

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, April 14, 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, 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 10:02 a.m.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT ON CLOSED SESSION:

None.

Chairman Hayman calls the meeting into Closed Session at 10:02 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 – EXISTING LITIGATION (Government Code Section 54956.9): IWVGA v. Frank Bellino (BCV-21-100415)
- 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 11:30 a.m.

4. OPEN SESSION:

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. 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 Renee Westa-Lusk, Don Decker and Judie Decker.

6. CONSENT AGENDA:

a. Approve Minutes of Board Meeting March 12, 2021

b. Approve Minutes of Special Board Meeting March 31, 2021

c. Approve Expenditures

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

- i. \$142,134.41 – Stetson Engineers (February & March) (Prop. 1 Grant)
- ii. \$2,320.00 – Regional Government Services (Extraction Fee / Replenishment Fee)
- iii. \$23,831.25 – Capitol Core Group (February & March) (Replenishment Fee)
- iv. \$5,250.00 – WaterWise Consulting – (Prop. 1 Grant – SDAC)
- v. \$24,443.66 – California Rural Water Association (Prop. 1 – SDAC)

Carol Thomas-Keefer requests the Board make a finding to add an additional invoice to this meeting’s Consent Agenda in the amount of \$11,441.00 payable to Insurica to cover the cost for the insurance plan through CalMutuals JPRIMA. The invoice was received after the agenda was posted but needs to be approved as it requires payment by April 30.

The Board hears public comment from Renee Westa-Lusk.

Motion made by Phillip Peters and seconded by John Vallejo to make a finding that the additional invoice payable to Insurica in the amount of \$11,441.00 be added to the Consent Agenda for approval.

Motion carries by the following roll call vote:

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

Motion made by Phillip Peters and seconded by Stan Rajtora to approve Minutes of Board Meeting March 10, 2021, Minutes of Special Board Meeting March 31, 2021, and the following expenditures in the amount of \$142,134.41 to Stetson Engineers, \$2,320.00 to Regional Government Services, \$23,831.25 to Capitol Core Group, \$5,250.00 to WaterWise Consulting, \$24,443.66 to California Rural Water Association, and \$11,441.00 to Insurica

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. WATER RESOURCES MANAGER REPORT:

Steve Johnson, Joseph Montoya, Heather Steele, 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, GSP Planned Projects – Project No. 1 Surface Percolation Replenishment Update, Preliminary CY 2021 Sustainable Yield Allotments, and GSP Annual Reports (presentations made available on the IWVGA website).

The Board hears public comment from Renee Westa-Lusk, Judie Decker, Don Decker and Kimberley Leefatt.

Chairman Hayman calls for a recess at 12:47 p.m.
Meeting reconvenes at 1:00 p.m.

8. BOARD CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF THE SHALLOW WELL IMPACT MITIGATION REPORT FORM:

Steve Johnson provides a staff report and presentation for the Shallow Well Impact Mitigation Report Form (documents made available on the IWVGA website).

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

Motion made by John Vallejo and seconded by Stan Rajtora to approve the Shallow Well Impact Mitigation Report Form.

Motion carries by the following roll call vote:

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

9. GENERAL MANAGER’S REPORT:

Carol Thomas-Keefer provides updates on the following: Monthly Financial Update, Report on IWVGA’s Water Marketer (Capitol Core Group), Severely Disadvantaged Communities (SDAC) Program, and Delinquent Accounts (documents made available on the IWVGA website).

The Board hears public comment from Renee Westa-Lusk.

10. CLOSING COMMENTS:

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

Director Vallejo highlights the recent denial for grant money was due to a lack of having a shovel ready project. Vallejo states the Board needs to identify a partner for the pipeline project.

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – May 12, 2021

12. ADJOURN:

Chairman Hayman adjourns the meeting at 2:26 p.m. on April 14, 2021.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "A Keigwin". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "A" and a long, sweeping underline.

April Keigwin

Clerk of the Board

Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority