

# INDIAN WELLS VALLEY GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY

Ridgecrest City Hall   100 W California Ave., Ridgecrest, CA 93555   760-499-5002

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS AGENDA

Wednesday, September 9, 2026

**Closed Session – 10:00 a.m.**

**Open Session no earlier than 11:30 a.m.**

***NOTICE:*** *In accordance with the evolving public health declarations, we will continue to provide live stream video for those wishing to participate virtually. Please see the Public Comment Notice below for detailed instructions on submitting public comment as well as websites for livestream broadcasting.*

*In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you are a disabled person and you need a disability-related modification or accommodation to participate in this meeting, please contact April Keigwin at (805) 764-5452. Requests must be made as early as possible and at least one full business day before the start of the meeting. Documents and material relating to an open session agenda items that are provided to the IWVGA Board of Directors prior to a regular meeting will be available for public inspection and copying at Ridgecrest City Hall, 100 W California Ave, Ridgecrest, CA 93555, or online at <https://iwvga.org/>.*

### Statements from the Public

*The public will be allowed to address the Board during Public Comments about subjects within the jurisdiction of the IWVGA Board and that are NOT on the agenda. No action may be taken on off-agenda items unless authorized by law. Questions posed to the Board may be answered after the meeting or at a future meeting. Dialog or extended discussion between the public and the Board or staff will be limited in accordance with the Brown Act. All Public Comment portions of the meeting shall be limited to three (3) minutes per speaker. Each person is limited to one comment during Public Comments.*

### 1. CALL TO ORDER

### 2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

### 3. PUBLIC COMMENT ON CLOSED SESSION

### 4. CLOSED SESSION

- CONFERENCE WITH REAL PROPERTY NEGOTIATIONS  
(Government Code Section 54956.8) - Property: Purchase of Water Rights; Agency Negotiator: Jeff Simonetti; Negotiating Parties: Westside Ag; Under Negotiation: Price and terms of payment.
- CONFERENCE WITH REAL PROPERTY NEGOTIATIONS  
(Government Code Section 54956.8) - Property: Purchase of Land; Agency Negotiator: April Keigwin / Phillip Hall; Negotiating Parties: Fremont Valley Properties; Under Negotiation: Price and terms of payment

- CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – EXISTING LITIGATION  
(Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(1): IWVGA v. Inyokern CSD – Kern County Superior Court BCV-22-100281
- CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL- EXISTING LITIGATION  
(Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(1) - Name of case: Mojave Pistachios, LLC v Indian Wells Valley Water District, et al. Orange County Superior Court Case No. 30-2021-01187275-CU-OR-CJ

**5. CALL TO ORDER – No earlier than 11:30 a.m.**

- a. Report on closed session
- b. Pledge of Allegiance
- c. Roll Call

**6. PUBLIC COMMENT**

This time is reserved for the public to address the Board about matters NOT on the agenda. No action will be taken on non-agenda items unless authorized by law. Comments are limited to three minutes per person.

**7. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

This time is reserved for comments by Board members and/or staff and to identify matters for future Board business.

**8. CONSENT AGENDA**

- a. Approve Minutes of Board Meeting August 12, 2026
- b. Approve Expenditures
  - \*To view itemized invoices please visit <https://iwvga.org/iwvga-meetings>.*
  - i. \$89,880.45 – Stetson Engineers
  - ii. \$81,034.65 – Provost & Pritchard (EPA)
  - iii. \$37,871.50 – Indian Wells Valley Water District – (Consolidation)
  - iv. \$35,038.32 – Regional Government Services – (Replenishment / Extraction)
  - v. \$18,500.00 – Nigro & Nigro (Replenishment / Extraction)
  - vi. \$16,775.00 – Capitol Core Group – (Replenishment / Extraction)
  - vii. \$12,600.00 – GFT Infrastructure – (EPA)
  - viii. \$9,645.00 – Westbound Communication – (Extraction)
  - ix. \$4,208.66 – Hamner & Jewell Associates – (Consolidation)

**9. BOARD REVIEW AND DISCUSSION OF THE DRAFT 2027 BUDGET**

**10. DEVELOPMENT OF AN UNANTICIPATED RESIDENTIAL WATER USE RELIEF PROGRAM**

**11. WATER RESOURCES MANAGER REPORT**

- a. Grant Funding
- b. GSP Implementation Projects/Management Action Updates
  - i. Imported Water Project
  - ii. Shallow Well Mitigation Program
- c. Consolidation Projects
  - i. Rademacher Way
  - ii. Stark Street
- d. Miscellaneous Items

- i. Data Collection and Monitoring
- ii. IWVGA Basin Model Configuration Management Plan
- iii. Rose Valley Subflow Update

## 12. GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

- a. Monthly Financial Report
- b. Outreach Update
- c. Report on IWVGA's Water Marketer (Capitol Core Group)

## 13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – SEPTEMBER 9, 2026

## 14. ADJOURN

### PUBLIC COMMENT NOTICE

IWVGA meetings will be open to the public for physical attendance; However, for those who wish to continue using virtual alternatives please follow the directions below for access to live stream video as well as ways to submit public comment.

- **Watch meetings on-line:**

All of our meetings are streamed live at <https://ridgecrest-ca.gov/369/Watch> (4 second streaming delay) or on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/cityofridgecrest/live> (22 second streaming delay) and are also available for playback after the meeting.

- **Call in for public comments:**

If you wish to make verbal comment, *please call (760) 499-5010*. This phone line will allow only one caller at a time, so if the line is busy, please continue to dial. We will be allowing a 20-30 second pause between callers to give time for media delays and callers to dial in. Due to media delays, please mute your streaming device while making public comment. If you wish to comment on multiple items, you will need to call in as each item is presented.

- **Submit written comments:**

We encourage submittal of written comments supporting, opposing, or otherwise commenting on an agenda item, for distribution to the Board prior to the meeting. Send emails to [akeigwin@rgs.ca.gov](mailto:akeigwin@rgs.ca.gov) written correspondence may be sent to April Keigwin, Clerk of the Board, 100 W. California Ave., Ridgecrest, CA 93555. Please specify to which agenda item your comment relates.

- **Large Groups:**

If you are part of a large group that would like to comment on an agenda item, please consider commenting in writing. This will be as impactful to the Board as having a large group in attendance.

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# INDIAN WELLS VALLEY GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY

City of Ridgecrest, Indian Wells Valley Water District, Inyo County, Kern County, San Bernardino County

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING AUGUST 12, 2026

### IWVGA Members Present:

|                                                  |                                           |
|--------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| Chairman Scott Hayman, City of Ridgecrest        | Commander Strausbaugh, United States Navy |
| Phillip Peters, Kern County                      | Keith Lemieux, Legal Counsel              |
| Mallory Boyd, Indian Wells Valley Water District | April Keigwin, General Manager            |
| John Vallejo, Inyo County                        | Steve Johnson, Water Resources Manager    |
| Tim Itnyre, San Bernardino County                |                                           |

Attending via teleconference is Steve Johnson.

Meeting recording, public comment letters submitted, and all board meeting related documents are made available at:  
<https://iwvga.org/iwvga-meetings/>

### 1. CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Hayman calls the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

### 2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA:

Motion made by John Vallejo and seconded by Mallory Boyd to approve adoption of the agenda.  
Motion carries by the following roll call vote:

|                   |        |
|-------------------|--------|
| Chairman Hayman   | Aye    |
| Vice Chair Peters | Absent |
| Director Boyd     | Aye    |
| Director Itnyre   | Absent |
| Director Vallejo  | Aye    |

### 3. PUBLIC COMMENT ON CLOSED SESSION:

None.

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

### 4. CLOSED SESSION:

- CONFERENCE WITH REAL PROPERTY NEGOTIATIONS  
(Government Code Section 54956.8) - Property: Purchase of Water Rights; Agency Negotiator: Jeff Simonetti; Negotiating Parties: Westside Ag; Under Negotiation: Price and terms of payment.
- CONFERENCE WITH REAL PROPERTY NEGOTIATIONS  
(Government Code Section 54956.8) - Property: Purchase of Water Rights; Agency Negotiator: Jeff Simonetti; Negotiating Parties: Tejon Ranch; Under Negotiation: Price and terms of payment.
- CONFERENCE WITH REAL PROPERTY NEGOTIATIONS  
(Government Code Section 54956.8) - Property: Purchase of Land; Agency Negotiator: April Keigwin /

Phillip Hall; Negotiating Parties: Fremont Valley Properties; Under Negotiation: Price and terms of payment.

- CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – EXISTING LITIGATION  
(Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(1): IWVGA v. Inyokern CSD – Kern County Superior Court
- CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL- EXISTING LITIGATION  
(Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(1) - Name of case: Mojave Pistachios, LLC v Indian Wells Valley Water District, et al. Orange County Superior Court Case No. 30-2021-01187275-CU-OR-CJ

Closed Session adjourns at 11:27 a.m.

**5. OPEN SESSION – no earlier than 11:30 a.m.**

Meeting reconvenes in Open Session at 11:34 a.m.

- a. Report on Closed Session – Counsel Lemieux reports no reportable action was taken that would require disclosure under The Brown Act.
- b. Pledge of Allegiance is led by Chairman Hayman
- c. Roll Call

|                   |         |
|-------------------|---------|
| Chairman Hayman   | Present |
| Vice Chair Peters | Present |
| Director Boyd     | Present |
| Director Itnyre   | Present |
| Director Vallejo  | Present |

**6. PUBLIC COMMENT:**

The Board hears public comment from Jennifer Slayton.

**7. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS:**

None.

**8. CONSENT AGENDA:**

- a. Approve Minutes of Board Meeting July 8, 2026
- b. Approve Expenditures

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

- i. \$106,529.97 – Stetson Engineers
- ii. \$37,292.50 – Regional Government Services – (Replenishment / Extraction)
- iii. \$23,100.00 – Blue Mountain Development – (SGMA IP / EPA)
- iv. \$16,281.25 – Capitol Core Group – (Replenishment / Extraction)
- v. \$11,025.00 – Westbound Communication – (Extraction)
- vi. \$2,007.50 – GFT Infrastructure – (SGMA IP / EPA)
- vii. \$715.92 – Hamner & Jewell Associates – (Consolidation)

Motion made by John Vallejo and seconded by Mallory Boyd to approve Minutes of Board Meeting July 8, 2026, and the following expenditures in the amount of, \$106,529.97 to Stetson Engineers, \$37,292.50 to Regional Government Services, \$23,100.00 to Blue Mountain Development, \$16,281.25 to Capitol Core Group, \$11,025.00 to Westbound Communications, \$537.50 to GFT Infrastructure, and \$3,086.68 to Hamner & Jewell Associates.

Motion carries by the following vote:

|                   |     |
|-------------------|-----|
| Chairman Hayman   | Aye |
| Vice Chair Peters | Aye |
| Director Boyd     | Aye |

|                  |     |
|------------------|-----|
| Director Itnyre  | Aye |
| Director Vallejo | Aye |

**9. AUTHORIZE MODIFICATION OF COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT WITH DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY:**

Helena Chu and April Keigwin present staff report and agreement modification.

Motion made by John Vallejo and seconded by Tim Itnyre to approve contract modification with Department of the Navy with the condition that all work requiring IWVGA funding will be brought to the Board for approval.

Motion carries by the following vote:

|                   |     |
|-------------------|-----|
| Chairman Hayman   | Aye |
| Vice Chair Peters | Nay |
| Director Boyd     | Aye |
| Director Itnyre   | Aye |
| Director Vallejo  | Aye |

**10. BOARD TO RECEIVE AND FILE THE 2025 FINANCIAL AUDIT:**

Jared Solmenson of Nigro & Nigro presents 2025 financial audit.

The board hears public comment from Renee Westa-Lusk and Jennifer Slayton.

**11. WATER RESOURCES MANAGER REPORT:**

Jeff Helsley provides updates on the following items:

- a. Grant Funding
- b. GSP Implementation Projects/Management Action Updates
  - i. Imported Water Project
  - ii. Shallow Well Mitigation Program
- c. Consolidation Projects
  - i. Rademacher Way
  - ii. Stark Street
- d. Miscellaneous Items
  - i. Data Collection and Monitoring
  - ii. IWVGA Basin Model Configuration Management Plan
  - iii. Rose Valley Subflow Update
  - iv. Data Center Comment Letter Submission

The Board hears public comment from Tammy Bouyer.

**12. GENERAL MANAGER REPORT:**

April Keigwin presents monthly financial report and updates on public outreach. Michael McKinney provides legislative update.

The Board hears public comment from Renee Westa-Lusk.

**13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – SEPTEMBER 8, 2026**

**14. ADJOURN:**

Chairman Hayman adjourns the meeting at 12:39 p.m. on August 12, 2026.

Respectfully submitted,

April Keigwin

Clerk of the Board  
Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority

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**Stetson Engineers**

Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority  
100 W. California Ave.  
Ridgecrest, CA 93555

Invoice number 2652-108  
Date 08/27/2026

Project **2652 Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority**

Professional services through 07/31/2026

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**2652-2026 Water Resources Management 2026**

**2652-2026:01 Meetings & Prep**

Professional Fees

|                         | Hours | Rate   | Billed Amount |
|-------------------------|-------|--------|---------------|
| <b>Principal</b>        | 7.00  | 256.00 | 1,792.00      |
| <b>Supervisor I</b>     | 2.50  | 222.00 | 555.00        |
| <b>Associate II</b>     | 40.25 | 125.00 | 5,031.25      |
| <b>Associate III</b>    | 4.00  | 119.00 | 476.00        |
| <b>Senior Assistant</b> | 1.00  | 111.00 | 111.00        |

Reimbursables

|                                       | Units  | Rate | Billed Amount |
|---------------------------------------|--------|------|---------------|
| <b>Reproduction (Color)</b>           |        |      |               |
| <b>Non Vendor Reimbursables</b>       | 200.00 | 0.89 | 178.00        |
| <b>Reproduction (Black and White)</b> |        |      |               |
| <b>Non Vendor Reimbursables</b>       | 314.00 | 0.15 | 47.10         |
| Phase subtotal                        |        |      | 8,190.35      |

**2652-2026:02.01 SGMA IP Grant Administration**

Professional Fees

|                         | Hours | Rate   | Billed Amount |
|-------------------------|-------|--------|---------------|
| <b>Associate II</b>     | 0.50  | 125.00 | 62.50         |
| <b>Senior Assistant</b> | 3.00  | 111.00 | 333.00        |
| Phase subtotal          |       |        | 395.50        |

**2652-2026:02.02 Urban Community Drought Relief Funding Administration**

Professional Fees

|                     | Hours | Rate   | Billed Amount |
|---------------------|-------|--------|---------------|
| <b>Senior I</b>     | 0.50  | 178.00 | 89.00         |
| <b>Associate II</b> | 12.00 | 125.00 | 1,500.00      |
| Phase subtotal      |       |        | 1,589.00      |



**STETSON**  
ENGINEERS INC.

Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority

Project 2652 Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority

2171 E. Francisco Blvd., Suite K • San Rafael, California 94901  
Phone: (415) 457-0701 • Fax: (415) 457-1638 • Website: [www.stetsonengineers.com](http://www.stetsonengineers.com)

Northern California

• Southern California

• Arizona

• Oregon

Invoice number 2652-108

Date 08/27/2026

## 2652-2026 Water Resources Management 2026

### 2652-2026:02.03 EPA Resiliency Grant Administration

#### Professional Fees

|                  | Hours | Rate   | Billed Amount |
|------------------|-------|--------|---------------|
| Supervisor I     | 3.00  | 222.00 | 666.00        |
| Associate II     | 66.50 | 125.00 | 8,312.50      |
| Senior Assistant | 15.00 | 111.00 | 1,665.00      |
| Phase subtotal   |       |        | 10,643.50     |

### 2652-2026:03 Grant Review & Application Preparation

#### Professional Fees

|                | Hours | Rate   | Billed Amount |
|----------------|-------|--------|---------------|
| Supervisor II  | 5.00  | 207.00 | 1,035.00      |
| Associate II   | 13.00 | 125.00 | 1,625.00      |
| GIS Manager    | 4.00  | 133.00 | 532.00        |
| Phase subtotal |       |        | 3,192.00      |

### 2652-2026:04 Data Mgmt System Support

#### Professional Fees

|            | Hours | Rate   | Billed Amount |
|------------|-------|--------|---------------|
| Senior III | 3.00  | 145.00 | 435.00        |

#### Reimbursables

|                          | Units | Rate | Billed Amount |
|--------------------------|-------|------|---------------|
| Data                     |       |      |               |
| Non Vendor Reimbursables |       |      | 42.89         |
| Phase subtotal           |       |      | 477.89        |

### 2652-2026:05 General Project Mgmt

#### Professional Fees

|                  | Hours | Rate   | Billed Amount |
|------------------|-------|--------|---------------|
| Supervisor I     | 0.75  | 222.00 | 166.50        |
| Supervisor II    | 17.50 | 207.00 | 3,622.50      |
| Senior I         | 0.50  | 178.00 | 89.00         |
| Contract Manager | 1.00  | 111.00 | 111.00        |
| Phase subtotal   |       |        | 3,989.00      |

### 2652-2026:06 Model Transfer & Upgrade

#### Professional Fees

|               | Hours | Rate   | Billed Amount |
|---------------|-------|--------|---------------|
| Supervisor II | 77.00 | 207.00 | 15,939.00     |

### 2652-2026:07.03 Resiliency Grant: Design

#### Professional Fees

| Hours | Rate | Billed Amount |
|-------|------|---------------|
|-------|------|---------------|



Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority

Project 2652 Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority

Invoice number 2652-108

Date 08/27/2026

## 2652-2026 Water Resources Management 2026

### 2652-2026:07.03 Resiliency Grant: Design

Professional Fees

|                | Hours | Rate   | Billed Amount |
|----------------|-------|--------|---------------|
| Associate II   | 21.00 | 125.00 | 2,625.00      |
| GIS Manager    | 9.00  | 133.00 | 1,197.00      |
| Phase subtotal |       |        | 3,822.00      |

### 2652-2026:07.04 Resiliency Grant: Environmental

Professional Fees

|                | Hours | Rate   | Billed Amount |
|----------------|-------|--------|---------------|
| Supervisor I   | 2.00  | 222.00 | 444.00        |
| Associate II   | 12.75 | 125.00 | 1,593.75      |
| Phase subtotal |       |        | 2,037.75      |

### 2652-2026:07.05 Resiliency Grant: Right of Way

Professional Fees

|              | Hours | Rate   | Billed Amount |
|--------------|-------|--------|---------------|
| Associate II | 1.00  | 125.00 | 125.00        |

### 2652-2026:08 Imported Water: Negotiations & Coordination

Professional Fees

|                  | Hours | Rate   | Billed Amount |
|------------------|-------|--------|---------------|
| Principal        | 8.50  | 256.00 | 2,176.00      |
| Supervisor II    | 2.50  | 207.00 | 517.50        |
| Senior III       | 8.00  | 145.00 | 1,160.00      |
| Senior Associate | 61.00 | 139.00 | 8,479.00      |

Reimbursables

|                    | Units | Rate | Billed Amount |
|--------------------|-------|------|---------------|
| Car Rental and Gas |       |      |               |
| Stephan Bork       |       |      | 40.62         |
|                    |       |      | 29.67         |
|                    |       |      | 611.57        |
|                    |       |      | 69.40         |
|                    |       |      | 7.82          |
|                    |       |      | 373.34        |
| Subtotal           |       |      | 1,132.42      |
| Subtotal           |       |      | 1,132.42      |

### Field Supplies

|              |       |
|--------------|-------|
| Stephan Bork | 6.51  |
| Tuan Nguyen  | 6.47  |
|              | 3.58  |
| Subtotal     | 10.05 |



Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority

Project 2652 Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority

Invoice number 2652-108

Date 08/27/2026

## 2652-2026 Water Resources Management 2026

### 2652-2026:08 Imported Water: Negotiations & Coordination

#### Reimbursables

|                | Units  | Rate | Billed Amount |
|----------------|--------|------|---------------|
| Subtotal       |        |      | 16.56         |
| <b>Lodging</b> |        |      |               |
| Stephan Bork   |        |      | 120.58        |
| <b>Meals</b>   |        |      |               |
| Stephan Bork   |        |      | 17.59         |
|                |        |      | 11.33         |
|                |        |      | 8.72          |
| Subtotal       |        |      | 37.64         |
| Subtotal       |        |      | 37.64         |
| <b>Mileage</b> |        |      |               |
| Stephan Bork   | 11.00  | 0.76 | 8.36          |
|                | 312.00 | 0.76 | 237.12        |
|                | 11.00  | 0.76 | 8.36          |
|                | 11.00  | 0.76 | 8.36          |
| Subtotal       |        |      | 262.20        |
| Tuan Nguyen    | 42.00  | 0.76 | 31.92         |
|                | 250.00 | 0.76 | 190.00        |
| Subtotal       |        |      | 221.92        |
| Subtotal       |        |      | 484.12        |
| Phase subtotal |        |      | 14,123.82     |

### 2652-2026:10 Stakeholder Coordination

#### Professional Fees

|               | Hours | Rate   | Billed Amount |
|---------------|-------|--------|---------------|
| Supervisor II | 6.50  | 207.00 | 1,345.50      |

### 2652-2026:11 Data Collection, Monitoring & Data Gaps

#### Professional Fees

|                  | Hours | Rate   | Billed Amount |
|------------------|-------|--------|---------------|
| Senior Associate | 4.00  | 139.00 | 556.00        |
| Associate II     | 1.50  | 125.00 | 187.50        |

#### Reimbursables

|                          | Units | Rate | Billed Amount |
|--------------------------|-------|------|---------------|
| Equipment Purchase       |       |      |               |
| Stephan Bork             |       |      | 444.24        |
| Storage Fee              |       |      |               |
| Non Vendor Reimbursables |       |      | 105.60        |
| Phase subtotal           |       |      | 1,293.34      |



**STETSON**  
ENGINEERS INC.

Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority

Project 2652 Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority

2171 E. Francisco Blvd., Suite K • San Rafael, California 94901

Phone: (415) 457-0701 • Fax: (415) 457-1638 • Website: [www.stetsonengineers.com](http://www.stetsonengineers.com)

Northern California

• Southern California

• Arizona

• Oregon

Invoice number 2652-108

Date 08/27/2026

## 2652-2026 Water Resources Management 2026

### 2652-2026:12 Shallow Well Consolidation Project

Professional Fees

|                       | Hours | Rate   | Billed Amount |
|-----------------------|-------|--------|---------------|
| <b>Principal</b>      | 6.50  | 256.00 | 1,664.00      |
| <b>Associate II</b>   | 3.00  | 125.00 | 375.00        |
| <b>Associate III</b>  | 0.50  | 119.00 | 59.50         |
| Reimbursables         |       |        |               |
| <b>Other Expenses</b> |       |        |               |
| U.S. Postal Service   |       |        | 60.80         |
| Phase subtotal        |       |        | 2,159.30      |

### 2652-2026:14 Production Reporting, Transient Pool & Fee Support

Professional Fees

|                         | Hours | Rate   | Billed Amount |
|-------------------------|-------|--------|---------------|
| <b>Senior I</b>         | 1.00  | 178.00 | 178.00        |
| <b>Senior Assistant</b> | 31.00 | 111.00 | 3,441.00      |
| Phase subtotal          |       |        | 3,619.00      |

### 2652-2026:18 Navy/Coso Royalty Fund: FY21 Rose Valley MW Permitting, Bid Doc Support & Drilli

Professional Fees

|                     | Hours | Rate   | Billed Amount |
|---------------------|-------|--------|---------------|
| <b>Associate II</b> | 0.25  | 125.00 | 31.25         |

### 2652-2026:18.1 Navy/Coso Cooperative Agreement

Professional Fees

|                     | Hours | Rate   | Billed Amount |
|---------------------|-------|--------|---------------|
| <b>Associate II</b> | 0.25  | 125.00 | 31.25         |

### 2652-2026:21 General Engineering

Professional Fees

|                      | Hours | Rate   | Billed Amount |
|----------------------|-------|--------|---------------|
| <b>Principal</b>     | 7.00  | 256.00 | 1,792.00      |
| <b>Supervisor I</b>  | 6.50  | 222.00 | 1,443.00      |
| <b>Supervisor II</b> | 20.00 | 207.00 | 4,140.00      |
| <b>Associate II</b>  | 5.00  | 125.00 | 625.00        |
| Phase subtotal       |       |        | 8,000.00      |

### 2652-2026:22 GSP 5-Year Update

Professional Fees

|                      | Hours | Rate   | Billed Amount |
|----------------------|-------|--------|---------------|
| <b>Supervisor II</b> | 7.00  | 207.00 | 1,449.00      |



Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority  
Project 2652 Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority

Invoice number 2652-108  
Date 08/27/2026

**2652-2026 Water Resources Management 2026**

**2652-2026:23 Annual Report Preparation**

Professional Fees

**Supervisor II**

| Hours | Rate   | Billed Amount |
|-------|--------|---------------|
| 32.50 | 207.00 | 6,727.50      |

**2652-2026:26 Budget Support**

Professional Fees

**Associate II**

| Hours | Rate   | Billed Amount |
|-------|--------|---------------|
| 1.50  | 125.00 | 187.50        |

**2652-2026:27 Litigation Support**

Professional Fees

**Principal**

| Hours | Rate   | Billed Amount |
|-------|--------|---------------|
| 2.00  | 256.00 | 512.00        |

Water Resources Management 2026 subtotal

89,880.45

Invoice total **89,880.45**

*Thank you for your business!*

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# PROVOST & PRITCHARD CONSULTING GROUP

455 W Fir Ave • Clovis, CA 93611 • (559) 449-2700  
www.provostandpritchard.com

April Keigwin  
Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority  
100 West California Avenue  
Ridgecrest, CA 93555

August 14, 2026  
Project: No: 04101-23-001  
Invoice No: 133338

**Project Name:** Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority-CEQA/NEPA Documents and Permit Documentation

**Client Project #:**

**For the month of July 2026: P&P staff performed the following tasks:**

**TSK3 Technical Studies:** Continued coordination efforts on required surveys for Biological and Cultural surveys, path forward, continued meetings and discussions on un-surveyed areas with team. Review maps and create figures with GIS staff and send to subs for cost estimates. Discuss surveys on Fremont Property. Coordination meeting with BLM and Project team. Biological Surveys occurred for un-surveyed areas. Email correspondence. Reimbursable Expenses - Mileage.

## Professional Services from July 01, 2026 to July 31, 2026

Phase: TSK3 Technical Studies

### Labor

|                              | Hours  | Rate   | Amount    |                  |
|------------------------------|--------|--------|-----------|------------------|
| Travel Time                  | 8.10   | 100.00 | 810.00    |                  |
| Associate Specialist         | 2.50   | 140.00 | 350.00    |                  |
| Senior Biologist             | 22.00  | 162.00 | 3,564.00  |                  |
| Associate Biologist          | 23.10  | 155.00 | 3,580.50  |                  |
| Senior Specialist            | 8.50   | 170.00 | 1,445.00  |                  |
| Principal Planner            | .70    | 211.00 | 147.70    |                  |
| Principal Planner            | 8.80   | 221.00 | 1,944.80  |                  |
| Associate Planner            | .90    | 158.00 | 142.20    |                  |
| Principal Planner            | 1.70   | 231.00 | 392.70    |                  |
| Associate Biologist          | 42.60  | 128.00 | 5,452.80  |                  |
| Associate Biologist          | 45.30  | 134.00 | 6,070.20  |                  |
| Senior Project Administrator | .50    | 134.00 | 67.00     |                  |
| Senior Project Administrator | 16.30  | 144.00 | 2,347.20  |                  |
| Totals                       | 181.00 |        | 26,314.10 |                  |
| <b>Total Labor</b>           |        |        |           | <b>26,314.10</b> |

### Reimbursable Expenses

|                                |                 |                 |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Travel & Mileage               | 1,062.78        |                 |
| Per Diem - Meals & Incidentals | 116.58          |                 |
| Other Direct Reimb Expenses    | 312.44          |                 |
| <b>Total Reimbursables</b>     | <b>1,491.80</b> | <b>1,491.80</b> |

### Unit Billing

|           |          |                 |       |
|-----------|----------|-----------------|-------|
| iPad+GPS  |          |                 |       |
| 7/20/2026 | iPad+GPS | 1.0 Day @ 75.00 | 75.00 |
| 7/20/2026 | iPad+GPS | 1.0 Day @ 75.00 | 75.00 |
| 7/21/2026 | iPad+GPS | 1.0 Day @ 75.00 | 75.00 |
| 7/21/2026 | iPad+GPS | 1.0 Day @ 75.00 | 75.00 |
| 7/22/2026 | iPad+GPS | 1.0 Day @ 75.00 | 75.00 |

\*\*\* Please make checks payable to Provost & Pritchard Consulting Group \*\*\*  
For billing inquiries, please email Billing@ppeng.com.

| Project   | 04101-23-001       | IWVGA CEQA_NEPA Permitting | Invoice       | 133338                    |
|-----------|--------------------|----------------------------|---------------|---------------------------|
| 7/22/2026 | iPad+GPS           | 1.0 Day @ 75.00            | 75.00         |                           |
| 7/23/2026 | iPad+GPS           | 1.0 Day @ 75.00            | 75.00         |                           |
| 7/23/2026 | iPad+GPS           | 1.0 Day @ 75.00            | 75.00         |                           |
| 7/24/2026 | iPad+GPS           | 1.0 Day @ 75.00            | 75.00         |                           |
| 7/24/2026 | iPad+GPS           | 1.0 Day @ 75.00            | 75.00         |                           |
|           | <b>Total Units</b> | <b>1.0 times</b>           | <b>750.00</b> | <b>750.00</b>             |
|           |                    | <b>Total this Phase:</b>   |               | <b>\$28,555.90</b>        |
|           |                    | <b>Total this Invoice</b>  |               | <b><u>\$28,555.90</u></b> |

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# PROVOST & PRITCHARD CONSULTING GROUP

455 W Fir Ave • Clovis, CA 93611 • (559) 449-2700  
www.provostandpritchard.com

April Keigwin  
Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority  
100 West California Avenue  
Ridgecrest, CA 93555

July 22, 2026  
Project No: 04101-23-001  
Invoice No: 132760

**Project Name:** Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority-CEQA/NEPA Documents and Permit Documentation

**Client Project #:**

**For the month of June 2026: P&P staff performed the following tasks:**

**TSK3 Technical Studies:** Continued coordination efforts on required surveys for Biological and Cultural surveys, path forward, continued meetings and discussions on un-surveyed areas with team. Review maps and create figures with GIS staff and send to subs for cost estimates. Discuss surveys on Fremont Property. Coordination meeting with BLM and Project team. Email correspondence. Reimbursable Expenses - Rare Plant and Vegetation Habitat mapping with Sub-consultant.

**Professional Services from June 01, 2026 to June 30, 2026**

Phase: TSK3 Technical Studies

**Labor**

|                      | Hours | Rate   | Amount          |
|----------------------|-------|--------|-----------------|
| Associate Specialist | 4.20  | 140.00 | 588.00          |
| Senior Biologist     | 8.50  | 162.00 | 1,377.00        |
| Associate Biologist  | 6.20  | 155.00 | 961.00          |
| Senior Specialist    | 9.00  | 170.00 | 1,530.00        |
| Principal Planner    | 2.10  | 211.00 | 443.10          |
| Principal Planner    | .60   | 221.00 | 132.60          |
| Associate Biologist  | .20   | 134.00 | 26.80           |
| Totals               | 30.80 |        | 5,058.50        |
| <b>Total Labor</b>   |       |        | <b>5,058.50</b> |

**Consultants**

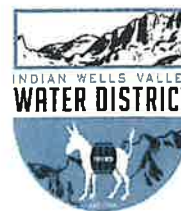
|                          |                  |
|--------------------------|------------------|
| Consultants              | 47,420.25        |
| <b>Total Consultants</b> | <b>47,420.25</b> |

**Total this Phase: \$52,478.75**

**Total this Invoice \$52,478.75**

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Indian Wells Valley Water District  
PO Box 1329  
Ridgecrest, CA 93556-1329



**INVOICE DATE**

09/01/2026

**DUE DATE**

10/01/2026

**INVOICE NUMBER**

1299

Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority  
100 W. California Ave  
Ridgecrest, CA 93555

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Rademacher Way Pipeline Project - May Expenses

McMurtrey, Hartsock, Worth, & St. Lawrence      \$      176.00

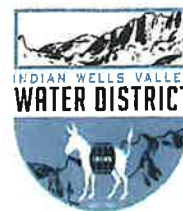
**Total Due \$      176.00**

---

Please make checks payable to Indian Wells Valley Water District and include the invoice number.  
For questions concerning this invoice, contact John Svika at (760) 384-5527.

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Indian Wells Valley Water District  
PO Box 1329  
Ridgecrest, CA 93556-1329



**INVOICE DATE**

09/01/2026

**DUE DATE**

10/01/2026

**INVOICE NUMBER**

1300

Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority  
100 W. California Ave  
Ridgecrest, CA 93555

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Stark Street Consolidation - May Expenses

Krieger & Stewart \$ 18,230.25

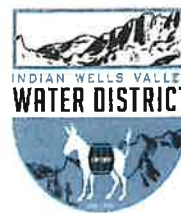
**Total Due \$ 18,230.25**

---

Please make checks payable to Indian Wells Valley Water District and include the invoice number.  
For questions concerning this invoice, contact John Svika at (760) 384-5527.

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Indian Wells Valley Water District  
PO Box 1329  
Ridgecrest, CA 93556-1329



**INVOICE DATE**

09/01/2026

**DUE DATE**

10/01/2026

**INVOICE NUMBER**

1301

Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority  
100 W. California Ave  
Ridgecrest, CA 93555

---

Stark Street Consolidation - June Expenses

Krieger & Stewart \$ 19,465.25

**Total Due \$ 19,465.25**

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Please make checks payable to Indian Wells Valley Water District and include the invoice number.  
For questions concerning this invoice, contact John Svika at (760) 384-5527.

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**INVOICE**

Regional Government Services  
PO Box 1350  
Carmel Valley, CA 93924  
AR@rgs.ca.gov  
(650) 587-7300 x2



Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority  
April Keigwin  
akeigwin@rgs.ca.gov

July 31, 2026

Invoice No: 21612

**Total This Invoice \$34,738.32**

Project 04014.C210200000-40 Indian Wells Valley GA -Professional Employer Services

**Professional Services from July 01, 2026 to July 31, 2026**

Phase IWVGA General Administration

**Professional Personnel**

|                    | Hours  | Rate   | Amount    |                  |
|--------------------|--------|--------|-----------|------------------|
| Senior Advisor     | 155.50 | 154.50 | 24,024.75 |                  |
| Totals             | 155.50 |        | 24,024.75 |                  |
| <b>Total Labor</b> |        |        |           | <b>24,024.75</b> |

**Additional Fees**

|                              |  |  |               |                    |
|------------------------------|--|--|---------------|--------------------|
| Technology Fee               |  |  | 600.00        |                    |
| <b>Total Additional Fees</b> |  |  | <b>600.00</b> | <b>600.00</b>      |
| <b>Total this Phase</b>      |  |  |               | <b>\$24,624.75</b> |

Phase IWVGA Finance

**Professional Personnel**

|                        | Hours | Rate   | Amount    |                  |
|------------------------|-------|--------|-----------|------------------|
| Senior Advisor         | 64.10 | 154.50 | 9,299.87  |                  |
| Senior Finance Manager | 4.00  | 144.20 | 576.80    |                  |
| Technical Specialist   | 2.00  | 118.45 | 236.90    |                  |
| Totals                 | 70.10 |        | 10,113.57 |                  |
| <b>Total Labor</b>     |       |        |           | <b>10,113.57</b> |

**Total this Phase \$10,113.57**

**Total this Invoice \$34,738.32**

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**INVOICE**

Regional Government Services  
PO Box 1350  
Carmel Valley, CA 93924  
AR@rgs.ca.gov  
(650) 587-7300 x2



Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority  
April Keigwin  
akeigwin@rgs.ca.gov

July 31, 2026  
Invoice No: 21678  
**Total This Invoice \$300.00**

Project 04014.C210200000-40 Indian Wells Valley GA -Professional Employer Services  
**Professional Services from July 01, 2026 to July 31, 2026**

Phase IWVGA General Administration

**Reimbursable Expenses**

|                                |               |                        |
|--------------------------------|---------------|------------------------|
| Miscellaneous Expense (Client) | 300.00        |                        |
| <b>Total Reimbursables</b>     | <b>300.00</b> | <b>300.00</b>          |
| <b>Total this Phase</b>        |               | <b>\$300.00</b>        |
| <b>Total this Invoice</b>      |               | <b><u>\$300.00</u></b> |

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**Nigro & Nigro PC**

PO Box 1247  
Murrieta, CA 92564  
(951) 698-8783

INVOICE

BILL TO  
Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority

INVOICE 24604  
DATE 07/31/2026

| DESCRIPTION                          | AMOUNT    |
|--------------------------------------|-----------|
| Final Audit Work - December 31, 2025 | 18,500.00 |

It's been a pleasure working with you!

BALANCE DUE **\$18,500.00**

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**Capitol Core Group**  
205 Cartwheel Bend (Operations Dept.)  
Austin, TX 78738 US  
+15125683084  
operations@capitolcore.com  
www.capitolcore.com

**BILL TO**

Indian Wells Valley Groundwater  
Authority  
500 West Ridgecrest Blvd.  
Ridgecrest, California 93555  
USA

**INVOICE 2026-068****DATE** 09/02/2026 **TERMS** Net 45**DUE DATE** 10/17/2026**VENDOR ID**

19553

**INVOICE PERIOD**

August 2026

| DATE       | ACCOUNT SUMMARY                                                | AMOUNT     |
|------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| 08/06/2026 | Balance Forward                                                | 34,731.25  |
|            | Other payments and credits after 08/06/2026 through 09/01/2026 | -34,731.25 |
| 09/02/2026 | Other invoices from this date                                  | 0.00       |
|            | New charges (details below)                                    | 16,775.00  |
|            | Total Amount Due                                               | 16,775.00  |

| ACTIVITY                                                                                          | HOURS | RATE   | AMOUNT   |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|--------|----------|
| <b>Charges</b>                                                                                    |       |        |          |
| PROJECT 1: IMPORTED WATER SUPPLIES                                                                |       |        |          |
| P1-A: Negotiations                                                                                |       |        |          |
| <b>Government Relations: Intergovernmental Affairs</b>                                            | 1.50  | 275.00 | 412.50   |
| A: Water Pricing Memorandum -- Final Review and discussion {McKinney}                             |       |        |          |
| <b>Government Relations: Intergovernmental Affairs</b>                                            | 3.50  | 275.00 | 962.50   |
| A: Requested Pricing Memorandum -- review, edit {Tatum}                                           |       |        |          |
| P1-B: Other Required Agreements                                                                   |       |        |          |
| <b>Government Relations: Intergovernmental Affairs</b>                                            | 6     | 275.00 | 1,650.00 |
| B: Negotiations w/ AVEK, meeting, term sheet development, memorandum and update {Tatum}           |       |        |          |
| <b>Government Relations: Intergovernmental Affairs</b>                                            | 14    | 250.00 | 3,500.00 |
| B: AVEK meeting, preparation, document research follow-up, staff meetings, and report {Simonetti} |       |        |          |
| P1-C: Regulatory Approvals                                                                        |       |        |          |
| P1-D: 2026 Water Marketing                                                                        |       |        |          |
| PROJECT 1 INVOICE TOTAL: \$6,525.00                                                               |       |        |          |
| PROJECT 2: WATER REPLENISHMENT PIPELINE                                                           |       |        |          |
| P2-A: FY2027 Energy and Water Development Act                                                     |       |        |          |
| <b>Government Relations: Federal</b>                                                              | 3     | 250.00 | 750.00   |
| A: Congressional -- Senate Committee on Appropriations {Simonetti}                                |       |        |          |

| ACTIVITY                                                                                                                                                             | HOURS | RATE   | AMOUNT   |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|--------|----------|
| P2-B: Other State and Federal Requirements                                                                                                                           |       |        |          |
| P2-C: Regulatory Support (pipeline)                                                                                                                                  |       |        |          |
| P2-D: USACE Transition                                                                                                                                               |       |        |          |
| <b>Government Relations:Federal</b><br>D: Meeting w/ staff, internal strategy development and transition strategy re: Funding Timing {McKinney}                      | 3.50  | 275.00 | 962.50   |
| PROJECT 2 INVOICE TOTAL: \$1,025.00                                                                                                                                  |       |        |          |
| PROJECT 3: OTHER PROJECT SUPPORTING THE GSP                                                                                                                          |       |        |          |
| P3-A Well Mitigation                                                                                                                                                 |       |        |          |
| P3-B: Land Repurposing                                                                                                                                               |       |        |          |
| P3-C: Other Infrastructure Requirements                                                                                                                              |       |        |          |
| P3-D: Groundwater Adjudication Legislation                                                                                                                           |       |        |          |
| P3-E: General Governmental Affairs                                                                                                                                   |       |        |          |
| <b>Government Relations:California</b><br>E: 2027 Legislation Data Centers Proposal development, stakeholder meeting, mtg w/ Asm. Papan {McKinney}                   | 7     | 275.00 | 1,925.00 |
| <b>Government Relations:California</b><br>E: Data Center 2027 Legislative Development {Peterson}                                                                     | 1     | 250.00 | 250.00   |
| <b>Government Relations:California</b><br>E: General Advocacy -- final portion of Legislature {McKinney}                                                             | 1     | 275.00 | 275.00   |
| <b>Government Relations:California</b><br>General Governmental Affairs {Peterson}                                                                                    | 1     | 250.00 | 250.00   |
| <b>Government Relations:California</b><br>E: General Legislative Affairs -- End of Session monitoring and advocacy {Simonetti}                                       | 2.50  | 250.00 | 625.00   |
| PROJECT 3 INVOICE TOTAL: \$3,325.00                                                                                                                                  |       |        |          |
| PROJECT ADMINISTRATION                                                                                                                                               |       |        |          |
| PA-A: Monthly Board Meetings                                                                                                                                         |       |        |          |
| <b>General Business Items:Project Administration</b><br>A: August Board Meeting {McKinney}                                                                           | 3     | 275.00 | 825.00   |
| <b>General Business Items:Project Administration</b><br>A: August Board Meeting {Tatum}                                                                              | 3     | 275.00 | 825.00   |
| <b>General Business Items:Project Administration</b><br>A: Monthly meetings and materials preparation, staff calls {Simonetti}                                       | 4     | 250.00 | 1,000.00 |
| PA-B: Ad Hoc Reports                                                                                                                                                 |       |        |          |
| <b>General Business Items:Project Administration</b><br>B: Fremont Valley memorandum -- finalize, staff meetings and presertation {Tatum}                            | 4     | 275.00 | 1,100.00 |
| <b>General Business Items:Project Administration</b><br>B: Internal staff meeting {McKinney}                                                                         | 1.50  | 275.00 | 412.50   |
| <b>General Business Items:Project Administration</b><br>B: Fremont Valley study -- review of findings for Stetson and additional discussion of Psomas Report {Tatum} | 2     | 275.00 | 550.00   |
| <b>General Business Items:Project Administration</b><br>B: Final review of Fremont Valley Report {Simonetti}                                                         | 2     | 250.00 | 500.00   |
| PA-C: Milestone Reports                                                                                                                                              |       |        |          |

| ACTIVITY                                         | HOURS | RATE | AMOUNT |
|--------------------------------------------------|-------|------|--------|
| PROJECT ADMINISTRATION INVOICE TOTAL: \$5,212.50 |       |      |        |
| *****                                            |       |      |        |
| REGULATORY COMPLIANCE NOTES:                     |       |      |        |
| Federal Reporting for Invoice: \$1,025.00        |       |      |        |
| State Reporting for Invoice: \$3,325.00          |       |      |        |

\*\*\*\*\*

On behalf of the entire Capitol Core Group Team, thank you so much for being our client.

View and pay

|                      |             |
|----------------------|-------------|
| SUBTOTAL             | 16,775.00   |
| TAX                  | 0.00        |
| TOTAL                | 16,775.00   |
| TOTAL OF NEW CHARGES | 16,775.00   |
| TOTAL DUE            | \$16,775.00 |

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**Check Payment Information:**

GFT Infrastructure, Inc.  
PO Box 829160, Philadelphia, PA 19182-9160 Federal EIN: 25-1613591

**ACH/EFT Payment Information:**

Account Name: GFT Infrastructure, Inc.  
ABA: 031312738 Account No.: 5003165655 Wire Routing No.: 043000096  
SWIFT: PNCCUS33 (required for international payments)

Send Remit Info: AccountsReceivable@gftinc.com  
Send Audit Inquiries: GovtContractAudit@gftinc.com  
All Other Inquires Contact the Project Team

Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority  
100 W California Ave.  
Ridgecrest, CA 93555

August 21, 2026

Invoice No: 5014620

Due Date: September 20, 2026

A0230025.601 IWW-Imported Water Pipeline Acq

**Professional Services from July 01, 2026 to July 31, 2026**

|                              | Total Fee  | Billed To Date | Remaining Fee | Percent Complete | Previous Billings | Current Billings |
|------------------------------|------------|----------------|---------------|------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| Task: ACQUISITION ACTIVITIES | 703,595.00 | 252,623.75     | 450,971.25    | 35.90%           | 240,023.75        | 12,600.00        |
| Total:                       | 703,595.00 | 252,623.75     | 450,971.25    | 35.90%           | 240,023.75        | 12,600.00        |

Current Billings 12,600.00

Amount Due This Bill USD 12,600.00

|         |              |                           |         |         |
|---------|--------------|---------------------------|---------|---------|
| Project | A0230025.601 | IWV-Imported Water Pipeli | Invoice | 5014620 |
|---------|--------------|---------------------------|---------|---------|

#### Professional Personnel

|                    | Hours | Rate   | Amount   |                 |
|--------------------|-------|--------|----------|-----------------|
| Carleton, Linwood  | 22.00 | 200.00 | 4,400.00 |                 |
| Cook, Victoria     | 3.25  | 250.00 | 812.50   |                 |
| Guinaldo, Roy      | 7.50  | 165.00 | 1,237.50 |                 |
| Kinnett, William   | 8.00  | 150.00 | 1,200.00 |                 |
| Letts, Gregory     | 3.00  | 150.00 | 450.00   |                 |
| Totals             | 43.75 |        | 8,100.00 |                 |
| <b>Total Labor</b> |       |        |          | <b>8,100.00</b> |

#### Consultants

|                                          |                                 |                                  |                  |                 |
|------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------|-----------------|
| Title Work (Reimbursable Subconsultants) |                                 |                                  |                  |                 |
| 7/24/2026                                | Commonwealth Land Title Company | Preliminary Report               | 1,500.00         |                 |
| 7/24/2026                                | Commonwealth Land Title Company | Preliminary Report               | 1,500.00         |                 |
| 7/24/2026                                | Commonwealth Land Title Company | Preliminary Report-INV#932607028 | 1,500.00         |                 |
| <b>Total Consultants</b>                 |                                 | <b>1.0 times</b>                 | <b>4,500.00</b>  | <b>4,500.00</b> |
| <b>Amount Due This Bill</b>              |                                 |                                  | <b>12,600.00</b> |                 |

#### Outstanding Invoices

| Number       | Date      | Balance         |
|--------------|-----------|-----------------|
| 5012302      | 7/22/2026 | 2,007.50        |
| <b>Total</b> |           | <b>2,007.50</b> |

#### Billings to Date

|               | Current          | Prior             | Total             |
|---------------|------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Fee           | 0.00             | 228,011.50        | 228,011.50        |
| Labor         | 8,100.00         | 12,012.25         | 20,112.25         |
| Consultant    | 4,500.00         | 0.00              | 4,500.00          |
| <b>Totals</b> | <b>12,600.00</b> | <b>240,023.75</b> | <b>252,623.75</b> |

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**Check Payment Information:**

GFT Infrastructure, Inc.  
PO Box 829160, Philadelphia, PA 19182-9160 Federal EIN: 25-1613591

**ACH/EFT Payment Information:**

Account Name: GFT Infrastructure, Inc.  
ABA: 031312738 Account No.: 5003165655 Wire Routing No.: 043000096  
SWIFT: PNCCUS33 (required for international payments)

Send Remit Info: AccountsReceivable@gftinc.com  
Send Audit Inquiries: GovtContractAudit@gftinc.com  
All Other Inquires Contact the Project Team

Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority  
100 W California Ave.  
Ridgecrest, CA 93555

August 21, 2026

Invoice No: 5014620

Due Date: September 20, 2026

A0230025.601 IWW-Imported Water Pipeline Acq

**Professional Services from July 01, 2026 to July 31, 2026**

|                                 | Total Fee         | Billed<br>To Date | Remaining<br>Fee  | Percent<br>Complete | Previous<br>Billings | Current<br>Billings |
|---------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|---------------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| Task: ACQUISITION<br>ACTIVITIES | 703,595.00        | 252,623.75        | 450,971.25        | 35.90%              | 240,023.75           | 12,600.00           |
| <b>Total:</b>                   | <b>703,595.00</b> | <b>252,623.75</b> | <b>450,971.25</b> | <b>35.90%</b>       | <b>240,023.75</b>    | <b>12,600.00</b>    |

Current Billings 12,600.00

**Amount Due This Bill** **USD** **12,600.00**

|         |              |                           |         |         |
|---------|--------------|---------------------------|---------|---------|
| Project | A0230025.601 | IWV-Imported Water Pipeli | Invoice | 5014620 |
|---------|--------------|---------------------------|---------|---------|

#### Professional Personnel

|                    | Hours | Rate   | Amount   |                 |
|--------------------|-------|--------|----------|-----------------|
| Carleton, Linwood  | 22.00 | 200.00 | 4,400.00 |                 |
| Cook, Victoria     | 3.25  | 250.00 | 812.50   |                 |
| Guinaldo, Roy      | 7.50  | 165.00 | 1,237.50 |                 |
| Kinnett, William   | 8.00  | 150.00 | 1,200.00 |                 |
| Letts, Gregory     | 3.00  | 150.00 | 450.00   |                 |
| Totals             | 43.75 |        | 8,100.00 |                 |
| <b>Total Labor</b> |       |        |          | <b>8,100.00</b> |

#### Consultants

|                                          |                                 |                                  |                 |                 |
|------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Title Work (Reimbursable Subconsultants) |                                 |                                  |                 |                 |
| 7/24/2026                                | Commonwealth Land Title Company | Preliminary Report               | 1,500.00        |                 |
| 7/24/2026                                | Commonwealth Land Title Company | Preliminary Report               | 1,500.00        |                 |
| 7/24/2026                                | Commonwealth Land Title Company | Preliminary Report-INV#932607028 | 1,500.00        |                 |
| <b>Total Consultants</b>                 |                                 | <b>1.0 times</b>                 | <b>4,500.00</b> | <b>4,500.00</b> |

**Amount Due This Bill** 12,600.00

#### Outstanding Invoices

| Number       | Date      | Balance         |
|--------------|-----------|-----------------|
| 5012302      | 7/22/2026 | 2,007.50        |
| <b>Total</b> |           | <b>2,007.50</b> |

#### Billings to Date

|               | Current          | Prior             | Total             |
|---------------|------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Fee           | 0.00             | 228,011.50        | 228,011.50        |
| Labor         | 8,100.00         | 12,012.25         | 20,112.25         |
| Consultant    | 4,500.00         | 0.00              | 4,500.00          |
| <b>Totals</b> | <b>12,600.00</b> | <b>240,023.75</b> | <b>252,623.75</b> |

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Westbound Communications, Inc.  
3649 Mission Inn Ave., First Floor Rotunda  
Riverside, CA 92501 US  
951-462-1106  
tmoran@westboundcommunications.com  
www.westboundcommunications.com



**BILL TO**

April Keigwin  
Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority  
100 W California Ave  
Ridgecrest, CA 93555

**INVOICE 6161**

**DATE** 08/28/2026 **TERMS** Net 30

**DUE DATE** 09/27/2026

**P.O. NUMBER**

July 2026

| DESCRIPTION                                                                                                                                          | QTY   | RATE   | AMOUNT             |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|--------|--------------------|
| Professional fees for public relations counsel and services in support of Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority.<br>Period of Service: July 2026 | 38.50 | 240.00 | 9,240.00           |
|                                                                                                                                                      |       |        | Subtotal: 9,240.00 |
| Reimbursable expenses for the billing period:                                                                                                        |       |        |                    |
| Technology Access Fee                                                                                                                                | 1     | 395.00 | 395.00             |
|                                                                                                                                                      |       |        | Subtotal: 395.00   |
| 070826 Maven's Notebook target media outlet monthly subscription<br>ref# 9786376765 (07/01/26 - 07/31/26)                                            |       |        | 10.00              |

**TOTAL DUE**

**\$9,645.00**

We appreciate your business and look forward to helping you again soon.

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**Government Real Estate Services**

a division of

Beacon Integrated Professional Resources, Inc.

Right of Way Acquisition | Relocation Assistance | Real Property Consulting

Business Office: (805) 773-1459

Fax: (805) 773-2418

Toll Free: (866) 585-1330

[www.hamner-jewell.com](http://www.hamner-jewell.com)**Hamner, Jewell & Associates**

3183 Duncan Road, Suite E

San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

Indian Wells Groundwater Authority  
Helena Chu  
100 W. California Ave  
Ridgecrest, CA 93555

Invoice number 205833  
Date 08/17/2026

**Project Indian Wells Waterline Easements**

Professional Services from July 01, 2026 through July 31, 2026

Consolidation Projects Easement Acquisition Services

**PROFESSIONAL SERVICES**

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Hours | Rate   | Billed Amount |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|--------|---------------|
| <b>Ashley Borlodon</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |       |        |               |
| Transaction Assistant                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | 1.00  | 85.00  | 85.00         |
| <i>Searched for owner contact information</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |       |        |               |
| <i>Worked on owner outreach</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |       |        |               |
| <i>Updated project diary</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |       |        |               |
| <i>Recorded map search</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |       |        |               |
| <i>Reviewed prepped legal descriptions</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |       |        |               |
| <b>Brent Staple</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |       |        |               |
| Clerical/Assistant                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | 0.75  | 80.00  | 60.00         |
| <i>Mailed Deed Grant and Letter to owner (Moore) via USPS First Class and USPS Certified mail .</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |       |        |               |
| <i>Data entry and file management to Moore file.</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |       |        |               |
| <i>Same for Owner file (Jones)</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |       |        |               |
| <b>Lillian Jewell</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |       |        |               |
| Managing Sr Associate                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | 7.75  | 325.00 | 2,518.75      |
| <i>Team call 7/7.</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |       |        |               |
| <i>staff direction for follow up with attempted owner contacts.</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |       |        |               |
| <i>Project team call 7/28. Letter to Moore. Letter to Jones. Phone call/message to Jones. Review Stark files and deed template, instruct support staff to draft deeds for each parcel, review vesting deeds and maps to seek a legal description reference to the street, could not identify so developed a means of describing and instructed staff to prepare legal descriptions as such for presentation and review by District.</i> |       |        |               |
| <i>review /direction re Stark deed preparation.</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |       |        |               |
| <i>monitoring and direction re Stark deed preparation.</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |       |        |               |
| <i>tracking, review and feedbk on Stark deed prep. Drafted and sent sample deed to District staff for review and preapproval before sending out to property ownrs.</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |       |        |               |
| <b>Mary Jo Anderson</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |       |        |               |
| Transaction/Escrow Coordinator                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | 11.75 | 130.00 | 1,527.50      |
| <i>Work on deeds</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |       |        |               |
| <i>Work on deeds</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |       |        |               |
| <i>Work on offer letters and legal descriptions, file management</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |       |        |               |
| <i>Work on legal descriptions</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |       |        |               |
| PROFESSIONAL SERVICES subtotal                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | 21.25 |        | 4,191.25      |

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[www.hamner-jewell.com](http://www.hamner-jewell.com)

Indian Wells Groundwater Authority

Project **Indian Wells Waterline Easements**

Invoice number 205833

Date 08/17/2026

**OTHER DIRECT COSTS**

|                                         | Units | Billed Amount |
|-----------------------------------------|-------|---------------|
| Copies & Printing                       | 19.00 | 2.66          |
| <i>Letter &amp; Grant Deed to Moore</i> |       |               |
| <i>Letter &amp; Grant Deed to Jones</i> |       |               |
| Postage - SLO                           | 2.00  | 14.75         |
| <i>Letter &amp; Grant Deed to Moore</i> |       |               |
| <i>Letter &amp; Grant Deed to Jones</i> |       |               |

|                             |       |
|-----------------------------|-------|
| OTHER DIRECT COSTS subtotal | 17.41 |
|-----------------------------|-------|

|               |                 |
|---------------|-----------------|
| Invoice total | <b>4,208.66</b> |
|---------------|-----------------|

**Project Tracking**

| Description               | Contract Amount | Prior Billed | Current Billed | Total Billed | Remaining |
|---------------------------|-----------------|--------------|----------------|--------------|-----------|
| RIGHT OF WAY SERVICES     | 50,000.00       | 4,914.75     | 4,191.25       | 9,106.00     | 40,894.00 |
| PRELIMINARY TITLE REPORTS | 8,000.00        | 0.00         | 0.00           | 0.00         | 8,000.00  |
| REAL PROPERTY APPRAISALS  | 0.00            | 0.00         | 0.00           | 0.00         | 0.00      |
| OTHER DIRECT COSTS        | 1,500.00        | 9.10         | 17.41          | 26.51        | 1,473.49  |
| Total                     | 59,500.00       | 4,923.85     | 4,208.66       | 9,132.51     | 50,367.49 |

**Aging Summary**

| Invoice Number | Invoice Date | Outstanding | Current  | Over 30 | Over 60 | Over 90 | Over 120 |
|----------------|--------------|-------------|----------|---------|---------|---------|----------|
| 205495         | 04/02/2026   | 1,121.25    |          |         |         |         | 1,121.25 |
| 205784         | 07/08/2026   | 715.92      |          | 715.92  |         |         |          |
| 205833         | 08/17/2026   | 4,208.66    | 4,208.66 |         |         |         |          |
| Total          |              | 6,045.83    | 4,208.66 | 715.92  | 0.00    | 0.00    | 1,121.25 |

Mail all payments to address shown above. Questions regarding this invoice may be directed to Accounting at 805-773-1459 or to [accounting@hamner-jewell.com](mailto:accounting@hamner-jewell.com). Thank you. EIN# 77-0551695

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## IWVGA ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

### *STAFF REPORT*

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**TO:** IWVGA Board Members

**DATE:** September 9, 2026

**FROM:** IWVGA Staff

**SUBJECT:** Agenda Item 9 – Board Review and Discussion of Draft 2027 Budget

#### Background:

The following 2027 budget estimates submitted by the Authority's contracted agencies are included for the Board's review and discussion. Following Board direction and authorization of proposed tasks, staff will prepare a complete budget for final review and approval at the October 14<sup>th</sup> Board meeting.

Staff is seeking Board direction on the projects, programs, and tasks the Board would like to continue or pursue in 2027, as well as any activities that should be reduced, deferred, or eliminated. Feedback received during the discussion will be incorporated into the proposed final budget for future Board consideration.

#### Fiscal Impact:

There is no fiscal impact associated with reviewing the draft budget. Fiscal impacts will be reflected in the final proposed 2027 budget.

#### Recommendation:

Review the draft 2027 budget and provide direction to staff regarding the Board's priorities for 2027.

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### Provost & Pritchard - Engineering Contract

| Task 1 - Project Management          |                                                             | Current Budget  | Billed          | Remaining Budget | 2027 Projection | 2027 Remaining |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|------------------|-----------------|----------------|
| 1.1                                  | Kickoff Meeting                                             | \$ 10,033.40    | \$ 10,033.60    | \$ (0.20)        | \$ -            |                |
| 1.2                                  | Coordination Meetings                                       | \$ 152,709.07   | \$ 128,258.97   | \$ 24,450.10     |                 |                |
| 1.3                                  | P&P General PM                                              | \$ 607,316.68   | \$ 506,529.59   | \$ 100,787.09    |                 |                |
| Task 1 Subtotal                      |                                                             | \$ 770,059.15   | \$ 644,822.16   | \$ 125,236.99    | \$ 125,000.00   | \$ 236.99      |
| Task 2 - Preliminary Design          |                                                             |                 |                 |                  |                 |                |
| 2.1                                  | Coordination                                                | \$ 68,544.00    | \$ 61,920.43    | \$ 6,623.57      |                 |                |
| 2.2                                  | Environ. & ROW Consultant Coord.                            | \$ 55,579.90    | \$ 57,514.30    | \$ (1,934.40)    |                 |                |
| 2.3                                  | Surveying                                                   | \$ 131,281.55   | \$ 123,964.91   | \$ 7,316.64      |                 |                |
| 2.4                                  | Utility Research/Coordination                               | \$ 41,123.00    | \$ 41,163.26    | \$ (40.26)       |                 |                |
| 2.5                                  | Geotechnical Services                                       | \$ 717,601.07   | \$ 717,601.57   | \$ (0.50)        |                 |                |
| 2.6                                  | Corrosion Analysis and Engineering                          | \$ 38,886.00    | \$ 38,885.35    | \$ 0.65          |                 |                |
| 2.7                                  | Permits                                                     | \$ 500,468.86   | \$ 424,386.12   | \$ 76,082.74     |                 |                |
| 2.8                                  | Preliminary Design Report                                   | \$ 720,842.70   | \$ 713,069.15   | \$ 7,773.55      |                 |                |
| Task 2 Subtotal                      |                                                             | \$ 2,274,327.08 | \$ 2,178,505.09 | \$ 95,821.99     | \$ 125,000.00   | \$ (29,178.01) |
| Task 3 - Final Design                |                                                             |                 |                 |                  |                 |                |
| 3.1                                  | 30% Submittal                                               | \$ 754,991.67   | \$ 630,788.98   | \$ 124,202.69    |                 |                |
| 3.2                                  | 60% Submittal                                               | \$ 1,237,767.45 | \$ 974,080.65   | \$ 263,686.80    |                 |                |
| 3.3                                  | 90% Submittal                                               | \$ 1,021,195.23 | \$ 655,596.64   | \$ 365,598.59    |                 |                |
| 3.4                                  | 100% Final Submittal (Not Authorized)                       | \$ -            | \$ -            | \$ -             |                 |                |
| Task 3 Subtotal                      |                                                             | \$ 3,013,954.35 | \$ 2,260,466.27 | \$ 753,488.08    | \$ 224,000.00   | \$ 529,488.08  |
| Task 4 - Optional Tasks              |                                                             |                 |                 | \$ -             |                 |                |
| 4.1                                  | Scour Analysis of BLM Drainage Crossings                    | \$ 42,953.21    | \$ 42,953.21    | \$ -             |                 |                |
| 4.2                                  | Water Quality Bench Testing for AVEKand IWWWD Water Sources | \$ 17,700.71    | \$ 17,700.71    | \$ -             |                 |                |
| 4.3                                  | GIS Portal (Not Authorized)                                 | \$ -            | \$ -            | \$ -             | \$ 44,000.00    |                |
| Task 4 Subtotal                      |                                                             | \$ 60,653.92    | \$ 60,653.92    | \$ -             |                 |                |
|                                      |                                                             |                 |                 | \$ -             |                 |                |
| Total Authorized                     |                                                             | \$ 6,118,994.50 | \$ 5,144,447.44 | \$ 974,547.06    | \$ 474,000.00   | \$ 500,547.06  |
| Anticipated Additional Authorization |                                                             |                 |                 |                  | \$ 44,000.00    |                |
| Total Projection                     |                                                             |                 |                 |                  | \$ 518,000.00   |                |

Note: This is not included in the remaining budget calculation

### Provost & Pritchard - Environmental Contract

| Task   |                                      | Current Budget | Budget Increase | Revised Budget  |
|--------|--------------------------------------|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| 1      | Initial Coordination                 | \$ 200,621.00  | \$ 132,155.00   | \$ 332,776.00   |
| 2      | Geotechnical Studies                 | \$ 130,631.00  | \$ -            | \$ 130,631.00   |
| 3      | Technical Studies                    | \$ 606,209.00  | \$ 27,676.00    | \$ 633,885.00   |
| 4      | Public Outreach                      | \$ 95,521.00   | \$ -            | \$ 95,521.00    |
| 5      | Regulatory Permitting and Compliance | \$ 184,601.00  | \$ -            | \$ 184,601.00   |
| 6      | CEQA/NEPA Documentation              | \$ 186,749.00  | \$ 139,659.00   | \$ 326,408.00   |
| 7      | Geotechnical Borings Monitoring      | \$ 185,793.00  | \$ -            | \$ 185,793.00   |
| Total: |                                      | \$1,590,125    | \$ 299,490.00   | \$ 1,889,615.00 |

\$1,889,615.00

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| <u>Job Number</u> | <u>Task Names</u>                                                  | <u>2025 Budget</u> | <u>2026 Budget</u> | <u>2027 Budget</u> | <u>Notes</u>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|-------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 01                | Meetings and Preparation                                           | \$170,000          | \$215,000          | <b>\$160,000</b>   | Preparation and participation in regularly scheduled staff meetings, Board meetings, and Ad Hocs. Preparation of Board Items, Staff Reports, SWMP application Staff Reports                                                                                                                                                             |
| 01.01             | Placeholder                                                        |                    |                    |                    | N/A                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| 01.02             | LADWP Releases Analysis and Presentation                           |                    |                    |                    | N/A                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| 02                | Prop 1/Prop 68 Grant Administration                                |                    |                    |                    | N/A                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| 02.01             | SGMA IP Grant Administration                                       | \$30,000           | \$27,000           |                    | Grant closeout in 2026                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| 02.02             | Urban Community Drought Relief Funding Administration              | \$20,000           | \$10,000           | <b>\$8,000</b>     | Assuming Grant Extension into 2027; Preparation of Invoices and Progress Reports to DWR, Grant Amendments and DWR check-in meetings                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| 02.03             | EPA Resiliency Grant Administration                                | \$50,000           | \$27,000           | <b>\$35,000</b>    | Manage project invoicing, reimbursement requests, project performance/ financial reporting for the Imported Water Project                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| 03                | Grant Review and Application Preparation                           | \$75,000           | \$75,000           | <b>\$25,000</b>    | Assumed preparation of 1 grant application in CY 2027 (Prop 4 application)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 03.01             | 2023 Resilience Grant                                              |                    |                    |                    | See 07 Tasks                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| 04                | Data Mgmt System Support                                           | \$40,000           | \$40,000           | <b>\$45,000</b>    | SGMA Requirement; California Code of Regulations Title 23 §352.6                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| 05                | General Project Mgmt                                               | \$40,000           | \$40,000           | <b>\$35,000</b>    | Internal staff coordination and project management; Unscheduled GA staff meetings and coordination                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| 06                | Model Maintenance                                                  | \$100,000          | \$20,000           | <b>\$20,000</b>    | Revised task name for Configuration Management Plan                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| 07                | Imported Water: Engineering and Analysis                           |                    |                    |                    | N/A                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| 07.01             | IP Grant: Planning/Design/Environmental                            | \$50,000           |                    |                    | Grant closeout in 2026                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| 07.02             | IP Grant: Engagement/Outreach                                      | \$10,000           |                    |                    | Grant closeout in 2026                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| 07.03             | Resiliency Grant: Design                                           | \$125,000          | \$100,000          | <b>\$40,000</b>    | Project management, coordination, and review of deliverables for the design of the Imported Water Project.                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 07.04             | Resiliency Grant: Environmental                                    | \$50,000           | \$29,000           | <b>\$30,000</b>    | Project management, coordination, and review of deliverables for the environmental permitting of the Imported Water Project.                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| 07.05             | Resiliency Grant: Right of Way                                     | \$25,000           | \$14,000           | <b>\$10,000</b>    | Project management, coordination, and review of deliverables for the right of way acquisition of the Imported Water Project.                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| 08                | Imported Water: Negotiations and Coordination                      | \$10,000           | \$10,000           | <b>\$10,000</b>    | Placeholder for Imported Water Project water purchase negotiations and coordination, as needed                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| 09                | Recycled Water                                                     | \$25,000           | \$10,000           | <b>\$2,000</b>     | Placeholder for various Recycled Water Project review and investigations, as needed                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| 10                | Stakeholder Coordination                                           | \$5,000            | \$5,000            | <b>\$5,000</b>     | Placeholder for 1 potential public workshop                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| 11                | Data Collection, Monitoring and Data Gaps                          | \$225,000          | \$225,000          | <b>\$150,000</b>   | SGMA Requirement; California Code of Regulations Title 23 §352.4                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| 11.01             | GDE Data Collection and Monitoring Plan                            |                    |                    |                    | Subject to change dependent upon Phase 2 ruling - ET evaluation (Potential budget amendment)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| 12                | Shallow Well Consolidation Project                                 | \$40,000           | \$50,000           | <b>\$20,000</b>    | Assuming grant extension in to 2027; Project management, coordination, and review of deliverables for Consolidation Projects (Rademacher and Stark)                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| 13                | 2023: Conservation Efforts<br>2025/26: PAS - Army Corps Support    | \$50,000           | \$50,000           | <b>\$5,000</b>     | USACE FY 2027 budget for PAS is not currently funding additional new-start projects. USACE will continue the scoping review process for a potential approved-unfunded status. Estimated budget is based on assuming minor coordination during review and may warrant an amendment in the future, subject to USACE funding availability. |
| 14                | Production Reporting, Transient Pool and Fee Support               | \$35,000           | \$45,000           | <b>\$15,000</b>    | Support, review, and verification for production reporting, transient pool and GA fees                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| 15                | Placeholder: TSS Project                                           |                    |                    |                    | N/A                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| 16                | TSS: General Coordination/Application Support                      | \$10,000           | \$2,500            | <b>\$2,500</b>     | Placeholder for application support, as needed                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| 17                | Navy/Coso Royalty Fund: Develop FY 24 Projects and Secure Funding  | \$15,000           | \$25,000           | <b>\$2,500</b>     | Placeholder for submittal of Navy Coso Royalty Funding project applications (possible future budget amendment for applications with potential permitting requirements)                                                                                                                                                                  |
| 18                | Navy/Coso Royalty Fund: FY 21 Rose Valley MW                       | \$45,000           | \$120,000          | <b>\$75,000</b>    | Management of installation of 2nd Rose Valley Well, geologist onsite                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| 18.1              | Navy/Coso Cooperative Agreement                                    | \$10,000           | \$10,000           | <b>\$10,000</b>    | Coordination with Navy for invoicing and reporting requirements                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| 19                | Brackish Water Group/Outside Studies: Data Review and Coordination | \$15,000           | \$15,000           | <b>\$5,000</b>     | Placeholder for data review, as needed                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |

| <u>Job Number</u> | <u>Task Names</u>                                                | <u>2025 Budget</u> | <u>2026 Budget</u> | <u>2027 Budget</u> | <u>Notes</u>                                                                                                                                   |
|-------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 20                | Shallow Well Mitigation Program: Outreach and Impacts Evaluation | \$30,000           | \$30,000           | <b>\$15,000</b>    | Placeholder for review and evaluation of potential Shallow Well Mitigation Program applications                                                |
| 21                | General Engineering                                              | \$50,000           | \$30,000           | <b>\$30,000</b>    | Placeholder for various new tasks, not budgeted for (i.e. Data Center responses; Fremont Investigations)                                       |
| 22                | GSP 5-Year Update                                                | \$100,000          | \$25,000           | <b>\$25,000</b>    | SGMA Requirement; California Code of Regulations Title 23 §356.4; DWR review of 2025 PE finalized in 2027 & GA response and corrective actions |
| 23                | Annual Report Preparation                                        | \$75,000           | \$75,000           | <b>\$60,000</b>    | SGMA Requirement; California Code of Regulations Title 23 §356.2                                                                               |
| 24                | Fremont Valley Basin                                             |                    |                    | -                  | Placeholder for Fremont Valley Basin Investigations, pending approval                                                                          |
| 25                | Allocation Plan/Rules and Regs on Pumping/Restrictions           | \$10,000           | \$10,000           | <b>\$2,500</b>     |                                                                                                                                                |
| 26                | Budget Support                                                   | \$15,000           | \$15,000           | <b>\$20,000</b>    | Preparation and participation in weekly staff meetings, preparation of subsequent CY budgets                                                   |
| 27                | Litigation Support                                               | \$90,000           | \$140,000          | <b>\$70,000</b>    | Placeholder in support of phase 2 trial findings and special master coordination                                                               |
|                   | <b>TOTAL</b>                                                     | <b>\$1,640,000</b> | <b>\$1,489,500</b> | <b>\$932,500</b>   |                                                                                                                                                |

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## 2027 RGS Budget

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Jan - June

| Staff | Hours/Month | Hourly Rate | Total/month |           | Total/year |            |
|-------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-----------|------------|------------|
| AK    | 170         | 154.50      | \$          | 26,265.00 | \$         | 157,590.00 |
| MM    | 25          | 154.50      | \$          | 3,862.50  | \$         | 23,175.00  |
| AC    | 8           | 154.50      | \$          | 1,236.00  | \$         | 7,416.00   |
| DN    | 2           | 118.45      | \$          | 236.90    | \$         | 1,421.40   |
| Total | 205         |             | \$          | 31,600.40 | \$         | 189,602.40 |

July - Dec

*\*5% hourly rate increase*

| Staff | Hours/Month | Hourly Rate | Total/month |           | Total/year |            |
|-------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-----------|------------|------------|
| AK    | 170         | 162.23      | \$          | 27,578.25 | \$         | 165,469.50 |
| MM    | 25          | 162.23      | \$          | 4,055.63  | \$         | 24,333.75  |
| AC    | 8           | 162.23      | \$          | 1,297.80  | \$         | 7,786.80   |
| DN    | 2           | 124.37      | \$          | 248.75    | \$         | 1,492.47   |
| Total | 205         |             | \$          | 33,180.42 | \$         | 199,082.52 |

Conference / Training / Travel   \$ 5,000.00

Office Rent \$ 300.00 \$ 3,600.00

Technology Fee \$ 600.00 \$ 7,200.00

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**Total Budget \$ 404,484.92**

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INDIAN WELLS VALLEY GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY

## Calendar Year 2027 Budget Narrative

*Governmental Affairs and Project Support Services*

|                              |                               |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| <b>Budget period</b>         | January 1 – December 31, 2027 |
| <b>Total budget request</b>  | \$255,220.00                  |
| <b>Total estimated hours</b> | 807                           |
| <b>Average monthly value</b> | \$21,268.33 (67.25 hours)     |
| <b>Estimate As of Date</b>   | September 7, 2026             |

### 1. Purpose and Summary

This narrative accompanies and explains the Calendar Year 2027 budget estimate for governmental affairs and project support services provided to the Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority (IWVGA or the Authority). It describes the scope of work behind each budgeted task, the staffing and rate assumptions used to price that work, and how the CY2027 request compares to the current fiscal year.

The 2027 budget is based on two significant modifications from previous years' scopes of work:

1. It eliminates water purchase activities during the calendar year; several outstanding litigation issues remain that may impact the quantity of water needed by IWVGA. Absent a specific quantity, Capitol Core is unable to complete negotiations and obtain exact pricing on water purchases. On the recommendation of the Authority's counsel, we have placed this activity on hold and not included it in the 2027 proposed budget.
2. There is a significant reduction in general federal lobbying work. This is a planned and natural outgrowth of IWVGA's accomplishments; a project has been identified, a funding strategy has been selected, and that strategy has been implemented. The need to address other infrastructure issues has been minimized but is appropriately reflected in the budget to accomplish the expected 2027 goals.

The CY2027 request totals \$255,220, built from 807 estimated professional hours across three budget areas: the Water Replenishment Pipeline, other capital and policy projects supporting the Authority, and project administration. The estimate is a bottom-up build. Each task line reflects the hours a specific staff classification is expected to devote to a specific body of work, priced at that classification's hourly rate. No contingencies, escalations, or expenses have been added to the task lines.

### Budget at a glance:

| Budget Area                                 | Hours      | Amount           | Share of Total |
|---------------------------------------------|------------|------------------|----------------|
| Project 1 — Water Replenishment Pipeline    | 330        | \$103,400        | 40.5%          |
| Project 2 — Other Projects Supporting IWVGA | 370        | \$118,000        | 46.2%          |
| Project Administration                      | 107        | \$33,820         | 13.3%          |
| <b>Total CY2027 Budget Request</b>          | <b>807</b> | <b>\$255,220</b> | <b>100.0%</b>  |

## 2. Basis of Estimate

### 2.1 Staffing and Rates

Work is performed by three staff classifications. Each budget line assigns hours to the classification expected to perform that work, so the mix of senior and mid-level time is visible on every task rather than buried in a blended average.

| Classification        | Hourly Rate | CY2027 Hours | Amount           |
|-----------------------|-------------|--------------|------------------|
| President             | \$340       | 328          | \$111,520        |
| Senior Vice President | \$300       | 374          | \$112,200        |
| Senior Client Advisor | \$300       | 105          | \$31,500         |
| <b>Total</b>          | <b>—</b>    | <b>807</b>   | <b>\$255,220</b> |

Capitol Core Group held its rates flat from 2023 through 2026, while costs rose. Our CY2027 rates reflect a 0.4% annual adjustment (compounding to a 4.7% increase). This is within national standards from 2023 to 2026, including a) the CPI-U of 9.6%/year (compounding to a 13% inflation rate), b) the Employment Cost Index of 4.3%/year, and c) the general average rate increase of +23% for [lobbying] professional service firms.

### 2.2 How the Estimate Was Built

Each task line was estimated independently using the following method:

- Scope definition. The task was defined by the specific deliverable or engagement it produces — a permitting interaction, a legislative cycle, a partner negotiation, a report to the Board.
- Hours by classification. Hours were assigned to the classification whose participation the work actually requires, rather than distributed evenly.
- Pricing. Hours were multiplied by the applicable hourly rate and summed to the task, project, and total level.

**A note on precision.** These are estimates of anticipated effort, not fixed-price commitments. Legislative calendars, permitting timelines, and partner agency schedules are outside the Authority's and the consultant's control, and effort in any given month will vary with them. The annual totals represent the level of effort believed necessary to carry the Authority's priorities through a full calendar year.

### 3. Project 1 — Water Replenishment Pipeline

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**330 hours · \$103,400 · 40.5% of the total request**

The Water Replenishment Pipeline is the Authority's principal capital undertaking, and the CY2027 budget treats it as a distinct project with its own line items so that its cost can be tracked separately from ongoing policy work. A project of this kind advances only when four things move together: an interconnection partner willing to transact, regulatory approvals at every level of government, federal coordination where federal land and infrastructure are implicated, and a funding path. The four task groups below correspond to those four requirements.

#### **A. Intergovernmental Affairs — 135 hours, \$40,900**

##### ***Water Transfer Partner — 100 hours, \$30,000***

This is the largest task line in Project 1 and carries the highest execution risk across the entire budget. The budget assumes that a greater amount of effort is required in 2026 and expects the completion of interconnection, wheeling, and storage agreements in 2027. It provides that expectation over the complexities of not having a committed source of water, or knowing the quantity of water wheeled in an annual basis. The 100 budgeted hours reflect sustained engagement across a full year: participation in term discussions, coordination with the Authority's counsel and technical consultants on deal structure and briefing the Authority's own Board as terms evolve.

The staffing on this line is deliberate. It is split evenly between Senior Vice President and Senior Client Advisor time, with no President hours budgeted for routine work — principal-level engagement on this line is drawn from the legislative affairs task when escalation is required.

##### ***Local Regulatory — 35 hours, \$10,900***

Local and county-level approvals — land use entitlements, encroachment and right-of-way matters, and coordination with the local agencies whose jurisdiction the alignment crosses. These are the approvals most often underestimated in pipeline projects because each is small on its own, but any one of them can stall construction. The line is staffed across all three classifications so that routine coordination is handled at the working level while principal time is available for the discretionary approvals that require it.

#### **B. USACE Coordination — 40 hours, \$12,800**

Dedicated coordination with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). USACE involvement has its own schedule, review standards, and points of contact, and it is budgeted separately because it does not track to the permitting sequence. The 40 hours cover preparation for and participation in coordination meetings, response to Corps information requests, and the follow-through required to keep the Authority's submittals moving through a queue the Authority does not control.

#### **C. Pipeline Regulatory Support — 25 hours, \$8,100**

General regulatory support for the pipeline outside the local and Corps tracks: state-level agency coordination, monitoring of regulatory developments that affect the project's approval path, and support to the Authority's technical team in preparing and responding to agency submittals. This is a comparatively modest line because it supports a process led by others; it is budgeted so that the Authority is not without representation when a regulatory issue arises between scheduled milestones.

#### **D. Federal and State Legislative Affairs (Pipeline) — 130 hours, \$41,600**

The largest single line in Project 1, and the one most directly tied to whether the pipeline gets built. It covers advocacy before federal and state elected officials specifically on behalf of the pipeline project, and it encompasses two named work elements:

- Congressionally Directed Spending. Pursuit of a federal appropriations earmark for the project — preparing and submitting the request through the delegation, and sustaining advocacy through the appropriations cycle. The Congressional appropriations calendar does not compress, and a request that is not worked continuously from the submission window through conference does not survive.
- Environmental Mitigation. Legislative and policy engagement on the project's environmental mitigation obligations, including the funding and authorization questions that mitigation requirements raise.

The 130 hours are split evenly between the President and the Senior Vice Presidents. Advocacy at this level is relationship-dependent and is budgeted accordingly. This line, together with the water transfer partner line, represents 69 percent of Project 1 — an intentional concentration of the budget on the two things that determine whether the project proceeds.

| Task / Work Element                                   | Pres.      | Sr. VP     | Sr. Client Adv. | Hours      | Amount           |
|-------------------------------------------------------|------------|------------|-----------------|------------|------------------|
| A. Intergovernmental Affairs — Water Transfer Partner | —          | 50         | 50              | 100        | \$30,000         |
| A. Intergovernmental Affairs — Local Regulatory       | 10         | 15         | 10              | 35         | \$10,900         |
| B. USACE Coordination                                 | 20         | 10         | 10              | 40         | \$12,800         |
| C. Pipeline Regulatory Support                        | 15         | 10         | —               | 25         | \$8,100          |
| D. Federal/State Legislative Affairs (Pipeline)       | 65         | 65         | —               | 130        | \$41,600         |
| <b>Project 1 Total</b>                                | <b>110</b> | <b>150</b> | <b>70</b>       | <b>330</b> | <b>\$103,400</b> |

#### **4. Project 2 — Other Projects Supporting IWVGA**

**370 hours · \$118,000 · 46.2% of the total request**

Project 2 covers the Authority's work outside the pipeline: other infrastructure and management actions in the Authority's portfolio, and sustained state and federal advocacy that protects the Authority's interests and creates funding opportunities across all of them. At \$118,000, it is the largest of the three budget areas, which reflects a simple reality — the Authority's exposure in Sacramento and Washington is continuous and does not pause while a single capital project is in development.

##### **A. Other Infrastructure — 65 hours, \$20,500**

A consolidated line covering governmental affairs support to the Authority's other infrastructure and basin management initiatives. Five work elements are budgeted within it:

- Land Repurposing — policy and agency support for the repurposing of land taken out of production.
- Well Mitigation — support on well mitigation programs and the funding and regulatory questions attached to them.
- Water Recycling — advocacy and agency coordination on recycled water development.
- Systems Consolidation — support for consolidation of water systems within the basin, including the interagency coordination consolidation requires.
- Other Infrastructure — capacity for infrastructure matters that arise during the year and are not separately identified above.

For CY2027, these are budgeted as a single line rather than five individual projects. Over time, effort for these items has become intermittent, and consolidating them lets effort follow whichever initiative is active in a given quarter. The 65 hours should be read as a pooled allocation across the five, not as a commitment of specific hours to each.

#### **B. State Governmental Affairs — 260 hours, \$83,200**

The largest single line item in the entire budget, at 32.6 percent of the total request. It funds the Authority's continuous representation in Sacramento across a full legislative cycle. The hours budgeted are reflective of two legislative proposals requiring significant time and the continuous activity of general lobbying in Sacramento:

- Legislative Proposals. Development and advancement of legislation sought by the Authority — drafting and concept development, securing an author, shepherding a measure through policy and fiscal committees in both houses, coordinating support and responding to opposition, and following through to signature. A single measure carried through a full session is a substantial commitment of hours by itself.
- General State Lobbying. Ongoing monitoring of and response to the state legislative and budget process — tracking measures affecting groundwater sustainability agencies and the Authority in particular, engaging on state budget and bond items that could fund Authority projects, and maintaining the relationships with members, staff, and state agency personnel that make the Authority's positions credible when they are needed.

The 260 hours are divided evenly between the President and Senior Vice Presidents — 130 each, or roughly 11 hours per month per principal. That figure is not evenly distributed in practice; the state legislative calendar concentrates effort heavily in the spring policy committee period and again ahead of the end-of-session and signing deadlines.

#### **C. Federal Governmental Affairs — 45 hours, \$14,300**

General federal advocacy on the Authority's behalf that is not specific to the pipeline: monitoring federal legislation and agency action affecting the basin, maintaining relationships with the congressional delegation and committee staff, and positioning the Authority for federal funding programs as they are authorized and appropriated. This item has been significantly reduced for CY2027, as anticipated, due to much smaller efforts in Washington, D.C.

| Task / Work Element                        | Pres.      | Sr. VP     | Sr. Client Adv. | Hours      | Amount           |
|--------------------------------------------|------------|------------|-----------------|------------|------------------|
| A. Other Infrastructure                    | 25         | 30         | 10              | 65         | \$20,500         |
| B. State Governmental Affairs (Lobbying)   | 130        | 130        | —               | 260        | \$83,200         |
| C. Federal Governmental Affairs (Lobbying) | 20         | 25         | —               | 45         | \$14,300         |
| <b>Project 2 Total</b>                     | <b>175</b> | <b>185</b> | <b>10</b>       | <b>370</b> | <b>\$118,000</b> |

## 5. Project Administration

**107 hours · \$33,820 · 13.3% of the total request**

Administration covers the work of keeping the Board informed and accountable for the engagement. It is budgeted transparently rather than absorbed into project lines, so the Board can see exactly what oversight and reporting cost.

### A. Monthly Board Meetings — 54 hours, \$16,920

Eighteen hours from each of the three classifications across the year — an average of 4.5 hours per month in total, covering two elements:

- Attendance. Participation in the Authority's regular Board meetings, including presentation of legislative and project updates and response to Board questions.
- Materials Preparation. Preparation of the written updates and supporting materials provided in advance of each meeting.

Budgeting all three classifications equally reflects that the full team participates in the Board's regular cycle, which is also the mechanism by which the Board directs the work.

### B. Ad Hoc Reports Requested — 35 hours, \$11,100

A reserve for research, analysis, and written responses requested by the Board or Authority staff outside the regular reporting cycle — a bill analysis on short notice, background on a partner agency's position, a briefing ahead of an unscheduled meeting. This line is what allows those requests to be answered promptly without renegotiating scope each time. If the Board makes fewer such requests in 2027, the hours will simply go unused.

### C. Milestone Reports — 18 hours, \$5,800

Formal written reporting at defined project milestones, documenting progress against the objectives in this budget. This is the accountability mechanism for the engagement: it gives the Board a record, at fixed points during the year, of what was pursued and what was achieved, against which the value of the remaining budget can be judged.

| Task / Work Element       | Pres. | Sr. VP | Sr. Client Adv. | Hours | Amount   |
|---------------------------|-------|--------|-----------------|-------|----------|
| A. Monthly Board Meetings | 18    | 18     | 18              | 54    | \$16,920 |

| Task / Work Element         | Pres.     | Sr. VP    | Sr. Client Adv. | Hours      | Amount          |
|-----------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------------|------------|-----------------|
| B. Ad Hoc Reports Requested | 15        | 15        | 5               | 35         | \$11,100        |
| C. Milestone Reports        | 10        | 6         | 2               | 18         | \$5,800         |
| <b>Administration Total</b> | <b>43</b> | <b>39</b> | <b>25</b>       | <b>107</b> | <b>\$33,820</b> |

## 6. Lobbying Reportability and Compliance Allocation

Because a substantial share of the budgeted work constitutes reportable lobbying activity, the estimated hours have been allocated across three compliance categories. This allocation supports the State and federal lobbying disclosure obligations and allows reportable activity to be identified separately from non-reportable work.

| Category           | Annual Hours | Avg. Hours / Month | Share of Total | Est. Monthly Value |
|--------------------|--------------|--------------------|----------------|--------------------|
| Non-Reportable     | 242          | 20.17              | 30.0%          | \$6,453            |
| Federal Reportable | 215          | 17.92              | 26.6%          | \$5,733            |
| State Reportable   | 350          | 29.17              | 43.4%          | \$9,333            |
| <b>Total</b>       | <b>807</b>   | <b>67.25</b>       | <b>100.0%</b>  | <b>\$21,520</b>    |

Categories are assigned as follows. Non-reportable hours comprise the water transfer partner negotiation, local regulatory work, and all project administration. Federal reportable hours comprise USACE coordination, pipeline federal and state legislative affairs, and general federal governmental affairs. State reportable hours comprise pipeline regulatory support, other infrastructure support, and state governmental affairs.

These amounts are noted as notations on the quarterly invoices.

## 7. Comparison to Fiscal Year 2026

The CY2027 request represents an increase over the current fiscal year, and the Board is entitled to a direct explanation of it. The comparison is set out below.

| Measure                        | CY2026      | CY2027    | Change             |
|--------------------------------|-------------|-----------|--------------------|
| Estimated annual hours         | 870         | 807       | -63 hours (-7.2%)  |
| Estimated value of services    | \$229,350   | \$255,220 | +\$25,870 (+11.3%) |
| Implied blended hourly rate    | \$263.62    | \$316.26  | +\$52.64 (+20.0%)  |
| Actual monthly invoice average | \$15,916.07 | —         | —                  |

## Two main points regarding the budget.

### 7.1 The budget estimate reflects a not-to-exceed contract amount

The milestones and tasks in the budget estimate indicate the number of hours required to complete the project. They do not reflect actual amounts. By way of comparison, the CY2026 Budget estimated a monthly commitment of \$19,112.50 – roughly 72.5 hours/month. Actual invoicing of work in the seven months of 2026 shows an average invoice of \$15,916.07/ month – roughly 60.3 hours/month.

### 7.2 If the Board prefers a retainer structure

Most governmental affairs contracts rely on a flat monthly retainer – estimating the work to be completed during the year averaged over the 12-month period, creating a flat fee for budgeting purposes. **The issue has been explored by Capitol Core and IWVGA's General Manager.** The CY2027 estimate is 507 hours of continuous work (advocacy, board meetings, and milestone reporting) and 300 hours of episodic work (water transfer negotiations, regulatory, USACE, other infrastructure, and ad hoc reporting). The episodic work is entirely trigger-dependent and does not lend itself easily to a retainer structure.

Should the Board wish to consider a retainer fee structure, a hybrid is possible that provides a blended rate monthly flat fee for continuous work and a task-based, not-to-exceed budget for episodic lines. That would create a \$13,200/month retainer with a \$94,878.00 not-to-exceed budget for episodic tasks. Quarterly budget reports can be used to reconcile hours by task against the cap. The difference of (~\$1,942.00) is due to using the blended rate rather than the fixed hourly rate. Fixed retainers over a two-year period with annual escalators, including a maximum cap, can be discussed for a multi-year contract.

|                      | President | Sr. Vice President | Sr. Client Advisor | Task<br>Total Hours | Task<br>Budget Request |
|----------------------|-----------|--------------------|--------------------|---------------------|------------------------|
| Hourly Rate          | \$ 340.00 | \$ 300.00          | \$ 300.00          |                     |                        |
| Total Estimated 2027 |           |                    |                    | 807                 | \$ 255,220.00          |

**PROJECT 1: WATER REPLENISHMENT PIPELINE**

|                                                 |     |     |    |     |               |
|-------------------------------------------------|-----|-----|----|-----|---------------|
| A: Intergovernmental Affairs                    |     |     |    |     |               |
| Water Transfer Partner                          |     | 50  | 50 | 100 | \$ 30,000.00  |
| Local Regulatory                                | 10  | 15  | 10 | 35  | \$ 10,900.00  |
| B: USACE Coordination                           | 20  | 10  | 10 | 40  | \$ 12,800.00  |
| C: Pipeline Regulatory Support                  | 15  | 10  |    | 25  | \$ 8,100.00   |
| D: Federal/State Legislative Affairs (Pipeline) | 65  | 65  |    | 130 | \$ 41,600.00  |
| Congressionally Directed Spending               |     |     |    |     |               |
| Environmental Mitigation                        |     |     |    |     |               |
| Project Totals                                  | 110 | 150 | 70 | 330 | \$ 103,400.00 |

**PROJECT 2: OTHER PROJECTS SUPPORTING IWVGA**

|                                            |     |     |    |     |               |
|--------------------------------------------|-----|-----|----|-----|---------------|
| A: Other Infrastructure                    | 25  | 30  | 10 | 65  | \$ 20,500.00  |
| Land Repurposing                           |     |     |    |     |               |
| Well Mitigation                            |     |     |    |     |               |
| Water Recycling                            |     |     |    |     |               |
| Systems Consolidation                      |     |     |    |     |               |
| Other Infrastructure                       |     |     |    |     |               |
| B: State Governmental Affairs (Lobbying)   | 130 | 130 |    | 260 | \$ 83,200.00  |
| Legislative Proposals                      |     |     |    |     |               |
| General State Lobbying                     |     |     |    |     |               |
| C: Federal Governmental Affairs (Lobbying) | 20  | 25  |    | 45  | \$ 14,300.00  |
| General Federal Lobbying                   |     |     |    |     |               |
| Project Totals:                            | 175 | 185 | 10 | 370 | \$ 118,000.00 |

**PROJECT ADMINISTRATION**

|                             |    |    |    |     |              |
|-----------------------------|----|----|----|-----|--------------|
| A: Monthly Board Meetings   | 18 | 18 | 18 | 54  | \$ 16,920.00 |
| Attendance                  |    |    |    |     |              |
| Materials Prep.             |    |    |    |     |              |
| B: Ad Hoc Reports Requested | 15 | 15 | 5  | 35  | \$ 11,100.00 |
| C: Milestone Reports        | 10 | 6  | 2  | 18  | \$ 5,800.00  |
| Administration Totals:      | 43 | 39 | 25 | 107 | \$ 33,820.00 |

|                    | Annual<br>Hours | Avg. Hrs.<br>Per Mo. | Total<br>Budget | Avg. Monthly | FY2026<br>Ann. Hrs | FY2026<br>Est. Budget | FY2026<br>Avg. Mo. | Retainer<br>Mo. |
|--------------------|-----------------|----------------------|-----------------|--------------|--------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| Total Budget       | 807             | 67                   | \$ 255,220.00   | \$ 21,268.33 | 870                | \$ 229,350.00         | \$ 15,916.07       |                 |
|                    |                 |                      |                 |              |                    |                       | \$ 16,000.00       | \$ 192,000.00   |
| Estimated          |                 |                      |                 |              |                    |                       |                    |                 |
| Non-Reportable     | 242             | 20.2                 |                 | \$ 6,453.33  |                    |                       |                    |                 |
| Federal Reportable | 215             | 17.9                 |                 | \$ 5,733.33  |                    |                       |                    |                 |
| State Reportable   | 350             | 29.2                 |                 | \$ 9,333.33  |                    |                       |                    |                 |

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## Addendum C – 2027 Scope of Work

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### **PROJECT UNDERSTANDING**

Westbound Communications has been supporting the Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority since November 2024 with public outreach related counsel and strategy. In the years since beginning work, Westbound has shared professional counsel, and coordinated messaging, media relations, a new website and related content, event support and social media posts (including the launch of a Facebook page).

In support of its state mandate to ensure groundwater feasibility in the Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Basin service area, IWVGA has collaborated with Westbound to better inform residents and stakeholders about the importance of its Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP). Our work together has refuted misinformation about the GSP through a more consumer-friendly website, updated FAQs, a series of press releases and bylined articles, event support, social media posts, and some paid media. We have also supported communications needs behind legislation that would strengthen groundwater security.

Moving into 2027, Westbound will continue its collaboration with the Authority and continue to integrate recommendations set forth in the Communications & Engagement (C&E) Plan shared by the IWVGA Policy Advisory Committee (PAC). These recommendations, revised and accepted by IWVGA in 2022, reinforce two key responsibilities as they pertain to public outreach:

1. To continually alert and notify stakeholders of the status of groundwater and the actions being taken to reach sustainability; and
2. To provide stakeholders with opportunities to obtain information and to engage in the implementation of the Groundwater Sustainability Plan.

### **GOAL**

Educate affected public and stakeholders on why IWVGA is the trusted and credible voice on matters concerning the Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Basin, and by doing so, support its legal counsel in adjudication efforts.

## **OBJECTIVES:**

Behind the goal of solidifying public opinion in support of the IWVGA and its Groundwater Sustainability Plan are the following objectives:

1. Provide clear, persuasive information about the Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority and the Groundwater Sustainability Plan that debunk any false narratives and misinformation.
2. Position IWVGA as a trusted source for facts on matters related to the Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Basin.
3. Help the community understand the importance of the imported water project.
4. As necessary, support communication efforts behind proposed state legislation that would strengthen the goals of the State Groundwater Management Authority (SGMA), the IWVGA and its GSP.
5. Establish benchmarks for Facebooks followers and engagement, as well as website visits.

## **TARGET AUDIENCES**

- The citizens, ratepayers and businesses within Indian Wells Valley, with particular focus on the ratepayers of the Indian Wells Valley Water District.
- Military service members, support staff, contractors and their dependents associated with the U.S. Naval Air Weapons Station China Lake.
- Landowners and farmers primarily in the unincorporated areas of the region.
- Elected officials, policy makers and staff associated with Indian Wells Valley water issues.

## **STRATEGIES AND TACTICS**

The following deliverables are proposed as a continuum of work from 2026 and reflect and incorporate engagement tools and communication methods suggested by the PAC in their 2022 C&E Plan.

1. **Maintain and contribute content to the new website**, ensuring a more intuitive user experience. The website serves as a searchable depository and archive to key documents, as well as board meeting information, agendas/packets and videos of prior meetings; updated Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs); information for well registration and fees; newsroom; links to the GSP website and access to GSP documents; newsletter signup; and more.

2. Continue active **News Bureau** which distributes news announcements, statements and opinion editorials to both regional and statewide media on matters related to both litigation and legislation.
3. Manage **social media calendar** for consistent weekly posts on the Authority's Facebook page. Posts reflect news from the IWWGA, Board Meeting information, facts about the GSP, and commentary on relevant water and groundwater basin matters. Produce quarterly metrics reporting against benchmarks.
4. Develop a series of **infographics and a supporting photo library** that can help "show not tell" the message behind the GSP to residents.
5. Create up to two more **Fact Sheets** that can be posted on the IWWGA website and distributed at public meetings that help share the story behind groundwater management.
6. Continue to build **master database** of persons interested in staying informed on the mission behind IWWGA. This stakeholder list includes past and present board members and key staff; PAC members; City of Ridgecrest electeds, staff, and leadership behind relevant city departments; and NGOs (e.g., Chamber of Commerce); regional or state electeds, staff or policymakers; engaged residents; other miscellaneous stakeholder.
  - a. Launch a **quarterly newsletter** to this database in 2027.
7. Periodically use **paid media**, in the forms of ads with the Daily Independent or geofenced digital or social media ads, to share specific news and information to Ridgecrest residents.
8. Assist in planning and staffing for a **second public meeting** related to matters pertaining to the GSP.
9. Secure **membership in Ridgecrest Chamber of Commerce** and determine opportunities for active involvement at selected chamber functions.
10. Share ongoing **counsel and message development** for the IWWGA Board and staff as needed

#### **WESTBOUND AND IWWGA PUBLIC OUTREACH COMMITTEE**

Westbound Communications personnel in 2026 are General Manager Christopher Perez, Vice President Robert Chevez and Account Supervisor Allie Duran.

Westbound reports to a public outreach sub-committee of the IWWGA that includes IWWGA Director April Keigwin; Leigh Ann Cook, representing Kern County; and Travis Reed, representing the City of Ridgecrest. Also on the committee is Michael McKinney, president of Capitol Core. All activity on behalf of public outreach is reviewed and approved by April Keigwin and committee members before distribution, and when necessary, includes legal counsel.

## REPORTING AND EVALUATION

New in 2026, Westbound provides a monthly outreach activity update for Board members in advance of meetings. An activity report is also provided monthly as part of Westbound's invoice packet, summarizing work completed on behalf of IWVGA, and a year-end summary report is completed by January 31 for the prior year. Ongoing evaluation is provided primarily as output measurement and includes an ongoing media Coverage Book summarizing all media placements.

## BUDGET

The Scope of Work and proposed budget is based on a combined hourly rate of \$240 and is billed as time recorded.

| Public Outreach Tasks                                                                                                                                                        | Unit                                       | Total                        |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Deliverables as outlined above.<br>Work is fluid depending on outreach needs. Time is recorded by the quarter-hour and billed monthly, not to exceed \$15,000 for any month. | Hourly against monthly fee cap of \$15,000 | \$180,000<br>(not to exceed) |
| Other Direct Costs                                                                                                                                                           |                                            |                              |
| Monthly agency tech fee of \$395; plus digital advertising, creative design and mileage, as requested *                                                                      | As quoted, and not to exceed               | \$15,000<br>(not to exceed)  |
| Total                                                                                                                                                                        |                                            | \$ 195,000                   |

*\*Expenses are itemized, and individual items require client approval (via email) over \$200*

### Contact Information

Legal name of firm: Westbound Communications, Inc.

Address: 3649 Mission Inn Avenue, First Floor Rotunda, Riverside, CA 92501

Firm point of contact: Christopher Perez, Partner,

Office phone – (951) 462-1106

Email – cperez@westboundcommunications.com

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## IWVGA ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

### *STAFF REPORT*

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**TO:** IWVGA Board Members

**DATE:** September 9, 2026

**FROM:** IWVGA Staff

**SUBJECT:** Agenda Item 10 – Development of an Unanticipated Residential Water Use Relief Program

#### **Background:**

Staff is proposing the development of an Unanticipated Residential Water Use Relief Program (Program). The Program's goal is to provide limited billing relief to residential customers who experience an unplanned, unanticipated, and unusual water-use event. Such events may include concealed leaks, broken residential water lines, and/or similar circumstances resulting in an unusual, one-time increase in water use.

Since these events do not reflect ongoing water demand requirements that require long-term imported water supply replenishment, it would be appropriate to consider re-moving these events from the method used to calculate an entity's import water needs.

The Program will allow a limited amount of water to be credited to the public water purveyor for verified residential water losses incurred by customers who pay replenishment fees, supporting an adjustment to the replenishment fees associated with the qualifying water use. Presently, the Indian Wells Valley Water District (IWVWD) is the only public water purveyor that is pumping groundwater in excess of its credits and/or has not obtained an alternative supply. The other largest public water purveyors are and have been operating within their pumping credits. If, and when, these public water purveyors also exceed their pumping credits, they will also qualify for this Program.

#### **Discussion:**

Based on preliminary information, staff estimates that approximately three acre-feet of water per year may be appropriate for IWVWD credits under this Program. This estimate will be verified through a review of historical and available residential loss reports provided by IWVWD, and brought to the IWVGA Board for final approval in the form a Program Resolution.

Staff has considered the proposed Program and determined that it will not cause or contribute to undesirable results within the Basin because the use is temporary and the total potential credit amounts to less than .0004% of the Basin sustainable yield.

IWVGA would continue to account for and monitor the credit as part of its groundwater sustainability responsibilities.

IWVGA and IWVWD staff will work together to develop the program's eligibility standards, documentation requirements, administrative procedures, reporting requirements, and safe yield accounting process. Anticipated program guidelines include:

- Eligibility limited to residential customers who pay replenishment fees because of the covered event;
- Verified qualification of unplanned, unanticipated, and unusual residential water-use;
- Documentation verifying the cause and amount of the water loss;
- Confirmation that the underlying issue has been repaired or resolved;
- A limitation of one adjustment per property owner, per property;
- A method for calculating the qualifying replenishment fee credit;
- IWVWD recordkeeping and reporting requirements; and
- Procedures for tracking use of the safe yield credit.

Authorization of this item would allow staff to begin developing the program with IWVWD. It would not establish the final sustainable yield credit, approve customer adjustments, or immediately implement the program. The completed program and recommended implementation guidelines will be brought back to the IWVGA Board for final consideration and approval.

#### **Future Applicability to Other Public Water Purveyors:**

Although IWVWD is currently the only public water purveyor needing additional credits, the program may be made available to another public water purveyor if it becomes eligible in the future. Any additional public water purveyor would be subject to the same eligibility, verification, reporting, and implementation guidelines.

The amount of sustainable yield credited to each participating public water purveyor will be determined separately and proportionally based on factors including the purveyor's total groundwater production and the number of residential properties served by its water system. Participation by an additional public water purveyor, including its proposed sustainable yield credit, would be subject to IWVGA review and approval. For explanation purposes, the Inyo-Kern CSD has roughly .01% of the number of connections that the IWVWD so its odds of a loss are far less likely per connection but the actual water loss would be very similar as a home water leak would be an equivalent loss regardless of the purveyor.

#### **Fiscal Impact:**

The immediate fiscal impact would be limited to staff time spent coordinating with IWVWD to develop the proposed program. Staff will evaluate any potential fiscal impacts to the IWVGA before presenting the completed program to the Board for consideration.

**Recommended Action:**

Authorize staff to work with IWVWD to develop the Unanticipated Residential Water Use Relief Program and return to the IWVGA Board with a recommended sustainable yield credit, final program framework, and implementation guidelines for consideration and approval. Staff is requesting authorization to begin working with IWVWD to further evaluate the concept and determine how such a program could be developed. Any proposed program details would be brought back to the IWVGA Board for future consideration and approval.

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# IWVGA ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

*STAFF REPORT*

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**TO:** IWVGA Board Members **DATE:** September 9, 2026

**FROM:** IWVGA Water Resources Manager

**SUBJECT: AGENDA ITEM 11 – WATER RESOURCES MANAGER’S REPORT**

## **AGENDA ITEM 11a – GRANT FUNDING UPDATE**

### SGMA Implementation Round 1 Update

- Invoice #13
  - Covers July 2025 to September 2025
  - Total requested payment: \$32,759.14
  - Status: Submitted to DWR, awaiting payment.
- Invoice #14
  - Covers October 2025 to December 2025
  - Total requested payment: \$377,862.25
  - Status: Submitted to DWR, awaiting payment.
- Invoice #15 (Final)
  - Covers January 2026 to March 2026
  - Total requested payment: \$753,756.64
  - Status: Submitted to DWR, received payment.
- Grant Completion Report submitted to DWR on December 31, 2025
- Received final Closeout Letter from DWR on August 27, 2026 that contractual obligations under the grant have been fulfilled and DWR will provide final payments

### EPA Resiliency Grant

- Reimbursement Request No. 1
  - Covers June 30, 2025 through December 31, 2025
  - Total requested payment: \$285,461.31
  - Status: Payment received
- Reimbursement Request No. 2
  - Covers July 1, 2025 through May 31, 2026
  - Total requested payment: \$179,784.61
  - Status: Submitted to EPA, pending review

### Urban Community Drought Relief Program Update

- The IWVGA has been awarded \$3,345,000 to consolidate shallow well system(s) into a public water system.
  - Rademacher consolidation currently underway
  - Stark Street consolidation development underway

- Invoice #7
  - Covers July 2025 to September 2025
  - Total requested payment: \$15,080.72
  - Status: Submitted to DWR, received payment.
- Invoice #8
  - Covers October 2025 to December 2025
  - Total requested payment: \$9,247.50
  - Status: Submitted to DWR, received payment.
- Invoice #9
  - Covers January 2026 to March 2026
  - Total requested payment: \$20,694.47
  - Status: Submitted to DWR, payment received.

## **AGENDA ITEM 11b – GSP IMPLEMENTATION PROJECTS/MANAGEMENT ACTION UPDATES**

### **Imported Water Project**

- Imported Water Pipeline Design Services
  - Continuing coordination with BLM for a Special Use Permit for pipeline construction
    - August 27, 2026: Monthly BLM Coordination Meeting with Project's Planning Development Team (Authority Staff, WRM Staff, all Project planning consultants)
  - August 6 and 20, 2026: Coordination meeting regarding scour design approach
  - August 6, 2026: Coordination meeting regarding GIS
  - August 14, 2026: Coordination meeting with the Planning Development Team regarding the project planning and construction schedule
  - August 20, 2026: Monthly Planning Development Team coordination meeting to discuss Project status and strategy
  - Finalizing matrix to determine proposed risk and mitigation for scour
  - Updating construction cost estimate and construction schedule
  - Continuing ongoing coordination with Caltrans, California Department of Parks and Recreation (Cal Parks), and Southern California Edison (SCE)
    - August 19, 2026: Regular coordination meeting with SCE
      - SCE Staff continuing design of the powerlines between Pump Station No. 2 and Pump Station No. 3
      - Coordinating meeting with SCE Public Affairs to structure SCE Project Team with IWVGA Project Team
    - Coordinating meeting with Cal Trans to discuss temporary and permanent access routes off Hwy 395 and the Hwy 395 jack and bore crossing.
      - Coordinating finalization of the location of the Hwy 395 crossing
  - Blue Mountain completed review of 60% plans and is now continuing to review draft current progress print Design Plans
  - Next Steps:
    - Prepare 90% Design Level Submittal
      - Incorporate additional Southern California Edison power infrastructure into design plans after Southern California Edison provides preliminary design for power infrastructure

- Update the following drafts after analyzing updated Antelope Valley East Kern Water Agency and Kennedy Jenks hydraulic modeling results, as needed:
      - Tank Technical Memorandum
      - Electrical Systems and Instrumentation and Controls Tank Technical Memorandum
      - Refined System Hydraulics and Transient Mitigation Analysis Tank Technical Memorandum
      - Draft Mechanical Pump Selection Technical Memorandum
    - Provide the updated Preliminary Permitting Requirements Technical Memorandum
    - Provide Draft Corrosion Design Technical Memorandum
    - Create integrated GIS platform for design, environmental, and ROW components for the Project
  - Next Milestones
    - Provide 90% Design Submittal after completing the Next Steps above
    - Provide 100% Design Submittal
- Imported Water Pipeline Environmental Services
  - Coordination Meetings
    - August 14, 2026: Coordination meeting with the Planning Development Team regarding the project planning and construction schedule
    - August 20, 2026: Monthly Planning Development Team coordination meeting to discuss Project status and strategy
    - August 27, 2026: Monthly coordination meeting with BLM, IWVGA Staff, WRM Staff and Consultants
      - Coordinating with BLM to obtain field work authorization for cultural survey
        - Kickoff meeting with BLM Cultural team scheduled for August 26, 2026
        - Survey authorization estimated for mid-September
    - Continued to engage with SCE environmental staff and the Project's design consultant on the potential requirements for incorporating the new SCE infrastructure into the Environmental documents
  - Scheduled to complete remaining desert tortoise surveys during cultural surveys
    - Updating Biological Resource Reports per completion of surveys
  - Finalizing updated Project Description for Draft EA/EIR per IWVGA comments
  - Updating Project Planning Schedule with Program Manager
  - Coordinating finalization of the location of the Hwy 395 crossing with Design consultant for consideration into the EA/ EIR
  - Draft EA/ EIR joint document to be updated per additional SCE components
  - Draft Biological Evaluation to be updated for additional SCE components
  - Draft Biological Assessment to be updated for additional SCE component
  - Air Quality, Greenhouse Gas, Energy, and Noise reports to be updated for additional SCE components
  - Next Steps:
    - Incorporate additional SCE components into EA/EIR after design plans include SCE preliminary design for power infrastructure
    - Provide updated schedule after SCE provides preliminary design to

- Design consultants
    - Provide draft EA for 45- day Public Comment Period after incorporating SCE into EA/EIR
  - Next Milestones:
    - Provide Final EA/ EIR
- Imported Water Pipeline Right-of-Way Services
  - August 14, 2026: Coordination meeting with the Planning Development Team regarding the project planning and construction schedule
  - August 20, 2026: Monthly Planning Development Team coordination meeting to discuss Project status and strategy
  - August 27, 2026: Monthly BLM Coordination Meeting with Project's Planning Development Team (Authority Staff, WRM Staff, all Project planning consultants)
  - Continuing Acquisition Services Task, Preliminary Title Report and Appraisal Report tasks
    - Coordinating plats and legal descriptions with Design team
      - Continuing to coordinate GIS platform
    - Coordinating priority list of acquisition
      - GFT reviewing Preliminary Title Report s for coordination with BLM/Caltrans
  - Next Milestone:
    - Provide a final Right of Way Acquisition Plan
    - Complete plats and legal descriptions
- Blue Mountain Development (BMD) Program Management Services
  - Project coordination meetings:
    - August 27, 2026: Monthly BLM Coordination Meeting with Project's Planning Development Team (Authority Staff, WRM Staff, all Project planning consultants)
    - August 6 and 20, 2026: Coordination meeting regarding scour design approach
    - August 6, 2026: Coordination meeting regarding GIS
    - August 14, 2026: Coordination meeting with the Planning Development Team regarding the project planning and construction schedule
    - August 19, 2026: Regular coordination meeting with SCE
    - August 20, 2026: Monthly Planning Development Team coordination meeting to discuss Project status and strategy
  - BMD identifying risk factors with focus on technical, environmental, regulatory, fiscal, project phasing, and schedule impacts
    - Evaluating completeness of environmental documents prior to publication relative to current design technical issues, construction phasing, and long term operations.
      - Internal BLM Comment Review – Completed
      - Independent Review – In progress
      - Updated Draft Document – Anticipated in Fall 2026
    - Key biological surveys partly completed and under way. Work under way integrates current design, SCE alignment, and BLM requirements
      - Sensitive Habitat Biological Surveys – Completed
      - Sensitive Species Surveys – Completed

- Cultural Surveys – Anticipated to begin in September 2026 and complete in late 2026 after completion of Project Description
  - Evaluating current design technical issues including AVEK connection, terminus receiving tank, scour issues, Caltrans crossing, and SCE power distribution for lift stations.
    - Caltrans Crossing & Alignment – Conceptual approach being coordinated with District 9 staff
    - SCE Programing – Initial overall matrix of requirements being developed to bring senior management level coordination for design of line extensions and connections.
  - Evaluating property acquisition strategy integrating construction phasing, and appropriation annual funding
    - Right of Way Strategy – Initial overall matrix of locations and required steps to complete acquisition, easement, or license agreement being developed.
    - Initial Property Rights Verification – Selected key locations of properties being verified for representative underlying rights for upcoming review with BLM, Kern County, and Caltrans.
    - Updated Baseline Schedule Development – Fully integrated schedule for environmental, engineering, permits, and right of way acquisition.
  - BMD coordinating final central project document repository
  - Coordinating agreement with AVEK: Framework of Agreement under way with development of Term Sheet for review
  - Coordinating meeting between EPA and BLM for a discussion regarding NEPA requirements pursuant to the EPA’s involvement in the Project through the EPA Resiliency Grant after the Project Description is complete
  - Next Steps:
    - Finalize Consolidated Program Management Schedule
- National Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Drinking Water System Infrastructure Resilience and Sustainability Program (Resiliency Grant)
  - In August 2024, the EPA announced their grant of \$2.79 million to the IWVGA for Imported Water Project planning activities
  - Grant will be used as additional funding to complete planning tasks
  - Performance Evaluation No. 1 submitted to EPA on January 30, 2026.
  - Performance Evaluation No. 2 submitted to EPA on July 31, 2026.
  - Preparation of Annual Federal Financial Report currently underway and due to EPA on September 30.
  - First reimbursement request submitted and approved.
  - Preparation of second reimbursement request underway.
- US Army Corps of Engineers Planning Assistance to States (PAS) Program
  - BMD following up on USACE’s review of the Section 8119 Waiver request to provide full funding provided under Section 8119 of WRDA 2022 for Disadvantaged Communities

## Shallow Well Mitigation Program

There are currently no active applications.

### **AGENDA ITEM 11c – CONSOLIDATION PROJECTS**

- The IWVGA has been awarded \$3,345,000 to consolidate shallow well system(s) into a public water system.
- Two consolidation projects, Rademacher Way and Stark Street, have been identified and are currently in the process of being implemented.
- Remaining grant funds after submittal of Progress Report 10: \$2,969,338.82
- Right-of-Way consultants
  - Contract Service Agreement executed
- Request for Amendment to Grant Agreement underway
  - Request for grant deadline extension

#### **Rademacher Way**

- Phase 1 complete
  - Two properties hooked up to completed pipeline
- Phase 2 design completed and approved by Division of Drinking Water
- Phase 2 construction pending obtainment of easements
- \$15,000 approved from Shallow Well Mitigation Program to fund meter-to-house connections.

#### **Stark Street**

- IWVWD Reimbursement Agreement executed.
- Emergency LAFCO process underway
- CEQA exemption filed as part of Dune 3
- Dune 3 bidding approved by State
- Self-Help sent out letters to Stark Street residents on hauled water delivery end date
- Notice of Consolidation letter for Stark Street residents sent out week of June 1

### **AGENDA ITEM 11d – MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS**

#### **Data Collection and Monitoring**

- Stetson, the Navy, and KCWA performed Spring 2026 water level measurement field work during week of March 9.
- Data from Spring 2026 water level measurements are being processed.
- Additional monitoring location involving a City of Ridgecrest detention pond adjacent to Little Lake fault was reviewed and determined to not be a priority data gap project.
- Staff have prepared a technical memo on potential monitoring locations and priority for potential funding opportunities.
- On August 4, staff sent letters requesting access to two Navy property wells to add to the groundwater monitoring network
  - Navy granted GA access to monitor a former environmental site, nested monitoring well (TTIWV-MW01). The GA's request for monitoring access to an abandoned well near the Navy's Pacific Missile Test Center (PMTTC) site has been denied.
- Fall 2026 water level measurement and groundwater sampling event is scheduled for first week of September.

### Subflow from Rose Valley to IWV

- Ongoing work with BLM regarding Cultural Survey and Permitting for second monitoring well
- Next steps: (1) obtain BLM concurrence on the scope of the cultural/archeological field survey, (2) conduct a cultural/archeological field survey, and (3) BLM Right-of-Way grant
- Periodic correspondence with BLM regarding delayed authorization of archeological survey at proposed RVS-2 well site.
- Continued coordination with BLM on permit to install next RVS Monitoring Well
  - In late October, the new BLM Archeologist, Liz Gonzalez Negrete, contacted Stetson regarding next steps on authorization to complete archeological field survey.
    - BLM requested an updated Request for Work Authorization via email and committed to moving the project forward
    - Updated Request for Work Authorization submitted to BLM
  - Epsilon met with BLM to discuss the planned archaeological survey to be scheduled
  - Following meeting with Epsilon and BLM, permit materials and supporting documents were provided.
  - On July 20, Epsilon received Fieldwork Authorization from BLM for the cultural resources inventory
- Epsilon's contract is being renewed for fieldwork, pending receipt of information regarding new wells drilled by the IWVWD near Little Lake.
- Navy/Coso contract for completing RVS Monitoring Well project deadline is August 31, 2026.
  - A no-cost deadline extension has been requested, awaiting Navy signature for execution.
- Reimbursement of RVS-1 well underway
  - Need to cancel "Grants Voucher" submitted in January 2024
  - Grants Voucher rejected by Navy on February 4, 2026
  - Invoice for RVS-1 to be resubmitted for reimbursement
    - Navy requested reimbursement for full amount to be submitted upon project completion.

### **ACTION(S) REQUIRED BY THE BOARD**

There are no actions required by the Board.

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BUDGET TO ACTUAL REPORT

| ACTUALS BY REVENUE ALLOCATION |                                                                       |                          |                      |                |                       |                 |            |                         |      |             |            |           |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|----------------|-----------------------|-----------------|------------|-------------------------|------|-------------|------------|-----------|
|                               |                                                                       | Restricted<br>Extraction | Restricted<br>Second | Restricted     | Restricted<br>Shallow | Restricted      | Restricted | Restricted<br>Navy/COSO | \$   | (A-B)<br>\$ | (B/A)<br>% |           |
|                               |                                                                       | ORIGINAL                 | Transient Pool       | Transient Pool | Augmentation          | Well Mitigation | SGMA IP    | EPA Grant               | Fund | Total       | REMAINING  | COMPLETED |
| 1                             | REVENUE                                                               |                          |                      |                |                       |                 |            |                         |      |             |            |           |
| 2                             | Extraction Fee - Restricted                                           | 900,000                  | 182,297              | -              | -                     | -               | -          | -                       | -    | 182,297     | 717,703    | 20%       |
| 3                             | Transfer In/Loan from Augmentation Fund                               | 570,230                  | -                    | -              | -                     | -               | -          | -                       | -    | -           | 570,230    | 0%        |
| 4                             | Prior Year Fund Balance                                               |                          | -                    | -              | -                     | -               | -          | -                       | -    | -           | -          | 0%        |
| 5                             | Augmentation Fee                                                      | 3,243,315                | -                    | -              | 4,719                 | -               | -          | -                       | -    | 4,719       | 3,238,596  | 0%        |
| 6                             | Transfer In/Loan Repayment from Extraction Fund                       | -                        | -                    | -              | -                     | -               | -          | -                       | -    | -           | -          | 0%        |
| 7                             | Shallow Well Mitigation Fee                                           | 115,000                  | -                    | -              | -                     | 16,888          | -          | -                       | -    | 16,888      | 98,112     | 15%       |
| 8                             | Second Transient Pool Fee - Unrestricted                              | 633,000                  | -                    | -              | -                     | -               | -          | -                       | -    | -           | 633,000    | 0%        |
| 9                             | Department of Water Resources (DWR) Grants -IP Grant                  | 249,500                  | -                    | -              | -                     | -               | -          | -                       | -    | -           | 249,500    | 0%        |
| 10                            | Urban Community Drought Relief Grant Program                          | 2,117,200                | -                    | -              | -                     | -               | -          | -                       | -    | -           | 2,117,200  | 0%        |
| 11                            | EPA Resilience Grant                                                  | 1,889,860                | -                    | -              | -                     | -               | -          | -                       | -    | -           | 1,889,860  | 0%        |
| 12                            | Navy/COSO Royalty Fund                                                | 151,000                  | -                    | -              | -                     | -               | -          | -                       | -    | -           | 151,000    | 0%        |
| 13                            | Miscellaneous Revenue                                                 | -                        | -                    | -              | -                     | -               | -          | -                       | -    | -           | -          | 0%        |
| 14                            |                                                                       |                          |                      |                |                       |                 |            |                         |      |             |            | 0%        |
| 15                            | TOTAL REVENUES                                                        | 9,869,105                | 182,297              | -              | 4,719                 | 16,888          | -          | -                       | -    | 203,905     | 9,665,200  | 2%        |
| 16                            | EXPENSES                                                              |                          |                      |                |                       |                 |            |                         |      |             |            |           |
| 17                            | Administration                                                        |                          |                      |                |                       |                 |            |                         |      |             |            |           |
| 18                            | Administration (RGS)                                                  | 340,000                  | 83,616               |                | 83,616                | -               | -          | -                       | -    | 167,232     | 172,768    | 49%       |
| 19                            | Office Rent (City of Ridgecrest)                                      | 3,600                    | -                    |                | -                     | -               | -          | -                       | -    | -           | 3,600      | 0%        |
| 20                            | Office Supplies                                                       | 1,000                    | 41                   |                | 41                    | -               | -          | -                       | -    | 83          | 917        | 8%        |
| 21                            | Postage and Delivery                                                  | 360                      | -                    |                | -                     | -               | -          | -                       | -    | -           | 360        | 0%        |
| 22                            | External Audit                                                        | 18,500                   | -                    |                | -                     | -               | -          | -                       | -    | -           | 18,500     | 0%        |
| 23                            | Council Chambers/IT Services (City of Ridgecrest)                     | 2,500                    | 132,266              |                | -                     | -               | -          | -                       | -    | 132,266     | (129,766)  | 5291%     |
| 24                            | General Counsel (Aleshire & Wynder/City of Ridgecrest)                | 428,000                  | 230,089              |                | -                     | -               | -          | -                       | -    | 230,089     | 197,911    | 54%       |
| 25                            | Additional Legal Services (Aleshire & Wynder/City of Ridgecrest)      | 60,000                   | 576                  |                | -                     | -               | -          | -                       | -    | 576         | 59,424     | 1%        |
| 26                            | Additional Legal Services-Imported Water Pipeline (Aleshire & Wynder) | -                        | -                    |                | -                     | -               | -          | -                       | -    | -           | -          | 0%        |
| 27                            | Insurance Premium                                                     | 20,000                   | 21,601               |                | -                     | -               | -          | -                       | -    | 21,601      | (1,601)    | 108%      |
| 28                            | Legal Notices (Daily Independent)                                     | 2,000                    | -                    |                | -                     | -               | -          | -                       | -    | -           | 2,000      | 0%        |
| 29                            | Memberships (Cal. Assoc.Mutual Water Co)                              | 100                      | -                    |                | -                     | -               | -          | -                       | -    | -           | 100        | 0%        |
| 30                            | Printing and Reproduction                                             | -                        | -                    |                | -                     | -               | -          | -                       | -    | -           | -          | 0%        |
| 31                            | Bank Service Charges                                                  | 100                      | -                    |                | -                     | -               | -          | -                       | -    | -           | 100        | 0%        |
| 32                            |                                                                       |                          |                      |                |                       |                 |            |                         |      |             | -          | 0%        |
| 33                            | Non-Departmental                                                      |                          |                      |                |                       |                 |            |                         |      |             | -          | 0%        |
| 34                            | Other Legal Services (RWG Law)                                        | 1,500,000                | -                    |                | 390,231               | -               | -          | -                       | -    | 390,231     | 1,109,769  | 26%       |
| 35                            | Lobbying Services (Capitol Core)                                      | 229,350                  | 5,384                |                | 71,297                | -               | -          | -                       | -    | 76,681      | 152,669    | 33%       |
| 36                            | Other Professional Services (Garrison Brothers)                       | -                        | -                    |                | -                     | -               | -          | -                       | -    | -           | -          | 0%        |
| 37                            | California State Lands Commission                                     | 140                      | -                    |                | -                     | -               | -          | -                       | -    | -           | 140        | 0%        |
| 38                            | Miscellaneous- IWVWD Grant Repayment                                  | -                        | -                    |                | -                     | -               | -          | -                       | -    | -           | -          | 0%        |
| 39                            | Repayment of City of Ridgecrest In-Kind Services                      | 132,270                  |                      |                | -                     | -               | -          | -                       | -    | -           | 132,270    | 0%        |
| 40                            | Transfer Out from Second Transient Pool                               | 570,230                  | -                    |                | -                     | -               | -          | -                       | -    | -           | 570,230    | 0%        |
| 41                            | Transfer Out/Loan to Extraction Fund                                  | -                        | -                    |                | -                     | -               | -          | -                       | -    | -           | -          | 0%        |
| 42                            |                                                                       |                          |                      |                |                       |                 |            |                         |      |             |            | 0%        |
| 43                            | Community Engagement                                                  |                          |                      |                |                       |                 |            |                         |      |             |            | 0%        |
| 44                            | Design Services                                                       | 180,000                  | -                    |                | 42,862                | -               | -          | -                       | -    | 42,862      | 137,138    | 24%       |
| 45                            | Printing and Reproduction                                             | 10,000                   | -                    |                | -                     | -               | -          | -                       | -    | -           | 10,000     | 0%        |
| 46                            | Website Services                                                      | -                        | -                    |                | -                     | -               | -          | -                       | -    | -           | -          | 0%        |
| 47                            | Website                                                               | 315                      | -                    |                | -                     | -               | -          | -                       | -    | -           | 315        | 0%        |
| 48                            |                                                                       |                          |                      |                |                       |                 |            |                         |      |             |            | 0%        |
| 49                            |                                                                       |                          |                      |                |                       |                 |            |                         |      |             |            |           |
| 50                            |                                                                       |                          |                      |                |                       |                 |            |                         |      |             |            |           |

BUDGET TO ACTUAL REPORT

| ACTUALS BY REVENUE ALLOCATION |                                                                            |                          |                      |                |                       |                 |            |                         |      |             |            |           |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|----------------|-----------------------|-----------------|------------|-------------------------|------|-------------|------------|-----------|
|                               |                                                                            | Restricted<br>Extraction | Restricted<br>Second | Restricted     | Restricted<br>Shallow | Restricted      | Restricted | Restricted<br>Navy/COSO | \$   | (A-B)<br>\$ | (B/A)<br>% |           |
|                               |                                                                            | ORIGINAL                 | Transient Pool       | Transient Pool | Augmentation          | Well Mitigation | SGMA IP    | EPA Grant               | Fund | Total       | REMAINING  | COMPLETED |
| 51                            | Shallow Well Mitigation Program                                            |                          |                      |                |                       |                 |            |                         |      |             |            | 0%        |
| 52                            | Shallow Well Mitigation Emergency Assistance Program                       | 50,000                   | -                    |                | -                     | -               | -          | -                       | -    | -           | 50,000     | 0%        |
| 53                            | Shallow Well Mitigation Program: Outreach and Impacts Eval.(Stetson)       | 30,000                   | -                    |                | -                     | 101             | -          | -                       | -    | 101         | 29,899     | 0%        |
| 54                            |                                                                            |                          |                      |                |                       |                 |            |                         |      |             |            | 0%        |
| 55                            | NAVY/COSO Program                                                          |                          |                      |                |                       |                 |            |                         |      |             |            | 0%        |
| 56                            | Navy/Coso Royalty Fund: Rose Valley MW Permitting, Bid, Drilling (Stetson) | 120,000                  | 561                  |                | -                     | -               | -          | -                       | -    | 561         | 119,439    | 0%        |
| 57                            | Navy/Coso Royalty Fund: Develop Projects & Secure Funding (Stetson)        | 25,000                   | -                    |                | -                     | -               | -          | -                       | -    | -           | 25,000     | 0%        |
| 58                            | Navy/Coso Royalty Fund: Cooperative Agreement                              | 10,000                   | 321                  |                | -                     | -               | -          | -                       | -    | 321         | 9,679      | 3%        |
| 59                            | Rose Valley Construction                                                   | 151,000                  | -                    |                | -                     | -               | -          | -                       | -    | -           | 151,000    | 0%        |
| 60                            |                                                                            |                          |                      |                |                       |                 |            |                         |      |             |            | 0%        |
| 61                            | Basin Management Administration                                            |                          |                      |                |                       |                 |            |                         |      |             |            | 0%        |
| 62                            | Production Reporting, Transient Pool, and Fee Support (Stetson)            | 45,000                   | 89                   |                | -                     | -               | -          | -                       | -    | 89          | 44,911     | 0%        |
| 63                            | Meetings and Prep (Stetson)                                                | 215,000                  | 29,389               |                | 29,389                | -               | -          | -                       | -    | 58,777      | 156,223    | 27%       |
| 64                            | Budget Support (Stetson)                                                   | 15,000                   | 5,058                |                | -                     | -               | -          | -                       | -    | 5,058       | 9,943      | 34%       |
| 65                            | Stakeholder Coordination (Stetson)                                         | 5,000                    | 3,664                |                | -                     | -               | -          | -                       | -    | 3,664       | 1,337      | 73%       |
| 66                            | Litigation Support (Stetson)                                               | 140,000                  | -                    |                | 168,208               | -               | -          | -                       | -    | 168,208     | (28,208)   | 120%      |
| 67                            |                                                                            |                          |                      |                |                       |                 |            |                         |      |             |            | 0%        |
| 68                            | Basin Management                                                           |                          |                      |                |                       |                 |            |                         |      |             |            | 0%        |
| 69                            | General Engineering (Stetson)                                              | 30,000                   | 10,943               |                | -                     | -               | -          | -                       | -    | 10,943      | 19,057     | 36%       |
| 70                            | TSS: El Paso Well Drilling Support (Stetson)                               | -                        | -                    |                | -                     | -               | -          | -                       | -    | -           | -          | 0%        |
| 71                            | TSS: General Coordination/Application Support (Stetson)                    | 2,500                    | -                    |                | -                     | -               | -          | -                       | -    | -           | 2,500      | 0%        |
| 72                            | Coordination with DWR on GSP Review (Stetson)                              | -                        | -                    |                | -                     | -               | -          | -                       | -    | -           | -          | 0%        |
| 73                            | GSP 5-Year Update (Stetson)                                                | 25,000                   | 2,081                |                | -                     | -               | -          | -                       | -    | 2,081       | 22,919     | 8%        |
| 74                            | Annual Report Preparation (Stetson)                                        | 75,000                   | 21,047               |                | -                     | -               | -          | -                       | -    | 21,047      | 53,953     | 28%       |
| 75                            | Data Management System Support (Stetson)                                   | 40,000                   | 27,726               |                | -                     | -               | -          | -                       | -    | 27,726      | 12,275     | 69%       |
| 76                            | Allocation Plan: Allocation Process & Transient Pool Support (Stetson)     | -                        | -                    |                | -                     | -               | -          | -                       | -    | -           | -          | 0%        |
| 77                            | Allocation Plan and Rules & Regs on Pumping/Restrictions (Stetson)         | 10,000                   | -                    |                | -                     | -               | -          | -                       | -    | -           | 10,000     | 0%        |
| 78                            | Allocation Plan: Fallowing & Transient Pool Transfer Program (Stetson)     | -                        | -                    |                | -                     | -               | -          | -                       | -    | -           | -          | 0%        |
| 79                            | Configuration Management Plan (Stetson)                                    | 20,000                   | -                    |                | -                     | -               | -          | -                       | -    | -           | 20,000     | 0%        |
| 80                            | General Project Management (Stetson)                                       | 40,000                   | 9,012                |                | -                     | -               | -          | -                       | -    | 9,012       | 30,988     | 23%       |
| 81                            | Model Transfer and Upgrade (Stetson)                                       | -                        | -                    |                | -                     | -               | -          | -                       | -    | -           | -          | 0%        |
| 82                            | Data Collection, Monitoring, and Data Gaps (Stetson)                       | 225,000                  | 26,636               |                | -                     | -               | -          | -                       | -    | 26,636      | 198,364    | 12%       |
| 83                            | Imported Water: Negotiations and Coordination(Stetson)                     | 10,000                   | -                    |                | 1,699                 | -               | -          | -                       | -    | 1,699       | 8,301      | 17%       |
| 84                            | Imported Water: Engineering and Analysis(Stetson)                          | -                        | -                    |                | -                     | -               | -          | -                       | -    | -           | -          | 0%        |
| 85                            | Recycled Water (Stetson)                                                   | 10,000                   | -                    |                | -                     | -               | -          | -                       | -    | -           | 10,000     | 0%        |
| 86                            | Planning Assistance to States: Army Corps Support (Stetson)                | 50,000                   | -                    |                | 3,586                 | -               | -          | -                       | -    | 3,586       | 46,414     | 7%        |
| 87                            | Review of Outside Studies and Coordination (Stetson)                       | 15,000                   |                      |                |                       |                 |            |                         |      |             | 15,000     | 0%        |
| 88                            | Well Monitoring Services (WellIntel Inc.)                                  | 1,700                    |                      |                |                       |                 |            |                         |      |             | 1,700      | 0%        |
| 89                            | Review of Outside Studies and Coordination (Stetson)                       |                          | -                    |                | -                     | -               | -          | -                       | -    | -           | -          | 0%        |
| 90                            | Well Monitoring Services (WellIntel Inc.)                                  |                          | 1,835                |                | -                     | -               | -          | -                       | -    | 1,835       | (1,835)    | 0%        |
| 91                            |                                                                            |                          |                      |                |                       |                 |            |                         |      | -           |            | 0%        |
| 92                            | Grant Management                                                           |                          |                      |                |                       |                 |            |                         |      |             |            | 0%        |
| 93                            | Grant Review and Application Preparation (Stetson)                         | 75,000                   | 327                  |                | -                     | -               | -          | -                       | -    | 327         | 74,673     | 0%        |
| 94                            |                                                                            |                          |                      |                |                       |                 |            |                         |      |             |            |           |
| 95                            | IP Grant Management                                                        |                          |                      |                |                       |                 |            |                         |      |             |            | 0%        |
| 96                            | IP Grant Administration                                                    | 27,000                   | -                    |                | -                     | -               | 8,991      |                         | -    | 8,991       | 18,009     | 33%       |
| 97                            | Bureau of Land Management                                                  | 200,000                  | -                    |                | -                     | -               | 25,000     |                         | -    | 25,000      | 175,000    | 13%       |
| 98                            | Southern California Edison                                                 | 22,500                   |                      |                |                       |                 |            |                         |      |             | 22,500     | 0%        |
| 99                            | Imported Water :Planning/Design/Environmental (Provost & Pritchard)        | -                        | -                    |                | -                     | -               | -          |                         | -    | -           | -          | 0%        |

BUDGET TO ACTUAL REPORT

| ACTUALS BY REVENUE ALLOCATION |                                                                        |                          |                      |                |                       |                 |            |                         |      |             |            |           |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|----------------|-----------------------|-----------------|------------|-------------------------|------|-------------|------------|-----------|
|                               |                                                                        | Restricted<br>Extraction | Restricted<br>Second | Restricted     | Restricted<br>Shallow | Restricted      | Restricted | Restricted<br>Navy/COSO | \$   | (A-B)<br>\$ | (B/A)<br>% |           |
|                               |                                                                        | ORIGINAL                 | Transient Pool       | Transient Pool | Augmentation          | Well Mitigation | SGMA IP    | EPA Grant               | Fund | Total       | REMAINING  | COMPLETED |
| 100                           | IP Grant Management (Cont'd)                                           |                          |                      |                |                       |                 |            |                         |      |             |            | 0%        |
| 101                           | Imported Water :Planning/Design/Environmental (Blue Mountain)          | -                        | -                    |                | -                     | -               | 14,988     |                         | -    | 14,988      | (14,988)   | 0%        |
| 102                           | Pipeline Design                                                        |                          | -                    |                | -                     | -               | -          | -                       | -    | -           | -          | 0%        |
| 103                           | Mojave Tank Farm                                                       |                          | -                    |                | -                     | -               | -          | -                       | -    | -           | -          | 0%        |
| 104                           | CEQ/NEPA                                                               |                          | -                    |                | -                     | -               | -          | -                       | -    | -           | -          | 0%        |
| 105                           | Imported Water :Planning/Design/Environmental (Transystems)            | -                        | -                    |                | -                     | -               | 1,188      |                         | -    | 1,188       | (1,188)    | 0%        |
| 106                           | Imported Water :Planning/Design/Environmental (Not Grant Reimb)        | -                        | -                    |                | -                     | -               |            | -                       | -    | -           | -          | 0%        |
| 107                           | Antelope Valley East Kern Water Agency -Reimb Agreement                | -                        | -                    |                | -                     | -               | -          |                         | -    | -           | -          | 0%        |
| 108                           |                                                                        |                          |                      |                |                       |                 |            |                         |      |             |            | 0%        |
| 109                           | Urban Community Drought Relief Grant Program                           |                          |                      |                |                       |                 |            |                         |      |             |            | 0%        |
| 110                           | Urban Community Drought Relief Funding Administration (Stetson)        | 10,000                   | -                    |                | -                     | -               | -          | 2,615                   |      | 2,615       | 7,385      | 26%       |
| 111                           | Shallow Well Consolidation Project (Stetson)- Plan/Design/Engin        | 50,000                   | -                    |                | -                     |                 | -          | 7,915                   | -    | 7,915       | 42,085     | 16%       |
| 112                           | Shallow Well Consolidation Project (IWVWD)-Planning/Design/Engineering | 195,300                  | -                    |                | -                     | -               | -          | 24,914                  | -    | 24,914      | 170,386    | 13%       |
| 113                           | Shallow Well Consolidation Project (IWVWD)-Construction                | 1,861,900                |                      |                |                       |                 |            |                         |      |             | 1,861,900  | 0%        |
| 114                           | Shallow Well Consolidation Project (IWVWD)-NonReimb                    | 5,000                    |                      |                |                       |                 |            |                         |      |             | 5,000      | 0%        |
| 115                           |                                                                        |                          |                      |                |                       |                 |            |                         |      |             |            | 0%        |
| 116                           | EPA Resilience Grant                                                   |                          |                      |                |                       |                 |            |                         |      |             |            | 0%        |
| 117                           | EPA Grant Administration                                               | 27,000                   | -                    |                | -                     | -               | -          | 11,518                  |      | 11,518      | 15,482     | 43%       |
| 118                           | Resilience Grant -Design/Environmental/ROW (Stetson)                   |                          | -                    |                | -                     |                 | -          | -                       | -    | -           | -          | 0%        |
| 119                           | Resilience Grant-Design (Stetson)                                      | 100,000                  | -                    |                | -                     | -               | -          | 13,588                  | -    | 13,588      | 86,412     | 14%       |
| 120                           | Resilience Grant-Environmental (Stetson)                               | 29,000                   | -                    |                | -                     | -               | -          | 4,079                   | -    | 4,079       | 24,921     | 14%       |
| 121                           | Resilience Grant --Right of Way (Stetson)                              | 14,000                   | -                    |                | -                     | -               | -          | 616                     | -    | 616         | 13,385     | 4%        |
| 122                           | Resilience Grant - Design (Provost & Pritchard)                        | 990,500                  | -                    | -              | -                     | -               | -          | -                       | -    | -           | 990,500    | 0%        |
| 123                           | Resilience Grant - Environmental (Provost & Pritchard)                 | 132,610                  | -                    | -              | -                     | -               | -          | 21,624                  | -    | 21,624      | 110,986    | 16%       |
| 124                           | Resilience Grant - ROW (Transystems)                                   | 231,500                  | -                    | -              | -                     | -               | -          | 6,669                   | -    | 6,669       | 224,831    | 3%        |
| 125                           | Resilience Grant - Project Management (Blue Mountain)                  | 123,750                  | -                    | -              | -                     | -               | -          | 52,388                  | -    | 52,388      | 71,363     | 42%       |
| 126                           | Resilience Grant - Mojave Tank Analysis (Provost & Pritchard)          |                          | -                    |                | -                     | -               | -          | 740                     | -    | 740         | (740)      | 0%        |
| 127                           | City of California City                                                | 1,000                    | -                    |                | -                     | -               | -          | -                       | -    | -           | 1,000      | 0%        |
| 128                           | Southern California Edison                                             | 100,000                  | -                    |                | -                     | -               | -          | -                       | -    | -           | 100,000    | 0%        |
| 129                           | Cal Trans                                                              | 15,000                   | -                    |                | -                     | -               | -          | -                       | -    | -           | 15,000     | 0%        |
| 130                           | State Water Resources Control Board                                    | 15,000                   | -                    |                | -                     | -               | -          | -                       | -    | -           | 15,000     | 0%        |
| 131                           | California Department of Fish & Wildlife                               | 69,500                   | -                    |                | -                     | -               | -          | -                       | -    | -           | 69,500     | 0%        |
| 132                           | California Department of Parks & Recreation                            | 20,000                   |                      |                |                       |                 |            |                         |      |             | 20,000     | 0%        |
| 133                           | CalOSHA                                                                | 1,000                    | -                    |                | -                     | -               | -          | -                       | -    | -           | 1,000      | 0%        |
| 134                           | Union Pacific Railroad                                                 | 20,000                   |                      |                |                       |                 |            |                         |      |             | 20,000     | 0%        |
| 135                           | Planning/Design/Env - (Not Grant Reimburseable)                        | 39,565                   | -                    |                | -                     | -               | -          | -                       | -    | -           | 39,565     | 0%        |
| 136                           |                                                                        |                          |                      |                |                       |                 |            |                         |      |             |            |           |
| 137                           | TOTAL EXPENSES                                                         | 9,234,790                | 612,262              | -              | 790,930               | 101             | 50,166     | 146,663                 | -    | 1,600,122   | 3,729,706  | 17%       |
| 138                           |                                                                        |                          |                      |                |                       |                 |            |                         |      |             |            |           |
| 139                           | Surplus (Deficit)                                                      | 634,315                  | (429,965)            | -              | (786,211)             | 16,787          | (50,166)   | (146,663)               | -    | (1,396,218) |            |           |

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## CASH BALANCE

### July 2026 Activity

#### Cash Receipts (Receipts over \$50,000 and all grants are detailed)

|                             |      |
|-----------------------------|------|
| Augmentation/Extraction/SWM |      |
| Second Transient Pool       |      |
| Consolidation               |      |
| All Other Cash Receipts     |      |
| Total Cash Receipts         | \$ - |

#### Cash Disbursements (Obligation payments are detailed)

|                          |                 |
|--------------------------|-----------------|
| Warrants                 | \$ (665,917.27) |
| Total Cash Disbursements | \$ (665,917.27) |

### Cash Balance

#### Prior Month to Current Month Ending Balance Reconciliation

#### June Cash Balance By Investment

|                                 |                 |
|---------------------------------|-----------------|
| Kern County Treasurer           | \$ 8,302,920.64 |
| AltaOne Credit Union            | 173,582.99      |
| Total End of Month Cash Balance | \$ 8,476,503.63 |

#### July Activity

|                             |                 |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|
| Cash Receipts               | \$ -            |
| Cash Disbursements          | (665,917.27)    |
| Banking Adjustment Pending  | -               |
| Total End of Month Activity | \$ (665,917.27) |

July Ending Cash Balance \$ 7,810,586.36

Less: Outstanding Warrants Approved-Pending Processing

Less: Outstanding Warrants -Pending Approval 2025

Less: Outstanding Warrants -Pending Approval 2026 (376,095.93)

Total Available Cash By Activity \$ 7,434,490.43

#### July Cash Balance by Investment

|                                     |                 |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Kern County Treasurer               | \$ 7,637,003.37 |
| AltaOne - In Transit to Kern County | 173,582.99      |
| Total End of Month Balance          | \$ 7,810,586.36 |
| Less: Outstanding Warrants          | (376,095.93)    |
| Total Available Cash by Investment  | \$ 7,434,490.43 |

Cash Receipts are deposited in AltaOne Credit Union and sent electronically to Kern County Treasurer. Cash in Transit at month end will be reflected in the Kern County Treasurer balance. Warrants are approved by IWVGA Board and administratively processed by IWVGA staff. Warrants are executed by Kern County staff. Outstanding Warrants are vendor invoices received and not yet paid.

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Public Relations + Communications

# Monthly Activity Report

August 2026

Prepared by Westbound Communications

# Media Activity

**Press Release:** *"Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Submitted Comments to CEC Outlining Basis Concerns on Proposed Inyokern Data Center"*



Press release from the Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority:

The Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority (IWVGA) submitted a comment letter to the California Energy Commission (CEC) in July during the review period regarding the proposed RB Inyokern Data Center, outlining the concerns and its responsibilities for managing groundwater sustainability in the Indian Wells Valley basin. The letter was a result of a unanimous vote by IWVGA's board to submit comments to the CEC on the proposed data center.

IWVGA is the Groundwater Sustainability Agency for the Indian Wells Valley groundwater basin under SGMA, that manages groundwater extraction within its boundaries. The basin is designated as critically overdrafted by the California Department of Water Resources: its state approved sustainable yield is 7,650 acre-feet per year, while reported extraction has run at nearly three times that level, or approximately 21,000 acre-feet annually.

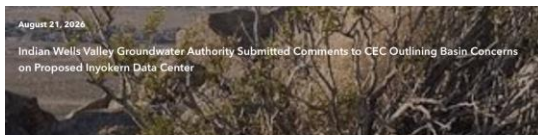
In the letter, IWVGA raised several concerns for the CEC to weigh in its review of the data center: if the project's groundwater demand exceeds the Inyokern Community Services District's sustainable yield allocation, the project's proponent would be expected to contribute to imported water supplies and related infrastructure; any project groundwater wells within the basin would be subject to IWVGA's Basin Replenishment and Extraction Fees; and the CEC should weigh IWVGA's concern about introducing significant new groundwater demand into a closed, critically overdrafted basin currently undergoing adjudication proceedings.

"Our board acted unanimously on this because protecting the basin is core to what SGMA charges us to do," said Scott Hayman, chair of the Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority. "We wanted the CEC to have a clear picture of the basin's overdraft status and the obligations any new groundwater user would need to meet. This letter is now part of the public record, and it is important for our community to see this action take place."

IWVGA will remain abreast of all developments associated with the proposed data center project and continue to monitor its anticipated water demands to ensure that if the project moves forward that it does not adversely impact long-term groundwater sustainability.



## FEATURED EVENTS



**RIDGECREST, Calif. (August 21, 2026)** - The Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority (IWVGA) submitted a comment letter to the California Energy Commission (CEC) in July during the review period regarding the proposed RB Inyokern Data Center, outlining the concerns and its responsibilities for managing groundwater sustainability in the Indian Wells Valley basin. The letter was a result of a unanimous vote by IWVGA's board to submit comments to the CEC on the proposed data center.

IWVGA is the Groundwater Sustainability Agency for the Indian Wells Valley groundwater basin under SGMA, that manages groundwater extraction within its boundaries. The basin is designated as critically overdrafted by the California Department of Water Resources: its state approved sustainable yield is 7,650 acre-feet per year, while reported extraction has run at nearly three times that level, or approximately 21,000 acre-feet annually.

In the letter, IWVGA raised several concerns for the CEC to weigh in its review of the data center: if the project's groundwater demand exceeds the Inyokern Community Services District's sustainable yield allocation, the project's proponent would be expected to contribute to imported water supplies and related infrastructure; any project groundwater wells within the basin would be subject to IWVGA's Basin Replenishment and Extraction Fees; and the CEC should weigh IWVGA's concern about introducing significant new groundwater demand into a closed, critically overdrafted basin currently undergoing adjudication proceedings.

## RECENT POSTS

- Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority Submitted Comments to CEC Outlining Basin Concerns on Proposed Inyokern Data Center
- Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Adjudication Court Sharply Questions Experts for the Large Pumps and Will Appoint a 'Special Master'
- Phase 2 of Adjudication Will Define Basin Safe Yield, But Sustainability Work Continues

## PRESS RELEASES ARCHIVE

Press release Archive

Select Month

# Monitoring Timely Topics

Inyokern Data Center

Groundwater news – SGMA and GSPs

DWR news

Statewide adjudication activities

# Social Media Support

**Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority**  
Published by Alexandra Duran · 3 days ago ·

Thank you [Congressman Vince Fong](#) for your continued support of the Navy and NAWS China Lake. This recognition of the base as the world's "most advanced Government laboratory and test enterprise" is a proud moment for the Indian Wells Valley and for everyone invested in this region's future. Read Congressman Fong's full update here: [See less](#)



FONG.HOUSE.GOV

**Department of War Recognizes NAWS China Lake as Global Leader in Advanced Testing and Research**

China Lake  
Acknowledgement

**Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority**  
Published by Alexandra Duran · 6 days ago ·

IWVGA has submitted formal comments to the California Energy Commission (CEC) on the proposed RB Inyokern Data Center, following a unanimous vote by the Authority's board. As the agency responsible for managing the Indian Wells Valley groundwater basin, IWVGA is asking the CEC to weigh the project's groundwater impacts on a basin critically overdrafted. We'll continue monitoring this project and providing updates as it moves forward. Read more: [See less](#)

IWVGA.ORG  
[iwvga.org](#)

Press Release

**Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority**  
Published by Alexandra Duran · Just now ·

[#DidYouKnow](#) you can access information on the Groundwater Sustainability Plan from [IWVGSP.com](#)? Explore the GSP dashboard, maps, reports and more. You can also locate information on the GSP through our website at [IWVGA.org](#). [See less](#)

IWVGSP.COM  
[IWW GSP Homepage](#)

Availability of  
IWVGSP.com

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To: April Keigwin, General Manager IWVGA  
From: Michael W. McKinney, President  
cc: IWVGA Board of Directors  
Date: September 9, 2026  
Subject: Project Update Memorandum – August 2026 Activities

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The following update summarizes Capitol Core Group activities for August 2026.

### **PROJECT 1: IMPORTED WATER SUPPLIES**

Capitol Core Group continued to work with staff regarding potential water supplies for the Basin.

### **PROJECT 2: WATER REPLENISHMENT PIPELINE**

#### **Construction Activities**

Capitol Core continues to work with Stetson Engineers and consultants to review the permitting and regulatory processes for the interconnection pipeline.

### **PROJECT 3: OTHER PROJECTS SUPPORTING THE GSP**

#### **State of California Legislative Affairs**

The California Legislature reconvened on August 3<sup>rd</sup> for its final month of regular session for 2026. The California Legislature wrapped up its 2026 session on September 1<sup>st</sup>. Governor Newsom has until September 30<sup>th</sup> to sign or veto bills. The following legislative update provides current status, noting that the bills that passed the Legislature are still waiting on the Governor's decision before they can be enacted (assuming he signs them). Capitol Core plans to include a final 2026 California legislative bill summary at the October Board meeting once we know how Governor Newsom acted on these bills.

#### **Data Centers Legislation Status**

**Assembly Bill 2469 (Papan, D-21st): Data Centers: Water Use Disclosures** – This bill passed out of the Senate by a vote of 29-9 and the Assembly concurred to the amendments from the Senate by a vote of 63-7. As a result the bill passes and awaits the Governor's signature or veto by September 30.

**Assembly Bill 2619 (Papan, D-21st): Data Centers: Water Resources** - This bill passed out of the Senate by a vote of 28-9 and the Assembly concurred to the amendments from the Senate by a vote of 61-12. As a result the bill passes and awaits the Governor's signature or veto by September 30.

**Assembly Bill 1577 (Bauer-Kahan, D-16th): Data Centers: Reporting** – This bill passed out of the Senate by a vote of 29-10 and the Assembly concurred to the amendments from the Senate by a vote of 58-11. As a result the bill passes and awaits the Governor's signature or veto by September 30.

### California Multi-Benefit Land Repurposing Program

The MLRP is a state-funded program that converts fallowed farmland into other uses such as natural habitats, pollinator habitats, water banking facilities, etc. Capitol Core has brought this program to the public's attention in past cycles, but the community has not identified a project that may be eligible for funding. For 2026, the State of California has designated \$200 million through the Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparedness, and Clean Air Bond Act of 2024 ("Climate Bond") for the program. The State anticipates it will release draft guidelines for the program in Fall 2026 with the following proposed timeframe (subject to change):

**October 2026:** Draft Guidelines released for public comment

**October - November 2026:** Public comment workshops, office hours, and tribal roundtables

**Winter 2026:** Revised Guidelines released. Response to comments posted

**Winter 2026-'27:** Guidelines finalized. Initial application period open

A project needs to be identified if the IWVGA plans to pursue this funding. More information on the program is available [here](#).

## Federal Government

### Federal Appropriations

A Continuing Resolution ("CR") for Fiscal Year 2027 from October 1, 2026, through December 11, 2026. The bill, HR 9770, generally extends fiscal year 2026 spending levels through the period. The measure is "clean," meaning there are no policy riders attached to the "CR."

The House passed this bill by a vote of 370-48, and the Senate passed it by a vote of 90-6. While the bill keeps the government open and avoids a potential shutdown until December 11, it does not include any FY 26-27 Community Project Funding requests. It remains to be seen when the US Senate will pick up further action on its Appropriations bills.

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To: April Keigwin, General Manager – IWVGA

From: Michael W. McKinney, President Capitol Core Group

cc: Keith LeMieux, General Counsel – IWVGA

Date: August 31, 2026

Subject: Public Policy Issue – Data Centers and Other Large Uses are Invisible to SGMA

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At the Board's direction, Capitol Core monitored four (4) major pieces of legislation and participated in stakeholder discussions. At no time did IWVGA take a position on the pending data center legislation and offered comments only on how it would impact groundwater sustainability agencies (GSAs). Stakeholders recognized the pending legislation had no impact on GSAs or their ability to plan for needed augmented water supplies resulting from large use. Capitol Core was invited to participate in stakeholder discussions during the interim session (between the 2025-2026 and 2027-2028 legislative sessions) on behalf of GSAs to help shape potential legislation for introduction. The following represents our findings and recommendations.

**The development of data centers and other large industrial water uses are largely invisible to GSAs and the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA).**

## 1. The problem is scale

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Within data centers and many industrial water uses, cooling architecture, not building size, drives consumption — and it is the one variable no California permitting record reliably captures. The spread between a closed-loop facility and an evaporative one, at the same connected load, is roughly two orders of magnitude.

### BOTTOM LINE:

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SGMA regulates **pumping**. It does not regulate **the decision to build something that pumps** — the police powers remain with the State, cities and counties. GSAs were not intended to regulate building and nothing should expand police power requirements to a GSA. The gap is not authority; it is **information timed to the wrong actor**. A GSA typically learns about a data center or large industrial use when the facility is in the process of or has already been permitted, and its projected water budget — the number that sets its sustainable yield glidepath — was built from general plan land use categories that treat a hyperscale data center and a dry warehouse as the same industrial parcel.

The 2026 bill set (AB 2469, AB 2619, AB 1577, SB 887) routes data center water information to *water suppliers, cities, counties, DWR and the Energy Commission*. None of it reaches a GSA, and none of it reaches a facility that supplies itself from an on-site well. Most of bills removed any State oversight prior to passage.

At average efficiency, a single 25 MW facility — the floor of AB 2619's “Type I” hyperscale class — already exceeds the 500-home threshold the Legislature set in 2001 as the point at which water supply deserves a hard look. Adiabatic and hybrid systems make this worse in exactly the wrong year: they draw little water at moderate temperatures and switch to evaporation above a setpoint, so an annual average understates the drought-year peak that a GSA has to plan against.

|                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                      |                                                                                                          |                                                                                     |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p><b>~50 &amp; 1,350</b><br/>AF/yr</p> <p>100 MW IT load at the industry-average water usage effectiveness of 1.9 L/kWh</p> | <p><b>~5,600</b> AF/yr</p> <p>A large evaporatively cooled facility at 5 million gallons per day</p> | <p><b>250</b> AF/yr</p> <p>The 500-dwelling-unit equivalency that triggers a water supply assessment</p> | <p><b>21</b> of 94</p> <p>SGMA-managed basins designated critically overdrafted</p> |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

## 2. The structural gaps

|                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>Wat. Code<br/>§ 10720.9</p>       | <p><b>The duty to consider a GSP binds state agencies only</b></p> <p>Section 10720.9 requires “all relevant state agencies” to consider adopted GSPs when acting. Cities and counties — the agencies that actually approve data centers — are not named. Section 10726.8(f) then confirms that nothing in SGMA supersedes their land use authority. The result is a plan with no consultative hook into the approval that matters.</p>                                               |
| <p>Wat. Code<br/>§ 10912(a)</p>      | <p><b>Data centers slip under every water supply assessment threshold</b></p> <p>The industrial trigger requires 1,000 employees, 40 acres, or 650,000 square feet. A 50 MW facility can be 150,000 square feet on 15 acres with thirty staff — small, cheap in land, and enormous in water. Only the catch-all in § 10912(a)(7) reaches it, and only if the lead agency chooses to make that call.</p>                                                                               |
| <p>Wat. Code<br/>§ 10725.8</p>       | <p><b>Extraction reporting is discretionary and points backward</b></p> <p>A GSA <i>may</i> require metering and annual extraction statements. Even where it does, the statement reports last year's pumping. Nothing obligates a prospective large user to tell the GSA what it intends to pump, when, or on what ramp — which is the only input a projected water budget can use.</p>                                                                                               |
| <p>E.O. N-3-24<br/>Sept. 5, 2024</p> | <p><b>The well-permit consistency check was allowed to lapse</b></p> <p>Executive Order N-7-22 required counties to obtain written GSA verification that a new well was consistent with the applicable GSP. N-3-24 terminated it. A self-supplied facility in a medium- or high-priority basin can now be permitted, drilled and energized without the GSA ever being asked — and AB 2201, which would have codified the requirement, died in 2022 over local-control objections.</p> |

### 3. What was missing in the 2026 legislation

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AB 1577, AB 2469, and AB 2619 are pending action with the Governor. All are under veto threat. Whatever survives, the reporting architecture points at suppliers and state agencies — the GSA is nowhere in the chain, and the self-supplied well is nowhere in the trigger.

| MEASURE               | INFORMATION GOES TO                                                       | REACHES THE GSA     | REACHES A SELF-SUPPLIED WELL                                                    |
|-----------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| AB 2469 (Papan)       | Local permitting agency; DWR (CII classification); State Water Board      | <b>No</b>           | Only via DWR waiver in critically overdrafted basins: Provision was amended out |
| AB 2619 (Papan)       | Water supplier; business license authority; urban supplier shortage plans | <b>No</b>           | <b>No</b> — presumes a supplier exists                                          |
| AB 1577 (Bauer-Kahan) | California Energy Commission, monthly                                     | <b>No</b>           | Water only at discretionary permit                                              |
| SB 887 (Padilla)      | CEQA record — removes categorical exemptions                              | <b>Comment only</b> | If a discretionary approval exists                                              |

### 4. The SPPE process: Why it is important and where it falls short

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The California Energy Commission (CEC) Small Power Plant Exemption (SPPE) process allows developers of thermal power plants between 50 and 100 megawatts (MW) to bypass full CEC certification and instead seek local land-use permitting. Data center developers use the SPPE process to obtain local regulatory approval for their **large-scale emergency backup generator systems**. While data centers draw their primary power from the electrical grid, they must deploy large arrays of on-site generators to ensure continuous operation during grid blackouts.

- **Jurisdiction Exemption:** Normally, the CEC has exclusive authority to license thermal power plants with a capacity of 50 MW or more. An SPPE exempts a qualifying 50–100 MW plant from this state licensing requirement, shifting ultimate construction and operating permit authority to local agencies (such as city/county planning departments and air districts).
- **CEQA Lead Agency Review:** Even though the plant is exempt from full CEC licensing, the CEC serves as the lead agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).
- **Environmental Finding:** To approve an SPPE, the CEC must formally find that the proposed facility will not create a substantial adverse impact on the environment or energy resources.
- **Local Permitting Follow-Up:** If the CEC grants the exemption, the developer still must secure all required local, state, and federal permits. Local agencies use the environmental document prepared by the CEC to make their discretionary decisions.

The SPPE process is arguably the one forum where the SGMA hooks already exist. But its reach is narrower than it first looks, in three specific ways.

**Where the authority for the CEC is strong:**

- **SPPE review is straight CEQA, not the certified regulatory program.** 20 CCR § 1936 provides that "the review of the application for exemption shall follow the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act and the state CEQA Guidelines." That matters, unlike an AFC, where CEC's process is functionally equivalent under a certified program; on an SPPE, the CEC is an ordinary lead agency with the full Guidelines toolkit — initial study, scoping, data adequacy, and Appendix G.
- **Appendix G already asks the SGMA question.** The hydrology checklist asks whether the project would "substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that the project may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin." That clause was added in the 2018 Guidelines update precisely to pull SGMA into CEQA. A lead agency cannot answer it without the GSP, the basin's sustainable yield, and the projected water budget — so requiring that material is not a stretch of CEC's authority; it's the minimum needed to make the finding. Under current law, the CEC has no mechanism to ask the GSA.
- **Water Code § 10720.9 independently binds the CEC.** It directs "all relevant state agencies" to consider GSPs "when issuing orders or determinations, where pertinent." An SPPE decision is a determination. This is the inversion worth noting for the brief: on this narrow pathway, the CEC has a *stronger* statutory duty to consider a GSP than the county land-use agency down the road, because § 10720.9 doesn't apply to cities and counties.
- **Scope cuts in CEC's favor.** The exemption covers the generators, but CEQA project scope is the whole of the action under Guidelines § 15378. The Legislature's own analysis of SB 1298 put it flatly: "CEQA requires the lead agency to consider the whole of the action; therefore, the CEC will include an entire data center project in its EIR." CEC has done exactly that — a full EIR for the San Jose Data Center, an IS/MND for Walsh. Cooling water is in scope.

**Where the CEC authority falls short:**

- **The Water Supply Assessment doesn't apply.** Both Water Code § 10910 and CEQA Guidelines § 15155 bind a "city or county lead agency." CEC is neither. So, the SB 610 water supply assessment — and specifically § 10910(f)'s required content on GSPs, overdraft status, five years of pumping history, and sufficiency — is not triggered when CEC is lead. CEC still owes a reasonable water supply analysis under *Vineyard Area Citizens v. City of Rancho Cordova* (2007) 40 Cal.4th 412, but that's a judicial standard rather than a statutory checklist. **This is a one-word**

**fix:** substitute "lead agency" for "city or county" in § 10910(a) and Guidelines § 15155. No GSA power is touched.

- **The leverage ends at the decision.** PRC § 25541 authorizes exemption on a finding of "no substantial adverse impact on the environment or energy resources." CEC adopts mitigation and an MMRP as the lead agency, but the SB 1298 analysis confirms that, after SPPE approval, land-use entitlement, building permits, and compliance monitoring pass to the local jurisdiction. CEC can compel *information* and make *findings*; it doesn't handle ongoing enforcement.
- **Coverage is an accident of the backup-power configuration.** SPPE attaches only at 50–100 MW of thermal generation. Grid-only supply, fuel cells, batteries, or a sub-50 MW generator fleet never reaches CEC.

#### **What's causing cities and counties confusion:**

Under § 15096(e), a responsible agency that thinks the lead agency's document is inadequate has four options: sue within 30 days of the notice of determination, be deemed to have waived the objection, prepare a subsequent EIR only if the § 15162 triggers are met, or assume lead agency status under § 15052(a)(3). What the cities and counties cannot do is simply write their own analysis.

So, the city/county keeps the power to condition and to deny — but loses the power to *build the record* on which conditioning and denial rest. If CEC's water analysis is thin, the city/county inherits that thinness and has thirty days and a lawsuit as its remedy. That's a genuine loss, and it lands hardest on the GSA, which, in most of these cases, isn't even the responsible agency. It's a commenter with no approval of its own and no standing position in the document.

#### **Why the Inyokern Data Center has become the “live test” for the SPPE process and garnered such attention:**

Docket **26-SPPE-01, RB Inyokern Data Center** — 99 MW, filed just under the threshold, sited in the Indian Wells Valley basin: critically overdrafted, active adjudication, and a sustainable yield of 7,650 AF/yr against roughly 21,000 AF/yr of reported extraction. The applicant claims roughly 16 million gallons a year, about 50 AF — small in absolute terms. The GSA's argument isn't that the project is large; it's that the basin has no headroom at all. **A 40,430 gpd figure alongside a 99 MW backup fleet implies a very aggressive efficiency claim, which is the unverifiable self-reporting problem.**

The applicant should be required to contribute to imported supply if demand exceeds the Inyokern CSD allocation, and to confirm any project wells fall under its replenishment and extraction fees. How CEC handles those comments is the first real test of whether Appendix G and § 10720.9 have teeth in an SPPE. The Inyokern Data Center is the first test of the SPPE process to demonstrate SGMA compliance by CEC action.

## 5. The potential fixes

IWVGA has been invited by Legislators to help craft “a fix” for SGMA reporting issues and the needs of a GSA in data center development. This is a public policy issue that will likely be crafted with or without IWVGA. The Authority has three options:

1. Participate as requested in drafting solutions to the issues outlined above.
2. React to the legislation as it is drafted (not advisable)
3. Do not participate and leave the other stakeholders to decide how to proceed

As we have discussed herein, every duty below falls on the applicant, the county or city, DWR, or the CEC. None expands what a GSA may regulate, meter, charge, limit, or approve. Sections 10726.4, 10726.8(f), and 10720.5(b) are left untouched, and each proposal includes a findings-and-override path so the land-use decision stays where it is today. Capitol Core identifies six (6) potential areas that need to be fixed to address the issues. They are described below. Proposals 01 through 05 assume a city or county lead agency; proposal 06 covers the case where a state agency is the lead, and the whole SB 610 apparatus silently switches off.

### 01 Large Water User Demand Statement

**New** Wat. Code § 10725.10 · duty runs on the applicant

Before applying for any permit, a new or expanded *non-agricultural* facility projected to consume 250 AF/yr or more — or with 20 MW or more of connected IT load, whichever comes first — in a medium- or high-priority basin files a statement with the GSA and DWR under penalty of perjury: source of supply, cooling architecture, maximum day, maximum month, average year, and a ten-year ramp schedule. Actuals annually thereafter. Scoping the trigger to *new non-agricultural* uses is what keeps the farm bureau’s neutral; the dual load trigger exists because self-reported water usage effectiveness is unverifiable at the permit stage and a hybrid system's design intent is not its drought behavior.

**POLICE POWERS** Creates a statutory filing obligation, not a GSA program. The GSA receives; it does not compel, condition, or approve.

### 02 Extend the duty to consider a GSP to local permitting agencies

**Amend** Wat. Code § 10720.9 · duty runs on the city or county

For a project meeting the § 10725.10 threshold, the lead agency refers the application to the GSA, which has 60 days to return a written determination of consistency with the GSP. The lead agency must make written findings addressing that determination and may approve over a negative determination by majority vote with stated reasons. This is AB 2201's mechanism with the veto removed — the GSA gets a record, not a gate. Preserve § 10726.8(f) verbatim and say so in the findings clause, because that sentence is what CSAC and the League will read first.

**POLICE POWERS** The decision, the discretion and the override all remain with the land use agency. The GSA's role is advisory and time limited.

### 03 Close the water supply assessment loophole

Amend Wat. Code §§ 10910, 10912 · duty runs on the lead agency and supplier

Add a § 10912(a)(8) project class keyed to projected consumption and connected load rather than acreage, floor area, or headcount. Then fix the self-supplied case: where § 10910(b) already makes the city or county prepare the assessment because no public water system is identified, require that it be transmitted to the GSA and that the § 10910(f) groundwater sufficiency analysis incorporate the GSA's written statement of remaining sustainable yield. Today that subdivision asks whether a basin is in overdraft; it should ask what is left to allocate.

**POLICE POWERS** Expands an existing CEQA-adjacent disclosure duty. The GSA supplies a number it already computes for its own plan.

### 04 Codify well-permit consistency verification — narrowly

New Wat. Code § 10725.12 · duty runs on the well permitting agency

Re-enact the lapsed N-7-22 requirement for *large new production wells only* — the same 250 AF/yr or 20 MW trigger — in medium- and high-priority basins. Domestic, de minimis, replacement and agricultural wells stay outside it, which is the amendment that failed to get made in 2022. The county retains permit authority and may issue over a negative verification with written findings. Without this, every other proposal in the package is avoidable by drilling your own well.

**POLICE POWERS** § 10726.4(b) is untouched — GSAs still issue no well permits. The verification is an input the county must obtain and consider.

### 05 Make large users a required element of the projected water budget

Amend Wat. Code § 10727.2(g) · direct DWR to revise 23 CCR § 354.18

Section 354.18(c) builds projected demand from current land use and crop coefficients — an agricultural methodology applied to an industrial problem. Direct DWR to add a large-user demand element sourced from the § 10725.10 register, publish a standard MW-to-acre-feet conversion methodology with cooling-architecture tiers, and require § 10727.2(g)'s land use assessment to address commercial and industrial demand that general plan categories do not distinguish. Add a plan amendment trigger when actual large-user extraction exceeds the projected budget by 10 percent for two consecutive years.

**POLICE POWERS** Changes what a GSP must analyze, not what a GSA may do about what it finds.

## 06 Extend the assessment duty to state lead agencies, and seat the GSA in the record

Amend Wat. Code § 10910(a) · conforming amendment to 14 CCR § 15155 · duty runs on the state lead agency

Both the statute and the CEQA guideline bind a *city or county lead agency*. When a state agency is lead, the SB 610 assessment never triggers, and § 10910(f)'s required content on the GSP, overdraft status, pumping history and sufficiency goes with it. Substitute “lead agency” in both places. Then add the half that matters where a state agency is lead for a project in a medium- or high-priority basin, the GSA is a required consulting agency, entitled to notice and to a written response to its comments in the final document. The reason to bother is procedural, not substantive — a GSA is rarely a responsible agency in these proceedings, so it has no approval of its own and no position in the record, and under CEQA Guidelines § 15096(e) the record is the only thing a later challenge turns on.

**POLICE POWERS** Preemptive in neither direction. CEQA confers no substantive authority on anyone (Guidelines § 15040(b)); the GSA gains a place in the record, not an approval. And because the duty lands on state lead agencies, it carries no local mandate claim.

## 6. How this helps the GSAs

The package above gives GSA three forward-looking signals it doesn't have today, arranged by how early each one fires. A data center appears in a utility interconnection queue two to four years before it appears in a well permit, and if you sequence it correctly, the duty falls on the applicant and not the GSA, State, or city/county.

| T MINUS 24–48 MONTHS                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | T MINUS 12–24 MONTHS                                                                                                                                                                                                       | AT ENTITLEMENT                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Large-load interconnection sharing</b><br>Require the CEC and CPUC to transmit large-load interconnection requests of 25 MW or more to DWR and the GSA for the basin. Pairs cleanly with the SB 886 tariff work and costs the applicant nothing. | <b>The demand statement register</b><br>DWR maintains the § 10725.10 filings as a public basin-level register. Facility-level figures may be withheld for 24 months on a trade secret showing; basin aggregates never are. | <b>Referral, assessment, verification</b><br>The § 10720.9 referral, the § 10910 assessment and the § 10725.12 well verification arrive together, and by then the GSA already has a number it published itself to compare them against. |

The reciprocal obligation matters as much as the disclosure: a GSA that receives all of this should be publishing **remaining allocable sustainable yield** annually, in acre-feet, at the subbasin level. Land use agencies and developers currently have no number to plan against, which is why “consistent with the GSP” has been an argument rather than an arithmetic question. Fund it through the existing DWR SGMA implementation grant program (Proposition 4) rather than a new appropriation.

## 7. Potential opposition

**CSAC / League** The associations killed AB 2201 on the basis of local control. The findings-and-override structure in proposals 02 and 04 is written specifically for them; expect a mandate reimbursement fight regardless, and price the § 6 claim into the analysis early. Working with the Associations in the interim session (not legislative session) will help.

|                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Data Center Coalition</b>      | Opposed all data center legislation on the burden and confidentiality. The 24-month trade secret window and the aggregate-only publication rule are the concessions; the load-based trigger is not negotiable, because a water-only trigger is self-certified. This opposition cannot be removed.                                                                                                                                                     |
| <b>Ag &amp; water districts</b>   | Will read any well-permit bill as AB 2201 returning. The non-agricultural scope limit and the de minimis and replacement carve-outs need to be in the first printed version, not added in the second house. Some GSAs will oppose. This opposition may be mitigated by amendment.                                                                                                                                                                     |
| <b><i>“The State Grab”</i></b>    | Not an opponent but a shape of a State power grab: Watch any move to route data centers into Energy Commission <i>exclusive</i> certification, on the model of the clean energy opt-in at Pub. Res. Code § 25545 et seq. Section 25500 makes that certification “in lieu of” every local permit, which would displace the land use authority this entire package is built around. This is what a streamlining push would look like in amendment form. |
| <b>The current Administration</b> | Vetoed AB 93 for imposing “rigid reporting requirements” without understanding the impact on the sector. Frame this as planning information for an existing state program rather than public disclosure, phase the obligations, and lead with the fact that a GSA cannot hit a sustainability goal it cannot forecast. They will be gone before the bill is introduced.                                                                               |

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