

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 13, 2022

Closed Session – 10:00 a.m.

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

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. Telephonic participation by members of the Board and staff is expected.*

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 AND AB 361 FINDING

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 – 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

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 8, 2022
- b. Resolution 04-22 appointing Emma Lynch as the Bureau of Land Management TAC Representative
- c. Approve Expenditures
**To view itemized invoices please visit <https://iwvga.org/iwvga-meetings>*
 - i. \$67,681.14– Stetson Engineers
 - ii. \$21,627.50 – Regional Government Services – (Replenishment / Extraction)
 - iii. \$14,025.00 – Capitol Core Group – (Replenishment)
 - iv. \$9,019.71– California Rural Water Association – (SDAC)
 - v. \$5,000.00 – Brown Armstrong – (Extraction)
 - vi. \$125,000.00 – Repayment to Kern County (Installment 2/4)

9. BOARD REVIEW AND POTENTIAL ADOPTION OF AGREEMENT WITH BROWN ARMSTRONG TO CONDUCT THE 2021 FINANCIAL AUDIT

10. BOARD DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING PRIVATE PLACEMENT FUNDING FOR THE COST OF PURCHASING WATER ENTITLEMENT

11. RESOLUTION 05-22 REQUIRING NEW WELL PERMIT APPLICATION APPROVAL THROUGH IWVGA PER EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 07-22

12. DWR-APPROVED GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY PLAN IMPLEMENTATION UPDATE

13. WATER RESOURCES MANAGER REPORT

- a. Grant Funding
 - i. Proposition 1
 - ii. Proposition 68
 - iii. SGMA Implementation Project Grant Funds
- b. GSP Implementation Projects/Management Action Updates
 - i. Recycled Water Program
- c. Miscellaneous Items
 - i. Data Collection and Monitoring
 - ii. IWVGA Basin Model Configuration Management Plan
 - iii. Groundwater Dependent Ecosystems (GDE) Update
 - iv. Rose Valley Subflow Update

14. GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

- a. Monthly Financial Report
- b. Report on IWVGA's Water Marketer (Capitol Core Group)

15. PAC/TAC REPORTS

16. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – AUGUST 10, 2022

17. ADJOURN

PUBLIC COMMENT NOTICE

On September 16, 2021, Governor Newsom signed into law Assembly Bill 361, relating to the convening of public meetings in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. At this time, the Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority is continuing to hold board meetings in order to conduct essential business. 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 8, 2022

IWVGA Members Present:

Chairman Phillip Peters, Kern County	Carol Thomas-Keefer, IWVGA General Manager
Scott Hayman, City of Ridgecrest	Alex Lemieux, Legal Counsel
Stan Rajtora, 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

Attending via teleconference is Tim Itnyre, and John Vallejo.

Meeting recording and public comment letters submitted are made available at:

<https://iwvga.org/iwvga-meetings/>

1. CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Peters calls the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m.

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA AND AB-361 FINDING:

Motion made by Stan Rajtora and seconded by Scott Hayman to adopt the agenda and make a finding that health and safety risks as stated in AB-361 are still of concern.

Motion carries by the following roll call vote:

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

3. PUBLIC COMMENT ON CLOSED SESSION:

None.

Chairman Peters calls the meeting into Closed Session at 10:03 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
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Closed Session adjourns at 11:26 a.m.

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

Meeting reconvenes into Open Session at 11:30 a.m.

- a. Report on Closed Session – Counsel Lemieux reports no action was taken that would require disclosure under The Brown Act.
- b. Pledge of Allegiance is led by Chairman Peters
- c. Roll Call

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

6. PUBLIC COMMENT:

None.

7. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS:

Director Rajtora questions why the annual report item discussed at the May board meeting is not shown on the agenda. Counsel Lemieux responds there was potential conflict regarding this item within the Indian Wells Valley Water District and their attorney, Jim Worth was looking into it; Worth confirms. Rajtora further states he would like to see fundamental planning including scheduling and budgets. Rajtora suggests we start on FY 2021 audit as soon as possible. Carol Thomas-Keefer confirms the proposal will come to the Board at the July meeting.

8. CONSENT AGENDA:

- a. Approve Minutes of Board Meeting May 11, 2022
- b. Approve Expenditures

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

- i. \$57,905.75 – Stetson Engineers
- ii. \$26,222.75 – Regional Government Services – (Replenishment / Extraction)
- iii. \$19,187.50 – Capitol Core Group – (Replenishment)
- iv. \$19,762.45 – California Rural Water Association – (SDAC)
- v. \$6,000.00 – Brown Armstrong – (Extraction)

The Board hears public comment from Renee Westa-Lusk.

Motion made by Scott Hayman and seconded by Stan Rajtora to approve Minutes of Board Meeting May 11, 2022, and the following expenditures in the amount of, \$57,905.75 to Stetson Engineers, \$26,222.75 to Regional Government Services, \$19,187.50 to Capitol Core Group, \$19,762.45 to California Rural Water Association and \$6,000.00 to Brown Armstrong.

Motion carries by the following roll call vote:

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

9. BOARD TO RECEIVE AND FILE THE 2020 FINANCIAL AUDIT REPORT FROM BROWN ARMSTRONG:

Thomas Young of Brown Armstrong walks through the 2020 Financial Audit Report (documents made available on the IWVGA website).

10. COMMUNICATION AND ENGAGEMENT PLAN IMPROVEMENTS AND IMPLEMENTATION:

Carol Thomas-Keefer presents staff report for C&E Plan (document made available on the IWVGA website).

a. PAC/TAC Report

David Janiec presents PAC report for the meeting held on May 26, 2022. Steve Johnson provides presentation on status update of current TAC membership.

The Board hears public comment from Judie Decker, Renee Westa-Lusk, Mike Sinnott, and West Katzenstein.

Motion made by John Vallejo and seconded by Phillip Peters to move forward with plans to improve the Communication and Engagement Plan and add additional funding to the current Stakeholder Communication budget item by moving existing funds from other budget items not being utilized.

Motion carries by the following roll call vote:

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

11. WATER RESOURCES MANAGER REPORT:

Steve Johnson, Joseph Montoya, and Jeff Helsley provide updates on the following grants/programs (documents made available on the IWVGA website):

a. Grant Funding

- i. Proposition 1
- ii. Proposition 68
- iii. SGMA Implementation Project Grant Funds

b. GSP Implementation Projects/Management Action Updates

- i. Recycled Water Program

c. Miscellaneous Items

- i. IWVGA Basin Model Configuration Management Plan

The Board hears public comment from Renee Westa-Lusk.

12. GENERAL MANAGER’S REPORT:

Carol Thomas-Keefer provides the Monthly Financial Report, and Technical Memorandum from Capitol Core Group (documents made available on the IWVGA website).

The Board hears public comment from Mike Sinnott and Renee Westa-Lusk.

13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – July 13, 2022

14. ADJOURN:

Chairman Peters adjourns the meeting at 1:22 p.m. on June 8, 2022.

Respectfully submitted,

April Keigwin
 Clerk of the Board
 Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority

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United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Ridgecrest Field Office
300 S Richmond Road
Ridgecrest, CA 93555
www.blm.gov/office/california-ridgecrest-field-office

July 8, 2022

In Reply Refer To:
7200 Water Resources
LLCAD05000

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

RE: Bureau of Land Management participation on Technical Advisory Committee

Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority Board,

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) offers to begin supporting the Indian Wells Valley (IWV) Technical Advisory Committee (TAC). The BLM currently supports the Groundwater Authority Board and Policy Advisory Committee (PAC) with an Ex-Officio member. In the past, the BLM was a member of the IWV Groundwater Collaborative Working Group prior to the formation of the TAC. Since the formation of the IWVGA, the BLM has been without staff to support the TAC. We hired Emma Lynch as a Natural Resource Specialist to provide expertise related to soil, air and water.

If it pleases the Board, accept our offer to provide Emma Lynch as an Ex-Officio member of the TAC.

Respectfully,

Carl Symons
Field Manager

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Emma Lynch

Education

Arizona State University (ASU)

Bachelor of Science (BS), Applied Biological Sciences - Natural Resource Ecology

Certificate in Wildlife Management

Academic Achievements

Graduated Summa Cum Laude in May 2019

Dean's List consecutively from Fall 2015 to Spring 2019

College of Integrative Sciences and Arts Academic Achievement Award for Fall 2018

New American University Scholar – Dean's Award from Fall 2015 to Spring 2019

Special Talent Award – Marching Band Spring 2016

Employment

University of New Mexico, Teakettle Experimental Forest

University of New Mexico

Albuquerque, New Mexico 87131 United States

06/2021 – 09/2021

Hours per week: 40

Research Technician, GS-05 equivalent

- * Worked in the Teakettle Experimental Forest to establish a baseline index of fuel and vegetation cover before a prescribed burn within 200 established plots.
- * Camped for the entire field season without phone service, which required packing enough food and water for the entire day before hiking out from the campsite every morning. Field work required regularly walking 6-10 miles in rough, high-altitude terrain with a heavy pack.
- * Collected fuels data using the Fuel Load (FL) Method, popularized by Brown, which entailed line-intercept sampling of fuels from different fire classes, litter depth measurements at two points along the transect, and overstory composition. Fuel measurements were taken to estimate carbon pre- and post-burn.
- * Visually estimated understory vegetation within 200 designated circular plots which required extensive knowledge of both annual and perennial forbs and grasses.
- * Assisted in tree stem mapping which comprised of measuring the diameter breast height (DBH) of trees and taking their locations from a central point with a Criterion laser.

Bureau of Land Management

Socorro Field Office

901 South Old Highway 85

Socorro, New Mexico 87801 United States

10/2019 – 10/2020

Hours per week: 40

Rangeland Management Specialist Series, 0454 GS-07

- * Worked on 260 grazing allotments spanning 1,504,000 acres.

- * Coordinated with permittees to install and repair rangeland health projects including water pipelines, troughs, storage tanks, fences, and earthen retention dams.
- * Participated in National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) interdisciplinary teams across various areas such as fuels, recreation, wildlife, rangeland, and realty.
- * Wrote NEPA related documents including Determinations of NEPA Adequacy (DNA) and Categorical Exclusions (CX), which were tiered from existing Environmental Assessments (EA)
- * Conducted Rangeland Health Assessments (RHA) using the 17 indicators of rangeland health set by the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the Department of the Interior (DOI).
- * Assisted in wildlife projects by disassembling fencing around wildlife drinkers, which included removing T-posts and barbed wire.
- * Experience working independently for prolonged periods without cell phone or radio service.
- * Relocated monitoring points that were established in the 1960s on paper maps. Used a compass and written instructions to find and waypoint them for easier access.
- * Worked on local fires, which involved coordinating with local restaurants to prepare and deliver food and supplies to firefighters. Duties included shuttling firefighters between drop-off points and helping repair damaged equipment.
- * Experience working within ArcMap collecting, editing, ground-truthing, and digitizing missing data from paper documents.
- * Located, inspected, and collected data from rangeland improvements within ArcCollector, Avenza, and CarryMap mobile applications.
- * Organized and inventoried hundreds of physical rangeland project files within central filing; included reporting which records were missing and attempting to reconstruct them.
- * Gathered necessary paperwork and coordinated with both parties while transferring allotments within the district.
- * Supervised aerial treatment of juniper, cholla, and creosote by recording weather, inspecting treatment areas, and communicating with the pilot from the ground.
- * Completed compliance on allotments by counting heads of cattle, checking brands, inspecting rangeland improvements, and evaluating overall vegetative condition.

US Forest Service

Buffalo Gap National Grassland, Wall Ranger District

710 Main Street
Wall, South Dakota 57790 United States

06/2019 – 10/2019

Hours per week: 40

Rangeland Technician Series, 0455 GS-05

- * Worked on over 80 grazing allotments spanning 279,000 acres.
- * Attended grazing board meetings to facilitate communication between permittees and grazing associations.
- * Received federal training using ATVs, UTVs, and 4x4 trucks off-road in rugged terrain.
- * Navigated to specific allotments and reservoirs using a combination of physical maps, a GPS unit, and a compass.
- * Experience mixing and applying herbicides after identifying invasive and noxious weed sites.
- * Recorded data from previous invasive weed sites that were selected for biological control to assess if treatment was successful.
- * Traveled to GPS coordinates that were randomly generated for photo point monitoring locations and determined which best represented the soil type it was assigned to.
- * Constructed and installed bat boxes across the district to be surveyed for usage by various wildlife.
- * Installed wildlife ladders in stock tanks to prevent accidental drowning of wildlife. Regularly checked and recorded mortalities.

- * Collaborated with the National Park Service (NPS) and Prairie Wildlife Research to spotlight for endangered black-footed ferrets in an experimental 10(j) population within Conata Basin. Black-footed ferrets were captured, marked, and immunized against bubonic plague. Trail cameras were also deployed and checked for the presence of ferrets before and after spotlighting efforts.
- * Located and harvested seeds from various species of milkweed to be planted in experimental plots across the district.
- * Performed compliance inspections on livestock within permitted allotments and filed grazing documents for the district.
- * Assisted in Similarity Index (SI) monitoring, which was used to assess the present state of vegetation in an ecological site in relation to the historic climax plant community.

Arizona State University Polytechnic Campus

7001 East Williams Field Road
Mesa, Arizona 85212 United States

01/2019 – 05/2019

Hours per week: 5

Plant Taxonomy Laboratory Assistant

- * Assisted in identifying and clipping plant samples to use for study purposes in the plant laboratory.
- * Set up specimens and answered questions from students regarding plant physiology and taxonomy.
- * Graded lab assignments and exams for accuracy and participation.
- * Experience collecting, pressing, and mounting plants.

Arizona Game and Fish Department

5000 West Carefree Highway
Phoenix, Arizona 85086 United States

09/2018 – 04/2019

Hours per week: 25

Wildlife Center Intern

- * Performed daily caregiving tasks to a variety of native Arizona education animals including invertebrates, venomous and non-venomous reptiles, rodents, birds of prey, and large mammals. Duties included morning checks with strict daily records to ensure every animal had adequate access to water and was in good health and that all enclosures were locked.
- * Normal tasks involved changing water dishes, cleaning enclosures of waste and leftover food, scrubbing perches and enclosure beams, and carefully weighing and preparing proper diets. Diet preparation consisted of skinning, eviscerating, and butchering animals.
- * Assembled and dismantled large cage pieces from enclosures and helped construct necessary equipment for the animals such as enrichment toys, heating elements, furniture, panels, shade screens, and burrows.
- * Assisted in capturing and administering telemetry units to invasive red-eared sliders at the Phoenix Zoo in order to monitor population movement.
- * Surveyed for and identified toxic and harmful plants that may cause harm to the animals within the care of the wildlife center. Prepared a plant guide with pictures and descriptions of both edible and toxic plants that were seen growing around the wildlife center to help future volunteers and staff identify which plants were safe.

Arizona Game and Fish Department

5000 West Carefree Highway
Phoenix, Arizona 85086 United States

05/2018 – 08/2018

Hours per week: 40

Rare and Invasive Plants Survey Intern

- * Worked in Kaibab National Forest surveying for rare and invasive plants using line transect survey methods.
- * Surveying required extensive knowledge of native plant taxonomy and morphology. Species being identified were often local varieties with minimal differences to common populations.
- * Experience working long hours under extreme weather conditions, including camping remotely for multiple days.
- * Worked in partnership with the Phoenix Zoo to capture non-native turtles, including red-eared sliders in hoop nets within their viewing ponds.
- * Surveyed for Northern Goshawks in the Kaibab National Forest with FOXPRO wildlife callers using point sampling methods. Navigation was done independently using established GPS coordinates and included hiking over rough terrain.
- * Assisted in the establishment of cages and nets over open mine shafts in order to protect valuable bat colonies from human interference. Work included both the assembly of fences and the permanent placement.

Banfield Pet Hospital

1858 South Signal Butte
Mesa, Arizona 85209 United States

02/2018 – 05/2018

Hours per week: 30

Veterinary Assistant

- * Assisted veterinarians in handling and restraining aggressive and frightened animals during procedures.
- * Common duties included holding off blood draw sites to prevent hematomas, restraining for catheter placement, assisting in intubation before surgical procedures, moving animals to and from operation tables, shaving sedated animals, monitoring heart rates both during and after anesthesia, giving oral medications, and giving subcutaneous vaccinations.
- * Worked in a laboratory setting running internal parasite screens, blood sugar checks, heartworm tests, thyroid tests, checking internal organ functions, recording complete blood cell count panels, observing fecal samples, and reading urine.
- * Trained on proper blood and bodily fluid protocol, including disposal of infectious material.
- * Worked as a liaison and first contact between veterinarians and clients. Took initial medical history of patients, recorded vitals, listed any spoken concerns, made note of any abnormalities in patient, prepared and dispensed medical prescriptions, and checked previous medical history.

Arizona Center for Algae Technology and Innovation

7418 Innovation Way South
Mesa, Arizona 85212 United States

07/2016 – 01/2017

Hours per week: 20

Laboratory Assistant

- * Learned proper documentation methods for research data.
- * Trained on proper use of lab equipment such as centrifuges, autoclaves, ash-free dry weight stations, cuvettes, drying ovens, pipets, and rotary evaporators.
- * Harvested and worked with algae in greenhouse environments, including daily monitoring of pH and temperature.
- * Performed inventory of frozen algae specimens, arranging and sorting by date for easy access.
- * Worked in the internationally recognized AzCATI laboratory and attended the 2016 Algae Biomass Convention in Phoenix.

Job Training and Skills

- * Certified South Dakota commercial applicator in categories G, 1A, 1B and 12. Licensed to apply general pesticides, agricultural herbicides, agricultural insecticides, rodenticides, and treatment for bird pests.
- * Certified in Adult and Pediatric First Aid/CPR/AED through the American Red Cross.
- * Certified through the USDA, DOI, and state of Arizona in the operation of 4x4 vehicles, all-terrain vehicles (ATVs), recreational off-highway vehicles (ROV, UTV, and side-by-sides), and flatbed trailers.
- * Experience in handling, equipping, and riding horses.
- * Extensive experience of plant identification, morphology, and taxonomy.
- * Attended a 5-day course focused on Issue-Based NEPA technical writing.
- * Certified as a Firefighter Type 2 through S-130 and S-190 training classes within the federal government.

Volunteer Experience

ASU Wildlife Restoration Student Association (WRSA)

- * Was team captain for the ASU representative Quiz Bowl team at the 2019 Joint Annual Meeting (JAM) of the Arizona and New Mexico Chapters of The Wildlife Society; duties included planning meetings, creating study material, and gathering volunteers to compete on behalf of the university.
- * Studied and competed in the national Society of Range Management (SRM) plant identification contest, earning a score over 600 and placing 9th out of 39 teams overall.
- * Served as Vice President in the ASU chapter of the American Fisheries Society (AFS) and as WRSA historian.
- * Met with professionals in fields related to fisheries, range, and wildlife.

Arizona Game and Fish Department (AZGFD)

Burro Management Research – Lake Pleasant Herd Management Unit (HMU), Arizona

- * Measured the plant width, height, and diameter at root collar in order to evaluate the effect of burro activity on the ecosystem around Lake Pleasant, AZ.
- * Performed belt transects to create a basis of plant diversity in grazed and non-grazed areas.

Black-Tailed Prairie Dog Count and Trapping – Las Cienegas National Conservation Area, Arizona

- * Experience baiting, deploying, and checking Tomahawk live traps.
- * Assessed, handled, and processed captured prairie dogs.
- * Performed survey counts to provide a baseline for colony activity and size on an annual basis.

Liberty Wildlife

- * Rehabilitated wild animals (both native and non-native) including birds, reptiles, and mammals.
- * Worked in the ICU which included cleaning, giving fresh water, hand feeding, and tube feeding critically ill birds. Duties included individually examining birds in the aviary for any signs of diseases and removing them if necessary.

- * Assisted in daily orphan care of baby birds. Tasks included cleaning and feeding hundreds of orphaned birds, from newborn to fledging, and monitoring for any signs of illness or fatigue.

Friends for Life Animal Shelter

- * Acted as a volunteer coordinator, staying in contact with volunteer team members, making note of absences, and ensuring that enough people were able to cover weekly shifts.
- * Worked with a team to care for adoptable and non-adoptable dogs staying at the facility. Duties included cleaning kennels, preparing and feeding the dogs an acceptable diet, playing, and socializing each animal individually.

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**BEFORE THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE
INDIAN WELLS VALLEY GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY**

In the matter of:

Resolution No. 04-22

**RESOLUTION APPOINTING MEMBER TO
THE TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE.**

I, _____, Clerk of the Board of Directors for the Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority, do certify that the following resolution, on motion of Director _____, seconded by Director _____, was duly passed and adopted by the Board of Directors at an official meeting this 13th day of July 2022, by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

Clerk of the Board of Directors
Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority

RESOLUTION

Section 1. **WHEREAS:**

(a) The Bylaws of the Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority provide that individuals shall be appointed to the Technical Advisory Committee (“TAC”) by Resolution;

Section 2. **THEREFORE IT IS RESOLVED** by the Board of Directors of the Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority, as follows:

1. This Board finds that the recited facts are true and that it has the jurisdiction to consider, approve, and adopt this Resolution.
2. This Board hereby appoints the individuals on the attached Exhibit “A” to the TAC.

EXHIBIT A

Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)

Member Names

<u>Category</u>	<u>Name</u>
Large Agriculture	Open
Large Agriculture	Open
Small Agriculture	Open
Kern County Water Agency	Michelle Anderson
Business Interests	Open
Business Interests	Open
Residential Customers of Public Water Agency	Open
Residential Customers of Public Water Agency	Open
Domestic Well Owners	Don Decker
Domestic Well Owners	Open
Eastern Kern County Resource Conservation District	Open
District Wholesaler and Industrial User	Steven Kourakos
Indian Wells Valley Water District*	Tim Parker
Department of the Navy*	Donna Ogilvie
Bureau of Land Management*	Emma Lynch

*Non-voting Members

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Invoice

City of Ridgecrest
 Attn: Alan Christensen
 100 W. California Ave.
 Ridgecrest, CA 93555

Invoice Number: 2652-58
Invoice Date: 07/07/22

Project #: 2652 Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority

Professional Services through 5/31/2022

Water Resources Management 2022

01 - Meetings & Prep

Professional Services	<u>Bill Hours</u>	<u>Bill Rate</u>	<u>Charge</u>
Principal	19.50	\$237.00	\$4,621.50
Supervisor I	19.25	\$206.00	\$3,965.50
Senior Associate	8.00	\$128.00	\$1,024.00
Associate III	11.25	\$111.00	\$1,248.75
<i>Professional Services Subtotal:</i>			<u>\$10,859.75</u>
Reimbursables			<u>Charge</u>
Reproduction (Color)			\$56.07
Reproduction			\$4.20
<i>Reimbursables Subtotal:</i>			<u>\$60.27</u>
<i>Meetings & Prep Subtotal:</i>			<u>\$10,920.02</u>

02 - Prop 1 / Prop 68 Grant Administration

Professional Services	<u>Bill Hours</u>	<u>Bill Rate</u>	<u>Charge</u>
Senior Associate	2.50	\$128.00	\$320.00
Associate III	37.75	\$111.00	\$4,190.25
Assistant I	20.00	\$98.00	\$1,960.00
<i>Professional Services Subtotal:</i>			<u>\$6,470.25</u>
<i>Prop 1 / Prop 68 Grant Administration Subtotal:</i>			<u>\$6,470.25</u>

03 - Grant Review & Application Preparation

Professional Services	<u>Bill Hours</u>	<u>Bill Rate</u>	<u>Charge</u>
Principal	5.00	\$237.00	\$1,185.00
Supervisor I	0.25	\$206.00	\$51.50
Associate III	0.50	\$111.00	\$55.50
Assistant I	3.00	\$98.00	\$294.00
<i>Professional Services Subtotal:</i>			<u>\$1,586.00</u>
<i>Grant Review & Application Preparation Subtotal:</i>			<u>\$1,586.00</u>

04 - Data Mgmt System Support

Professional Services	<u>Bill Hours</u>	<u>Bill Rate</u>	<u>Charge</u>
Supervisor I	2.50	\$206.00	\$515.00
Associate I	6.25	\$122.00	\$762.50
<i>Professional Services Subtotal:</i>			<u>\$1,277.50</u>
<i>Data Mgmt System Support Subtotal:</i>			<u>\$1,277.50</u>

05 - General Project Mgmt



05 - General Project Mgmt

Professional Services

	<u>Bill Hours</u>	<u>Bill Rate</u>	<u>Charge</u>
Supervisor I	6.75	\$206.00	\$1,390.50
Senior Associate	4.00	\$128.00	\$512.00
Associate III	2.25	\$111.00	\$249.75
			<u>Professional Services Subtotal:</u>
			\$2,152.25
			<u>General Project Mgmt Subtotal:</u>
			\$2,152.25

06 - Model Transfer & Upgrade

Professional Services

	<u>Bill Hours</u>	<u>Bill Rate</u>	<u>Charge</u>
Principal	1.00	\$237.00	\$237.00
Supervisor I	16.00	\$206.00	\$3,296.00
Supervisor II	2.50	\$191.00	\$477.50
			<u>Professional Services Subtotal:</u>
			\$4,010.50

Sub-Contractors

	<u>Charge</u>
Board of Regents	\$2,519.12
	<u>Sub-Contractors Subtotal:</u>
	\$2,519.12

Model Transfer & Upgrade Subtotal: \$6,529.62

07 - Imported Water: Engineering & Analysis

Professional Services

	<u>Bill Hours</u>	<u>Bill Rate</u>	<u>Charge</u>
Principal	17.50	\$237.00	\$4,147.50
Supervisor I	13.25	\$206.00	\$2,729.50
Senior Associate	2.00	\$128.00	\$256.00
Associate III	50.00	\$111.00	\$5,550.00
GIS Specialist I	0.75	\$101.00	\$75.75
			<u>Professional Services Subtotal:</u>
			\$12,758.75

Imported Water: Engineering & Analysis Subtotal: \$12,758.75

09 - Recycled Water

Professional Services

	<u>Bill Hours</u>	<u>Bill Rate</u>	<u>Charge</u>
Supervisor I	3.25	\$206.00	\$669.50
Associate III	12.00	\$111.00	\$1,332.00
			<u>Professional Services Subtotal:</u>
			\$2,001.50

Recycled Water Subtotal: \$2,001.50

11 - Data Collection, Monitoring & Data Gaps

Professional Services

	<u>Bill Hours</u>	<u>Bill Rate</u>	<u>Charge</u>
Supervisor I	6.00	\$206.00	\$1,236.00
Supervisor II	1.00	\$191.00	\$191.00
Associate I	1.50	\$122.00	\$183.00
Senior Assistant	3.75	\$103.00	\$386.25
			<u>Professional Services Subtotal:</u>
			\$1,996.25

Reimbursables

	<u>Charge</u>
Permits & Fees	\$3,120.75
	<u>Reimbursables Subtotal:</u>
	\$3,120.75

Data Collection, Monitoring & Data Gaps Subtotal: \$5,117.00

12 - Prop 1 SDAC Program Support

Professional Services

	<u>Bill Hours</u>	<u>Bill Rate</u>	<u>Charge</u>
Supervisor I	0.50	\$206.00	\$103.00



12 - Prop 1 SDAC Program Support

Professional Services

	<u>Bill Hours</u>	<u>Bill Rate</u>	<u>Charge</u>
Associate III	8.50	\$111.00	\$943.50

Professional Services Subtotal: \$1,046.50

Prop 1 SDAC Program Support Subtotal: \$1,046.50

14 - Production Reporting, Transient Pool & Fee Support

Professional Services

	<u>Bill Hours</u>	<u>Bill Rate</u>	<u>Charge</u>
Supervisor I	0.50	\$206.00	\$103.00
GIS Specialist I	0.50	\$101.00	\$50.50

Professional Services Subtotal: \$153.50

Production Reporting, Transient Pool & Fee Support Subtotal: \$153.50

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

Professional Services

	<u>Bill Hours</u>	<u>Bill Rate</u>	<u>Charge</u>
Supervisor I	4.50	\$206.00	\$927.00
Supervisor II	22.00	\$191.00	\$4,202.00
Associate I	1.50	\$122.00	\$183.00
Technical Illustrator	3.00	\$88.00	\$264.00

Professional Services Subtotal: \$5,576.00

Navy/Coso Royalty Fund: FY21 Rose Valley MW Permitting, Bid Doc Support & Drilling Subtotal: \$5,576.00

20 - Shallow Well Mitigation Program: Outreach & Impacts Evaluation

Professional Services

	<u>Bill Hours</u>	<u>Bill Rate</u>	<u>Charge</u>
Principal	1.00	\$237.00	\$237.00
Senior Assistant	1.00	\$103.00	\$103.00

Professional Services Subtotal: \$340.00

Shallow Well Mitigation Program: Outreach & Impacts Evaluation Subtotal: \$340.00

21 - General Engineering

Professional Services

	<u>Bill Hours</u>	<u>Bill Rate</u>	<u>Charge</u>
Principal	1.50	\$237.00	\$355.50
Supervisor I	2.75	\$206.00	\$566.50
Associate III	1.50	\$111.00	\$166.50

Professional Services Subtotal: \$1,088.50

General Engineering Subtotal: \$1,088.50

22 - Coordination with DWR on GSP Review

Professional Services

	<u>Bill Hours</u>	<u>Bill Rate</u>	<u>Charge</u>
Principal	4.50	\$237.00	\$1,066.50
Supervisor I	2.75	\$206.00	\$566.50
Senior Associate	5.50	\$128.00	\$704.00
Associate III	3.75	\$111.00	\$416.25

Professional Services Subtotal: \$2,753.25

Coordination with DWR on GSP Review Subtotal: \$2,753.25

23 - Annual Report Preparation

Professional Services

	<u>Bill Hours</u>	<u>Bill Rate</u>	<u>Charge</u>
Principal	4.00	\$237.00	\$948.00

Professional Services Subtotal: \$948.00

Annual Report Preparation Subtotal: \$948.00



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
Senior Associate	0.50	\$128.00	\$64.00
Associate I	5.50	\$122.00	\$671.00
Associate III	4.00	\$111.00	\$444.00

Professional Services Subtotal: \$2,127.00

Allocation Plan & Rules & Regs on Pumping/Restrictions Subtotal: \$2,127.00

26 - Budget Support

Professional Services

	<u>Bill Hours</u>	<u>Bill Rate</u>	<u>Charge</u>
Senior Associate	0.50	\$128.00	\$64.00
Assistant I	2.00	\$98.00	\$196.00

Professional Services Subtotal: \$260.00

Budget Support Subtotal: \$260.00

27 - Litigation Support

Professional Services

	<u>Bill Hours</u>	<u>Bill Rate</u>	<u>Charge</u>
Principal	11.00	\$237.00	\$2,607.00
Supervisor I	7.75	\$206.00	\$1,596.50
Senior Associate	1.00	\$128.00	\$128.00
Associate I	2.00	\$122.00	\$244.00

Professional Services Subtotal: \$4,575.50

Litigation Support Subtotal: \$4,575.50

***Water Resources Management 2022 Subtotal:* \$67,681.14**

***** Invoice Total *****

\$67,681.14

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PO Box 1350
Carmel Valley, CA 93924

Invoice

Date	Invoice #
5/31/2022	13644

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

P.O. No.	Due Date	Inv Sent
	7/15/2022	6/23/2022

Date	Description	Amount
5/31/2022	Reimbursable Expenses for City of Ridegecrest Monthly Rent (\$300) - please see attached	300.00
Total		\$300.00

**AGREEMENT FOR LEASE OF
100 W. CALIFORNIA AVENUE, RIDGECREST, CA**

by and between

**THE CITY OF RIDGECREST AND
REGIONAL GOVERNMENT SERVICES**

AGREEMENT:

Premises: For and in consideration of the terms, covenants, and conditions contained in this Agreement, City leases to RGS, and RGS leases from City, an approximate 210 square foot office space located along with the monthly use of the City's conference room located at 100 W. California Avenue., Ridgecrest, County of Kern, State of California, depicted on the floor plan attached as **Exhibit "A"** ("**Premises**").

Term: The initial term of this Agreement ("**Term**") shall commence on the Execution Date and terminate one year (12 months) thereafter, unless sooner terminated or extended as provided in this Agreement.

Option to Extend Term: Provided RGS is not in default of any of the terms, covenants, or conditions of this Agreement, RGS shall have one option to request an extension of the initial Term for a two-year period ("**Option Term**"). RGS may exercise the option by giving the City's City Manager ("**CM**") written notice of RGS's desire to extend, not less than 60 days prior to expiration of the initial Term. The CM, at the CM's sole discretion, may accept or reject the request to extend.

4. Right to Terminate: Either Party may terminate this Agreement for any reason by providing a 60-day prior written notice to the other Party.

5. Hold Over: If RGS holds over after the expiration of the Term, with the express or implied consent of City, such holding over shall be a tenancy only from month to month and shall be governed by the terms, covenants, and conditions contained in this Agreement.

6. Rental Consideration:

a. In General: As consideration for the lease of the Premises during the Term, RGS shall pay to City in lawful money of the United States, to CM at 100 W. CALIFORNIA AVENUE, RIDGECREST, CA, or to such persons and at such places as may be designated from time to time by City. The first rental payment shall be paid within 30 days of the Execution Date, and thereafter for the balance of the Term, shall be paid on or before the first of each month. In the event RGS occupies the Premises for a partial month at any time, RGS shall only be responsible for a prorated portion of the Rent.

b. Fair Market Rental Value: The fair market rental rate of the facility is determined to be \$300 per month (\$1.43 per square foot).

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PO Box 1350
Carmel Valley, CA 93924

Invoice

Date	Invoice #
5/31/2022	13544

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

P.O. No.	Due Date	Inv Sent
	6/30/2022	6/15/2022

Date	Description	Amount
5/31/2022	Contract Services for May - please see attached	21,327.50
Total		\$21,327.50

Indian Wells Valley

Month: **May, 2022**

Advisor	Hours and Rates by Pay Period				Monthly Total Billed
	1st -15th		16th - EOM		
	Reg Hrs	Bill Rate	Reg Hrs	Bill Rate	
CT	13.00	\$ 130.00	16.75	\$ 130.00	\$ 3,867.50
AK	74.10	\$ 105.00	67.40	\$ 105.00	\$ 14,857.50
JK	0.75	\$ 137.00	1.00	\$ 137.00	\$ 239.75
GL	0.00	\$ -	0.00	\$ -	\$ -
GS	12.50	\$ 137.00	3.25	\$ 137.00	\$ 2,157.75
RM	1.25	\$ 164.00	0.00	\$ -	\$ 205.00
Totals	101.60		88.40		\$ 21,327.50

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Capitol Core Group, Inc.
 205 Cartwheel Bend (Operations Dept.)
 Austin, TX 78738 US
 512.568.3084
 operations@capitolcore.com
 www.capitolcore.com

BILL TO

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

INVOICE 2022-029

DATE 07/05/2022 **TERMS** Net 45

DUE DATE 08/19/2022

VENDOR ID
195953

INVOICE PERIOD
June 2022

DATE	ACCOUNT SUMMARY	AMOUNT
06/01/2022	Balance Forward	19,187.50
	Other payments and credits after 06/01/2022 through 07/04/2022	-19,187.50
07/05/2022	Other invoices from this date	0.00
	New charges (details below)	14,025.00
	Total Amount Due	14,025.00

ACTIVITY	HOURS	RATE	AMOUNT
Charges			
Task 1 -- Secure Imported Water Supplies			
Government Relations: Intergovernmental Affairs	1	250.00	250.00
Subtask A: Quarterly internal strategy call {McKinney}			
Government Relations: Intergovernmental Affairs	0.50	250.00	125.00
Subtask A: Agency Seller-1 -- quick follow up phone call {Tatum}			
Government Relations: Intergovernmental Affairs	7	250.00	1,750.00
Subtask A: Private Seller-2 -- Ongoing negotiations, term-sheet redevelopment, internal calls {Tatum}			
Government Relations: Intergovernmental Affairs	1.50	250.00	375.00
Subtask A: Contractor-to-Contractor discussion financing {Tatum}			
Government Relations: Intergovernmental Affairs	2	250.00	500.00
Subtask B: Interconnection strategy (internal discussion) {Tatum}			
Government Relations: Intergovernmental Affairs	1	250.00	250.00
Subtask D: 2022 Water Year -- Agency Discussions and Call {Tatum}			
Government Relations: Intergovernmental Affairs	7.25	225.00	1,631.25
Subtask A: Ongoing Negotiation, Term Sheet Redevelopment, Internal Calls -- Private Seller 2 {Simonetti}			
Government Relations: Intergovernmental Affairs	1.25	225.00	281.25
Subtask A: Contractor-to-Contractor meeting re: financing			
Invoice Total Task 1: \$5,162.50 (21.5 hours)			
Task 2 -- Secure Federal Funding Sources			

ACTIVITY	HOURS	RATE	AMOUNT
Government Relations:Federal Congressional: Water Resources Development Act of 2022 -- direct Advocacy House, Transportation & Infrastructure Committee staff, Senator Padilla briefing {McKinney}	2.50	250.00	625.00
Government Relations:Federal Congressional: Energy & Water Development Act for FY2023 -- Army Corps of Engineerings Fund, analysis, House Committee on Appropriations {McKinney}	1.50	250.00	375.00
Government Relations:Federal Congressional: FY2023 NDAA -- DCIP language House/Senate analysis {McKinney}	1.50	250.00	375.00
Government Relations:Federal Congressional: FY2023 NDAA -- DCIP Amendments: Direct Advocacy, mtgs w/ Reps Escobar and Gonzalez, HASC and SASC, full Committee markup House {Simonetti}	5.75	225.00	1,293.75
Government Relations:Federal Congressional: WRDA-22 directive language: Follow-up w/ Rep. McCarthy, House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee markup, follow-up with House E&WD Subcommittee on appropriations {Simonetti}	5.25	225.00	1,181.25
Invoice Total Task 2: \$3,510.00 (16.5 hours)			
Task 3 -- Secure State Funding Sources			
Government Relations:California Legislative: Direct Advocacy State Budget (Senate Amendment/Governor's May Revision/Assembly) -- Assembly/Senate Budget Committee and Leadership {McKinney}	2	250.00	500.00
Government Relations:California Legislative: State Budget Deal Analysis and Lobbying (Split) {McKinney}	2	250.00	500.00
Government Relations:California Legislative: Wastewater Treatment Plant State Budget Request Assembly/Senate -- final lobbying {McKinney}	7.50	250.00	1,875.00
Government Relations:California Legislative: Wastewater Treatment Plant -- direct advocacy Assembly/Senate {Simonetti}	4.50	225.00	1,012.50
Invoice Total Task 3: \$3,887.50 (16 hours)			
Task 4 -- Administrative			
Administrative Board Meeting: Board Meeting and Materials Preparation {Simonetti}	4	225.00	900.00
Administrative Reporting: Materials preparation water costs {Simonetti}	1	225.00	225.00
Invoice Total Task 4: \$1,125.00 (5 hours)			

Compliance Reporting for Invoice:			
Invoice: Federal Reporting, WWTP = \$1,668.75			
Invoice: Federal Reporting, IWVGA = \$1,841.25			
Invoice: State Reporting, WWTP = \$2,887.50			
Invoice: State Reporting IWVGA = \$1,000.00			

Compliance Reporting Quarterly:			

ACTIVITY	HOURS	RATE AMOUNT
2nd Qtr 2022: Federal Reporting WWTP = \$4,181.25		
2nd Qtr. 2022: Federal Reporting IWVGA = \$5,185.500		
2nd Qtr 2022: State Reporting WWTP = \$8,568.75		
2nd Qtr 2022: State Reporting IWVGA = \$9,746.25		
NOTE: 2nd Quarter 2022 Disclosure Reports to the California Secretary of State are due by July 21, 2022		

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

TOTAL OF NEW CHARGES 14,025.00

TOTAL DUE \$14,025.00

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California Rural Water Association

California Rural Water Association
 Task #6 Additional Conservation and Drought Mngmt Planning
 May-June 2022

INVOICE

To: Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority
 Attn: Carol Thomas-Keefer
 500 W. Ridgecrest Blvd
 Ridgecrest CA, 93555

Invoice #: IWVGA-Task#6-003
Invoice Date: 7/8/2022
Terms: Net 30 Days

Pay: California Rural Water Association
 1234 North Market Blvd.
 Sacramento, CA 95834

Project Name: IWVGA Task #6 Agreement 03-19 Addendum No. 1

IWVGA-Searles Valley Water District			
Work Plan/AR #	Description of work	Date	Cost
Task 6	Admin and project support	Invoice period	\$ 1,251.00
Task 6	Technician Admin suport	Invoice period	\$ 5,937.50
Task 6	Technician Travel Hours	Invoice period	\$ 1,192.50
Travel Expenditures			
Name	Description of Travel	Cost	
Michael Sims	Milage, Meals, Lodging	\$ 118.76	
Abel Silva	Milage, Meals, Lodging	\$ 44.46	
Mark Hardison	Milage, Meals, Lodging	\$ 342.99	
Equipment			
Name	Description of Equipment	Cost	
FCS	equip repair and upkeep (Ground mic)	\$ 132.50	
INVOICE TOTAL:			\$ 9,019.71

Submitted by:
 Dustin Hardwick, Deputy Director
 California Rural Water Association

Signature

7/8/2022

Date

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Brown Armstrong Accountancy Corporation

**4200 Truxtun Avenue
Suite 300
Bakersfield, CA 93309
661-324-4971**

INDIAN WELLS VALLEY GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY
100 W. CALIFORNIA AVENUE
RIDGECREST, CA 93555

Invoice No. 264894

Date Sunday, May 29, 2022

Client No. 32711.001

Final billing on 2020 audit:

(Contract amount/Billed to date: \$12,000/\$12,000)

Current Invoice Amount	\$	5,000.00
Beginning Balance		<u>6,000.00</u>
Balance Due	\$	<u><u>11,000.00</u></u>

0 - 30	31 - 60	61 - 90	91 - 120	Over 120	Balance
5,000.00	5,000.00	1,000.00	0.00	0.00	11,000.00

Please remit by: June 25, 2022

Credit Card and ACH Payments Accepted on BA Payment Portal, Bacpas.com

Click on "Make a Payment"

(3.5% Convenience Fee will Apply on Credit Cards)

Make checks payable to: **Brown Armstrong**

E-mail billing inquiries to: Katrina Soto

ksoto@bacpas.com

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IWVGA
 FY 2022

REPAYMENT SCHEDULE FOR KERN COUNTY OBLIGATION

OUTSTANDING OBLIGATION	\$ 500,000
YEAR TO DATE PAYMENTS	<u>(125,000)</u>
REMAINING PAYMENTS	<u><u>\$ 375,000</u></u>

PAYMENTS

MONTH	PAYMENT	MARCH	JULY	SEPT	DEC	TOTAL
March	Payment 1	\$ 125,000	-	-	-	\$ 125,000
	TOTAL	<u>\$ 125,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>\$ 125,000</u>

REMAINING PAYMENTS

MONTH	PAYMENT	MARCH	JULY	SEPT	DEC	TOTAL
March	Payment 1	\$ -	-	-	-	\$ -
July	Payment 2	-	125,000	-	-	125,000
Sept	Payment 3	-	-	125,000	-	125,000
Dec	Payment 4	-	-	-	125,000	125,000
	TOTAL	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>125,000</u>	<u>125,000</u>	<u>125,000</u>	<u>\$ 375,000</u>

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IWVGA ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

MEMORANDUM

DATE: July 8, 2022

TO: IWVGA Board Members

FROM: Carol Thomas-Keefer
IWVGA General Manager

SUBJECT: Proposal from Brown Armstrong to Conduct 2021 Financial Audit

DISCUSSION

The Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority (“Authority”) was formed under a Joint Powers Agreement (“JPA”). As such, the Authority’s financial accounts and records are subject to an annual audit by a certified public accountant (Government Code, § 6505). Section 9.06 of the JPA states “The Board shall contract with a certified public accountant to audit the accounts and records of the Authority as required by applicable accounting practices and the Act.”

The Authority is due for a financial audit of fiscal year 2021 (January 1 through December 31, 2021). Brown Armstrong Certified Public Accountants conducted IWVGA’s 2020 audit as well as the audit of the Authority’s finances for the two prior years. Brown Armstrong has provided the following proposal for your consideration for IWVGA’s 2021 audit.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

The audit cost, as proposed, will not exceed \$12,000 and is within the 2022 budgeted amount.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the board approve and authorize the General Manager to accept the proposal from Brown Armstrong for 2021 audit services.

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July 13, 2022

Board of Directors
c/o Carol Thomas-Keefer, General Manager
Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority
100 W California Avenue
Ridgecrest, California 93555

Dear Board of Directors:

We are pleased to confirm our understanding of the services we are to provide Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority (the Authority) for the year ended December 31, 2021.

Audit Scope and Objectives

We will audit the statement of net position of the Authority as of December 31, 2021, and the related statement of revenues, expenses, and changes in net position and statement of cash flows, including the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the basic financial statements of the Authority as of and for the year ended December 31, 2021.

The objectives of our audit are to obtain reasonable assurance as to whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error; issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion about whether your financial statements are fairly presented, in all material respects, in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAP). Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with GAAS and *Government Auditing Standards* will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements, including omissions, can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgment of a reasonable user made based on the financial statements.

The objectives also include reporting on internal control over financial reporting and compliance with provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and award agreements, noncompliance with which could have a material effect on the financial statements in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Government Auditing Standards require that we communicate, during the planning stage of an audit, certain information to officials of the audited entity and certain other parties. That information follows.

Board of Directors
c/o Carol Thomas-Keefer, General Manager
Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority
July 13, 2022
Page Two

We will conduct our audit in accordance with GAAS and the standards for financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, and will include tests of your accounting records of the Authority and other procedures we consider necessary to enable us to express such opinions. As part of an audit in accordance with GAAS and *Government Auditing Standards*, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.

We will evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management. We will also evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and determine whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation. We will plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement, whether from (1) errors, (2) fraudulent financial reporting, (3) misappropriation of assets, or (4) violations of laws or governmental regulations that are attributable to the Authority or to acts by management or employees acting on behalf of the Authority. Because the determination of waste and abuse is subjective, *Government Auditing Standards* do not expect auditors to perform specific procedures to detect waste or abuse in financial audits nor do they expect auditors to provide reasonable assurance of detecting waste or abuse.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, combined with the inherent limitations of internal control, and because we will not perform a detailed examination of all transactions, there is an unavoidable risk that some material misstatements may not be detected by us, even though the audit is properly planned and performed in accordance with GAAS and *Government Auditing Standards*. In addition, an audit is not designed to detect immaterial misstatements or violations of laws or governmental regulations that do not have a direct and material effect on the financial statements. However, we will inform the appropriate level of management of any material errors, fraudulent financial reporting, or misappropriation of assets that comes to our attention. We will also inform the appropriate level of management of any violations of laws or governmental regulations that come to our attention, unless clearly inconsequential. Our responsibility as auditors is limited to the period covered by our audit and does not extend to any later periods for which we are not engaged as auditors.

We will also conclude, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Authority's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

Our procedures will include tests of documentary evidence supporting the transactions recorded in the accounts, tests of the physical existence of inventories, and direct confirmation of receivables and certain assets and liabilities by correspondence with selected customers, creditors, and financial institutions. We will also request written representations from your attorneys as part of the engagement.

We have identified the following significant risks of material misstatement as part of our audit planning:

1. Management override of controls
2. Improper revenue recognition due to error or fraud

Board of Directors
c/o Carol Thomas-Keefer, General Manager
Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority
July 13, 2022
Page Three

We may, from time to time and depending on the circumstances, use third-party service providers in serving your account. We may share confidential information about you with these service providers but remain committed to maintaining the confidentiality and security of your information. Accordingly, we maintain internal policies, procedures, and safeguards to protect the confidentiality of your personal information. In addition, we will secure confidentiality agreements with all service providers to maintain the confidentiality of your information and we will take reasonable precautions to determine that they have appropriate procedures in place to prevent the unauthorized release of your confidential information to others. In the event that we are unable to secure an appropriate confidentiality agreement, you will be asked to provide your consent prior to the sharing of your confidential information with the third-party service provider. Furthermore, we will remain responsible for the work provided by any such third-party service providers.

Audit Procedures—Internal Control

We will obtain an understanding of the Authority and its environment, including internal control relevant to the audit, sufficient to identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to error or fraud, and to design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks and obtain evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinions. Tests of controls may be performed to test the effectiveness of certain controls that we consider relevant to preventing and detecting errors and fraud that are material to the financial statements and to preventing and detecting misstatements resulting from illegal acts and other noncompliance matters that have a direct and material effect on the financial statements. Our tests, if performed, will be less in scope than would be necessary to render an opinion on internal control and, accordingly, no opinion will be expressed in our report on internal control issued pursuant to *Government Auditing Standards*. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentation, or the override of internal control. An audit is not designed to provide assurance on internal control or to identify significant deficiencies or material weaknesses. Accordingly, we will express no such opinion. However, during the audit, we will communicate to management and those charged with governance internal control related matters that are required to be communicated under American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA) professional standards and *Government Auditing Standards*.

Audit Procedures—Compliance

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement, we will perform tests of the Authority's compliance with the provisions of applicable laws, regulations, contracts, agreements, and grants. However, the objective of our audit will not be to provide an opinion on overall compliance and we will not express such an opinion in our report on compliance issued pursuant to *Government Auditing Standards*.

Other Services

We will also assist in preparing the financial statements and related notes of the Authority in conformity with GAAP based on information provided by you. These nonaudit services do not constitute an audit under *Government Auditing Standards* and such services will not be conducted in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*. We will perform the services in accordance with applicable professional standards. The other services are limited to the financial statement services previously defined. We, in our sole professional judgment, reserve the right to refuse to perform any procedure or take any action that could be construed as assuming management responsibilities.

Board of Directors
c/o Carol Thomas-Keefer, General Manager
Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority
July 13, 2022
Page Four

Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements

Our audit will be conducted on the basis that you acknowledge and understand your responsibility for designing, implementing, establishing, and maintaining effective internal controls relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and for evaluating and monitoring ongoing activities to help ensure that appropriate goals and objectives are met; following laws and regulations; and ensuring that management and financial information is reliable and properly reported. Management is also responsible for implementing systems designed to achieve compliance with applicable laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements. You are also responsible for the selection and application of accounting principles, for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements and all accompanying information in conformity with GAAP, and for compliance with applicable laws and regulations and the provisions of contracts and grant agreements.

Management is responsible for making drafts of financial statements, all financial records, and related information available to us and for the accuracy and completeness of that information (including information from outside of the general and subsidiary ledgers). You are also responsible for providing us with (1) access to all information of which you are aware that is relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements, such as records, documentation, identification of all related parties and all related-party relationships and transactions, and other matters; (2) additional information that we may request for the purpose of the audit; and (3) unrestricted access to persons within the Authority from whom we determine it necessary to obtain audit evidence. At the conclusion of our audit, we will require certain written representations from you about your responsibilities for the financial statements; compliance with laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements; and other responsibilities required by GAAS and *Government Auditing Standards*.

Your responsibilities include adjusting the financial statements to correct material misstatements and for confirming to us in the written representation letter that the effects of any uncorrected misstatements aggregated by us during the current engagement and pertaining to the latest period presented are immaterial, both individually and in the aggregate, to the financial statements of each opinion unit taken as a whole.

You are responsible for the design and implementation of programs and controls to prevent and detect fraud, and for informing us about all known or suspected fraud affecting the Authority involving (1) management, (2) employees who have significant roles in internal control, and (3) others where the fraud could have a material effect on the financial statements. Your responsibilities include informing us of your knowledge of any allegations of fraud or suspected fraud affecting the Authority received in communications from employees, former employees, grantors, regulators, or others. In addition, you are responsible for identifying and ensuring that the Authority complies with applicable laws, regulations, contracts, agreements, and grants and for taking timely and appropriate steps to remedy fraud and noncompliance with provisions of laws, regulations, or contracts or grant agreements that we report.

You are required to disclose in the financial statements the date through which subsequent events have been evaluated and whether that date is the date the financial statements were issued or were available to be issued. You agree that you will not date the subsequent event note earlier than the date of the management representation letter.

Board of Directors
c/o Carol Thomas-Keefer, General Manager
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Page Five

Management is responsible for establishing and maintaining a process for tracking the status of audit findings and recommendations. Management is also responsible for identifying and providing report copies of previous financial audits, attestation engagements, performance audits or other studies related to the objectives discussed in the Audit Scope and Objectives section of this letter. This responsibility includes relaying to us corrective actions taken to address significant findings and recommendations resulting from those audits, attestation engagements, performance audits, or other studies. You are also responsible for providing management's views on our current findings, conclusions, and recommendations, as well as your planned corrective actions, for the report, and for the timing and format for providing that information.

With regard to publishing the financial statements on your website, you understand that websites are a means of distributing information and, therefore, we are not required to read the information contained in those sites or to consider the consistency of other information on the website with the original document.

You agree to assume all management responsibilities relating to the financial statements and related notes and any other nonaudit services we provide. You will be required to acknowledge in the management representation letter our assistance with preparation of the financial statements and related notes and that you have reviewed and approved the financial statements and related notes prior to their issuance and have accepted responsibility for them. Further, you agree to oversee the nonaudit services by designating an individual, preferably from senior management, with suitable skill, knowledge, or experience; evaluate the adequacy and results of those services; and accept responsibility for them.

In connection with this engagement, we may communicate with you or others via email transmission. As emails can be intercepted and read, disclosed, or otherwise used or communicated by an unintended third party, or may not be delivered to each of the parties to whom they are directed and only to such parties, we cannot guarantee or warrant that emails from us will be properly delivered and read only by the addressee. Therefore, we specifically disclaim and waive any liability or responsibility whatsoever for interception or unintentional disclosure of emails transmitted by us in connection with the performance of this engagement. In that regard, you agree that we shall have no liability for any loss or damage to any person or entity resulting from the use of email transmissions, including any consequential, incidental, direct, indirect, or special damages, such as loss of revenues or anticipated profits, or disclosure or communication of confidential or proprietary information.

Engagement Administration, Fees, and Other

We will schedule the engagement based in part on deadlines, working conditions, and the availability of your key personnel. We will plan the engagement based on the assumption that your personnel will cooperate and provide assistance by performing tasks such as preparing requested schedules, retrieving supporting documents, preparing confirmations, and will locate any documents selected by us for testing. If, for whatever reason, your personnel are unavailable to provide the necessary assistance in a timely manner, it may substantially increase the work we have to do to complete the engagement within the established deadlines, resulting in an increase in fees over our original fee estimate.

We will provide copies of our reports to the Authority; however, management is responsible for distribution of the reports and the financial statements. Unless restricted by law or regulation, or containing privileged and confidential information, copies of our reports are to be made available for public inspection.

Board of Directors
c/o Carol Thomas-Keefer, General Manager
Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority
July 13, 2022
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The audit documentation for this engagement is the property of Brown Armstrong Accountancy Corporation and constitutes confidential information. However, subject to applicable laws and regulations, audit documentation and appropriate individuals will be made available upon request and in a timely manner to State Controller's Office or its designee, a federal agency providing direct or indirect funding, or the U.S. Government Accountability Office for the purposes of a quality review of the audit, to resolve audit findings, or to carry out oversight responsibilities. We will notify you of any such request. If requested, access to such audit documentation will be provided under the supervision of Brown Armstrong Accountancy Corporation personnel. Furthermore, upon request, we may provide copies of selected audit documentation to the aforementioned parties. These parties may intend or decide to distribute the copies or information contained therein to others, including other governmental agencies.

The audit documentation for this engagement will be retained for a minimum of five years after the report release date or for any additional period requested by the State Controller's Office. If we are aware that a federal awarding agency or auditee is contesting an audit finding, we will contact the party(ies) contesting the audit finding for guidance prior to destroying the audit documentation.

Thomas M. Young is the engagement partner and is responsible for supervising the engagement and signing the reports or authorizing another individual to sign them. To ensure that Brown Armstrong Accountancy Corporation's independence is not impaired under the *AICPA Code of Professional Conduct*, you agree to inform the engagement partner before entering into any substantive employment discussions with any of our personnel. We expect to begin our audit on approximately July 13, 2022, and to issue our reports no later than September 2, 2022.

Our fee for services will be at our standard hourly rates plus out-of-pocket costs (such as report reproduction, word processing, postage, travel, copies, telephone, etc.) except that we agree that our gross fee, including expenses, will not exceed \$12,000. Our standard hourly rates vary according to the degree of responsibility involved and the experience level of the personnel assigned to your audit. Our invoices for these fees will be rendered each month as work progresses and are payable on presentation. In accordance with our firm policies, work may be suspended if your account becomes 90 days or more overdue and may not be resumed until your account is paid in full. If we elect to terminate our services for nonpayment, our engagement will be deemed to have been completed upon written notification of termination, even if we have not completed our report. You will be obligated to compensate us for all time expended and to reimburse us for all out-of-pocket costs through the date of termination. The above fee is based on anticipated cooperation from your personnel and the assumption that unexpected circumstances will not be encountered during the audit. If significant additional time is necessary, we will discuss it with you and arrive at a new fee estimate before we incur the additional costs.

All disputes under this agreement shall be submitted to mediation. Each party shall designate an executive officer empowered to attempt to resolve the dispute. Should the designated representatives be unable to agree on a resolution, a competent and impartial third party acceptable to both parties shall be appointed to mediate. Each disputing party shall pay an equal percentage of the mediator's fees and expenses. No suit or arbitration proceedings shall be commenced under this agreement until at least 60 days after the mediator's first meeting with the involved parties. In the event that the dispute is required to be litigated, the court shall be authorized to assess litigation costs against any party found not to have participated in the mediation process in good faith.

Board of Directors
c/o Carol Thomas-Keefer, General Manager
Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority
July 13, 2022
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You may request that we perform additional services not addressed in this engagement letter. If this occurs, we will communicate with you regarding the scope of the additional services and the estimated fees. We also may issue a separate engagement letter covering the additional services. In the absence of any other written communication from us documenting such additional services, our services will continue to be governed by the terms of this engagement letter.

Reporting

We will issue a written report upon completion of our audit of the Authority's financial statements. Our report will be addressed to Board of Directors of the Authority. Circumstances may arise in which our report may differ from its expected form and content based on the results of our audit. Depending on the nature of these circumstances, it may be necessary for us to modify our opinions, add a separate section, or add an emphasis-of-matter or other-matter paragraph to our auditor's report, or if necessary, withdraw from this engagement. If our opinions are other than unmodified, we will discuss the reasons with you in advance. If, for any reason, we are unable to complete the audit or are unable to form or have not formed opinions, we may decline to express opinions or issue reports, or we may withdraw from this engagement.

We will also provide a report (that does not include an opinion) on internal control related to the financial statements and compliance with the provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could have a material effect on the financial statements as required by *Government Auditing Standards*. The report on internal control and on compliance and other matters will state (1) that the purpose of the report is solely to describe the scope of testing of internal control and compliance, and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the Authority's internal control on compliance, and (2) that the report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the Authority's internal control and compliance. The report will also state that the report is not suitable for any other purpose. If during our audit we become aware that the Authority is subject to an audit requirement that is not encompassed in the terms of this engagement, we will communicate to management and those charged with governance that an audit in accordance with GAAS and the standards for financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* may not satisfy the relevant legal, regulatory, or contractual requirements.


We appreciate the opportunity to be of service to the Authority and believe this letter accurately summarizes the significant terms of our engagement. If you have any questions, please let us know. If you agree with the terms of our engagement as described in this letter, please sign the attached copy and return it to us.

Board of Directors
c/o Carol Thomas-Keefer, General Manager
Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority
July 13, 2022
Page Eight

Government Auditing Standards require that we provide you with a copy of our most recent external peer review report and any subsequent reports received during the contract period when requested. Accordingly, our 2019 peer review report accompanies this letter.

Sincerely,

BROWN ARMSTRONG
ACCOUNTANCY CORPORATION



By: Thomas M. Young

TMY:ksg:mmj

Enclosure

PfX Engagement/32711December 31, 2021PSR-02-2EL Draft

RESPONSE:

This letter correctly sets forth the understanding of the Authority.

Management signature: _____

Title: _____

Date: _____

Governance signature: _____

Title: _____

Date: _____

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IWVGA ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

MEMORANDUM

DATE: July 8, 2022

TO: IWVGA Board Members

FROM: Carol Thomas-Keefer
IWVGA General Manager

SUBJECT: Water Rights Financing Update from Wulff Hansen

With the potential opportunity to acquire water rights, IWVGA staff and the financing team have had discussions with respect to timing and potential structure of a bond financing to finance the acquisition.

Given the timing of the acquisition and the anticipated amount needed, the financing team believes the best method for financing would be a private placement of the Bonds. However, that does not preclude a full public offering based on the reception the private placement receives. The plan would be for Oppenheimer (the Underwriter/Placement Agent) to present the financing to a significant number of banks and investors on a private placement basis. While there are certain advantages a private placement affords including the opportunity to better tell the story of the Authority, explain the security and negotiate with potential banks or investors interested in purchasing the bonds, we can easily switch to a public offering if it is determined that would be in the Authority's best interests.

A private placement can also usually be completed on an accelerated timeline compared to a full public offering. Should the decision be made to switch to a public offering, the financing team would work to complete a public offering as quickly as possible. There is information the financing team still needs to receive in order to prepare the document Oppenheimer will use to solicit interests, but we believe that everything can be completed in time to fulfill your obligations under any water rights purchase agreement.

The goal of the financing team is to be in a position to bring to the Board at the August meeting a firm financing offer including terms and an interest rate. The interest rate will be indexed to a certain financial index. The reason for indexing the interest rate is that the final interest rate and formal sale of the Bonds cannot be completed until all environmental and regulatory approvals have been obtained. Once all outstanding approvals have been made, the interest rate would be set based on the index, and the financing would close and funds would be available to the Authority in 14 to 21 days.

RECOMMENDATION

For information only – no action required.

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IWVGA ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

STAFF REPORT

TO: IWVGA Board of Directors **DATE:** July 13, 2022

FROM: Carol Thomas-Keefer, General Manager

SUBJECT: Agenda Item No. 11 – Resolution 05-22 - Authorizing Staff to Execute and Deliver County Forms in Compliance with Governor’s Executive Order N-7-22

BACKGROUND

On April 12, 2021, May 10, 2021, July 8, 2021, and October 19, 2021, the Governor of the State of California proclaimed states of emergency that continue today and exist across all the counties of California, due to extreme and expanding drought conditions. On March 28, 2022 Executive Order N-7-22 was signed by the Governor of the State of California to address emergency drought conditions. Executive Order N-7-22 provides, in part, that:

“[t]o protect health, safety, and the environment during this drought emergency, a county, city, or other public agency shall not [a]pprove a permit for a new groundwater well or for alteration of an existing well in a basin subject to the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act and classified as medium- or high-priority without first obtaining written verification from a Groundwater Sustainability Agency managing the basin or area of the basin where the well is proposed to be located that groundwater extraction by the proposed well would not be inconsistent with any sustainable groundwater management program established in any applicable Groundwater Sustainability Plan adopted by that Groundwater Sustainability Agency and would not decrease the likelihood of achieving a sustainability goal for the basin covered by such a plan.”

Executive Order N-7-22 further provides that a public agency shall not:

“[i]ssue a permit for a new groundwater well or for alteration of an existing well without first determining that extraction of groundwater from the proposed well is (1) not likely to interfere with the production and functioning of existing nearby wells, and (2) not likely to cause subsidence that would adversely impact or damage nearby infrastructure.”

The Kern County Environmental Health Division (“County”) is responsible for the issuance of permits for new wells within the County, however the determinations required by Executive Order N-7-22 fall directly under the purview of the Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority (“IWVGA”). As a prerequisite for the issuance of any permit by the County for a

groundwater well within the jurisdiction of the IWVGA, written verification must be provided by the IWVGA in compliance with Executive Order N-7-22. The County has developed a template verification form for the IWVGA to use for this purpose.

DISCUSSION

The determinations required to be made by the IWVGA under Executive Order N-7-22 can be made administratively by staff upon application for a new well permit. Specifically, staff will review the permit application and determine if:

1. The proposed well is likely to interfere with the production and functioning of existing nearby wells; and,
2. The proposed well is likely to cause subsidence that would adversely impact or damage nearby infrastructure.

Upon making such a determination, staff will complete the County provided determination form and forward it to the County for further processing.

ACTION(S) REQUIRED BY THE BOARD

The IWVGA board should consider adopting the attached Resolution authorizing staff to make the above referenced determinations and to execute the County provided form. There is no anticipated fiscal impact to the IWVGA for the proposed action.

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**BEFORE THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE
INDIAN WELLS VALLEY GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY**

In the matter of:

Resolution No. 05-22

**AUTHORIZING STAFF TO EXECUTE
AND DELIVER COUNTY FORMS IN
COMPLIANCE WITH EXECUTIVE
ORDER N-7-22**

I, _____, Clerk of the Board of Directors for the Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority, do certify that the following resolution, on motion of Director _____, seconded by Director _____, was duly passed and adopted by the Board of Directors at an official meeting this 13th day of July, 2022, by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

Clerk of the Board of Directors
Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority

**THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF INDIAN WELLS VALLEY GROUNDWATER
AUTHORITY RESOLVES AS FOLLOWS:**

Section 1. WHEREAS:

- (a) On April 12, 2021, May 10, 2021, July 8, 2021, and October 19, 2021, the Governor of the State of California proclaimed states of emergency that continue today and exist across all the counties of California, due to extreme and expanding drought conditions; and,
- (b) On March 28, 2022 Executive Order N-7-22 was signed by the Governor of the State of California to address emergency drought conditions; and,
- (c) Executive Order N-7-22 provides, in part, that “[t]o protect health, safety, and the environment during this drought emergency, a county, city, or other public agency shall not [a]pprove a permit for a new groundwater well or for alteration of an existing well in a basin subject to the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act and classified as medium- or

high-priority without first obtaining written verification from a Groundwater Sustainability Agency managing the basin or area of the basin where the well is proposed to be located that groundwater extraction by the proposed well would not be inconsistent with any sustainable groundwater management program established in any applicable Groundwater Sustainability Plan adopted by that Groundwater Sustainability Agency and would not decrease the likelihood of achieving a sustainability goal for the basin covered by such a plan;” and,

- (d) Executive Order N-7-22 further provides that a public agency shall not “[i]ssue a permit for a new groundwater well or for alteration of an existing well without first determining that extraction of groundwater from the proposed well is (1) not likely to interfere with the production and functioning of existing nearby wells, and (2) not likely to cause subsidence that would adversely impact or damage nearby infrastructure;” and,
- (e) The Kern County Environmental Health Division (“County”) is responsible for the issuance of permits for new wells within the County; and,
- (f) Pursuant to Executive Order N-7-22, as a prerequisite for the issuance of any permit by the County for a groundwater well within the jurisdiction of the Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority (“Authority”), written verification must be provided by the Authority in compliance with Executive Order N-7-22; and,
- (g) The County has developed a verification form for Authority to use for this purpose.

Section 2. **THEREFORE IT IS RESOLVED** by the Board of Directors of the Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority, as follows:

1. This Board finds that recited facts are true and that it has the jurisdiction to consider, approve, and adopt this Resolution.
2. The General Manager or his/her designee is authorized to review County well permit applications and determine whether or not a proposed well will (1) be likely to interfere with the production and functioning of existing nearby wells, and (2) be likely to cause subsidence that would adversely impact or damage nearby infrastructure. The General Manager or his/her designee is further authorized to complete, execute, and deliver to the County the completed verification form on Authority letterhead and in the format prescribed by the County.

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED, by the Indian Wells Valley Groundwater

Authority this 13th day of July, 2022.

SIGNED:

President of the Board of Directors

ATTEST:

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Groundwater Sustainability Agency Verification Form

Owner Information

Name:
Address:
City:
Zip:
Phone:
Email:

Well Information

A.P.N:
Latitude:
Longitude:
Township
Range
Section

Type of Well: Irrigation Industrial

Groundwater Sustainability Agency:

- The proposed well is not inconsistent with the Groundwater Sustainability Agency's adopted, or in progress, Groundwater Sustainability Plan; and,
- The proposed well does not interfere with the Groundwater Sustainability Agency's SGMA authorities, including the Agency's addressing of undesirable results and the likelihood of achieving the sustainability goal.

I hereby certify that the GSA has reviewed the above conditions for the subject property for compliance with Executive Order N-7-22 and have marked each box for compliance as applicable.

Groundwater Sustainability Agency Signature

Date

Printed Name

Title

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IWVGA Board Meeting
July 13, 2022

Grant Funding

Proposition 1 Status Update

- Invoice #12a
 - Covers July through September 2021
 - Total requested payment after retention: **\$132,693.95**
 - Status: DWR payment made in June
- Invoice #13a
 - Covers October through December 2021
 - Total requested payment after retention: **\$299.70**
 - Status: DWR payment made in June
- Invoice #14a
 - Covers January 2022 through March 2022
 - Total requested payment after retention: **\$64,941.88**
 - Status: Under DWR review
- Invoice #15b
 - Covers April 2022 through June 2022
 - In Progress
 - Due end of August

AGENDA ITEM 13.a.i 1



1

IWVGA Board Meeting
July 13, 2022

Grant Funding

Proposition 68 Status Update

- Invoice # 13b
 - Covers October through December 2021
 - Total requested payment after retention: **\$272.09**
 - Status: DWR payment made in June
- Invoice #14b
 - Covers January 2022 through March 2022
 - Total requested payment after retention: **\$1,885.36**
 - Status: Under DWR review
- Invoice #15b
 - Covers April 2022 through June 2022
 - In Progress
 - Due end of August

AGENDA ITEM 13.a.ii 2



2

IWVGA Board Meeting
July 13, 2022

Grant Funding

SGMA-Implementation Grant Status Update

- Funding agreement for \$7.6M in final DWR review
 - DWR to provide final agreement
 - DWR anticipates execution by Mid-July
- Imported Water Pipeline Alignment Study RFP
 - Board authorized advertising RFP on May 11
 - RFP posted online and on IWVGA's website on May 23
 - Pre-proposal meeting was held on June 2 to introduce RFP and expectations for scope of work
 - Proposal deadline extended to July 11
- Next Steps
 - Execute Grant Agreement
 - Receive, review, and score proposals submitted for Imported Water Pipeline Alignment Study
 - Select consultant and request authorization from Board to execute contract (possible special Board meeting)

AGENDA ITEM 13.a.iii 3



3

IWVGA Board Meeting
June 13, 2022

GSP Implementation Projects/Management Action Updates

Recycled Water Program Update

- Sections 1 through 5 of the Recycled Water Alternatives Analysis have been reviewed by Technical Team
- Analysis has determined that advanced treatment and injection into the Basin of the available recycled water is the most feasible project.
- Next Steps
 - Schedule meeting with Regional Board
 - Develop Injection Well site evaluation criteria
 - Continue development of selected project including, additional non-City treatment needs & sites, storage needs, and other information for preliminary design
 - Ongoing coordination with Capitol Core on potential grant funding opportunities
 - Draft final tech memo planned for late 2022

AGENDA ITEM 13b.i 4



4

IWVGA Board Meeting
July 13, 2022

Miscellaneous Items

Data Collection and Monitoring Update

- June 2022
 - Datalogger replacement: Replaced 1 non-functioning pressure transducer
 - Wellhead assessment: Assessed maintenance and/or repairs at 27 well sites
- Fall 2021 Water Quality Sampling Summary currently in final review
- Fall 2022 Sampling and Data Collection
 - Water quality sampling planned for October 2022. Sampling plan to be finalized in September 2022.
 - Groundwater level measurements planned for October 2022. Some KCWA Covid-19 field restrictions have been lifted. The IWVGA will collect GWLs if KCWA is unable to do so.

AGENDA ITEM 13.c.i 5



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IWVGA Board Meeting
July 13, 2022

Miscellaneous Items

GSP Model CMP

June 16th meeting/call WRM, Navy, DRI, TMG

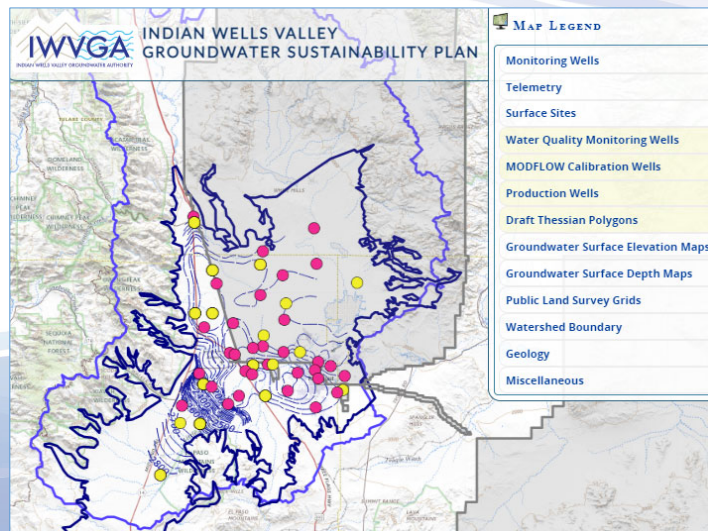
- Technical Model Group meeting
- IWV Model Configuration Management Items (CI) Data Priorities
- Approach for Reviewing New Data/Reports within CMP Structure

June 23rd meeting/call WRM, Navy, DRI, TMG

- Review Historical, Model-Simulated, and New GWL Data in SW Area
- Review DMS maps and hydrographs

July 7th meeting/call with WRM, Navy, and DRI

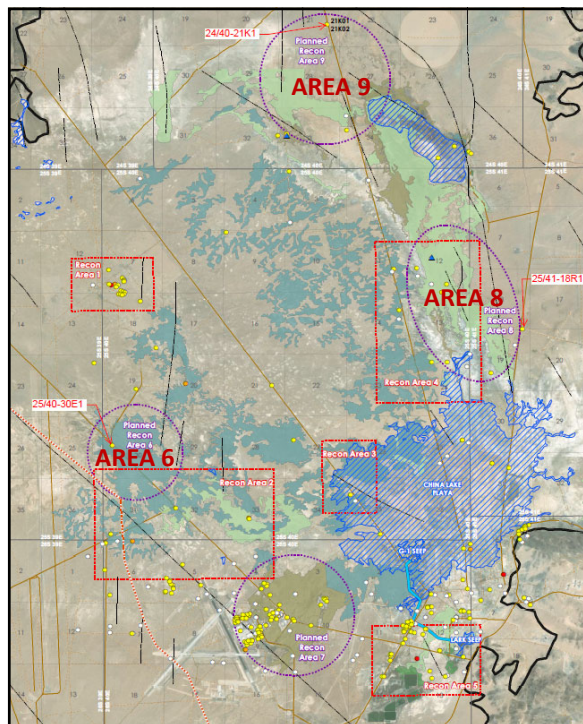
- Review Historical, Model-Simulated, and New GWL Data throughout IWV Basin
- Review DMS maps and hydrographs



AGENDA ITEM 13c.ii

6 STETSON ENGINEERING, INC.

6



IWVGA Board Meeting
July 13, 2022

Miscellaneous Items

Groundwater Dependent Ecosystems (GDE)

- Investigated 9 Potential GDE Sites Since Summer 2021 – Located 3 GDE Sites at Recon Areas 6, 8, and 9
- Late June, Navy biologist performed plant transects at GDE locations 6, 8, and 9

Next steps: July 15th - location maps from Navy Biologist
 August - Install dataloggers at 4 nearby wells
 September - Add GDE Monitoring to GWMP
 October – Navy Biologist Tech Memo (TAC review)
 Spring 2023 – Annual Transects at GDE Sites

AGENDA ITEM 13.c.iii



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IWVGA Board Meeting
July 13, 2022

Miscellaneous Items

Subflow from Rose Valley to IWV

- Next GA Board Meeting - Subcontractor Bid Package for Approval
- Navy contracting – with finalized bid
- Monitoring well drilling/construction planned for Fall 2022

AGENDA ITEM 13c.iv



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BUDGET TO ACTUAL REPORT- JUNE

		ACTUALS BY REVENUE ALLOCATION					(B)	(A-B)	(B/A)		
		Restricted	Restricted	Restricted	Restricted	Restricted	\$	\$	%		
		Extraction	Augmentation	Shallow Well Mitigation	Prop. 1 SDAC	Prop. 1/68	ACTUAL	REMAINING	COMPLETED		
		(A)									
		BUDGET									
1	REVENUE									1	
2	Extraction Fee	1,245,105	329,837	-	-	-	329,837	915,268	26%	2	
3	Transfer In/Loan from Augmentation Fund	1,062,745	125,000	-	-	-	125,000	937,745	12%	3	
4	Augmentation Fee	4,069,625	-	1,080,613	-	-	1,080,613	2,989,012	27%	4	
5	Transfer In/Loan Repayment from Extraction Fund	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0%	5	
6	Shallow Well Mitigation Fee	195,250	-	-	32,826	-	32,826	162,424	17%	6	
7	Department of Water Resources (DWR) Grants	338,500	-	-	-	147,676	6,711	154,387	46%	7	
8										8	
9	TOTAL REVENUES	6,911,225	454,837	1,080,613	32,826	147,676	1,722,663	5,188,562	25%	9	
10	EXPENSES									10	
11	Administration									11	
12	Administration (RGS)	333,000	86,534	86,534	-	-	173,068	159,932	52%	12	
13	Office Rent	3,600	750	750	-	-	1,500	2,100	42%	13	
14	Office Supplies	1,000	-	-	-	-	-	1,000	0%	14	
15	Postage and Delivery	360	-	-	-	-	-	360	0%	15	
16	External Audit (Brown & Associates)	12,000	3,000	3,000	-	-	6,000	6,000	50%	16	
17	Council Chambers/IT Services	8,500	-	-	-	-	-	8,500	0%	17	
18	General Counsel (Aleshire & Wynder)	150,000	2,529	-	-	-	2,529	147,471	2%	18	
19	Insurance Premium (Insurica)	13,160	12,930	-	-	-	12,930	230	98%	19	
20	Legal Notices (Daily Independent)	2,000	-	-	-	-	-	2,000	0%	20	
21	Memberships (Cal. Assoc.Mutual Water Co)	100	100	-	-	-	100	-	100%	21	
22	Website (IWVWD)	300	276	-	-	-	276	24	92%	22	
23	Printing and Reproduction	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0%	23	
24	Bank Service Charges	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0%	24	
25										25	
26	Non-Departmental									26	
27	Other Legal Services (RWG Law)	500,000	-	95,525	-	-	95,525	404,475	19%	27	
28	Lobbying Services (Capitol Core)	175,000	-	88,341	-	-	88,341	86,659	50%	28	
29	Other Professional Services	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0%	29	
30	Shallow Well Mitigation Emergency Assistance Program	50,000	-	-	-	-	-	50,000	0%	30	
31	Repayment of Kern County Advance	500,000	125,000	-	-	-	125,000	375,000	25%	31	
32	Repayment of City of Ridgecrest In-Kind Services	300,000	-	-	-	-	-	300,000	0%	32	
33	Transfer Out/ Loan Repayment to Augmentation Fund	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0%	33	
34	Transfer Out/Loan to Extraction Fund	1,062,745	-	125,000	-	-	125,000	937,745	12%	34	

BUDGET TO ACTUAL REPORT- JUNE

		ACTUALS BY REVENUE ALLOCATION					(B)	(A-B)	(B/A)		
		Restricted	Restricted	Restricted	Restricted	Restricted	\$	\$	%		
(A)		Extraction	Augmentation	Shallow Well Mitigation	Prop. 1 SDAC	Prop. 1/68	ACTUAL	REMAINING	COMPLETED		
BUDGET											
35										35	
36	Conservation Programs									36	
37	Outreach & Technical Services (Cal Rural Water Assoc & Water Wise)	306,500	-	-	-	81,084	-	81,084	225,416	26%	37
38										38	
39	Basin Management Administration									39	
40	Production Reporting, Transient Pool, and Fee Support	34,000	355	-	-	-	-	355	33,645	1%	40
41	Meetings and Prep	120,000	61,026	-	-	-	-	61,026	58,974	51%	41
42	Budget Support	10,000	2,118	-	-	-	-	2,118	7,882	21%	42
43	Stakeholder Coordination	10,000	64	-	-	-	-	64	9,936	1%	43
44	Litigation Support	40,000	5,096	-	-	-	-	5,096	34,905	13%	44
45										45	
46	Basin Management									46	
47	POAM No. 20 Data Management System	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0%	47
48	POAM No. 56 Monitoring Wells - Implementation	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0%	48
49	POAM No. 78 Aquifer Tests	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0%	49
50	Review of Ramboll Report (Task began in 2020)	8,210	-	-	-	-	-	-	8,210	0%	50
51	Prop 1 SDAC Program Support	15,000	-	-	-	2,707	-	2,707	12,293	18%	51
52	General Engineering	35,000	27,755	-	-	-	-	27,755	7,245	79%	52
53	TSS: El Paso Well Drilling Support	10,000	2,948	-	-	-	-	2,948	7,052	29%	53
54	TSS: General Coordination/Application Support	30,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	30,000	0%	54
55	Coordination with DWR on GSP Review	45,000	5,712	-	-	-	-	5,712	39,288	13%	55
56	Annual Report Preparation	30,000	51,117	-	-	-	-	51,117	(21,117)	170%	56
57	Data Management System Support	20,000	14,583	-	-	-	-	14,583	5,417	73%	57
58	Allocation Plan: Allocation Process & Transient Pool Support	-	356	-	-	-	-	356	(356)	0%	58
59	Allocation Plan and Rules & Regs on Pumping/Restrictions	10,000	3,848	-	-	-	-	3,848	6,152	38%	59
60	Allocation Plan: Following & Transient Pool Transfer Program	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0%	60
61	Conservation Efforts	20,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	20,000	0%	61
62	General Project Management	30,000	20,095	-	-	-	-	20,095	9,906	67%	62
63	Model Transfer and Upgrade	150,000	21,745	-	-	-	-	21,745	128,255	14%	63
64	Navy/Coso Royalty Fund: Develop Projects & Secure Funding	30,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	30,000	0%	64
65	Navy/Coso Royalty Fund: Rose Valley MW Permitting, Bid Doc Spt & Drillii	300,000	14,759	-	-	-	-	14,759	285,241	5%	65
66	Data Collection, Monitoring, and Data Gaps	134,000	85,928	-	-	-	-	85,928	48,072	64%	66
67	Imported Water: Negotiations and Coordination	35,000	-	3,137	-	-	-	3,137	31,864	9%	67
68	Imported Water: Engineering and Analysis	118,000	20,767	-	-	-	-	20,767	97,233	18%	68
69	Recycled Water	180,000	-	47,347	-	-	-	47,347	132,653	26%	69

BUDGET TO ACTUAL REPORT- JUNE

		ACTUALS BY REVENUE ALLOCATION					(B)	(A-B)	(B/A)	
		Restricted	Restricted	Restricted	Restricted	Restricted	\$	\$	%	
		Extraction	Augmentation	Shallow Well Mitigation	Prop. 1 SDAC	Prop. 1/68	ACTUAL	REMAINING	COMPLETED	
(A)	BUDGET									
70	EXPENSES (Cont'd)									70
71	Basin Management (cont'd)									71
72	Shallow Well Mitigation Program: Plan Development	-	-	1,115	-	-	1,115	(1,115)	0%	72
73	Shallow Well Mitigation Program: Outreach and Impacts Evaluation	20,000	-	9,407	-	-	9,407	10,594	47%	73
74	Brackish Water Group: Data Review and Coordination	7,500	-	-	-	-	-	7,500	0%	74
75	Well Monitoring Services (WellIntel Inc.)	2,100	1,680	-	-	-	1,680	420	80%	75
76	Weather Station Maintenance	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0%	76
77										77
78	Grant Management									78
79	Prop 1 / Prop 68 Grant Administration	70,000	16,498	-	-	-	16,498	53,502	24%	79
80	Grant Review and Application Preparation	50,000	38,731	-	-	-	38,731	11,269	77%	80
81										81
82	TOTAL EXPENSES	<u>4,982,075</u>	<u>626,299</u>	<u>449,634</u>	<u>10,522</u>	<u>83,791</u>	<u>1,170,246</u>	<u>3,811,829</u>	<u>23%</u>	82
83										83
84	Surplus (Deficit)	<u>1,929,150</u>	<u>(171,462)</u>	<u>630,979</u>	<u>22,304</u>	<u>63,885</u>	<u>552,417</u>	<u>1,376,733</u>		84

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. 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	329,837	125,000	-	626,299	(171,462)
Augmentation Fund	1,080,613	-	125,000	324,634	630,979
Shallow Well Mitigation Fund	32,826	-	-	10,522	22,304
Dept. of Water Resources (DWR) Grants Fund	154,387	-	-	83,791	70,596
Total	1,597,663	125,000	125,000	1,045,246	552,417

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

OUTSTANDING OBLIGATIONS

	Kern County	City of Ridgcrest	Augmentation Fund	Total
Advance Agreements				
Advance of Funds	500,000	-	-	500,000
Advance Repayment: 1 of 4	(125,000)	-	-	(125,000)
In-Kind Services				
Attorney Srvcs./IT/Chambers -FY22 thru 5/30		112,866		112,866
Attorney Srvcs./IT/Chambers -FY 21	-	326,915	-	326,915
Attorney Srvcs./IT/Chambers -FY's16-20		366,982		366,982
Inter-Fund Loans				
Estimated 2022 Loan to Extraction Fund*	-	-	1,062,745	1,062,745
Repayment of Adv. Of Funds to IWVWD**	-	-	500,000	500,000
Estimated 2021 Loan to Extraction Fund-TBD***	-	-	-	-
Postponed Invoice Payments				
None	-	-	-	-
Total	<u>375,000</u>	<u>806,763</u>	<u>1,562,745</u>	<u>2,744,508</u>

* Included in Adopted 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.

*** Review of prior year use of Augmentation Revenue is on-going. Additional inter-fund loans will be presented in a future financial update. Amendment to the budget will be necessary to schedule a revised repayment.

ADOPTED 2022 OBLIGATION REPAYMENTS

	Kern County	City of Ridgcrest	Augmentation Fund	Total
Advance Agreements				
\$125,000 scheduled in March, July, Sept, Dec	500,000	-	-	500,000
In-Kind Services				
Attorney Services/IT/Council Chambers	-	300,000	-	300,000
	<u>500,000</u>	<u>300,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>800,000</u>

Upon repayment of the 2022 Obligations, an inter-fund loan of \$800,000 will be created between the Extraction Fund and Augmentation Fund and added to Outstanding Obligations under Inter-Fund Loans.

City of Ridgcrest In-Kind Services Repayment for prior years is included in the Outstanding Obligation Schedule. Currently \$300,000 is budgeted for repayment in the Adopted 2022 Obligation Repayments Schedule. Amendment to the budget will be required to schedule a revised repayment and loan from the Augmentation Fund.

CASH BALANCE

June 2022 Activity

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

<i>June Receipts to be Deposited in July</i>	\$	-
All Other Cash Receipts		301.47
Total Cash Receipts	\$	<u>301.47</u>

Cash Disbursements (Obligation payments are detailed)

Warrants - 6/16/2020	\$	(135,220.00)
Total Cash Disbursements	\$	<u>(135,220.00)</u>

Cash Balance

Prior Month to Current Month Ending Balance Reconciliation

May Cash Balance By Investment

Kern County Treasurer	\$	3,736,301.02
Mission Bank		-
Total Cash Balance as of May 31	\$	<u>3,736,301.02</u>

June Activity

Cash Receipts	\$	301.47
Cash Disbursements		(135,220.00)
Total June Activity	\$	(134,918.53)

June Ending Cash Balance	\$	3,601,382.49
Less: Outstanding Warrants		(283,257.80)
Total Available Cash By Activity as of June 30	\$	<u>3,318,124.69</u>

June Cash Balance by Investment

Kern County Treasurer	\$	3,601,081.02
Mission Bank		301.47
Total June Balance	\$	3,601,382.49
Less: Outstanding Warrants		(283,257.80)
Total Available Cash by Investment as of June 30	\$	<u>3,318,124.69</u>

Cash Receipts are deposited in Mission Bank 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: Michael W. McKinney, President Capitol Core Group

cc: Steve Johnson, Stetson Engineering
Jeff Simonetti, SVP Capitol Core Group
Todd Tatum, SCA Capitol Core Group

Date: July 13, 2022

Subject: Project Update Memorandum – June 2022 Activities

The following will summarize Capitol Core Group activities for the month of June 2022 and detail potential/ongoing activities for July 2022.

Task 1 – Secure Imported Water Supplies

During June significant and ongoing negotiations with “Private Seller-2” continued. Modifications and re-presentation of the Authority’s term sheet took place during the month with successful progress.

Task 2 – Secure Federal Funding Sources

FY 2023 National Defense Authorization Act

Formal introduction and markup (Hearing) of the FY2023 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) took place during June. Capitol Core formally secured statutory amendments within the House-version of the NDAA (HR 7900) to the Defense Communities Infrastructure Program’s (DCIP) Implementation Guidance concerning eligibility of projects located on federal lands. IWVGA suggested language was included in the *Chairman’s Mark* of HR 7900 which was reported by the House Subcommittee on Readiness and the full House Armed Services Committee during June. HR 7900 is pending action on the Floor of the House of Representatives during the week of July 11, 2022. The language is below:

41

1 **Subtitle H—Other Matters**

2 **SEC. 2871 [Log 75522]. DEFENSE COMMUNITY INFRASTRUC-**
3 **TURE PROGRAM.**

4 Section 2391(e)(4)(A)(i) of title 10, United States
5 Code, is amended by inserting “or on property subject to
6 a real estate agreement with a military installation, includ-
7 ing a lease or easement” after “installation”.

The Senate version of the NDAA is pending introduction of the *Chairman's Mark* and is expected to include similar, although slightly different wording, for the DCIP amendment. While the wording differences will likely make the provision subject to resolution by Conference Committee, those differences are not policy-based but stem from coordination issues concerning language development by interested parties. Formal Senate action on the NDAA will likely not take place prior to the August Congressional Recess.

Water Resources Development Act of 2022

Capitol Core formally secured directive Committee Report language in the House-version of the *Water Resources Development Act of 2022 (WRDA-22)*, HR 7776, during June. This language requires the Army Corps of Engineers in consultation with the Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority and the U.S. Naval Air Weapons Station China Lake to study the interconnection route, provide cost-estimates, analyze right-of-way requirements, and study potential regional impact on water supply needs. This language is not statutory but is directive within the Committee Report and is therefore not subject to Congressional resolution between the House and Senate versions. The specific language is below:

“The Committee directs the Corps to develop a strategy in consultation with the Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority and the Naval Air Weapons Station China Lake to resolve water supply needs and eliminate overdraft in the Indian Wells Valley groundwater basin in California. This strategy shall develop measures needed to provide water supply resiliency in the basin and for the critical Federal defense assets that overlie it, including, but not limited to, importation of water, construction needs, rights of way, estimated costs, and projected future growth both on and off-base in the basin. The Corps is directed to provide this strategy to the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works within 180 days of enactment of this Act.”

HR 7776 passed the House of Representatives on June 8, 2022 and is pending consideration on the Senate Floor. The Senate counterpart legislation, S. 4136, has been reported (passed) by the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works and is also pending action on the Senate Floor. WRDA-22 must be reauthorized prior to September 30, 2022.

Upon passage of WRDA-22, Capitol Core will work with the Los Angeles Office of the Army Corps of Engineers to begin implementation of the directive requirements.

Task 3 – Secure State Funding Sources

City of Ridgecrest, State Budget Request

Congratulations to the City of Ridgecrest on receiving \$2.5 million from the State of California within the *State Budget [Trailing] Act of 2022*, AB 178. The Governor signed AB 178, which contained an *Urgency Clause*, into law on June 30, 2022; the bill takes effect immediately. Throughout the month of June, Capitol Core worked with our Legislators, Members of the Assembly Budget Committee and Members of the Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee to secure the provisions passage. Originally a \$5 million Budget Request, the appropriated amount was reduced to \$2.5 million due to political and fiscal restraint issues.

The appropriation is administered through the State Water Resources Control Board. Capitol Core will begin implementation with the SWRCB during July 2022. We would like to thank Assembly Member Fong, and Senator Grove for their tremendous effort on this issue. In addition, we would also like to thank the County of Kern, the Indian Wells Valley Water District, and the Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority for their support of the City's budget request. That bicameral and unified regional support assisted the appropriation's passage within the main State Budget Acts.

State Budget

Despite news of agreement between the Governor, Assembly and Senate on the FY2022/2023 State Budget, passage of the "main" or "topline" budget would indicate continuing negotiations on water and energy programs. The Governor's proposed "Drought Resiliency," "Water Resiliency," and "Energy Reliability" programs as well as the Senate's proposed "Water Package" amendment were deferred within the Budget Bills that passed on June 30, 2022. The Legislature has indicated that an additional State Budget Trailing bill is under development to address deferred main budget items.

As passed, the State Budget Act contained sufficient appropriations for Agencies to continue operations and some mutually agreed upon programmatic funding. Capitol Core continues to work on the State Budget programs relative to water supply and infrastructure. A section-by-section analysis of the water provisions, as enacted, is forthcoming.

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Item 1. Call to Order

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

Item 2. Pledge of Allegiance**Item 3. Open Public Comment (Not Related to Other Agenda Items)**

Renee Westa-Lusk noted that she had contracted Covid 19 in May and experienced relapse, as well. No members of the PAC were exposed.

Item 4. Approve Minutes of the May PAC Meeting

Regina Troglin moved to approve the minutes as submitted, seconded by Lyle Fisher. The motion was approved 8-0.

Item 5. Communication and Engagement (C&E) Plan Review and Update Per Recommended Corrective Action No. 1 of DWR Groundwater Sustainability Plan Approval**A. Review Ad-Hoc Subcommittee Recommendations****B. Develop full PAC recommendations for communication and engagement by the IWVGA during the GSP Implementation**

David Janiec presented the subcommittee report which expanded on the key common factors and secondary themes the PAC developed and presented in the May PAC Report.

PAC Member Comment - Several PAC members expressed concern with the level of detail and the associated costs if the full recommendations were executed. PAC members were concerned social media engagement, but cautiously supportive of the managed and phased implementation proposed. PAC members were split regarding the level of volunteers versus paid staff that should be employed for that task. The subcommittee noted that their report captures the major factors and further clarifies the intent of the recommendations, especially the potential social media engagement proposals and prioritizes the recommended fact sheets. Judie Decker submitted written comments on the subcommittee report recommendations.

Camille Anderson moved that the formal PAC Report of the chair (at a summary level) serve as the full PAC recommendation for GA communications and engagement moving forward, and that the more detailed committee report be attached to help clarify the intent of the recommendations, especially the potential social media engagement proposal. The report would also summarize the PAC concerns regarding level of detail, costs and social media engagement. The written comments provided by Judie Decker at this meeting would also be attached as a minority report. The motion was seconded by Renee Westa-Lusk. The motion passed 7-1 with Judie Decker voting against.

PAC Report C&E Recommendations: Four Key Factors

1. Key focus elements for the implementation and execution phase of the GSP
 - a. Provide an integrated, comprehensive schedule clearly linking projects/tasks, budgets, responsible parties, planned vs. execution progress, and a financial summary (Priority 1)

- b. Provide a summary statement or fact sheet about the overall purpose and objectives for the GSP and the link to achieving sustainability in the basin (Priority 1)
 - c. Provide a summary statement or fact sheet addressing the technical basis and modeling used to underpin the GSP for more extensive information and definitions of terms. Where those need to be longer, provide an executive summary (Priority 1)
 - d. Focus on the Projects and Management Actions in the GSP (Priority 1,2, or 3)
 - e. Provide all key element “fact sheets” in concise layman’s terms, but include references or links and a glossary or definition of terms
2. Increase public communication, engagement and methods of engagement
- a. Focus on stakeholder communication and engagement focused towards stakeholders
 - i. General public (all stakeholders) just becoming aware or searching for information
 - ii. Each stakeholder group
 - b. Methods of engagement
 - i. Website: Update, improve and focus the website designed around simplicity in providing information to the public for easier online search. The website would serve as the source authority and location or link to all public release approved documents. Recognized as a reliable and complete source of accurate information
 - 1. Communication: Provide relevant top-level introductory material for the general public and all interested stakeholders including links to more detailed information, key element fact sheets, and FAQ’s as well as how to address questions not yet covered by a “FAQ”
 - 2. Post the current version of the integrated schedule
 - 3. Alert stakeholders of ongoing and planned activities that are opportunities for engagement
 - 4. All social media directs stakeholders to the website
 - ii. Social Media: Increase use of existing and newer social media
 - 1. The PAC recommends a limited and managed 3 phase trial run implementation beginning with posting information only on selected key social media. Proposed progression to limited exchanges, if successful
 - 2. All social media posts would link to the GA website and contain only pre-approved public information
 - 3. The trial run would be directed by the proposed C&E Director, assisted by staff and approved volunteer staff
 - iii. Public Engagement
 - 1. Provide forums for engagement on Projects or Management Actions
 - 2. Stakeholder targeted communication, fully available to the general public (i.e., the “general store” in Inyokern for western valley residents, or the equivalent in Trona)
 - 3. Potential on-line discussions
 - 4. Provide “key element” fact sheets available online, at public meetings, and via proactive media push out
 - 5. Develop and utilize an email list of interested stakeholders for C&E push opportunities
3. Employ or assign a C&E Director or Lead
- a. Oversee and be responsible and accountable for all C&E outreach
 - b. Provide guidelines for responsive communication in a litigation environment
 - c. Assisted by a volunteer-based committee, group, or local individual(s)
4. These summary recommendations are presented to the GA with acknowledgement that:

- a. The full scope of the expanded recommendation may likely be limited by available staff and funding, as well access to volunteers. Fiscal concern for stakeholders must be taken into consideration. The recommended prioritization of fact sheets is provided to support public understanding and engagement during the GSP implementation phase.
- b. The social media outreach must be tightly managed so it does not devolve into useless or counterproductive exchanges

Public Comment – Don Decker noted that the recommended fact sheets would require a huge amount of work and expense with questionable value in return. He also cited a fundamental absence of supporting reference material on the existing GA websites. He also supported a simplified version for the PAC recommendations. Finally, he expressed concern for volunteers that that may have legal exposure with ongoing lawsuits, citing his understanding of current TAC committee member resignations.

C. Discuss changes necessary to the GA C&E Plan to document the key changes

PAC Action – PAC members agreed to have the subcommittee address the specific changes to the formal C&E Plan necessary to document these at the next regular PAC meeting.

Item 6. Member Comments

Rene Westa-Lusk expressed concern that we complete the tasking to update the C&E Plan and not drag it out too long.

Regina Troglin noted that we did not include a back up plan to engage with younger members of the community (17-34) if the social media recommendation was not accepted. They must be considered as another diverse stakeholder group.

Judie Decker noted that the public has a responsibility to be informed and we should encourage that.

West Katzenstein noted that the committee has a tough task with this, but we have a good relationship and get all the ideas out there to achieve consensus.

David Janiec noted that the TAC is still short members and solicited interested and qualified individuals to contact PAC members or the GA to apply.

Item 7. Meeting Adjourned.

Submitted by: David Janiec, IWVGA PAC Chair, July 10, 2022

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Comments on the 6/20/22 Ad hoc Subcommittee Report Prepared for the 6/23/22 PAC Meeting

From Judie Decker, Eastern Kern County Resource Conservation District Representative

1. Introduction I wish to thank the PAC ad hoc committee for all the time taken to discuss and produce their Report. Having served on the previous sub-committee that worked on this draft C&E Plan, I know how much effort is involved. I especially wish to thank West Katzenstein who worked on both sub-committees.

I note that there is no mention of the lawsuits that have been filed against the Groundwater Authority or of the Comprehensive Adjudication that has been filed by the IWV Water District. The outcome of these lawsuits will control substantial aspects of the future sustainability effort. Until these lawsuits and the adjudication are settled in a court of law there will be little change to present Basin pumping activity.

2. Background I would like to offer a few observations. This Ad-Hoc Sub-Committee Draft C&E Recommendations Report is way too long and too complicated to be of much use to either the GA Board or their Staff. I submit it constitutes information overload in the present circumstance. I believe PAC members should pick a couple of items out of this report to present to them. When and if these items are adopted and put into use, PAC members should re-examine this list to choose additional important items to-update as necessary, and present to the GA Board and Staff.

3. Proposed project costs Here is a critical fact that emphasizes the observations of the previous paragraph. Going forward with any of these suggestions is going to cost money that the GA doesn't have. At the June GA Board meeting, the General Manager requested and the Board approved removing as much as \$60,000 from the Shallow Well Mitigation Program and/or the Replenishment Fee account to pay for starting an improved communication program. Money has also been removed previously from this account to pay for other expenses. **Every dollar removed from the Replenishment Fee account is money that won't be there to purchase those critically important water rights when they become available.**

4. My suggestions for the draft C&E Plan There are 2 items in the subcommittee list that are of greatest importance to provide tracking and clarity to the Board, its staff, and the public. The first is item 1 a. **Provide a detailed schedule and budget for each project.** If Item 1a is done successfully everyone will know exactly where and how the GA is in proceeding toward groundwater sustainability. The other really important item listed by this committee is Item 2 b., **GA Website Improvements.** I do not think all of the many items listed under website improvements are necessary at this time but should be listed in steps of importance by the staff. After they are completed and reviewed, other steps can be added as deemed necessary. The many other suggestions listed in the sub-committee document should be held until the actions suggested have been evaluated.

5. Summary Again, I believe a POAM style document for planning and reporting and web site improvements should be suggested and nothing more at this time. If these are successful, additional communication ideas would be added. It is better to do a few things well than try to do many things in an incomplete manner.

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PAC Detailed C&E Recommendations: Four Key Factors

1. Key focus elements for the implementation and execution phase of the GSP as it evolves

- a. Provide an integrated, comprehensive schedule clearly linking projects/tasks, budgets, responsible parties, planned vs. execution progress, and a financial summary
 - i. Monthly summary
 - ii. Quarterly/Semiannual deep dive
 - iii. Targeted public workshops (Deep Dive on key Projects & Mgmt Action below)
- b. Provide a summary statement or fact sheet about the overall purpose and objectives for the GSP and the link to achieving sustainability in the basin
 - i. Origins Of SGMA, and the IWVGA including legal authority (P1)
 - ii. GSP Purpose Summary Overview (P1)
 1. How the GSP helps achieve sustainability
 2. GSP Development funding sources including fees
 - iii. GSP implementation summary (P1)
 1. Schedule, Costs and Funding Sources including fees
 - iv. Statement of fact noting existing legal actions disputing the GSP and legal requirement for to execute the GSP until resolved (P1)
- c. Provide a summary statement or fact sheet addressing the technical basis and modeling used to underpin the GSP (P1)
 - i. Basin Setting
 - ii. Current and historical Conditions
 - iii. Numerical Model
 - iv. Existing Monitoring Network and Data gap Evaluation
 - v. Sustainable Management Criteria
 - vi. The role and involvement of the Technical Advisory Committee in the process
- d. Focus on the Projects and Management Actions in the GSP
 - i. Mgmt Action No. 1: Annual Pumping Allocation Plan, Transient Pool and Falling Program (P1)
 - ii. Project No. 1: Develop Imported Water Supply
 1. Water Acquisition, funding plan, sources including fees (P1)
 2. Interconnect Infrastructure, funding plan, sources including fees (P1)
 - iii. Project No. 2: Optimize Use of Recycled Water (P2)
 - iv. Project No. 3: Basin Wide Conservation Efforts (P2)
 - v. Project No. 4: Shallow Well Mitigation Program(P2)
 - vi. Project No. 5: Dust Control Mitigation Program (P3)
 - vii. Project No. 6: Pumping Optimization Project (P3)
 - viii. Conceptual Projects Under Consideration
 1. Brackish Groundwater Project (P3)
 2. Direct Potable Reuse Project (P3)
 - ix. Recommended Corrective Actions per DWR Approval Document (P2)
- e. Provide all key element “fact sheets” in concise layman’s terms, but include references or links for more extensive information and a glossary or definition of terms. Where those need to be longer, provide an executive summary

*Priority Groups For “Fact Sheet” Development, P1, P2, P3

2. Increased public communications and methods of engagement

- a. Focus on stakeholder engagement and communication focused on stakeholders
 - i. General public (all stakeholders) just becoming aware or searching for information
 - ii. Each stakeholder group
- b. Methods of engagement
 - i. Website: Update, improve and focus the website designed around simplicity in providing communication and engagement information to the public for easier online search
 1. Website should appear prominently when stakeholders execute searches about groundwater management in the IWV basin
 - a. Appropriate website strategies
 - b. Essential keywords identified and used
 2. Website recognized as reliable and complete source of accurate information
 - a. Website to host or have links to all material generated by the GA or essential to the activities of the GA
 - b. Social media directs stakeholders to website
 3. Communication:
 - a. Provide relevant top-level introductory material in response to searches by stakeholders and the public.
 - i. Provide easy navigation with access to “Frequently Asked Questions”, including “fact sheets” and instruction regarding how to address questions not yet covered by a “FAQ”
 - ii. Links to more detailed information (detail should already exist in GSP and other documents).
 - b. Post a current overview integrated schedule
 - i. Ties together background, historical, ongoing, and planned activities
 - ii. Summary descriptions of tasks and expenditures with links to greater detail
 - c. Alert stakeholders to ongoing and planned activities that are opportunities for engagement
 - i. Management Actions and Projects
 - ii. Recommended Corrective Actions per DWR Approval Document
 - ii. Social Media: Increase use of existing and newer social media
 1. All social media posts will link back, either in the description or the actual post, to the GA website and only contain approved and already public information
 2. The use of social media methods is for both broadcasting information and potential engagement with the stakeholders and communities the which GA serves.
 - a. Text/Photo Posts to relay information and publish to a wider audience using official Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter pages.
 - i. Broadcast the information to a wider audience who may not have seen it or been to a GA meeting

- ii. Majority of posts will have comments disabled on them, and may potentially also have the share option disabled, if necessary
 - b. Video Formats such as YouTube, Facebook Live, Instagram Live & Tv, as well as short format content on all three platforms, would be used to show infographics based on fact sheets and published information on the GA website.
 - i. Video descriptions will have links to the information on the GA website
 - ii. Can be a fun and engaging way for individuals to intake the information, especially technical information, in a short format which isn't overwhelming
- 3. The proposal for active engagement in social media is for a 3 phase trial run with just the Facebook, Instagram and Twitter pages to share fact sheets and other information from the website; with no engagement past posting the information
 - a. If the trial run on those three goes well, the next phase would be the infographics and short form videos for social media
 - b. If both prior phases have been successful with minimal issues, then the official Facebook group for additional engagement would go live, as described below
- 4. Controlled, active engagement is not necessary, but a trial is recommended via an Official Facebook group which would be moderated by the proposed committee in common factor #4
 - a. Moderation tools for Facebook groups have become invaluable, allowing moderators to approve or verify not just membership but comments and posts (if allowed) before they go live on the page
 - b. Engagement with the group would be to accumulate questions and concerns from the community
 - i. If the information is already available on the website, then a link would be shared in the comments with the individual to send them to the proper location to find the information.
 - ii. If the individuals' question is more detailed or requires a response not available from documentation on the website, moderators would then be instructed to reach out to the GA or the general manager before responding
 - iii. No personal responses by the moderators would be allowed
 - iv. All questions and concerns throughout the month would be gathered and relayed at the end of the month to the GA so that the board is aware of where the informational gaps are occurring
- iii. Public Engagement:
 - a. Provide forums for engagement on Key Subject, Projects and Management Actions:
 - i. Planned public meetings
 - 1. Quarterly or Semiannual deep dive
 - 2. Targeted public workshops

- b. Potential On-line discussions
- c. Stakeholder targeted communication, fully available to the general public (i.e. the “general store” in Inyokern for western valley residents, or the equivalent in Trona)
 - i. Provide “key element” fact sheets online, at public meetings, and via proactive media push out
- d. Develop and utilize an email list of interested stakeholders for C&E push opportunities

3. Employ or assign a C&E Director or Lead

- a. Oversee and be responsible and accountable for all C&E outreach
- b. Provide guidelines for responsive communication in a litigation environment
- c. Assisted by a volunteer based committee, group, or local individual. Jobs would include:
 - i. Post web links, meeting information, etc. on all selected social media platforms
 - ii. Coordinate designs and video ideas with appropriate individuals
 - iii. Potentially, in coordination with the PAC and TAC, create/design the fact sheets and other visual communication methods
 - iv. Gather information on gaps in communication and relay those to the staff and board each month, by observing comment sections and other social media groups
 - v. Coordinate with local schools to get younger generations involved in the content creation for the social media pages and video formats

4. These recommendations are presented to the GA with acknowledgement that:

- a. The full scope of these expanded recommendations may likely be limited by available staff and funding, as well access to volunteers. Fiscal concern for stakeholders must be taken into consideration. The recommended prioritization of fact sheets is provided to support public understanding and engagement during the GSP implementation phase.
- b. The social media outreach must be tightly managed so it does not devolve into useless or counterproductive exchanges

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