

# 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
- CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – EXISTING LITIGATION  
(Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(1) - Name of case: Searles Valley Minerals Inc v. Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority, et. al. - Orange County Superior Court 30-2022-01239487-CU-MC-CJC

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

Closed Session adjourns at 11:26 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).

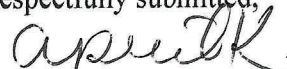
The Board hears public comment from Mike Sinnott and Renee Westa-Lusk.

**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