

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, March 10, 2021; 10:00 a.m.

IWVGA Members Present:

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

Attending via teleconference is Tim Itnyre, John Vallejo, Phillip Peters, Carol Thomas-Keefer, Steve Johnson, Keith Lemieux, Commander Peter Benson, and Thomas Bickauskas.

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

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

1. CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting is called to order by Chairman Hayman at 10:00 a.m.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT ON CLOSED SESSION:

None.

Chairman Hayman calls the meeting into Closed Session at 10:01 a.m.

3. CLOSED SESSION:

- CONFERENCE WITH REAL PROPERTY NEGOTIATIONS – (Government Code Section 54956.8) - Property: State Water Project Importation; Agency Negotiator: Capitol Core Group; Negotiating Parties: Various; Under Negotiation: Price and terms of payment.
- CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL - ANTICIPATED LITIGATION (Government Code Section 54956.9(b)) - Number of cases: (2)
- CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – INITIATION OF LITIGATION (Government Code Section 54956.9(c)) - Number of cases: (3)
- 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.
- 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.

Closed Session adjourned at 11:04 a.m.

4. OPEN SESSION:

Meeting reconvenes into Open Session at 11:06 a.m.

a. Report on Closed Session:

Counsel Lemieux reports no action was taken that would require disclosure under the Brown Act. Lemieux states Closed Session will reconvene after the meeting to discuss the litigation items.

b. The Pledge of Allegiance is led by Chairman Hayman

c. April Keigwin calls the following roll call:

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

5. PUBLIC COMMENT:

The Board hears public comment from John Kersey and Renee Westa-Lusk.

6. CONSENT AGENDA:

a. Approve Minutes of Board Meeting February 10, 2021

b. Approval of Resolution No. 02-21 Appointing Charlotte Baldwin as TAC representative for U.S. Navy, DoD Liaison

c. Approve Expenditures

i. \$1,000.00 – Brown Armstrong – (Extraction Fee)

ii. \$6,660.00 – WaterWise Consulting – (Prop. 1 Grant – SDAC)

iii. \$23,278.75 – California Rural Water Association – (Prop. 1 Grant – SDAC)

Motion made by Stan Rajtora and seconded by Phillip Peters to approve Minutes of Board Meeting February 10, 2021, Resolution No. 02-21 and the following expenditures in the amount of \$1,000.00 to Brown Armstrong, \$6,660.00 to WaterWise Consulting, and \$23,278.75 to California Rural Water Association.

Motion carries by the following roll call vote:

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

7. BOARD CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION 03-21 READOPTING AND AMENDING THE BYLAWS TO REFLECT CHANGE OF ADDRESS:

Counsel Lemieux provides a staff report and Resolution 03-21 (documents made available on the IWVGA website).

Motion made by Phillip Peters and seconded by Stan Rajtora to approve Resolution 03-21 readopting and amending the Bylaws to reflect change of address.

Motion carries by the following roll call vote:

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

8. BOARD CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF GSP PLANNED PROJECTS PROJECT NO. 1 - SURFACE PERCOLATION REPLENISHMENT AND PILOT/DEMONSTRATION:

Steve Johnson and Steve Reich provide a staff report and presentation detailing the Surface Percolation Replenishment and Pilot/Demonstration Project (documents made available on the IWVGA website).

The Board hears public comment from Renee Westa-Lusk.

Motion made by Phillip Peters and seconded by Scott Hayman to approve GSP planned project No. 1 - Surface Percolation Replenishment and Pilot/Demonstration.

Motion carries by the following roll call vote:

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

9. BOARD CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE APPROVAL OF VARIANCE REQUEST PER ORDINANCE NO. 04-20 BY J. FREEMAN:

Joseph Montoya from Stetson Engineers presents a staff report describing the circumstances of the request for variance (document made available on the IWVGA website).

Motion made by Phillip Peters and seconded by Tim Itnyre to approve the request for variance per Ordinance 04-20 by J. Freeman.

Motion carries by the following roll call vote:

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

10. WATER RESOURCES MANAGER REPORT:

Steve Johnson and Steve Reich provide updates on the following grants/programs: Prop. 1 Grant Status, Prop. 68 Grant Status, New Prop 68 Grant Funding Application, Recycled Water Program, Navy/COSO Royalty Fund 2021 Project(s), GSP Planned Projects – Project No. 4 Shallow Well Impact Mitigation Program, and Request for Annual Groundwater Extraction Report from NAWS China Lake (presentations made available on the IWVGA website).

The Board hears public comment from Renee Westa-Lusk and Kimberley Leefatt.

11. GENERAL MANAGER’S REPORT:

Ron Strand introduces Carol Thomas-Keefer, Regional Government Services (RGS) employee, who will serve as the IWVGA General Manager. Carol Thomas-Keefer introduces the additional RGS staff who will assist with IWVGA administrative needs, Jeff Kise and April Keigwin. Thomas-Keefer provides updates on the following: Monthly Financial Report, Report on IWVGA’s Water Marketer (Capitol Core Group), Severely Disadvantaged Communities (SDAC) Program, Delinquent Accounts, and Well Registration Update (documents made available on the IWVGA website).

The Board hears public comment from Kimberley Leefatt.

12. CLOSING COMMENTS:

Vice Chair Rajtora expresses desire to return to in person meetings.

Chairman Hayman recesses meeting at 12:38 pm.
Chairman Hayman calls the meeting into closed session at 12:45 p.m.
Chairman Hayman adjourns closed session at 1:20 p.m.
Chairman Hayman calls the meeting into open session at 1:20 p.m.

Chairman Hayman reports the Board met on the remaining four litigation items and states no action was taken that would require disclosure under the Brown Act.

13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – April 12, 2021

14. ADJOURN:

Chairman Hayman adjourns the meeting at 1:21 p.m. on February 10, 2021.

Respectfully submitted,



April Keigwin

Clerk of the Board

Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority