

INDIAN WELLS VALLEY GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY

TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES

**Indian Wells Valley Water District
500 West Ridgecrest Blvd.
Ridgecrest, CA 93555
Thursday, March 1, 2018, 1:00 p.m.**

1. CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting is called to order by Adam Bingham at 1:04 p.m.

Roll Call:

Present:

Eddy Teasdale, Large Agriculture - Meadowbrook
Wade Major, Large Agriculture – Mojave Pistachio
Don Decker, Domestic Well Owners
Earl Wilson, Eastern Kern County Resource Conservation District (EKCRCD)
Adam Bingham, Wholesaler and Industrial User
Tim Parker, Indian Wells Valley Water District (IWVWD)*
Scott O’Neil, Business Interests and Development

Also present:

Steve Johnson, Jean Moran, and Jeff Helsley of Stetson Engineers.

Absent:

Michael Powell – Residential Customers – Rand Community Water District
Stephan Bork – Department of the Navy*
Michelle Anderson – Kern County Water Agency (KCWA)*

(*indicates non-voting member)

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

None.

3. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES:

a. February 1st TAC meeting.

Don Decker suggests the following edits be made:

Page 3, paragraph 2 – to read “and stated that basin natural discharge historically has been assumed to be too high and proceeded to reference a study by Tetra Tech regarding a Navy Beneficial Use Changes report as part of the basis for his comments”. Also on the same page, Larry Mead’s name is misspelled.

Motion is made by Don Decker and seconded by Wade Major to approve Minutes of TAC Meeting February 1, 2018 with the aforementioned edits. Motion carried unanimously. (Ayes: Bingham, Decker, Major, O'Neil, Teasdale, Wilson. Abstain: None. Nays: None.)

4. ADMINISTRATIVE ISSUES:

- a. TAC – Ethics Training and Form 700 reminder. Form 700 due by the end of March.

Adam Bingham reminds the committee to complete the Form 700 and any necessary Ethics training before the end of March. The Committee is asked to provide the Forms and certificates to Lauren Duffy.

5. TAC DISCUSSION OF GSP PRIORITY PROJECT/TASKS:

- a. Model Update

Jean Moran comments that the presented model is the current one which Stetson has been discussing with Desert Resources Institute (DRI) and the Navy. There are still on-going discussions regarding funding provided by the Prop. 1 grant and the Navy. All comments received from the Navy will be added to a comment-response matrix and presented at the April TAC meeting.

The Model calibration and update still has not started due to lack of funding at this time. Ms. Moran states a possible March or April start date. The Navy funds have yet to be transferred and work cannot commence until funds are in place.

Jean Moran discusses the below slide.

Modeling Schedule (T)		
Direct Model Item for the GSP	Start	Presentation / Submittal
Response to Comments re: Model Review Water Budget (Feb 2018 TAC)	Dec 2017 Feb 2018	April TAC April TAC
IWV Basin Model: Model Update and Calibration TAC Model Workshops re: Historical & Baseline Recharge and Pumping Historical Calibration Historical Model Run and Water Budget	Mar 2018	Jun 2018 wrkshp Jul 2018 wrkshp Sep 2018 TAC mtg
MODEL: Baseline through 2070 Baseline Model Assumptions and Water Budget Baseline Model Run and Water Budget	Sep 2018	Oct 2018 TAC mtg Dec 2018 TAC mtg
MODEL: (4) Sustainable Management Alternatives through 2070 Monthly TAC discussion of Model Alternatives and Model Results	Nov 2018	Feb 2019
MODEL: Transport and Land Subsidence Analysis	Feb 2019	May 2019

Ms. Moran comments that the TAC should look into developing Ad-hoc committees to consist of members who would like to be involved with the detailing of the model for the TAC workshops. Chair Bingham, Don Decker, and Eddy Teasdale volunteer for both of the Ad-hoc workshops.

- b. Water Budget Elements: Historical Pumping Estimates (Reference package provided in advance of meeting)

Ms. Moran states that Stetson received numerous pages of comments regarding the Water Budget. The initial Water Budget was very much an overview and comments will be addressed at the April TAC meeting.

Wade Major asks Ms. Moran if the budget for model calibration has been set, to which Ms. Moran answers yes, it is set and just awaiting funding.

Tim Parker asks how the hydrogeological conceptual model being developed using the data collected by SkyTEM is fitting into the schedule of the flow model. Ms. Moran comments that she believes that discussion will be on the April agenda. Mr. Parker comments that a workshop is tentatively scheduled for early June regarding the hydrogeological conceptual model project. Mr. Parker hopes that a SkyTEM update will be provided at the next TAC meeting.

Mr. Parker reports that Ramboll has done the “inversion” (technical term for analyzing the data) and Stanford University has assigned one person to spend the next month validating the analyzed data from Ramboll. Sacramento State has signed a contract with IWVWD to digitize all the well logs and submit those logs into the Data Management System (DMS).

Steve Johnson reiterates that the DRI model is not at a critical point at this time. Some upgrades need to be made to the model, which Stetson Engineers are currently working on. If approvals and funding take longer than expected and it starts to impact the schedule, alternative ways to fund DRI will be explored, at which point Stetson Engineers will inform the TAC.

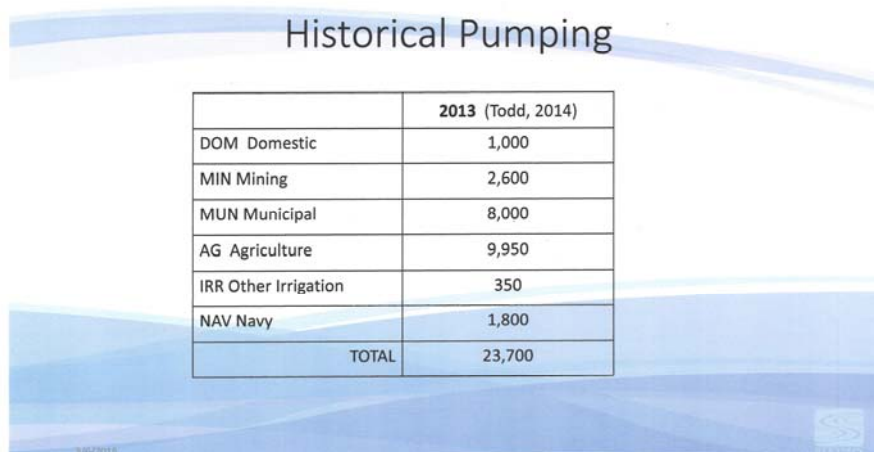
Ms. Moran comments on the updates made to the model. The updates were as a result of the model review. Those updates consisted of three changes which were required to make all of the elements of the Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP).

Public comments:

Stan Rajtora asks if the second DRI report has been released or if it will be. Ms. Moran replies that it has been released to the TAC members for review. She will check with the Navy if the report can be released to the public and provide an answer at the April TAC meeting.

Mike Neel strongly suggests that the committee also holds an open public workshop in addition to the Ad-hoc workshops. Ms. Moran clarifies that model will also be presented at public TAC meetings.

The committee discusses different outcomes which they hope to achieve by holding these workshops.



Historical Pumping

	2013 (Todd, 2014)
DOM Domestic	1,000
MIN Mining	2,600
MUN Municipal	8,000
AG Agriculture	9,950
IRR Other Irrigation	350
NAV Navy	1,800
TOTAL	23,700

3/6/2018

Ms. Moran comments that she is purposely postponing further water budget discussion until the modeling progresses and the model is used for some of the budget inputs.

Ms. Moran clarifies that the Todd Report is not being solely relied upon due to some data gaps and uncertainties.

c. Recycled Water Opportunities (Reference package provided in advance of meeting)
Jeff Helsley reports on the current sources of wastewater, opportunities in imported and recycled water, and the next steps to take with these opportunities. Mr. Helsley comments that the information found on septic tanks is limited. He asks that if anyone has further sources regarding how many septic tanks there are, to share the data with Stetson.

Mr. Helsley recaps that the City of Ridgecrest is generating around 2,600 acre-feet per year (AFY) of recycled water. The golf course on base is using around 500 AFY and the alfalfa is using around 220 AFY, leaving a little under 1,900 AFY which may potentially be available for other uses, not including the amount which would need to be used to maintain the tui chub habitat. This amount may vary due to significant droughts and conservation restrictions.

Committee comments:

Wade Major comments on the remaining recycled water generated by the city, stating it does the following: evaporates, percolates down and becomes perched shallow groundwater, and some water seeps into ditches and drainage channels to support the tui chub habitat. What efforts will be made to prove the actual numbers that fall into each of the three categories so that a better understanding would be had of what water is actually available? Mr. Helsley comments that the key focus is the habitat and perhaps someone is looking into more efficient ways to maintain it. The remaining is going towards percolation and evaporation, which means minimizing any future percolated water.

Public comments:

Lorelei Oviatt comments that Environmental Health has the number of septic tanks in the valley. Ms. Oviatt states that Stetson Engineers needs to fill in the missing data and find the information. The Committee hears comments from Derek Hoffman, Patricia Farris, Stan Rajtora, Larry Mead, and Mike Neel.

d. Imported Water Opportunities (Reference package provided in advance of meeting)
Mr. Helsley reviews the presentation which was provided in the agenda packet.

Committee comments:

Don Decker comments that there has to be a constant realization of relative cost.

Public comments:

Lorelei Oviatt reports that on Tuesday, February 27, the Kern County Board of Supervisors is the lead sponsor of Willow Springs Water Bank and has 30,000 AF of bank allocation. They are also the lead sponsor for a \$15 million grant. Ms. Oviatt clarifies that the export Ordinance is not the county line, it's the watershed which requires a Conditional Use Permit and Environmental Impact Report (EIR).

West Katzenstein comments that desalination might merit more research for this valley.

Derek Hoffman assumes Stetson will look into how much groundwater storage capacity exists in this basin and encourages Stetson to look into every possible option.

Stan Rajtora points out that the Indian Wells Valley Water District is undergoing a current rate study to change their current water rates. This may encourage some reduction in usage.

e. Responses to WRM Questions: Overdraft

Steve Johnson comments that the point of the Water Resource Manager (WRM) questions were to obtain a basic understanding of what the TAC is thinking with regards to overdraft.

f. Reporting of Production (Reference package provided in advance of meeting)

Steve Johnson states that an email from Jim Worth, legal counsel for IWVWD, was received regarding groundwater pumping alternatives available to measure usage. Input was requested from the TAC by the IWVGA Board. Stetson Engineers provides a list of items for the TAC to offer input on regarding ways to report production.

Chair Bingham states that individual responses need to be submitted to Stetson and a discussion will be had at the next TAC meeting.

Public comments:

West Katzenstein suggests that the TAC provide the best choice of meters to be installed on wells.

Lorelei Oviatt comments that the TAC and public should reach out to Kern County Public Health regarding recommendations for new meters on wells. They may have some helpful information for those who want to retrofit.

The Committee hears comments from West Katzenstein and Derek Hoffman.

Chair Bingham advises the public that there are green comment sheets available as a handout for any further questions or issues which they would like addressed and answered.

g. POAM/TAC PAS Update (Handout to be provided at meeting)
Jeff Helsley comments that they do not have a revised POAM for today's TAC meeting, however an updated PAS is made available as a handout.

6. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS SCHEDULE:

a. PAS Items

i) April

- a. Imported Water Opportunities (Second discussion)
- b. Recycled Water Opportunities (Second discussion)
- c. Data Gaps: Monitoring Wells and Aquifer Testing
- d. USGS Recharge Study (Tentative)

Don Decker comments that because the schedule of the POAM/PAS is so compressed, the public evaluation portion is suffering. Issues are not thoroughly being discussed with the public.

Motion is made by Don Decker and seconded by Wade Major to append the TAC comments to a document which would be associated with the committee meeting that covers those specific topics addressed by the comments. Stetson to provide the package of comments to Lauren Duffy to post on the IWVGA website. Motion carried unanimously. (Ayes: Bingham, Decker, Major, O'Neil, Teasdale, Wilson. Abstain: None. Nays: None.)

7. FUTURE TAC MEETING DATES:

a. As previously listed.

- i) July 5th, 2018, 1pm – Holiday week may change date.

Steve Johnson asks the TAC to provide alternative dates for the July TAC meeting and to coordinate with the PAC.

8. COMMITTEE MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS OR COMMENTS:

Tim Parker announces that in June he has a conflict of schedule due to a new GSA Summit program that the GRA (Groundwater Resources Association) is putting together in Sacramento and will not be able to attend the June TAC meeting. More information can be found at: <https://www.grac.org/events/140/>

9. ADJOURN:

With no further comments or discussion to come before the Committee, Motion is made by Scott O'Neil to adjourn the meeting at 4:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Lauren Duffy
Recording Secretary
Indian Wells Valley Water District