

Ralph Lachenmaier (Ridgecrest Resident) Comments on GSP

- 1 The GSP (on the web site) is far from being a plan. It needs to present the items I list below: It seems to me that the GSP is hiding what the cost increase to Water District residential customers will be. I understand that the GSA will be charging the Water District, and the Water District will be charging residential customers. However, the GSP should be able to estimate how the costs will be passed on by the water district.
 - 1.1 The GSP should specify the date, when the GSA will begin charging the Water District for water. My understanding is that this may be as soon as June, 2020. I assume that the Water District will pass that charge along, and Ridgecrest residences will see an increase in their water bill. The GSP should give an estimate of how much an average Water District residential customer's bill will go up.
 - 1.2 The GSP should also give estimated dates, when additional GSA charges will take place and how much each of those will be. Again the GSP should give an estimate of what the average Water District residential customer's increase will be.
 - 1.3 The GSP needs to specify whether Water District increased charges will be to the base rate (a fixed charge), or whether the charges will be a "per gallon" volumetric charge. Obviously volumetric charges will encourage water conservation and are the preferred way of charging.
 - 1.4 The GSP should specify exactly what the ~\$9M cost is for pumping allocation. Is it to pay the farmers for their water or something else? The components making up this number and how they were estimated should be given.
 - 1.5 For the GSP to be a realistic plan, an alternative to importing water should be specified. It is unlikely that the ~38,000 people served by IWV water can afford the cost of importing water (AV-\$226M, LA-103M) plus the annual cost (AV-\$8M, LA-4.4M). There are many unanswered questions in the plan: Can the GSA issue bonds for the capital cost? Who would buy them? Can the GSA find water to import that is reliable? Water is the most critical resource in California. Everybody is competing for it. Can the GSA find it at a reasonable price? An alternative plan to importing needs to be specified in case water importing cannot be done.