

# 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, July 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	John Kersey, 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, and John Vallejo.

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 10:01 a.m.

**2. PUBLIC COMMENT ON CLOSED SESSION:**

The Board hears public comment from Renee Westa-Lusk.

Chairman Hayman calls the meeting into Closed Session at 10:04 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 10:56 a.m.

**4. PUBLIC COMMENT: (Item tabled and addressed after item 5)**

The Board hears public comment from Sophia Merk, Shirley Kirkpatrick, Judie Decker, Mike Neel, Charlie Manzie, Margaret Graham, Charlie Dobbins, Raymond Kelso, Shirley Jorgensen, and Helen Jackson.

**5. OPEN SESSION:**

Meeting reconvenes into Open Session at 11:02 a.m.

## a. Report on Closed Session:

Counsel Lemieux reports the Board has identified a source for State Water Project and directed property negotiators to issue an offer to the seller. In regard to the legal items, no reportable 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

**8. CONSENT AGENDA:**

## a. Approve Minutes of Board Meeting June 9, 2021

## b. 90 Day check-in from Regional Government Services

## c. Approve Expenditures

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

- i. \$50,463.44 – Stetson Engineers – (Replenishment Fee)
- ii. \$19,168.75 – Regional Government Services – (Extraction Fee / Replenishment Fee)
- iii. \$10,287.50 – Capitol Core Group – (Replenishment Fee)
- iv. \$45,279.30 – California Rural Water Association (May / June) (Prop. 1 Grant – SDAC)

Vice Chair Rajtora asks to pull agenda item 8.b and 8.c.i for further discussion.

The Board hears public comment from Mike Neel.

Motion made by Phillip Peters and seconded by Stan Rajtora to approve Minutes of Board Meeting June 9, 2021, and the following expenditures in the amount of \$50,463.44 to Stetson Engineers, \$19,168.75 to Regional Government Services, \$10,287.50 to Capitol Core Group, and \$45,279.30 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

Motion made by Stan Rajtora and seconded by Phillip Peters to approve agenda item 8.b – 90 Day check-in from Regional Government Services and 8.c.i – Stetson Invoice in the amount of \$50,463.44.

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. WATER RESOURCES MANAGER REPORT:**

- a. Steve Johnson, Joseph Montoya, Steve Reich, Jean Moran and Heather Steele provide updates on the following grants/programs: Prop. 1 Grant Status, Prop. 68 Grant Status, 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, Technical Support Services Agreement Status Update, IWVGA / Desert Resource Institute Basin Model Transfer – Configuration Management Plan Status Update, GSP Groundwater Dependent Ecosystems (GDE’s) Update, Prop 1 Work Daily Management Task Systems – Monitoring Wells on Navy Property, and Estimated Total Basin Pumping (previous 12 months).

The Board hears public comment from Don Decker, Judie Decker, Mike Neel, Charlie Manzie, David Janiec, and Renee Westa-Lusk.

**10. AGREEMENT WITH BROWN ARMSTRONG TO CONDUCT THE 2020 FINANCIAL AUDIT.**

Carol Thomas-Keefer presents the agreement (documents made available on the IWVGA website).

Director Vallejo requests the agreement be approved as its own item with no resolution attached, as it is not necessary. Counsel Lemieux agrees.

Motion made by Phillip Peters and seconded by Stan Rajtora to approve the agreement with Brown Armstrong to conduct the 2020 Financial Audit.

Motion carries by the following roll call vote:

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

**11. GENERAL MANAGER’S REPORT:**

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

**12. CLOSING COMMENTS:**

Vice Chair Rajtora appreciates the reengagement efforts for the Policy Advisory Committee (PAC) and stresses the need to reengage the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) as well. Rajtora expresses the need for a better managed financial situation. Rajtora thanks the public for their participation.

Thomas Bickauskas states the BLM has been putting effort into finding a representative to participate on the TAC.

Chairman Hayman expresses concern for the water rates placed on the customers of the Indian Wells Valley Water District. Hayman directs staff to come back to the August meeting with an agenda item to discuss the benefits of financing the replenishment fee. Hayman asks for an additional agenda item to discuss reengagement of the PAC and TAC.

**13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – AUGUST 11, 2021**

**14. ADJOURN:**

Chairman Hayman adjourns the meeting at 1:49 p.m. on July 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