Website Improvements (design and implementation)	August – December 2023	\$25,000
Fact Sheets/FAQs (staff resources + printing)	July – December 2023	10,000
Newsletter (monthly) (staff time @ \$1,000 ea)	August 2023	5,000
Public Meetings/Wkshops (2) (RGS, SEI, P&P + mat’ls)	Sept 2023	10,000
Master Project Schedule (RGS and SEI staff)	Begin Aug 2023	10,000
Total		\$60,000

Proposed C&E Work Plan, Schedule and Budget – CY 2024

Activity	Schedule	Budget
Master Project Schedule (complete and maintain)	Jan – June 2024	\$10,000
Public Meetings/Workshops (2 – TBD)	As needed - TBD	10,000
Social Media (limited, ongoing)	Begin March 2024	2,000
Informational videos	Jan – March 2024	20,000
Continuing written updates (newsletter, press releases, new project updates,etc)	Jan – Dec 2024	20,000
Estimated Total		\$62,000

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**Communication and Engagement Plan for GSP Implementation Phase
DRAFT RECOMMENDATION**

Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority
Policy Advisory Committee

August 25, 2022

I. PURPOSE OF THE DOCUMENT

The Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) for the Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Basin was submitted in January 2021, thus starting the GSP implementation phase per SGMA guidelines. The GSP was subsequently approved by the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) on January 13, 2022.

The original Communications & Engagement Plan (C&E) dated April 19, 2018, addressed C&E during the GSP development phase. This document addresses the GSP implementation phase and supersedes the original C&E plan. It retains the essential elements of the original plan and incorporates additional areas of focus to address the C&E needs of the GSP implementation phase, lessons learned during the GSP development phase, and C&E corrective actions recommended by DWR.

During the GSP implementation phase, the Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority (IWVGA) is dedicated to expanding the public's trust with enhanced open dialogue and transparency. The IWVGA encourages active involvement of diverse social, cultural, and economic elements of the population to ensure that all relevant and interested stakeholders, beneficial users, and the public are involved. The key responsibilities of the IWVGA are: 1. To continually alert and notify stakeholders of the status of groundwater and the actions being taken to reach sustainability, and 2. To provide stakeholders opportunities to obtain information and to engage in the implementation of the GSP. Once alerted, all interested parties have a responsibility to become informed and participate in the process.

II. BACKGROUND

A. BASIN BACKGROUND

The Indian Wells Valley (IWV) Groundwater Basin is located east of the southern Sierra Nevada Range in southern California with an area of approximately 382,000 acres underlying portions of Inyo, Kern, and San Bernardino Counties. The IWV Groundwater Basin is identified by the Department of Water Resources (DWR) as Basin 6-54 in Bulletin No. 118. IWV Groundwater Basin is classified as a "critically overdrafted" basin pursuant to the California Statewide Groundwater Elevation Monitoring (CASGEM) program, the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA), and Bulletin No. 118 interim update (2016) prepared by the DWR. As required by SGMA, all Bulletin No. 118 basins designated as "high" or "medium priority" and "critically overdrafted" such as the IWV Groundwater Basin shall be managed under a Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) submitted to DWR by January 31, 2020.

The IWV Groundwater Basin resources are not currently sustainably managed. Groundwater is the sole source of water in the IWV. Overdraft conditions have existed since at least the 1960s as a result of groundwater pumping exceeding the sustainable

yield of the basin. Disadvantaged Communities (DACs), Severely Disadvantaged Communities (SDACs), Economically Distressed Areas (EDAs), and the large number of shallow domestic water wells overlying the IWV Groundwater Basin are particularly susceptible to adverse effects resulting from chronic lowering of groundwater levels. Mitigating the chronic lowering of groundwater levels by implementing the GSP is an urgent requirement. As a result of these conditions, and with the purpose of complying with SGMA regulations and DWR standards and guidance, the IWVGA was established; and in January 2022 DWR approved the IWV Groundwater Basin GSP.

Until the Comprehensive Adjudication, and other lawsuits, are settled in the Superior Court there may be limited communication and information provided on certain issues regarding the IWV Groundwater Basin. The Board may have to prioritize communication actions recommended in this C&E Plan due to limited funding.

B. SGMA COMMUNICATIONS AND ENGAGEMENT PLAN REQUIREMENTS

This document is designed to assist the public and the IWVGA in developing a mutual understanding of how the IWVGA will fulfill the requirements of SGMA as they relate to public engagement. Specific guidance in California law requires the GSP to address C&E:

CA Code of Regulations – Title 23 – Division 2 – Chapter 1.5 – Sub Chapter 2 – Article 5 – Sub Article 1 – Sub Section 354.10 (d)

“A communication section of the Plan that includes the following:

1. An explanation of the Agency’s decision-making process
2. Identification of opportunities for public engagement and a discussion of how public input and response will be used.
3. A description of how the Agency encourages the active involvement of diverse social, cultural, and economic elements of the population within the basin.
4. The method the Agency shall follow to inform the public about progress implementing the Plan, including the status of projects and actions.”

C. IMPORTANCE OF STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

The GSP clearly identifies the severity of the overdraft in the basin, as well as the challenging magnitude of the projects, actions, and resources necessary to bring the basin into sustainability. The IWV Groundwater Basin underlies a variety of land uses and communities with varying needs and interests relating to the sustainable management of its resources. The plan requires significant public understanding, engagement, and support for successful implementation.

D. DECISION MAKING PROCESS

In July 2016, the IWVGA was formed through a Joint Exercise of Powers Agreement for the purpose of forming a Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA), as defined by SGMA, to manage the Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Basin and to implement SGMA requirements, including the development and implementation of a GSP. The IWVGA consists of the following voting member agencies:

- City of Ridgecrest (a public agency)
- Indian Wells Valley Water District (a California Special District)
- County of Kern (a public agency)
- County of Inyo (a public agency)
- County of San Bernardino (a public agency)

And consists of the following non-voting associate members:

- United States Department of the Interior – Bureau of Land Management
- United States Navy - Naval Air Weapons Station China Lake

During the formation of the IWVGA, a comprehensive listing of interested parties (Appendix A) was developed. This listing of over 150 stakeholders includes representatives from all types of water users within the IWV Groundwater Basin and continues to be used for notification of public meetings, other types of notifications (e.g., mailings, email, etc.), and updates relating to the discussions surrounding SGMA and the implementation of the GSP. This stakeholder listing continues to be used and updated.

The IWVGA conducts regular board meetings on a monthly basis to support the on-going development and implementation of the GSP for the IWV Groundwater Basin. The purpose of these meetings is to conduct the business of the IWVGA, present the status of the GSP and its implementation, and to provide an opportunity for input from interested parties both in-person and virtually.

The IWVGA created two standing committees to advise the IWVGA board on policy and technical issues and information. The Policy Advisory Committee (PAC) and The Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), provide an additional public engagement opportunity for interested parties of the basin. Through these committees and other identified means of engagement, the public is able to provide input to the IWVGA throughout the implementation phase of the GSP. All input received from interested parties is taken into account during the IWVGA decision-making process.

III. OBJECTIVES AND DESIRED OUTCOMES

Ultimately, the success of the IWV Groundwater Basin will be determined by the collective action of all groundwater users. On a practical level, that means that in order to meet the ongoing water supply needs, for both health and safety and economic livelihoods, the Basin must be managed in a balanced fashion. The approved GSP has been developed to meet this objective, and the IWVGA needs maximum public engagement in order to be successful in the implementation of the GSP.

Therefore, the IWVGA seeks to involve interested parties, stakeholders, and the public, and to keep the internal information flow seamless among staff, consultants, committee members, and the Board regarding the goals and objectives of the IWV Groundwater Basin GSP and its implementation projects, management actions and execution.

A. DESIRED OUTCOMES

1. Maximum public awareness, understanding, and engagement from all parties in implementing the GSP
2. Increased credibility and public trust and support for the GSP implementation process
3. Reach full sustainability in the basin through GSP implementation

B. CONCERNS AND CHALLENGES

1. Fragmented methods of communication and methods of information retrieval.
2. Lack of more extensive use of growing popular social media and other communication vehicles.
3. Apathy or the limited interest in the subject.
4. Use of unfamiliar language and technical terminology.
5. Limited available access to accurate reference materials through affordable communication methods.
6. Absentee and out of basin landowners
7. Temporary employees in the basin who own homes
8. Limited access for non-English language and hearing-impaired individuals
9. Scheduling meetings at times that maximize the opportunity for public participation
10. Gaining and retaining public trust
11. Presenting a balanced statement of the magnitude of the problem and the proposed solutions
12. Ongoing litigation(s) and their potential limits on communications
13. Difficulties in communication with DAC, SDAC, and EDA communities

C. APPROACH

1. Notify and inform the public about the status of groundwater in the IWV and provide accurate, objective, and timely information through the use of multiple communication venues and tools to maximize distribution.
2. Manage a singular repository (i.e., the website) that serves as the central database for all public information and is the primary reference point that all external posts or engagements lead back to. This repository should provide overview and introductory information in layman's terms for newly interested members of the public, as well as detailed information sources.
3. Designate a Communications Director whose responsibility it is to maintain, coordinate and implement the C&E Plan.
4. Implement an integrated schedule available to the public that includes information about the projects and management actions throughout implementation, including budgetary information.

IV. OPPORTUNITIES FOR PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT AND ENGAGEMENT

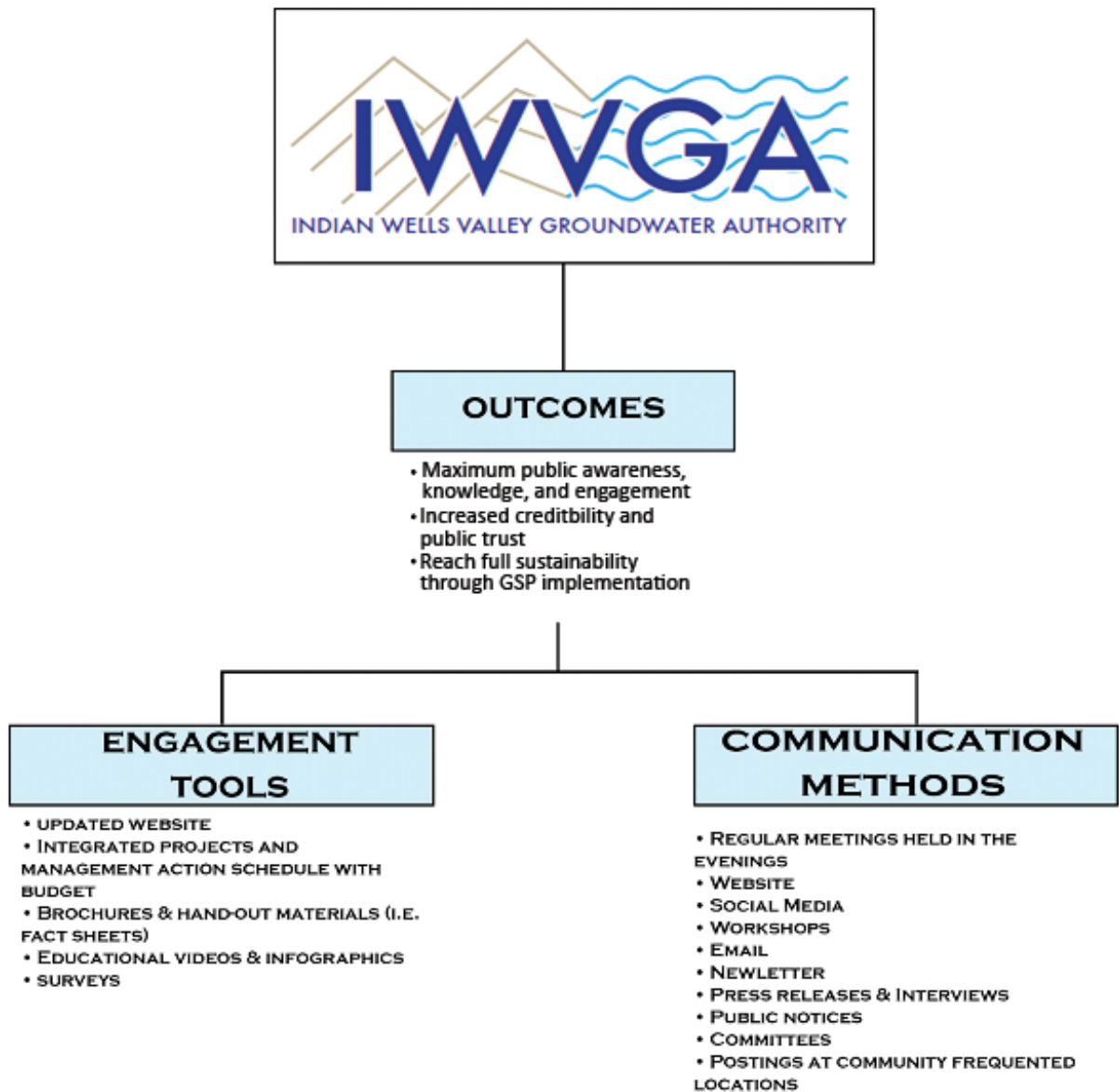
A. AUDIENCE

In addition to the interested parties and stakeholders identified in Appendix A, a listing of organizations, Appendix B, was developed to help inform and engage the general public and key governing agencies/individuals in the GSP implementation process. These can generally be grouped into two categories:

- I. Local Community Information, Outreach, and Engagement Opportunity (Awareness, Coordination, Participation, and Execution)
 - a. Service organizations
 - b. Business and Advocacy Groups
 - c. Schools and Education Organizations
 - d. Tribal Representation
 - e. Local Utilities within the Basin
 - f. Local Government
- II. External Contacts (Proactive Coordinated Execution and Funding Solutions)
 - a. Regional
 - i. Utilities
 - ii. Regulatory Agencies
 - iii. Districts
 - b. State
 - i. Advocacy groups and coalitions
 - ii. Legislative representations

- iii. Executive agencies
- c. National
 - i. Advocacy groups and coalitions
 - ii. Legislative representations
 - iii. Executive agencies

B. OVERVIEW OF IWVGA COMMUNICATION AND ENGAGEMENT



C. COMMUNICATION VENUES AND TOOLS

1. REGULAR IWVGA BOARD MEETINGS

Board and Committee Meetings are open to the public, and available for live viewing via YouTube. The IWVGA is deeply rooted in stakeholder engagement, and the IWVGA will continue to provide both in-person and virtual meeting attendance options.

2. COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR

The Communications Director is a key staff position for the implementation phase of the GSP. The Communications Director works closely with interested parties, stakeholder groups, staff, and the General Manager (GM) to implement the Communications and Engagement Plan.

3. COMMITTEES

POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE (PAC)

The PAC advises the IWVGA board on all policy matters, including GSP implementation. The committee meets on a monthly basis and provides representation for all types of water users in the IWV Groundwater Basin.

The voting members of the PAC include water users from the following:

- 2 representatives from Large Agriculture
- 1 representative from Small Agriculture
- 2 representatives from Business Interests
- 2 representatives from Domestic Well Owners
- 2 representatives from residential customers of a public agency water supplier
- 1 representative from Eastern Kern County Resource Conservation District
- 1 representative from Wholesaler and Industrial User
- At least 1 representative from Disadvantaged Communities (Inyokern)
- 1 representative from private water customers of Trona

The non-voting members of the PAC include:

- The IWV Water District

- United States Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management – Ridgecrest Field Office
- United States Navy, Naval Air Weapons Station China Lake
- Director of Kern County Planning and Natural Resources Department

TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC)

The TAC meets on an as needed basis and provides technical review of data and other information pertaining to the GSP, implementation projects, and other requests from the Board. The TAC is comprised of individuals representing PAC membership stakeholder categories, and the interest of basin landowners and water users. The PAC Committee members may nominate a TAC member for their respective stakeholder membership category.

4. WEBSITE

The website (<https://iwvga.org>), will be updated and maintained to provide all accurate, relevant, and authoritative information about SGMA, the IWVGA, and implementation of the GSP. The website should be seen as the primary resource for all publicly available information and should be structured to appear prominently when an interested party executes a search about groundwater in the IWV.

The website should include:

- Primary Homepage/Landing Page that is easily navigated to find desired links or files within the site
- Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)
- Meeting Packets and Video Links
- Document and web links with an easily searchable feature
- Integrated schedule for projects and management actions with budget
- Basin information, background, and additional data repository web link (<https://iwvgagasp.com>)

Social Media, infographics, brochures, and fact sheets will directly link back to the website and the information provided within it.

5. MASTER INTEGRATED PROJECT SCHEDULE

An essential element of the C&E phase is an integrated schedule which will be available to the public. This schedule will provide transparency about the timelines, inter-dependencies, and costs of projects and management actions. It will communicate

historical and planned actions of the IWVGA and provide a comprehensive overview for the public and stakeholders.

6. SOCIAL MEDIA

Existing well-established social media (e.g., Facebook) platforms will be leveraged to contact the public, share IWVGA activities, and GSP updates/milestones. Both an information-only avenue for dissemination, and a two-way communication method may be used to answer public questions and provide much needed information in a timely manner to a large sector of stakeholders. Any IWVGA social media posts will direct users to the IWVGA website for complete and in-depth information.

7. FACT SHEETS AND HAND-OUT MATERIALS

Fact sheets and hand-out materials should provide information on topics such as, but not limited to,

- SGMA
- GSP development and implementation
- Implementation Projects and Management Actions
- Basin Background and Basic Hydrologic Information

8. WORKSHOPS & COMMUNITY EVENTS

The IWVGA will conduct public workshops that pertain to implementation projects and actions. These workshops will focus on providing the public as much information as possible on the projects, the budget, schedule, and provide interested parties an opportunity to engage throughout implementation.

9. EDUCATIONS VIDEOS & INFOGRAPHICS

Short videos and infographics should be leveraged to provide concise information in an easy to consume format for IWVGA utilized social media platforms.

10. C&E CONTACT LISTS (APPENDIX A AND APPENDIX B)

The C&E contact lists, found in Appendix A and B, are used to send out IWVGA information relating to important updates, meeting packets, etc. Personal contact information provided to the IWVGA shall be secured and not available to the public.

COMMUNICATIONS & ENGAGEMENT PLAN 2022

Methods of communications using this information can include, but are not limited to, Push notifications, email communications, text alerts, etc.

11. EXISTING CHANNELS OF COMMUNICATION

To expand the IWVGA's sphere of engagement, the IWVGA will partner with existing agencies, committees, and organizations to disseminate information and invite public involvement. The Communications Director and/or GM will request the opportunity to provide articles, updates, and announcements for existing social media pages and newsletters (both digital and print). The Communications Director and/or GM will attend board/committee meetings, brief leadership, and coordinate public outreach at key IWVGA milestones.

12. ADDITIONAL TOOLS AND VENUES

- A. Quarterly or Annual E-Newsletter
- B. Public Notices
- C. Surveys
- D. Press releases and interviews
- E. Community Groups

D. COMMUNICATION RESPONSIBILITIES

1. PRESS PROTOCOLS

The press is an important partner for getting the IWVGA message out to the stakeholders. To maximize the effectiveness in working with the media, a consistent protocol should be followed by all staff, consultants, board members, and committee members.

- A. The Spokespersons
 - The primary spokespersons for all media inquiries are the GM and Communications Director. Media inquiries should first be directed to the Communications Director to coordinate a response.
 - Reporters may want to also interview board members and community members. The Communications Director and GM will maintain a list of board members and other designated spokespersons who will be prepared and can be called on for media interviews.
 - In preparation for the interview, the GM and Communications Director will work closely with the spokesperson chosen in

preparation for the media interviews. Factual and coordinated talking points will be provided in advance of the interview.

B. Responsiveness

- Reporters often work on tight deadlines. If there is a media request, it should be referred to the Communications Director and GM at the earliest possible opportunity.

C. Notifying the IWVGA

- Following the interview or press statement, if published, the GM or Communications Director will send notification to the Board and committee members.

2. GENERAL MANAGER (GM)

The GM, as described in the bylaws article 3.3, is the key personnel position that is the link between the IWVGA Board, staff, consultants, committee members, and interested parties in the community. The GM should be an employee of the IWVGA reporting directly to the Board and is responsible and accountable for C&E Plan execution by the Communications Director.

3. COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR

The Communications Director function will report directly to the GM. The Communications Director should not be a representative of any of the member agencies that comprise the IWVGA; he/she should be a member of IWVGA staff similar to the GM. The Communications Director will work closely with the GM, board members, and designated spokespersons to provide the public with accurate and verifiable information in a timely manner.

The Communications Director will monitor social media sites for mentions of the IWVGA, GSP, and implementation projects and management actions. A social media report, including any IWVGA mentions, positive and negative comments, will be provided to the GM monthly. Negative posts will be shared and discussed immediately to determine what, if any, response is warranted.

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IWVGA ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

STAFF REPORT

TO: IWVGA Board Members **DATE:** July 12, 2023

FROM: IWVGA Staff

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item 10 – Approval of a Memorandum of Understanding between the Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority, the Bureau of Land Management, and Provost and Pritchard Consulting Group for Preparation of an Environmental Assessment for the Imported Water Pipeline Project**

BACKGROUND AND DISCUSSION

The IWVGA was awarded \$7.6 million from the Sustainable Groundwater Management Implementation Round 1 grant solicitation (SGMA-IP). The grant funding will be primarily used for additional planning for the IWVGA’s Imported Water Interconnection Project (Project) including design, environmental compliance, right-of-way acquisition, and other permitting and coordination with partnering agencies. The IWVGA Board authorized the award of contracts for design, environmental compliance and right-of-way consulting services for the Project at the Board’s February 8, 2023 meeting. Provost & Pritchard (P&P) was selected to provide the environmental compliance consultant services for the Project.

A portion of the Project is on Bureau of Land Management (BLM) land. The BLM has determined that an Environmental Assessment (EA) of the Project is required pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The contract for environmental compliance services with Provost and Pritchard authorized by the Board includes preparation of an EA for the Project.

On April 12, 2023, the Board approved execution of a Reimbursement Agreement with the BLM to provide cost reimbursement of BLM’s Project related costs, including BLM costs to ensure the EA meets the requirements of the NEPA. The BLM also requires a three-party agreement between the BLM, as lead agency for NEPA compliance, the Groundwater Authority, as the project proponent, and P & P, as the NEPA compliance consultant, regarding the procedures to be followed and the conditions to be adhered to in the preparation of the EA. The agreement provides that the Groundwater Authority can comment on the technical and economic feasibility of alternatives to the Project, review and comment on the environmental effects analysis or impact conclusions during public comment periods, and it acknowledges the Groundwater Authority is financially responsible for preparation of the EA. The BLM will have the final authority over the scope and content of the EA, facilitate completion of the EA within schedule, and determine the adequacy of the EA.

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The three-party agreement, which has been reviewed by IWVGA Legal Counsel and Provost and Pritchard, is included in your Board package.

ACTION(S) REQUIRED BY THE BOARD

Staff recommends the Board authorize the General Manager to sign the Memorandum of Understanding between the Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority, the Bureau of Land Management, and Provost and Pritchard Consulting Group for Preparation of an Environmental Assessment for the Imported Water Pipeline Project

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN
Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority (IWVGA) (Proponent)
Provost & Pritchard Consulting Group (Project Consultant)**

AND

**THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Bureau of Land Management, Ridgecrest Field Office (BLM)**

FOR

**The Purpose of Preparing an Environmental Assessment for
IWVGA Ridgecrest Waterline Project (CACA-59994)**

I. BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE

The Bureau of Land Management, Ridgecrest Field Office (BLM) has determined that an Environmental Assessment (EA) pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), as amended, must be prepared involving a proposal for the IWVGA Ridgecrest Waterline project (hereinafter known as the “Project”) by the Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority (hereinafter referred to as the “Proponent”) in Kern County, California. The Proponent wishes to include this project in this Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).

The Proponent has decided to utilize a third-party Project Consultant, Provost & Pritchard Consulting Group (hereinafter referred to as the “Project Consultant”) to prepare the EA for the Project on behalf of BLM. BLM shall retain complete final control over the scope, content, and the determination of adequacy of the document.

It is the purpose of this MOU to establish an agreement between the Proponent, the Project Consultant, and the BLM regarding the procedures to be followed and the conditions to be adhered to in preparation of the EA on the Proponent’s project(s). It is understood that at any time during the preparation and completion of the EA, if the analysis of potential impacts of the projects so warrants, BLM may determine to upgrade the document(s) to an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), subject to a new MOU.

II. AUTHORITY

The EA(s) will be prepared pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (42 U.S.C. Section 4321, et seq.) (NEPA) and must comply with all provisions of NEPA including the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations, 40 CFR Part 1500-1508; Department of Interior requirements (DM 516); the BLM NEPA Handbook (H-1790-1); the BLM California NEPA Guidebook; the Endangered Species Act (16 U.S.C. Section 1531, et seq.) (ESA) and its implementing regulations at 50 CFR 402; and, the National Historic Preservation Act (16 U.S.C. Section 470, et seq.) and its implementing regulations at 43 CFR Part 800 and, Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

III. RESPONSIBILITIES

A. BLM Responsibilities:

1. BLM is the lead Federal agency for the NEPA document and shall retain complete control over the scope and content of the EA. As such, the BLM may take over primary responsibility for preparation of all or portions of the EA at any time during the NEPA process.
2. BLM will communicate directly with the Project Consultant on any matters associated with the preparation of the EA.
3. In coordination with Proponent and Project Consultant, BLM will establish the project schedule ("Schedule") and will provide personnel and other resources to complete tasks in accordance with the Schedule. BLM will arrange meetings and conference calls, as necessary, between BLM, Proponent, Project Consultant and Project Consultant, and other entities deemed appropriate for the preparation of the EA.
4. As appropriate, BLM will be responsible for identifying and inviting cooperating agencies to participate in the development of the EA. Cooperating agencies will be identified at the project kickoff meeting. All consultation and coordination with cooperating agencies will be the responsibility of BLM and will be conducted according to the Schedule.
5. BLM will facilitate completion of the EA within the timeframes specified in the Schedule, subject to extensions due to incompleteness in data, new issues identified during scoping and the public comment period, sufficiency of the EA, changes in project scope, or other conditions that may warrant such extension. In addition, BLM will establish an interdisciplinary team to provide assistance and oversight in preparation of the EA.
6. BLM will determine the adequacy of the EA and will ultimately decide on the inclusion or deletion of all EA material including data, analysis and conclusions. BLM will determine within the defined scope of the EA any necessary modification of the EA as a result of public, cooperating agency, or Proponent submitted comments. BLM will determine the sufficiency of the Project Consultant-prepared EA after review, verification, and approval of its contents.
7. BLM will make final effect determinations and undertake consultations required by Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973, as amended, and Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966, as amended. BLM will share the results of the NHPA consultations with the Proponent and Project Consultant. BLM is responsible for and will initiate and conduct consultation with Native American Tribes interested in the project.
8. BLM will oversee all public involvement efforts. In addition to posting the project on the BLM ePlanning website, BLM will determine the need and assume responsibility for formal scoping and review periods, news releases, mailings, etc.
9. If applicable, following completion of the scoping and/or public review period(s), BLM will gather public comments, provide the Proponent and Project Consultant with copies of the written comments, and assist the Project Consultant's analysis of public comments and review the Project Consultant's draft response to public comments in accordance with the Schedule.
10. BLM will assist in the preparation of and lead meetings between BLM, the Proponent, and Project Consultant/Contractor, cooperating agencies, and any meetings that may involve the

public. BLM will ensure that any materials used for public meetings meet BLM requirements and will prepare and issue any notices. BLM will gather scoping comments, provide the Proponent and Project Consultant with copies of the scoping comments, and assist the Project Consultant's analysis of scoping comments and review the Project Consultant's proposed resolution of scoping comments in accordance with the Schedule.

11. BLM will also collect, organize/consolidate, and process scoping comments with assistance from the Project Consultant/Contractor.
12. BLM will designate a primary Point of Contact to coordinate all matters concerning the project and EA. Any modifications to the point of contact will be provided in writing to the other parties to the MOU.
13. BLM will assume responsibility for design and organization of the Administrative Record while the Project Consultant populates and maintains the record.
14. BLM will be responsible for responding to all public information requests pursuant to the rules and exceptions of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) or other applicable laws.
15. BLM will, as necessary and with input from the Project Proponent and Project Consultant, develop an information mailer/newsletter or news releases for the EA and Decision Record (DR), and develop a mailing list for circulation of scoping notices and the EA.
16. BLM has discretion to invite Proponent to meetings with federal, state, regional, local agencies, Native American tribes and other groups to address issues within the scope of the EA, as appropriate under law.
17. At any time during the EA process, BLM may recommend project modifications to the Proponent to mitigate impacts to the environment. BLM will make a good faith effort to recommend project modifications to the Proponent in a timely manner to facilitate completion of the EA and impact analysis. Upon concurrence, the Proponent will incorporate suggested modifications into the proposed application and Plan of Development to reduce or eliminate adverse impacts. Modifications to the proposed application would need to be incorporated into the proposed action by the Project Consultant. If any means, measures or practices recommended by BLM are not incorporated into the proposed action, BLM may elect to analyze in detail an alternative that includes identified design features or mitigation measures.
18. BLM will provide Proponent with a list of standard terms and conditions that are applicable to the federal action under consideration that will be incorporated as design feature of the proposed action.
19. BLM has discretion to provide Proponent with sections of the EA and other reports for review and input. In all cases, BLM will review any input and information provided by Proponent and determine final document content.
20. The BLM, in consultation with Proponent and Project Consultant as necessary, will be responsible for preparation of the purpose and need for action, identifying issues to be carried forward for analysis and developing a reasonable range of alternatives to be analyzed in the EA.
21. BLM will be responsible for preparation of the Decision Record (DR). If it is determined by BLM that the selected alternative will not have significant effects, BLM will be responsible for preparation of the Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) and Decision Record (DR). BLM will also be responsible for preparation of an unsigned FONSI, if the decision maker decides to release the FONSI for public review.

B. Proponent Responsibilities (IWVGA):

1. Proponent will provide a complete written description of the proposed project in the form of a Plan of Development (POD).
2. Proponent, in coordination with the EA Project Consultant, and or other sub-Project Consultants, as necessary, will provide within reason the supporting expertise, staffing, technical capabilities and environmental information required by BLM for EA preparation. All costs incurred pursuant to the contracts shall be the sole responsibility of the Proponent.
3. Proponent will participate in meetings, site visits, and conference calls as requested by BLM and respond to data requests and provide review comments within the Schedule. If Proponent fails to meet the Schedule, BLM will adjust the Schedule to the extent necessary.
4. The Proponent will be allowed to comment on the technical and economic feasibility of alternatives to the proposed action; however, the BLM will not provide the Proponent with opportunity to review or comment on the environmental effects analysis or impact conclusions included within the document independent of a public comment period.
5. Proponent will be financially responsible for preparation, printing and distribution of the EA and other related documents. Proponent will be financially responsible for the collection, compilation and display of data necessary to support the EA. If necessary, this may include obtaining land use plans and inventory data from affected agencies, gathering necessary field data to BLM requirements, and compilation of the Administrative Record.
6. Unless otherwise agreed upon, Proponent, or a Project Consultant of Proponent approved by BLM, will be responsible for completing all necessary surveys such as air quality modeling, air quality emissions inventories, cultural, paleontological, visual, and biological clearances consistent with BLM inventory protocol and data management standards and guidelines. The emissions inventory, model results, and other inventory data from the clearances will be provided to both BLM and the EA Project Consultant. BLM retains ultimate decision-making in determining which areas and to what extent the resources shall be surveyed, as well as in determining whether the surveys, modeling, and other such assessments are adequate and sufficient.
7. Proponent will establish a primary Point of Contact for coordination with BLM and the Project Consultant on all matters relating to the project and EA. Any modifications to the point of contact will be provided in writing to the other parties in the MOU.
8. Proponent will identify and comply with all federal, state and local laws and regulations and will obtain all required permits that apply to finalizing this EA.
9. To the best knowledge of the Proponent, the Project Consultant (and any subcontractors) will have no financial interest in the construction or operation of the project, but may have financial interest in the design and planning for the project (due to the Consultant's dual role in engineering and environmental analysis for the project). Proponent will be responsible for all contract-related costs incurred in connection with the employment of the Project Consultant and any sub-contractors of the Project Consultant.
10. The Proponent will provide the BLM with the Draft Statement of Work (SOW) for the Project Consultant in order for BLM to determine the appropriate needs required by the Project Consultant to meet the NEPA requirements for BLM. Until the SOW is approved by the BLM, the Project Consultant will not commence work on and portion of the EA.
11. Proponent will hold harmless and indemnify BLM, its officers, agents and employees with respect to any and all judgments or settlements arising from claims, demands, or causes of action caused by the employment of the Project Consultant and any sub-contractors of the Project Consultant that may arise from the termination or performance of the contract initiated by Proponent, or other services or purchases of materials used for the development

and preparation of the EA, or from termination of this MOU initiated by Proponent. This indemnification by Proponent does not extend to third parties (other than the Project Consultant) against BLM involving the legality or adequacy of any federal agency's compliance with NEPA to the extent of the agency's liability for those issues.

12. The contract shall provide that the contractor shall cooperate in defense of any suit involving the legality or adequacy of BLM's compliance with NEPA with regard to this EA.
13. If for any reason, a change in the contractor or subcontractors becomes necessary, the BLM and Applicant will jointly engage in selection procedures for a new contractor.

C. Project Consultant Responsibilities (Provost & Pritchard):

1. The Project Consultant will sign a disclosure statement which identifies potential conflicts of interest. The statement will identify the Consultant's interest in the environmental analysis and design and planning of the project, while certifying that the Consultant has no other financial or economic interests in the project. The statement will specifically disclaim interest in the construction and operation of the project.
2. The Project Consultant will communicate directly with BLM on all matter pertaining to the preparation and completion of the EA.
3. The Project Consultant may delegate (e.g., to a subcontractor) the following responsibilities (items #4 through #27) only with prior written authorization from BLM.
4. The Project Consultant will have primary responsibility for writing or rewriting of all sections, parts, appendices, or chapters including revisions resulting from BLM or public comment on the draft EA and for establishing a schedule for completion of portions of the EA consistent with the overall time Schedule established
5. The Project Consultant will provide BLM with opportunities to review, comment, and make changes to the EA within the established Schedule, and BLM will provide comments within the timeframes established in the Schedule. The Project Consultant shall incorporate these comments and changes by BLM into the relevant section, parts, or chapters of the EA both in preparation for and following public review. The EA may be released to other Federal agencies as well as state and local agencies for review and comment. The Project Consultant will meet timeframes and schedules as directed by the BLM. If the Project Consultant fails to meet the Schedule, BLM will adjust the Schedule to the extent necessary.
6. The Project Consultant will provide BLM with opportunities to review, comment, and make changes to the EA within the established Schedule, and BLM will provide comments within the timeframes established in the Schedule. The Project Consultant shall incorporate these comments and changes by BLM into the relevant section, parts, or chapters of the EA both in preparation for and following public review. The EA may be released to other Federal agencies as well as state and local agencies for review and comment, in coordination with BLM.
7. The Project Consultant will meet timeframes and schedules as directed by the BLM. If the Project Consultant fails to meet the Schedule, BLM will adjust the Schedule to the extent necessary.
8. The Project Consultant will comply with BLM requests related to content or relevance of material (including all data, analyses, and conclusions) in the EA.
9. The Project Consultant will draft an initial response to public comments; BLM will review the draft responses provide clarification and edits.
10. The Project Consultant will provide a formal response to any BLM comments submitted in writing regarding draft documents prepared by the Project Consultant.

11. The Project Consultant should not start preparation of the EA (except for the background, proposed action, and affected environment) until, at a minimum, the BLM has conducted internal scoping and identified issues that should be carried forward for detailed analysis. Analysis included within the EA will be limited to those issues identified by the BLM during the scoping process and identified within the interdisciplinary (ID) team checklist. Also, the Project Consultant will not begin the analysis within the EA until the BLM has finalized the alternatives to be considered.
12. The Project Consultant will not provide copies of the EA or associated data to the Proponent or other interested parties unless authorized by the BLM. The Project Consultant will maintain confidentiality and communicate directly with BLM during EA analysis preparation or conclusions related to the environmental consequences.
13. The United States has a unique legal relationship with federally recognized Indian tribes established through and confirmed by the Constitution of the United States, treaties, statutes, Executive orders, and judicial decisions. In accordance with that relationship, BLM is charged with engaging in regular and meaningful consultation and collaboration with federally recognized tribes in the development of Federal policies and decisions that have tribal implications. Section 106 consultation also requires consultation with non-federal tribes and tribal entities. The Project Consultant will assist BLM with its government-to-government consultation duties (e.g., Tribal Consultation), Section 106 consultation, and/or agency consultation duties (e.g., USFWS Consultation) only when and to an extent described in writing by BLM. The BLM reserves the sole duty and authority to perform all consultation tasks not expressly delegated.
14. The Project Consultant may have direct communication with the Proponent to develop the background information, proposed action, and any mitigation measures recommended by the BLM subsequent to the submission of the proposed action, or to discuss assessment data needs or billing/invoicing issues. Unless otherwise noted, the Project Consultant will have no direct communication with the Proponent related to the preparation of the EA except specifically authorized by the BLM.
15. The Project Consultant will follow the format and content requirements of the California NEPA Guidebook unless specifically instructed by the BLM to do otherwise. If the EA does not meet the minimum standards of the Guidebook, it will be sent back to the Project Consultant as unacceptable for review.
16. The Project Consultant will prepare all documents using a writing standard provided by the BLM or a style guide that ensures consistency in usage, terminology, and formatting across the document. The Project Consultant will incorporate a second-level, quality control review process prior to submission to the BLM to reduce grammatical and syntax errors. Documents that do not meet these writing standards or contain many grammatical or syntax errors will be sent back to the Project Consultant as unacceptable for review.
17. The Project Consultant will prepare the EA to comply with Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act.
18. The Project Consultant will not submit documents that include Project Consultant logos on the cover or other prominent locations. Project Consultant logos may be included as a minor element within figures generated by the Project Consultant, such as maps.
19. The Project Consultant will establish a primary point of contact for coordination with the BLM and the Proponent on all matters relating to the Project. If there is a change in the point of contact, the Project Consultant will notify the other parties in writing.
20. The Project Consultant shall provide the supporting expertise, staffing, technical and environmental capabilities necessary to complete the EA.

21. The Project Consultant shall be responsible for incorporating in the EA all changes required by the BLM prior to BLM acceptance of the final EA.
22. The Project Consultant will participate in ID team meetings, public meetings, and project conference calls as directed by BLM. The Project Consultant will also prepare draft agendas and summaries of meetings and conference calls; prepare draft letters and other requested documents; incorporate all BLM comments/changes in the EA; and other items as directed by the BLM.
23. The Project Consultant will compile the Administrative Record as specified by the BLM. The Project Consultant will also ensure the Administrative Record is fully digitized (including OCR), indexed, hyperlinked, and electronically Bates Stamped. The record is to reflect the BLM decision making process and is to conform to the applicable laws, regulations, and policies. The Project Consultant will provide the BLM with a complete Administrative Record prior to completion of the Decision Record. An electronic copy of all references utilized by the Project Consultant in preparation of the EA will be included in the Administrative Record.
24. The Project Consultant will not release any information contained within the Administrative Record without the BLM's review and approval.
25. The Project Consultant will draft project reclamation plans and biological baseline reports; however, the Project Consultant will utilize separate staff for 1) the preparation of baseline resource condition reports versus 2) the analysis of potential impacts to said resources.
26. The Project Consultant will report directly to the BLM Point of Contact. Subject to direction from the BLM designated Point of Contact, the Project Consultant will communicate directly with appropriate BLM resource specialists.
27. The Project Consultant will apply their technical expertise in vegetation, soils and farmlands (prime or unique), grazing management, noxious weeds, wetlands, special status species, and threatened and endangered species evaluations to evaluate and author resource sections of the EA under the direction of the BLM.

IV. EXPIRATION

This MOU shall become effective upon signature of all three parties and shall expire ten (10) years from the effective dates, or at the conclusion of the Record of Decision of the EA covered by this document, whichever is earlier. The MOU can be extended if renewed prior to expiration.

V. MODIFICATION AND AMENDMENT

This MOU may be modified, amended, or supplemented in writing by mutual agreement of all three parties. Modification shall be made by issuance of a fully executed amendment prior to any changes being performed.

VI. NON-FUND-OBLIGATING DOCUMENT

This instrument is neither a fiscal nor a funds-obligation document. Any endeavor involving reimbursement or contribution of funds between the parties will be handled in accordance with applicable laws, regulations, and procedures including those for federal government procurement and printing. This instrument does not provide such authority. Specifically, this instrument does not establish authority for non-competitive award to the cooperator of any contract or other agreement. Any contract or agreement for training or other services must comply with all applicable requirements for competition.

VII. TERMINATION

1. Each party to this MOU may terminate this MOU after not less than 30 days prior notice in writing to the other parties. During the intervening 30 days, the parties agree to actively attempt to resolve any outstanding disputes or disagreements.
2. In the event this MOU is terminated, but the project application(s) are not withdrawn, the BLM will evaluate its capabilities to complete and schedule preparation of the appropriate level of NEPA documentation consistent with personnel and budgetary limitations.
3. In the event this MOU is terminated and the Proponent withdraws its application(s), the BLM shall be under no obligation to initiate preparation of an EA for the project(s) or to take any other action prior to compliance with NEPA and all other applicable Federal laws and regulations.
4. In the event of termination, BLM shall have delivery of all non-proprietary and non-confidential documentation developed by or in possession of the Project Consultant in paper or electronic format, (508 Compliant). In addition, the Proponent shall require the Project Consultant to submit to BLM in paper or electronic format the environmental work and analyses (i.e. field data, reports, GIS data etc.) done by the Project Consultant prior to termination of the MOU.

VIII. DECISION

The Proponent recognizes the responsibility of BLM to ensure the preparation of environmental documents in compliance with NEPA and to appropriately define the issues and analyze potential impacts; to review and require modification of the document as may be necessary; and, to make a decision for the final product(s). However, in executing this MOU, the Proponent reserves the right to contest the decision record of the EA(s), in any administrative or judicial proceedings, thereof or any other federal or state requirement relating to the project identified in Section I herein.

IX. EFFECTIVE DATE

This MOU and any attachments hereto shall become effective upon signature of all four parties.

X. SIGNATURES OF AGREEMENT

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, this MOU is executed as of the date of the last signature written below.

Bureau of Land Management

Proponent

Signature

Signature

Typed Name

Typed Name

Typed Title

Typed Title

Date

Date

Project Consultant

Signature

Typed Name

Typed Title

Date

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IWVGA ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE
STAFF REPORT

TO: IWVGA Board Members **DATE:** JULY 12, 2023

FROM: IWVGA Water Resources Manager

SUBJECT: AGENDA ITEM 11 – WATER RESOURCES MANAGER’S REPORT

Presented below are brief updates on the status of grant funding, GSP Implementation Projects and Management Actions, and Miscellaneous Items.

AGENDA ITEM 11a – GRANT FUNDING UPDATE

Proposition 1 Update

- Invoice #15a
 - Covers April 2022 through June 2022
 - Total requested payment after retention: **\$17,532.41**
 - Status: Approved, awaiting payment
- Invoice #16a
 - Covers July 2022 through September 2022
 - Total requested payment after retention: **\$21,049.59**
 - Status: Under DWR review – revisions submitted to DWR.
- Invoice #17a:
 - Covers October 2022 through December 2022
 - Total requested payment after retention: **\$7,817.63**
 - Status: Under DWR review – revisions submitted to DWR.

Proposition 68 Update

- Invoice #16b
 - Covers July 2022 through September 2022
 - Total requested payment after retention: **\$6,380.65**
 - Status: Approved, awaiting payment
- Invoice 17b:
 - Covers October 2022 through December 2022
 - Total requested payment after retention: **\$3,062.50**
 - Status: Approved, awaiting payment

Proposition 1/68 Grant Closeout

- Retention invoices for Proposition 1 and Prop 68 in the amount of \$187,678.87 and \$32,941.39, respectively were submitted to DWR on February 28, 2023. The Proposition 1 retention invoice was revised on May 18 per DWR's request.

SGMA Implementation Round 1 Update

- Invoice #2
 - Covers October 2022 through December 2022
 - Total requested payment: **\$ 332,985.58**
 - Status: Under DWR review
- Invoice #3
 - Covers January 2023 through March 2023
 - Total requested payment: **\$435,887.19**
 - Status: Under DWR review
- Invoice #4
 - Covers April 2023 to June 2023
 - Due August 31, 2023

Urban Community Drought Relief Program Update

- The IWVGA was awarded \$3,345,000 to consolidate shallow well system(s) into a public water system.
- Preliminary grant management tasks and coordination with DWR are underway.

AGENDA ITEM 11b – GSP IMPLEMENTATION PROJECTS / MANAGEMENT ACTIONS UPDATE

Recycled Water Program

- U.S. Bureau of Reclamation Title XVI Feasibility Study
 - Board authorized Water Resource Manager to submit Title XVI Feasibility Study to U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) at the March 8, 2023 Board Meeting
 - BOR completed review of the Feasibility Study and requested clarification on some items on June 8, 2023.
 - Water Resource Manager will submit a response to BOR's request and a revised Feasibility Study the week of July 10, 2023.

Imported Water Project

- Imported Water Pipeline Alignment Study
 - Due to DWR by July 31, 2023
- Imported Water Pipeline Design Services

- Coordination Meetings:
 - June 5, June 19, and July 5, 2023: Bi-weekly with Staff, Environmental and Right-of-Way Consultants
 - Bi-weekly meetings with BLM
 - June 1, 2023: Meeting with Water Resources Manager staff to discuss system hydraulics
 - May 23, 2023: Presentation of a general project overview at the City of California City Council Meeting
 - Ongoing coordination with State Water Resources Control Board Division of Drinking Water (DDW), IWWWD, Caltrans, United Pacific Rail Road, and Southern California Edison (SCE)
 - Submitted Method of Survey Study to SCE
 - Pending receipt of United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) waiver letters
 - Drafting California Department of Fish and Wildlife Letter of Support
- Continuing soils borings and coordination of reimbursement agreements with California City and Kern County
- Continuing utility research and trenchless crossing identification
- Drafting consent application for undercrossing transmission lines
- Submitted Preliminary System Hydraulics Technical Memorandum for Staff review
- Next Steps:
 - Submit Sub-Regional Power Availability and Coordination with SCE Technical Memorandum
 - Obtain Caltrans Permits for geotechnical borings in Caltrans Right of Way
 - Submit Pipe Optimizations and Refinements Technical Memorandum
 - Start geotechnical borings in BLM land in July
 - Next Milestones
 - Preliminary Design Report by late - July 2023
 - Provide project description by March 2024 to provide to the Environmental CEQA/NEPA process
- Imported Water Pipeline Environmental Services
 - Coordination Meetings
 - June 5, June 19, and July 5, 2023: Bi-weekly coordination meetings with Staff, Design and Right-of-Way Consultants
 - Biweekly meetings with BLM
 - Preconstruction meeting with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, United States Army Corps of Engineers, and State Water Resources Control Boards to discuss required permits
 - Continue aquatic delineations
 - Submitted Desert Tortoise and Burrowing Owl survey results to BLM
 - Coordination of a Third-Party Agreement with BLM for NEPA documentation
 - Submitted Wildlife Survey Report, Rare Plant Survey, and Administrative Draft Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration for Staff Review
 - Submitted Memorandum to BLM on Mitigation Measures recommended by CDFW to help avoid potential impacts to state and federal special status wildlife

- species, including desert tortoise, Mohave ground squirrel), burrowing owl, and other wildlife species in addition to desert kit fox
 - Completed geotechnical and biological monitoring (except within BLM land)
 - Next Steps:
 - Begin BLM cultural survey in July
 - Next Milestones:
 - Finalize NEPA compliance for geotechnical borings and environmental surveys/ studies within BLM property
 - Conduct technical analyses/ Special Studies March through July 2023 within BLM land
- Imported Water Pipeline Right-of-Way Services
 - Coordination Meetings:
 - June 5, June 19, and July 5, 2023: Bi-weekly coordination meetings with Staff, Design and Environmental Consultants
 - Obtained 48 Right-of-Entry agreements from property owners for 48 parcels along the alignment to allow performance of biological/technical studies and geotechnical borings
 - Coordinating with California Fish and Wildlife regarding County Right of Way
 - Next Steps:
 - Continue obtaining Rights of Entry from property owners along the pipeline alignment to allow performance of biological/technical studies and geotechnical borings
 - Next Milestone:
 - Provide a Right of Way Acquisition Plan by June 2024
- US Army Corps of Engineers Planning Assistance to States (PAS) Program
 - Army Corps has reviewed the proposed list of project scope and tasks and deliverables for Army Corps involvement
 - Next Steps:
 - Meet with Army Corps to finalize project scope

Shallow Well Mitigation Program

- Stark Street Mutual Water Company
 - Stark Street’s application was presented to the Board on March 8, 2023 and the Board authorized funding up to \$31,821 for the estimated “market value” of the well plus the incremental cost of drilling a deeper well
 - A notice was provided to Stark Street Mutual Water Company regarding the Board’s action.
 - WRM met with Self Help Enterprises on June 13 to discuss the status of the new well planning and funding to restore water to the community. Self Help has requested an updated quote for drilling and equipping the well.

AGENDA ITEM 11c – MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

Data Collection and Monitoring

- July Datalogger maintenance; additional depth to water monitoring conducted for DWR supplemental monitoring and LADWP emergency releases
- June WY2023 groundwater data posted to Data Management System website

GSP Model Configuration Management Plan (CMP)

- Continued discussions with DRI and WRM regarding model updates
 - Bi-weekly discussions w.r.t. model development

CMP Timeline

2023: TMG planned review of model revisions, calibration, sensitivity
Model updates and calibration for 5-Year GSP Report

2024: Modeling Scenarios for 5-Year GSP Report

Subflow from Rose Valley to IWV

RVS-mid monitoring well was completed in May, with well development, surface completion, and site demobilization completed in early June:

- monitoring well constructed to 600' (4.25" diameter)
- 60' perforations at bottom of well
- stovepipe surface completion w/ concrete pad, bollards, and locking cap
- monitoring well was developed using air lifting
- site cleanup and completion followed the BLM permit description

Drilling of RVS-north borehole was started on May 30th, encountering rock at 10 feet depth. The driller retooled and switched out the drilling method from mud rotary to air hammer through the first week of June, reaching 30' depth on June 9th. Issues of drilling in fractured rock (loosing circulation, cuttings not coming to the surface, pinning drill stem/bit below surface) were addressed with n-seal, cementing/re-drilling, and installing conductor casing. After 4 weeks of drilling and re-drilling to 40' it was determined that this location was not going to work for placing a monitoring well. On June 29th we decided to abandon this drill site, close in the hole, and demobilize from this site.

At this time, we are looking at the best location to install the second Rose Valley Subflow monitoring well. We are discussing this with TAC/TMG members for understanding the geology in this area. We will be discussing this with the Navy and BLM as we look at our options.

LADWP Emergency Releases (through July 6)

Northern Indian Wells Valley Stream Channels:

Boulder Draw	489 AF	April 2 to April 18 (stopped)
<u>Indian Wells</u>	<u>512 AF</u>	<u>April 5 to May 26 (stopped)</u>
Total North	1001 AF	

El Paso Subarea:

Freeman Wash	6115 AF	Mar 29 to July 6
Sage Canyon	1188 AF	April 9 to July 6
<u>Bird Springs</u>	<u>830 AF</u>	<u>April 2 to May 5 (stopped)</u>
Total El Paso	8133 AF	

Total Indian Wells Valley Basin:

9134 AF

ACTION(S) REQUIRED BY THE BOARD

There are no actions required by the Board.

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BUDGET TO ACTUAL REPORT- June

		ACTUALS BY REVENUE ALLOCATION						(B)	(A-B)	(B/A)
		Restricted	Restricted	Restricted	Restricted	Restricted	Restricted	\$	\$	%
		Extraction	Augmentation	Shallow Well Mitigation	Prop. 1; Prop.68 SDAC	SGMA IP Grant	Navy/COSO Fund	ACTUAL	REMAINING	COMPLETED
(A)	BUDGET									
1	REVENUE									
2	Extraction Fee	1,319,924	550,342	-	-	-	-	550,342	769,582	42%
3	Transfer In/Loan from Augmentation Fund	367,814	-	-	-	-	-	-	367,814	0%
4	Transfer In/Loan from Grant Funds-Prop 1/Prop 68	204,636	-	-	-	-	-	-	204,636	0%
5	Augmentation Fee	3,912,060	-	1,742,788	-	-	-	1,742,788	2,169,272	45%
6	Transfer In/Loan Repayment from Extraction Fund	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0%
7	Shallow Well Mitigation Fee	125,776	-	-	40,023	-	-	40,023	85,753	32%
8	Department of Water Resources (DWR) Grants-Prop 1/68	204,636	-	-	-	110,161	-	110,161	94,475	54%
9	Department of Water Resources (DWR) Grants -IP Grant	2,000,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,000,000	0%
10	Navy/COSO Royalty Fund	15,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	15,000	0%
11										0%
12	TOTAL REVENUES	8,149,846	550,342	1,742,788	40,023	110,161	-	2,443,313	5,706,533	30%
13	EXPENSES									
14	Administration									
15	Administration (RGS)	333,000	75,793	75,793	-	-	-	151,585	181,415	46%
16	Office Rent (City of Ridgecrest)	3,600	900	900	-	-	-	1,800	1,800	50%
17	Office Supplies	1,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,000	0%
18	Postage and Delivery	360	-	-	-	-	-	-	360	0%
19	External Audit	12,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	12,000	0%
20	Council Chambers/IT Services (City of Ridgecrest)	8,500	-	-	-	-	-	-	8,500	0%
21	General Counsel (Aleshire & Wynder/City of Ridgecrest)	200,000	21,460	-	-	-	-	21,460	178,540	11%
22	Insurance Premium	14,870	14,817	-	-	-	-	14,817	53	100%
23	Legal Notices (Daily Independent)	2,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,000	0%
24	Memberships (Cal. Assoc.Mutual Water Co)	100	100	-	-	-	-	100	-	100%
25	Website (IWVWD)	300	312	-	-	-	-	312	(12)	104%
26	Printing and Reproduction	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0%
27	Bank Service Charges	24	-	-	-	-	-	-	24	0%
28										
29	Non-Departmental									
30	Other Legal Services (RWG Law)	400,000	-	166,207	-	-	-	166,207	233,793	42%
31	Lobbying Services (Capitol Core)	174,000	-	92,488	-	-	-	92,488	81,513	53%
32	Other Professional Services (Garrison Brothers)	-	-	-	-	-	95,831	95,831	(95,831)	0%
33	Shallow Well Mitigation Emergency Assistance Program	50,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	50,000	0%
34	Repayment of Kern County Advance	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0%
35	Repayment of City of Ridgecrest In-Kind Services	500,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	500,000	0%
36	Transfer Out/ Loan Repayment to Augmentation Fund	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0%
37	Transfer Out/Loan to Extraction Fund	572,450	-	-	-	-	-	-	572,450	0%

BUDGET TO ACTUAL REPORT- June

		ACTUALS BY REVENUE ALLOCATION						(B)	(A-B)	(B/A)
		Restricted	Restricted	Restricted	Restricted	Restricted	Restricted	\$	\$	%
		Extraction	Augmentation	Shallow Well Mitigation	Prop. 1; Prop.68 SDAC	SGMA IP Grant	Navy/COSO Fund	ACTUAL	REMAINING	COMPLETED
(A)	BUDGET									
38										
39	Community & Engagement									
40	Design Services	25,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	25,000	0%
41	Printing and Reproduction	10,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	10,000	0%
42	Website Services	25,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	25,000	0%
43										
44	Basin Management Administration									
45	Production Reporting, Transient Pool, and Fee Support (Stetson)	5,000	1,060	-	-	-	-	1,060	3,940	21%
46	Meetings and Prep (Stetson)	140,000	88,195	-	-	-	-	88,195	51,805	63%
47	Budget Support (Stetson)	7,500	1,067	-	-	-	-	1,067	6,434	14%
48	Stakeholder Coordination (Stetson)	10,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	10,000	0%
49	Litigation Support (Stetson)	40,000	28,070	-	-	-	-	28,070	11,930	70%
50										
51	Basin Management									
52	General Engineering (Stetson)	50,000	3,664	-	-	-	-	3,664	46,337	7%
53	TSS: El Paso Well Drilling Support (Stetson)	-	1,708	-	-	-	-	1,708	(1,708)	0%
54	TSS: General Coordination/Application Support (Stetson)	15,000	61	-	-	-	-	61	14,939	0%
55	Coordination with DWR on GSP Review (Stetson)	-	4,948	-	-	-	-	4,948	(4,948)	0%
56	GSP 5-Year Update (Stetson)	50,000	16,149	-	-	-	-	16,149	33,851	32%
57	Annual Report Preparation (Stetson)	50,000	39,897	-	-	-	-	39,897	10,103	80%
58	Data Management System Support (Stetson)	30,000	12,574	-	-	-	-	12,574	17,426	42%
59	Allocation Plan: Allocation Process & Transient Pool Support (Stetson)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0%
60	Allocation Plan and Rules & Regs on Pumping/Restrictions (Stetson)	12,000	3,726	-	-	-	-	3,726	8,274	31%
61	Allocation Plan: Fallowing & Transient Pool Transfer Program (Stetson)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0%
62	Conservation Efforts (Stetson)	10,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	10,000	0%
63	General Project Management (Stetson)	30,000	13,691	-	-	-	-	13,691	16,309	46%
64	Model Transfer and Upgrade (Stetson)	200,000	98,859	-	-	-	-	98,859	101,141	49%
65	Navy/Coso Royalty Fund: Develop Projects & Secure Funding (Stetson)	25,000	21,673	-	-	-	-	21,673	3,327	87%
66	Navy/Coso Royalty Fund: Rose Valley MW Permitting, Bid, Drilling (Stetson)	15,000	-	-	-	-	8,647	8,647	6,354	58%
67	Data Collection, Monitoring, and Data Gaps (Stetson)	145,000	113,893	-	-	-	-	113,893	31,107	79%
68	Imported Water: Negotiations and Coordination(Stetson)	20,000	-	16,318	-	-	-	16,318	3,682	82%
69	Imported Water: Engineering and Analysis(Stetson)	-	-	18,547	-	-	-	18,547	(18,547)	0%
70	Recycled Water (Stetson)	150,000	-	146,304	-	-	-	146,304	3,697	98%
71	LADWP Release Coordination and Meetings	-	9,749	-	-	-	-	9,749	(9,749)	0%
72										

BUDGET TO ACTUAL REPORT- June

		ACTUALS BY REVENUE ALLOCATION						(B)	(A-B)	(B/A)	
		Restricted	Restricted	Restricted	Restricted	Restricted	Restricted	\$	\$	%	
		Extraction	Augmentation	Shallow Well Mitigation	Prop. 1; Prop.68 SDAC	SGMA IP Grant	Navy/COSO Fund	ACTUAL	REMAINING	COMPLETED	
(A)	BUDGET										
73	EXPENSES (Cont'd)										
74	Basin Management (cont'd)										
75	Shallow Well Mitigation Program: Plan Development (Stetson)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0%	
76	Shallow Well Mitigation Program: Outreach and Impacts Eval.(Stetson)	20,000	-	26,985	-	-	-	26,985	(6,985)	135%	
77	Brackish Water Group: Data Review and Coordination(Stetson)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0%	
78	Review of Outside Studies and Coordination (Stetson)	30,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	30,000	0%	
79	Well Monitoring Services (WellIntel Inc.)	2,100	1,559	-	-	-	-	1,559	541	74%	
80	Weather Station Maintenance(Stetson)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0%	
81											
82	Grant Management										
83	Prop 1 / Prop 68 Grant Administration (Stetson)	5,000	14,050	-	-	-	-	14,050	(9,050)	281%	
84	Prop 1 SDAC Support	-	-	-	2,774	-	-	2,774	(2,774)	0%	
85	Grant Review and Application Preparation (Stetson)	75,000	44,742	-	-	-	-	44,742	30,258	60%	
86	IP Grant Administration (Stetson)	70,000	-	-	-	21,058	-	21,058	48,942	30%	
87	Planning/Design/Environmental (Stetson)	175,000	-	-	-	61,984	-	61,984	113,016	35%	
88	Engagement/Outreach (Stetson)	25,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	25,000	0%	
89	Bureau of Land Management	-	-	-	-	25,000	-	25,000	(25,000)	0%	
90	Engagement /Outreach-Other Professional Services (Provost & Pritchard)	1,730,000	-	-	-	637,272	-	637,272	1,092,728	37%	
91	TOTAL EXPENSES	5,468,804	632,716	516,555	26,985	2,774	745,314	104,477	2,028,821	3,439,983	37%
92											
93	Surplus (Deficit)	2,681,042	(82,374)	1,226,233	13,037	107,387	(745,314)	(104,477)	414,492		

Budget to Actual Report includes all revenues and expenditures during the calendar year and is on a cash basis. Accruals will be finalized during the year-end reconciliation and audit process and presented in a separate report. FY 2022 revenue and expenses for November were deposited and paid in January/February 2023. A future report will include an adjustment to reflect current budget to actual activity. Currently the % completed YTD is inflated as a result. Billing and receipt of reimbursement grant program revenue may cross over fiscal years with revenue received for prior year programs. Separate reconciliation will be completed for grant programs.

MONTH TO DATE REVENUES & EXPENDITURES EXCLUDING TRANSFERS

	Revenue	Transfer In*	Transfer Out*	Expenses	Surplus (Deficit)
Extraction Fund	550,342	-	-	632,716	(82,374)
Augmentation Fund	1,742,788	-	-	516,555	1,226,233
Shallow Well Mitigation Fund	40,023	-	-	26,985	13,037
Department of Water Resources (DWR) Grants-Prop 1/68	110,161	-	-	2,774	107,387
Department of Water Resources (DWR) Grants -IP Grant	-	-	-	745,314	(745,314)
Navy/COSO Royalty Fund	-	-	-	104,477	(104,477)
Total	<u>2,443,313</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,028,821</u>	<u>414,492</u>

* The Extraction Fund Budget will be balanced through a loan from the Augmentation Fund.

OUTSTANDING OBLIGATIONS

	Kern County	City of Ridgecrest	Augmentation Fund	Total
Advance Agreements				
Advance of Funds	500,000	-	-	500,000
Advance Repayment	(500,000)	-	-	(500,000)
In-Kind Services				
Attorney Srvcs./IT/Chambers -FY23	-	82,133	-	82,133
Attorney Srvcs./IT/Chambers -FY22	-	241,204	-	241,204
Attorney Srvcs./IT/Chambers -FY 21	-	325,235	-	325,235
Attorney Srvcs./IT/Chambers -FY's16-20	-	366,982	-	366,982
Inter-Fund Loans				
2023 Loan to Extraction Fund-Estimated*	-	-	367,814	367,814
Repayment of Adv. Of Funds to IWVWD**	-	-	500,000	500,000
Repymt of Adv. Of Funds to Kern Cty-YE Est***	-	-	142,200	142,200
Postponed Invoice Payments				
None	-	-	-	-
Total	-	1,015,554	1,010,014	2,025,568

*Estimated and included in proposed budget**

*IWVWD used restricted Augmentation Revenue to repay the Advance Agreement***

Repayment of the IWVWD Advance requires a transfer from the Extraction Fund to the Augmentation Fund.

*Kern Cnty Repymnt was \$500k but it is estimated only \$142,200 will be loaned from the Augmentation Fund at YE****

City of Ridgecrest In-Kind Services includes services associated with Extraction and Augmentation expenses.

ADOPTED 2023 OBLIGATION REPAYMENTS

	Kern County	City of Ridgecrest	Augmentation Fund	Total
Advance Agreements				
Advance of Funds-Est. Repayment 12/31/2022	-	-	-	-
In-Kind Services				
Attorney Services/IT/Council Chambers	-	500,000	-	500,000
Financing				
Water Purchase related Financing- TBD	-	-	-	-
	-	500,000	-	500,000

Upon repayment of Obligations, an inter-fund loan will be created between the Extraction Fund and Augmentation Fund for amount not funded by the Extraction Fund.

CASH BALANCE

June 2023 Activity

Cash Receipts (Receipts over \$50,000 and all grants are detailed)

IWVWD Augmentation/Extraction/SWM-April	\$	225,654.00
IWVWD Augmentation/Extraction/SWM-May		361,560.60
DWR/Kern Retention Payment- Prop1 FY 17/18		23,286.72
All Other Cash Receipts -May		42,224.59
Total Cash Receipts	\$	<u>652,725.91</u>

Cash Disbursements (Obligation payments are detailed)

Warrants - June will be paid in July		
Total Cash Disbursements	\$	<u>-</u>

Cash Balance

Prior Month to Current Month Ending Balance Reconciliation

May Cash Balance By Investment

Kern County Treasurer	\$	5,505,068.52
AltaOne Credit Union		-
Total Cash Balance as of May 31	\$	<u>5,505,068.52</u>

June Activity

Cash Receipts	\$	652,725.91
Cash Disbursements		-

Total June Activity	\$	652,725.91
---------------------	----	------------

June Ending Cash Balance	\$	6,157,794.43
Less: Outstanding Warrants -June -In Transit		(443,743.02)
Less: Outstanding Warrants -July		(603,702.63)
Total Available Cash By Activity as of June 30	\$	<u>5,110,348.78</u>

June Cash Balance by Investment

Kern County Treasurer	\$	6,157,794.43
AltaOne		-
Total June Balance	\$	6,157,794.43
Less: Outstanding Warrants		(1,047,445.65)
Total Available Cash by Investment as of June 30	\$	<u>5,110,348.78</u>

Cash Receipts are deposited in AltaOne Credit Union and sent electronically to Kern County Treasurer. Cash in Transit at month end will be reflected in the Kern County Treasurer balance. Warrants are approved by IWVGA Board and administratively processed by IWVGA staff. Warrants are executed by Kern County staff. Outstanding Warrants are vendor invoices received and not yet paid. Outstanding Obligations are detailed in a separate attached report.

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To: Carol Thomas-Keefer, General Manager Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority

From: Jeff Simonetti, SVP Capitol Core Group

cc: Steve Johnson, Stetson Engineers
Michael W. McKinney, President Capitol Core Group
Todd Tatum, SCA Capitol Core Group

Date: July 12, 2023

Subject: Project Update Memorandum – June 2023 Activities

The following will provide activities and updates for the month of June 2023. Please note, disclosure documents are due to the California Secretary of State by July 20, 2024.

Task 1: Imported Water Supplies

Capitol Core made further progress in addressing imported water supplies in June. We continued our discussions with the Jackson Ranch team on the water purchase and to address our questions pertaining to the transfer. On June 16th, IWVGA Chair Hayman, Vice Chair Peters and IWVGA staff met with a Board Committee of the Antelope Valley – East Kern Water Agency (AVEK) to discuss our interconnection project and further potential cooperation between the two agencies. We had a productive meeting with the Board members present. While they want to ensure that IWVGA pays its fair share of the cost of the infrastructure necessary for AVEK to deliver us water, they are amenable to working with us on the imported water pipeline and how we may get water delivered through their system.

In terms of next steps with AVEK, they would like to further codify the support and reimbursement agreement between our two agencies. There may be further studies necessary to address whether further infrastructure is necessary for AVEK to provide us with the necessary water.

Task 2: Interconnection Pipeline Project

Updated Report – Water Resources Development Act of 2024

Discussions continued with Members of Congress to advance the Authority's request for the project's authorization under §219 of the *Water Resources Development Act of 2024*. No substantive decisions were made by Members during this month. The Authority has until September-October 2023 to secure the authorization.

New Report/Notable – Fiscal Year 2024 Energy & Water Development Act

While appropriated amounts under the *FY-24 E&WD Act*, will have no impact on the interconnection pipeline project, the bill is the first under the requirements of the debt-ceiling legislation and may provide insight to how the Congress will provide for spending priorities under

WRDA. As such, a report was provided to IWVGA staff on the legislation and is provided to the Board for information only. FY-24 E&WD provides \$9.570 billion for the Civil Works programs of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) which include both Water Resources Projects and Environmental Infrastructure Projects authorized under §219. This amount is \$1.26 billion above FY-2023 amounts and \$2.157 billion above the President’s budget request. \$9.1 billion of the appropriated amounts for Civil Works is directed toward Water Resource and “earmarked” §219 projects. In its directive language, the Congress reduced the Corps’ focus on preconstruction and design activity work (“PED”) and directed additional resources to be prioritized, at the Agency’s discretion, toward construction completion activities. PED is limited to Water Resource Projects and may not impact the interconnection pipeline provided a decision to seek §219 authorization is achieved.

Surprising to Capitol Core was the Committee’s dramatic decrease in authorized amounts under the *Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Program (“WIFIA”)*, a loan program that was reauthorized under the *IJA* and provided substantial increases in available amounts. Appropriators reallocated amounts to other water programs.

WATER INFRASTRUCTURE FINANCE AND INNOVATION PROGRAM

Appropriation, 2023	\$7,200,000
Budget estimate, 2024	7,200,000
Recommended, 2024	5,000,000
Comparison:	
Appropriation, 2023	– 2,200,000
Budget estimate, 2024	– 2,200,000

New Report/Notable – Fiscal Year 2024 Military Construction, Veterans Affairs and Related Agencies Act (“MilCon”)

As with the above referenced legislation, *FY-2024 MilCon* appropriated amounts have no impact on IWVGA but provide insight into Military Construction spending for potential future authorizations. As a summary, there were cuts to the Military Construction portion of the budget; however, these were not as deep a cut as we had previously expected. Overall, the FY-24 MilCon budget was increased – these increases were provided to the Dept of Veterans’ Affairs for various programs. The Military Construction portion of the bill was decreased by \$1.326 billion.

Even with the proposed decrease in the House, the amount was \$999 million above the President’s request which the Senate may or may not follow in their markup of the bill. The President’s request signaled a desire to cut Military Construction spending and defer remaining priorities/projects held over from the Trump Administration. This included several resiliency projects. If the Senate holds to the President’s request for Military Construction, or moves slightly above the request, the amounts will have to be reconciled in Conference Committee. At a 1% per year increase for discretionary programs between now and FY-2029, discretionary spending would increase to approximately \$202 billion.

MilCon projects are approximately 5-years delayed due to under-appropriation of projects listed by the DOD. The decrease will have some additional impact on those project delays. The statutory limitation will not fully bridge the funding delay gap and the Authority should factor in these considerations. The possibility to increase prioritization of the interconnection pipeline project given the Committee’s directive concerning “severe drought authority” is unknown at this point and time and would have to be discussed with Appropriators as well as the Speaker/DOD.

The Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill funds the Department of Defense’s activities related to military construction; family housing construction, maintenance, and oversight; and environmental remediation at closed military bases. The bill also funds the Department of Veterans Affairs, including programs to assist veterans, such as disability and pension benefits, education, healthcare, and insurance and loan programs. The bill funds four related agencies that honor and respect the Nation’s veterans including the American Battle Monuments Commission; Cemeterial Expenses, Army (including Arlington National Cemetery); the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims; and the Armed Forces Retirement Home.

The FY-2024 House version of the Act recommends \$337,909,342,000 in total budget authority. This is an increase of \$15,184,084,000 above the fiscal year 2023 enacted levels and \$999,443,000 above the President’s request. The bill includes \$167,282,342,000 for mandatory programs and \$170,627,000,000 for discretionary programs.

The bill provides \$17,674,000,000 for military construction and family housing. This is \$1,326,000,000 below the fiscal year 2023 enacted level and \$999,056,000 above the budget request. It includes \$2,302,810,000 to address unfunded requirements of the Services and Combatant Commanders and increases investment in infrastructure in the Pacific region, unaccompanied personnel housing, and child development centers. [emphasis added]

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION OVERVIEW

Appropriation, fiscal year 2023	\$19,000,000,000
Budget request, fiscal year 2024	16,674,944,000
Committee recommendation, fiscal year 2024	17,674,000,000
Change from enacted level	- 1,326,000,000
Change from budget request	+999,056,000

From the sustainability aspect *resilient military installations*. —The Committee supported the Department’s continued efforts to build lasting and resilient military installations. These efforts include using methods that update hurricane-resistant building codes for bases, barracks, hospitals, and airfields and reviewing the effect of severe drought and desertification and how these two hazards effect installations and missions. The Committee encourages the Department to continue investing in innovative infrastructure projects to increase infrastructure resiliency and reduce costs. The Committee encourages the Department to review progressive design-build as a potential construction contract method as it may provide efficiencies.

Task 3: Water Recycling Plant

Updated Report – U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, Title XVI Program

IWVGA’s Title XVI Feasibility Study for the Water Recycling Plant is due in July 2023. Capitol Core and Members of Congress are awaiting those findings from the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation.

New Report/Potential Future Action -- Fiscal Year 2024 Energy & Water Development Act

Projects authorized pursuant to Title XVI of the *Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act (“WIIN”)* and administered through the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation’s (USBR) WaterSMART

program are funded through the annual *E&WD Act*. If the IWVGA Feasibility Study is approved by USBR, FY-2024 amounts appropriated may impact requested funding for the Water Recycling Plant’s planning activities. Capitol Core seeks direction from IWVGA on support for such funding.

The Committee recommendation totals \$1,839,953,000, an increase of \$390,639,000 above the budget request for water related projects.

(Dollars in thousands)

Account	FY 2023 enacted	FY 2024 request	Cmte rec.
Water and Related Resources	\$1,787,151	\$1,301,012	\$1,693,366
Central Valley Project Restoration Fund	45,770	48,508	48,508
California Bay-Delta Restoration	33,000	33,000	33,000
Policy and Administration	65,079	66,794	65,079
Total, Bureau of Reclamation	1,931,000	1,449,314	1,839,953

**WATER AND RELATED RESOURCES
(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)**

Appropriation, 2023	\$1,787,151,000
Budget estimate, 2024	1,301,012,000
Recommended, 2024	1,693,366,000
Comparison:	
Appropriation, 2023	- 93,785,000
Budget estimate, 2024	+392,354,000

Within these appropriated amounts, \$10 million in discretionary funding was included for aquifer recharge projects directly relating to the water recycling plant. An additional \$20 million was included for WaterSMART competitive grant awards in the FY, representing the total amount authorized under *IIJA* and requested by the President’s budget.

Task 4: Waste Water Treatment Plant

Updated Report -- National Defense Authorization Act of 2024 (federal-DCIP provisions)

NDAA-24 was introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives in June and provided a key change to the Defense Community Infrastructure Program (DCIP). Sunset dates for the program’s authorization in Fiscal Year 2029 are removed in the House-version of the bill, making the DCIP programmatic. This signals a policy change shifting the bill from a pilot-project to a permanent line-item within the Defense budget.

New Report – Fiscal Year 2024 Defense Appropriations Act (federal DCIP provisions)

The House Subcommittee on Defense released and marked-up the FY-24 Defense Appropriations legislation in June providing the full \$100 million requested appropriation to the federal-DCIP. The Senate, meanwhile, provided the Chairman’s Mark (draft bill) for its version of the Act providing \$140 million to the federal-DCIP. The amounts, which are not seen as controversial, will be reconciled in Conference Committee. House Subcommittee Chair, Ken Calvert (R-CA), does not oppose the \$140 million appropriation and would agree to recede to the Senate’s request if offsetting amounts can remain within the toplines required by the debt ceiling legislation. This is significant for the City of Ridgecrest’s wastewater treatment facility as a \$7 million award request application is likely to be processed in FY2024.

Task 2: Other Projects Supporting the CSP

FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE UPDATES:

New Report/Priority Bill – S. 2166 (Padilla, D-CA) *The Voluntary Agricultural Land Repurposing Act of 2023*

US Senator Alex Padilla has released the Voluntary Agricultural Land Repurposing Act, a bill that would largely match the California Multi-benefit Land Repurposing Program. As Capitol Core has pointed out in the past two years, the State of California has sponsored the Multi-Benefit Land Repurposing Program which allows GSAs to make an application to the State to potentially receive grant funding to repurpose agricultural land into a less water intensive use. The program would allow successful applicants to purchase and repurpose agricultural lands into natural habitat, parks, and other eligible uses.

The federal program, if passed, would create a similar program to provide funding from the federal level for these types of improvements. You can see the press release from the bill [here](#).

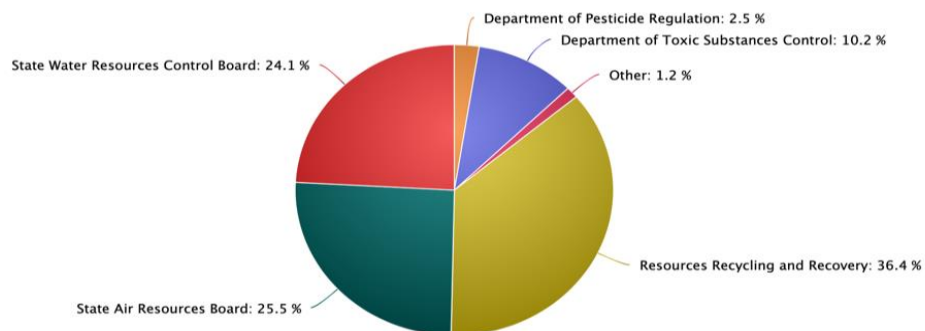
Recommended Position: Under review

STATE LEGISLATIVE UPDATES:

Updated Report/Notable – FY2023-2024 State Budget Act

The California Legislature and the Governor agreed upon a \$310.8 billion budget that covers a \$32 billion deficit through a combination of cuts, spending deferrals and borrows \$6.1 billion from restricted accounts. Water programs, including those contained in the Governor's Water Strategy, were mostly deferred. Those programs appear in two key-sections of the California Budget (which is nearly 24 bills this year) 1) Natural Resources and 2) Environmental Protection. Each budget section took significant cuts.

Overall, environmental programs took a 13.51% cut from the Governor's requested budget to the final budget Acts. State Water Resources Control Board bearing a 24.45% reduction from request to enactment. Overall cuts in environmental program are nearly -23% from FY2022-2023 spending levels. The total department budget allocations are provided below but are not reflective of federal monies provided through programmatic formula allocations to the states.



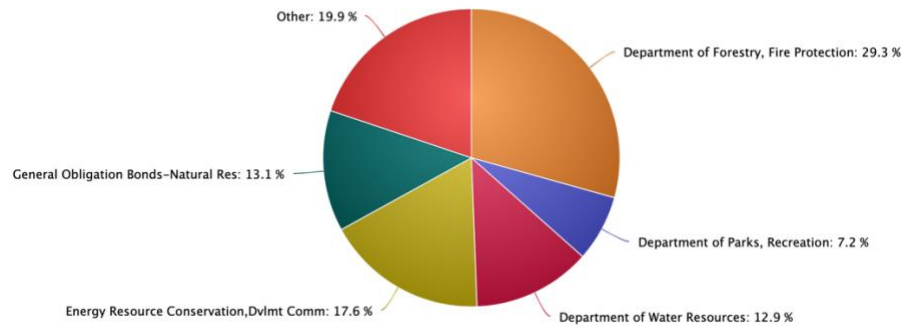
DETAILED EXPENDITURES BY STATE FUNDS

The following table presents proposed and revised state fund expenditure amounts for the budget year by General Fund, special funds, and selected bond funds.

Expenditures	January Proposed*	May Revision*	Change*	% Change
General Fund	\$537,628	\$137,587	\$-400,041	-74.41%
Special Fund	\$1,098,629	\$1,097,605	\$-1,024	-0.09%
Selected Bond Funds	\$12,683	\$10,656	\$-2,027	-15.98%
Totals, State Funds	\$1,648,940	\$1,245,848	\$-403,092	-24.45%

Cuts to the Natural Resources Agency and related programs totaled an additional 12.5% from the Governor’s Budget Request to the enacted State Budget. DWR gained an additional 3.5% during the budget process in large part due to increased bond funding.

Overall Natural Resources program budget allocations are as follows:



DWR overall budget allocations:

Expenditures	January Proposed*	May Revision*	Change*	% Change
General Fund	\$900,454	\$872,454	\$-28,000	-3.11%
Special Fund	\$45,599	\$45,599	\$-	0.00%
Selected Bond Funds	\$451,959	\$530,993	\$79,034	17.49%
Totals, State Funds	\$1,398,012	\$1,449,046	\$51,034	3.65%

DWR spending authorizations:

Expenditures	January Proposed*	May Revision*	Change*	% Change
Totals Expenditures (excluding Infrastructure)	\$4,022,400	\$3,871,815	\$-150,585	-3.74%
Infrastructure	\$450,717	\$588,121	\$137,404	30.49%
Totals, All Expenditures	\$4,473,117	\$4,459,936	\$-13,181	-0.29%

The budget continued to focus DWR on needed infrastructure spending, primarily through bonds and special funds, while minimizing cuts made to through General Fund appropriations. Overall, spending at DWR will be approximately -18% from FY2022-2023 spending levels.

Updated Report – AB 444 (Addis): California Defense Community Infrastructure Act

The Cal-DCIP bill passed the Senate Committee on Governance and Finance by Unanimous Consent (8-0) on June 21, 2023. On July 3rd, the bill went before the Senate Committee on Appropriations and was placed on Suspense File, a standard procedure for most bills that have an appropriations component. The bill must be removed from Suspense file, passed in the Senate and returned to the Assembly for concurrence with Senate amendments prior to being enrolled. On behalf of the City of Ridgecrest and IWVGA, Capitol Core is leading the coalition and lobbying efforts on this legislation.

Updated Report – AB 560 (Bennett): Groundwater Adjudications

AB 560 requires the court to seek a nonbinding opinion from the State Water Resources Control Board prior on a proposed settlement to a groundwater adjudication. The nonbinding advisory opinion requires the Board to provide information to the court as to whether or not the judgement would substantially impair the GSA and/or the DWR/Board from achieving the requirements under SGMA. The Board is required to consult with DWR in developing its advisory opinion. The bill is sponsored by the California Alliance for Family Farmers (CAFF) which represents small farming operations throughout the State.

AB 560 passed the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Water by a vote of 6-3 (2 Members not voting) and is now in the Senate Committee on the Judiciary on July 11. IWVGA sponsored amendments strengthening the position of the Board's review relative to an approved Groundwater Sustainability Plan were accepted by the Author and are now in print. Concerns raised by the Judiciary Council and the State Water Resources Control Board/DWR have been addressed through pending amendments negotiated by Assembly Member Bennett and IWVGA.

Updated Report – AB 779 (Wilson): Groundwater Adjudications

AB 779 would require the plaintiff and defendant involved in an adjudication to forward all relevant pleading and briefing materials to the Department of Water Resources after a decision has been rendered by the court. The bill would require the department to post the documents on its internet website in the interest of transparency and accessibility, as specified. The bill would require the court to invite a representative from the department or the State Water Resources Control Board to provide technical assistance or expert testimony on the amount of water in the basin subject to adjudication, equitable and sustainable pumping allocations for the basin, and sustainable groundwater management best practices and recommendations. The bill would require the court to take into account the needs of small farmers and disadvantaged communities, as those terms are defined, when entering a judgment.

The bill would require a groundwater sustainability agency with jurisdiction over a basin subject to an adjudication proceeding to submit a comprehensive monitoring plan to the court, and to report monitoring data to the court and the department. The bill would prescribe pumping restrictions on groundwater users during an adjudication proceeding. The bill would require a groundwater sustainability agency to hold a public meeting to explain the adjudication process to water users within its basin and the public upon receiving notice that an adjudication has commenced in its basin. The bill would authorize a groundwater sustainability agency to invite

the state board or the department to send a representative to the meeting in order to help explain the adjudication process. The bill is sponsored by CAFF.

AB 779 passed the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Water by a vote of 7-3 (1 Member not voting). IWVGA sponsored amendment to remove enactment dates were supported by the Committee and accepted by the Author during Committee. IWVGA concerns have been removed. The bill next moves to the Senate Judiciary Committee on July 11.

Updated Report – AB 1205 (Bauer-Kahan): Water Purchase, Sale, Lease and Transfer from Agriculture Properties.

AB 1205 would prohibit the sale, transfer or lease of water rights for profit on or below agriculture lands. Originally limited to “hedge funds,” the 03/23/2023 amendments to the bill broadened that to an “investment fund,” broadly defined as a private equity fund, public equity fund, venture capital fund, hedge fund, fixed income fund, real estate fund, infrastructure fund, or similar pooled investment entity that is, or holds itself out as being, engaged primarily, or proposes to engage primarily, in the business of investing, reinvesting, owning, holding, or trading securities or other assets.

As originally reviewed by IWVGA Counsel, AB 1205 was determined to have various legal issues and, if passed, would likely be struck down by the courts. With the April amendments, Capitol Core Group was directed by staff to seek context for the legislation and determine if water transactions similar to the Dudley Ridge-IWVGA would be prohibited under the legislation. Jeff Simonetti met with the Assembly Committee on Water, Parks, & Wildlife Chief Consultant, Pablo Garza, wherein it was determined that, as currently written, AB 1205 would prohibit water rights transactions wherein incorporated, held in-trust, or any investment fund involving agriculture lands. Suggested verbal/informal amendments to AB 1205 to provide clarity or exemption to these types of transactions were rejected. Assembly Committee staff requested formal amendments and position from IWVGA for consideration by the Author and Committee.

At the time of writing this update, Assembly Member Bauer-Kahan has not agreed to the IWVGA amendments. However, the Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee has created proposed amendments that would turn the bill into a study bill rather than implement any policy this year. The bill goes before the Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee on July 10th.

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Item 1. Call to Order

Voting members David Janiec, Renee Westa-Lusk, Lyle Fisher, Judie Decker, Camille Anderson, Regina Troglin, and Tim Carroll, and non-voting members Don Zdeba, John Kersey, and Tom Bickauskas were present. Not present were voting member West Katzenstein and non-voting member Lorelei Oviatt.

Item 2. Pledge of Allegiance

Item 3. Open Public Comment (Not Related to Other Agenda Items)

None received.

Item 4. Approve Minutes of the April 27, 2023 PAC Meeting

Deferred to next meeting.

Item 5. PAC Recommendations for Board Consideration Regarding the Shallow Well Mitigation Program

Judie Decker moved to reverse the discussion items and discuss 5.b. first. Motion was seconded by Lyle Fisher and passed 6-1 with David Janiec voting nay.

5.b. Review ad-hoc subcommittee recommendation regarding fair and reasonable expectations for documentation on the demonstration of well maintenance under the Shallow Well Mitigation Program and develop full PAC recommendation.

The ad-hoc subcommittee was comprised of Judie Decker, Lyle Fisher and West Katzenstein, with Don Decker as the TAC advisory member. Judie Decker summarized the written subcommittee report provided to all PAC members. The subcommittee proposed modifying the policy and simplifying the well report form. 1. The existing policy does not clearly define the term “shallow well” nor provide a description of shallow well failure due to declining water levels. 2. The term “shallow well” should be changed to “shallow de minimis well’ using the state definition, and other community or larger groupings considered under a separate policy. 2. Well maintenance is really not an issue if the cause of the well failure is determined to be the lowering of groundwater levels or the decline in water quality. The life of a well is determined largely by the material of the well casing and the depth of the well below the water table. The susceptibility of the casing to corrosion damage will vary with the existing water chemistry in the different parts of the basin. As the well water level declines with the chronic lowering of groundwater levels, the well will ultimately fail when the pump intake is in the perforated zone of the well or is above the water level. A matrix was suggested for assisting in evaluation of the overall condition of a well. A prorated cost based on the expected life of the well would be used to calculate any GA mitigation. 3. The report form should require the well drillers report, the history of the well and the current well evaluation report. The policy should have a statement that it is the well owner’s responsibility to keep/provide such data. A technical addendum was provided by Don Decker. Failure due to declining water quality is a far more complex, technical issue requiring wide ranging documentation and specific documentation was considered beyond the scope of the subcommittee.

PAC Member Comment – A robust discussion was conducted by PAC members for more in depth clarification and understanding of the draft report and recommendations. All members agreed the report was excellent and very thorough. Several members thought that for clarity to the GA Board, the full PC report should further focus on a bulletized list of specific recommendations for the policy and for

the report form and consider any public communications and engagement opportunities that may be beneficial.

PAC Action – Regina Troglin moved to have the subcommittee revisit and reorganize the draft report to: 1. add a bulletized list of recommendations regarding the policy and reporting form, including the subcommittee recommended definitions, and 2. consider and provide any public communication and engagement opportunities that the recommendations may suggest. Camille Anderson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, 7-0.

5.a. Review top-level draft and finalize PAC recommendation regarding consolidation under the Shallow Well Mitigation Program.

The chair read a draft of the proposed “general, top-level statement of support encouraging GA consideration of proactive consolidations where feasible and cost effective under state grants, with potential modifiers”, as discussed at the April PAC meeting. The draft statement provided in writing was:

“The Policy Advisory Committee encourages the Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority to consider, investigate, and execute proactive consolidations, where such consolidations meet the following conditions:

- A. Feasible and effective, and**
- B. Cost effective under state grants, and**
- C. Most cost effective for all stakeholders across the basin considering the administration of the Shallow Well Mitigation Program”**

PAC Member Comment – PAC members again had a spirited discussion on this proposed policy statement. One viewpoint noted that it was within Water District’s purview and control as they would be the implementing agency responsible for the execution of any consolidation, including potential large costs for replacing the infrastructure of remote water “collectives”. Therefore, it was not within the proper scope or authority of the GA to adopt this top level policy and the PAC should absolutely not be considering it. The other viewpoint noted that under SGMA, the GA is the responsible agency for sustainability in the basin and accountable for the mitigation of adverse consequences (declining water levels or water quality in the basin) until the basin is brought into sustainability. The Water District is a member of the GA and would be heavily involved in investigating and analyzing any proposed consolidation for cost effectiveness. The State Water Resources Control Board encouraging consolidations and offering comprehensive grant opportunities to fully mitigate the potential costs to all pumpers in the basin for those shallow well owners affected until the valley is brought in to sustainability.

Public Comment – Ron Kicinski stated that there were generally two types of mitigation required under SGMA, for declining water level and declining quality, and three types of wells, de minimis, co-operatives, and mutuals (water systems). He did not think the GA is responsible for mitigating larger mutuals or systems. He noted the extreme costs that could be expected for larger water systems. Don Decker stated that whatever consolidations are undertaken may potentially increase water usage overall in the basin, including new growth considerations, and that should be considered. He also noted that there are a large diameter small ag wells that could potentially qualify for mitigation. West Katzenstein called in to clarify that the proposed statement focuses on cost effectiveness over the clear SGMA requirement to mitigate undesirable results. The GA would still be responsible where a consolidation might not be cost effective.

PAC Action – Regina Troglin moved that the PAC approve the draft statement as submitted, pending final completion of the subcommittee recommendation and full PAC agreement to Item 5.b. After further clarification, she amended the motion to approve the statement, as submitted. The amended motion was seconded by Camille Anderson. Motion passed 5-1-1 with Tim Carroll abstaining, and Judie Decker voting nay.

Item 6. Member Comments

Camille Anderson and David Janiec thanked the subcommittee for their time and effort in developing the comprehensive draft report.

Item 7. Meeting Adjourned.

Submitted by: David Janiec, IWVGA PAC Chair, July 8, 2023

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