

INDIAN WELLS VALLEY GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY

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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

A G E N D A

Wednesday, July 10, 2024

Closed Session – 10:00 a.m.

Open Session – No earlier than 11:00 a.m.

Pursuant to California Government Code 54953(b)(1) two additional call-in locations have been established for Board Members who will attend this meeting via teleconference at 14955 Dale Evans Parkway Apple Valley, CA. 92307 and at 1360 N Main St Bishop, CA. 93514.

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 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: Searles Valley Minerals Inc v. Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority, et. al. - Orange County Superior Court 30-2022-01239487-CU-MC-CJC

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

5. OPEN SESSION – No earlier than 11:00 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 June 12, 2024
- b. Approve Expenditures
 - *To view itemized invoices please visit <https://iwvga.org/iwvga-meetings>*
 - i. \$114,053.29 – Stetson Engineers
 - ii. \$23,940.00 – Regional Government Services – (Replenishment / Extraction)
 - iii. \$22,187.50 – Capitol Core Group – (Replenishment)
 - iv. \$307,697.84 – Provost & Pritchard – (SGMA IP Grant)
 - v. \$630.00 – The Daily Independent – (Extraction)
 - vi. \$150.35 – California State Lands Commission – (Extraction)

9. UPDATE ON FEDERAL FUNDING AWARD FOR THE INTERCONNECTION PIPELINE PROJECT

10. APPROVAL OF MASTER REIMBURSEMENT AGREEMENT BETWEEN BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT AND THE AUTHORITY FOR NEPA WORK ON THE INTERCONNECTION PIPELINE PROJECT

11. APPROVAL OF MASTER CONFIDENTIALITY AGREEMENT BETWEEN BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT AND THE AUTHORITY FOR THE INTERCONNECTION PIPELINE PROJECT IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE NATIONAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION ACT AND THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES ACT

12. DISCUSSION AND REQUEST FOR DIRECTION REGARDING THE USE OF THE \$3.3 MILLION CONSOLIDATION GRANT

13. APPROVAL OF CHANGE IN BUDGET IN IMPORT PIPELINE PROJECT TO COVER REVEGETATION OF GEOTECHNICAL TEST SITES AND ENHANCED TECHNICAL MONITORING FOR BIOLOGICAL, ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND TRIBAL MONITORS DURING THE GEOTECHNICAL TESTING PHASE OF DESIGN WORK

14. PRESENTATION ON THE BASIN GROUNDWATER MODEL AND UPDATES THERETO

15. WATER RESOURCES MANAGER REPORT

- a. Grant Funding
- b. GSP Implementation Projects/Management Action Updates
 - i. Imported Water Project
 - ii. Shallow Well Mitigation Program
 - iii. GSP Periodic Evaluation and Amendment
- c. Miscellaneous Items
 - i. Data Collection and Monitoring
 - ii. IWVGA Basin Model Configuration Management Plan
 - iii. Rose Valley Subflow Update

16. GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

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

17. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – AUGUST 14, 2024

18. 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 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 MINUTES Wednesday, June 12, 2024

IWVGA Members Present:

Chairman Phillip Peters, Kern County	Carol Thomas-Keefer, IWVGA General Manager
Scott Hayman, City of Ridgecrest	Phillip Hall, Legal Counsel
Chuck Griffin, IWVWD	Steve Johnson, Stetson Engineers
Tim Itnyre, San Bernardino County	Captain Vaughn, US Navy, DoD Liaison
John Vallejo, Inyo County	April Keigwin, Clerk of the Board
Emma Lynch, Bureau of Land Management	

Attending via teleconference is Tim Itnyre and John Vallejo.

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 Peters calls the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m.

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA:

Motion made by Scott Hayman and seconded by Chuck Griffin to approve adoption of the agenda.
Motion carries by the following roll call vote:

Chairman Peters	Aye
Vice Chair Hayman	Aye
Director Itnyre	Aye
Director Griffin	Aye
Director Vallejo	Absent

3. PUBLIC COMMENT ON CLOSED SESSION:

None.

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

4. CLOSED SESSION:

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

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

Closed Session adjourns at 11:00 a.m.

5. OPEN SESSION – No earlier than 11:00 a.m.

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

- a. Report on Closed Session – Counsel Hall reports shortly after the May board meeting the California Supreme Court denied Mojave Pistachios appeal based on the pay first litigate later rule. No motion has been made to provide small well owners class counsel in the adjudication. Hall urges domestic well owners to get involved if they have not done so already.
- b. Pledge of Allegiance is led by Chairman Peters
- c. Roll Call

Chairman Peters	Present
Vice Chair Hayman	Present
Director Griffin	Present
Director Itnyre	Present
Director Vallejo	Present

6. PUBLIC COMMENT:

The board hears public comment from Judie Decker, Mike Neel and Renee Westa-Lusk.

7. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS:

None.

8. CONSENT AGENDA:

- a. Approve Minutes of Special Board Meeting May 15, 2024
- b. Approve Expenditures

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

- i. \$108,581.29 – Stetson Engineers
- ii. \$30,384.13 – Regional Government Services – (Replenishment / Extraction)
- iii. \$16,668.75 – Capitol Core Group – (Replenishment)
- iv. \$197,785.60 – Provost & Pritchard – (SGMA IP Grant)

Motion made by Scott Hayman and seconded by John Vallejo to approve Minutes of Special Board Meeting May 15 and the following expenditures in the amount of, \$108,581.29 to Stetson Engineers, \$30,384.13 to Regional Government Services, \$16,668.75 to Capitol Core Group, and \$197,785.60 to Provost & Pritchard.

Motion carries by the following roll call vote:

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

9. PUBLIC WORKSHOP – GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY PLAN PERIODIC REVIEW AND UPDATE:

Jeff Helsley provides presentation.

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

10. WATER RESOURCES MANAGER REPORT:

Steve Johnson 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
 - iii. GSP Periodic Evaluation and Amendment
- c. Miscellaneous Items
 - i. Data Collection and Monitoring
 - ii. IWVGA Basin Model Configuration Management Plan
 - iii. Rose Valley Subflow Update

11. GENERAL MANAGERS REPORT:

Carol Thomas-Keefer provides the monthly financial report, updates to the C&E plan, and report from the water marketer.

The Board hears public comment from Renee Westa-Lusk.

12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – JULY 10, 2024

13. ADJOURN:

Chairman Peters adjourns the meeting at 12:34 p.m. on June 12, 2024.

Respectfully submitted,

April Keigwin
Clerk of the Board
Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority

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Invoice

Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority
Ms. Carol Thomas-Keefer
100 W. California Ave.
Ridgecrest, CA 93555

Invoice Number: 2652-82

Invoice Date: 07/02/24

Project #: 2652 **Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority**

Professional Services through 5/31/2024

Water Resources Management 2024

01 - Meetings & Prep

Professional Services

	<u>Bill Hours</u>	<u>Bill Rate</u>	<u>Charge</u>
Principal	12.50	\$244.00	\$3,050.00
Supervisor I	12.50	\$212.00	\$2,650.00
Associate III	2.25	\$114.00	\$256.50
Assistant I	12.50	\$101.00	\$1,262.50
Assistant II	12.25	\$96.00	\$1,176.00

Professional Services Subtotal: \$8,395.00

Meetings & Prep Subtotal: \$8,395.00

01.02 - LADWP Releases Analysis and Presentation

Professional Services

	<u>Bill Hours</u>	<u>Bill Rate</u>	<u>Charge</u>
Principal	3.00	\$244.00	\$732.00
Supervisor I	4.25	\$212.00	\$901.00
Supervisor II	6.00	\$197.00	\$1,182.00

Professional Services Subtotal: \$2,815.00

LADWP Releases Analysis and Presentation Subtotal: \$2,815.00

02.01 - SGMA IP Grant Administration

Professional Services

	<u>Bill Hours</u>	<u>Bill Rate</u>	<u>Charge</u>
Supervisor I	0.50	\$212.00	\$106.00
Associate III	2.00	\$114.00	\$228.00
Assistant I	13.00	\$101.00	\$1,313.00

Professional Services Subtotal: \$1,647.00

SGMA IP Grant Administration Subtotal: \$1,647.00

04 - Data Mgmt System Support

Professional Services

	<u>Bill Hours</u>	<u>Bill Rate</u>	<u>Charge</u>
Senior III	30.00	\$138.00	\$4,140.00
Senior Associate	9.00	\$132.00	\$1,188.00

Professional Services Subtotal: \$5,328.00

Data Mgmt System Support Subtotal: \$5,328.00

05 - General Project Mgmt

Professional Services

	<u>Bill Hours</u>	<u>Bill Rate</u>	<u>Charge</u>
Supervisor I	0.50	\$212.00	\$106.00

Professional Services Subtotal: \$106.00



General Project Mgmt Subtotal:			\$106.00
<u>06 - Model Transfer & Upgrade</u>			
Professional Services	<u>Bill Hours</u>	<u>Bill Rate</u>	<u>Charge</u>
Supervisor I	4.75	\$212.00	\$1,007.00
Supervisor II	7.00	\$197.00	\$1,379.00
Assistant II	28.25	\$96.00	\$2,712.00
Professional Services Subtotal:			\$5,098.00
Sub-Contractors			<u>Charge</u>
Board of Regents			\$33,738.54
Sub-Contractors Subtotal:			\$33,738.54
Model Transfer & Upgrade Subtotal:			\$38,836.54
<u>07.01 - Imported Water: Planning/Design/Environmental</u>			
Professional Services	<u>Bill Hours</u>	<u>Bill Rate</u>	<u>Charge</u>
Principal	9.50	\$244.00	\$2,318.00
Supervisor I	20.50	\$212.00	\$4,346.00
Assistant I	16.50	\$101.00	\$1,666.50
Assistant II	4.50	\$96.00	\$432.00
Professional Services Subtotal:			\$8,762.50
Imported Water: Planning/Design/Environmental Subtotal:			\$8,762.50
<u>11 - Data Collection, Monitoring & Data Gaps</u>			
Professional Services	<u>Bill Hours</u>	<u>Bill Rate</u>	<u>Charge</u>
Special Project Director	0.50	\$244.00	\$122.00
Supervisor I	0.50	\$212.00	\$106.00
Supervisor II	2.00	\$197.00	\$394.00
Associate I	1.50	\$133.00	\$199.50
Senior Associate	0.50	\$132.00	\$66.00
Associate I	12.75	\$126.00	\$1,606.50
Professional Services Subtotal:			\$2,494.00
Reimbursables			<u>Charge</u>
Other Expenses			\$54.00
Reimbursables Subtotal:			\$54.00
Data Collection, Monitoring & Data Gaps Subtotal:			\$2,548.00
<u>12 - Shallow Well Consolidation Project</u>			
Professional Services	<u>Bill Hours</u>	<u>Bill Rate</u>	<u>Charge</u>
Supervisor I	2.50	\$212.00	\$530.00
Assistant I	8.25	\$101.00	\$833.25
Assistant II	3.75	\$96.00	\$360.00
Professional Services Subtotal:			\$1,723.25
Shallow Well Consolidation Project Subtotal:			\$1,723.25
<u>14 - Production Reporting, Transient Pool & Fee Support</u>			
Professional Services	<u>Bill Hours</u>	<u>Bill Rate</u>	<u>Charge</u>
Principal	1.50	\$244.00	\$366.00
Supervisor I	3.75	\$212.00	\$795.00
Assistant I	13.50	\$101.00	\$1,363.50
Professional Services Subtotal:			\$2,524.50



Production Reporting, Transient Pool & Fee Support Subtotal: \$2,524.50

18.1 - Navy/Coso Cooperative Agreement**Professional Services**

	<u>Bill Hours</u>	<u>Bill Rate</u>	<u>Charge</u>
Associate I	0.75	\$126.00	\$94.50

Professional Services Subtotal: \$94.50

Navy/Coso Cooperative Agreement Subtotal: \$94.50

20 - Shallow Well Mitigation Program: Outreach & Impacts Evaluation**Professional Services**

	<u>Bill Hours</u>	<u>Bill Rate</u>	<u>Charge</u>
Principal	4.50	\$244.00	\$1,098.00
Supervisor I	1.50	\$212.00	\$318.00

Professional Services Subtotal: \$1,416.00

Shallow Well Mitigation Program Outreach & Impacts Evaluation Subtotal: \$1,416.00

21 - General Engineering**Professional Services**

	<u>Bill Hours</u>	<u>Bill Rate</u>	<u>Charge</u>
Principal	4.50	\$244.00	\$1,098.00
Supervisor I	0.25	\$212.00	\$53.00
Assistant I	7.00	\$101.00	\$707.00

Professional Services Subtotal: \$1,858.00

General Engineering Subtotal: \$1,858.00

22 - GSP 5-Year Update**Professional Services**

	<u>Bill Hours</u>	<u>Bill Rate</u>	<u>Charge</u>
Principal	3.00	\$244.00	\$732.00
Supervisor I	4.75	\$212.00	\$1,007.00
Supervisor II	65.00	\$197.00	\$12,805.00
GIS Manager	21.50	\$126.00	\$2,709.00
Associate III	1.00	\$114.00	\$114.00
Assistant I	3.00	\$101.00	\$303.00
Assistant II	117.25	\$96.00	\$11,256.00

Professional Services Subtotal: \$28,926.00

GSP 5-Year Update Subtotal: \$28,926.00

23 - Annual Report Preparation**Professional Services**

	<u>Bill Hours</u>	<u>Bill Rate</u>	<u>Charge</u>
Supervisor I	0.50	\$212.00	\$106.00
Associate I	0.50	\$126.00	\$63.00

Professional Services Subtotal: \$169.00

Annual Report Preparation Subtotal: \$169.00

27 - Litigation Support**Professional Services**

	<u>Bill Hours</u>	<u>Bill Rate</u>	<u>Charge</u>
Principal	17.50	\$244.00	\$4,270.00
Special Project Director	2.75	\$244.00	\$671.00
Supervisor I	9.75	\$212.00	\$2,067.00
Assistant II	19.75	\$96.00	\$1,896.00

Professional Services Subtotal: \$8,904.00

Litigation Support Subtotal: \$8,904.00

***Water Resources Management 2024 Subtotal:* \$114,053.29**



Project #: 2652

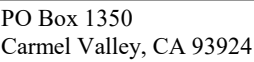
Invoice No: 2652-82

July 02, 2024

Page 4

***** Invoice Total ***** **\$114,053.29**

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Date	Invoice #
5/31/2024	17013

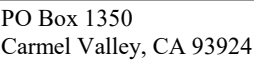
Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority
100 W California Ave
Ridgecrest, CA 93555

P.O. No.	Due Date	Inv Sent
	7/15/2024	6/25/2024

Date	Description	Amount
5/31/2024	Reimbursable Expenses for City of Ridgecrest Monthly Rent - please see attached	300.00

Electronic Payment Information:Five Star Bank Routing:121143037 Account:003528782	Total	\$300.00
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Date	Invoice #
5/31/2024	16890

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

P.O. No.	Due Date	Inv Sent
	6/30/2024	6/13/2024

Date	Description	Amount
5/31/2024	Contract Services for May - please see attached	23,640.00

Electronic Payment Information:Five Star Bank Routing:121143037 Account:003528782	Total	\$23,640.00
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Indian Wells Valley

Month: May, 2024

Hours and Rates by Pay Period					
Advisor	1st -15th		16th - EOM		Monthly
	Reg Hrs	Bill Rate	Reg Hrs	Bill Rate	Total Billed
CT	15.00	\$ 140.70	14.50	\$ 140.70	\$ 4,150.65
AK	71.50	\$ 110.25	76.90	\$ 110.25	\$ 16,361.10
JK	0.00	\$ -	0.00	\$ -	\$ -
GL	0.00	\$ -	0.00	\$ -	\$ -
HI	0.00	\$ -	0.00	\$ -	\$ -
DN	1.00	\$ 115.00	0.25	\$ 115.00	\$ 143.75
GS	15.00	\$ 137.00	5.50	\$ 137.00	\$ 2,808.50
RM	1.00	\$ 176.00	0.00	\$ -	\$ 176.00
Totals	103.50		97.15		\$ 23,640.00

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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 2024-052

DATE 07/01/2024 **TERMS** Net 45

DUE DATE 08/15/2024

VENDOR ID

195953

INVOICE PERIOD

June 2024

DATE	ACCOUNT SUMMARY	AMOUNT
06/03/2024	Balance Forward	16,668.75
	Other payments and credits after 06/03/2024 through 06/30/2024	-16,668.75
07/01/2024	Other invoices from this date	0.00
	New charges (details below)	22,187.50
	Total Amount Due	22,187.50

ACTIVITY	HOURS	RATE	AMOUNT
Charges			
Project 1: Imported Water Supplies			
P1-A: Ongoing Supply Negotiations			
Government Relations: Intergovernmental Affairs	1	275.00	275.00
A: Negotiations with Public Agency Seller 4 {Tatum}			
P1-B: Other Required Agreements			
Government Relations: Intergovernmental Affairs	4	275.00	1,100.00
B: Interconnection and Wheeling Agreement {Tatum}			
Government Relations: Intergovernmental Affairs	3.50	250.00	875.00
B: AVEK SNIPS Project Discussions {Simonetti}			
P1-C: Regulatory Approvals			
P1-D: 2024 Supply Negotiations			
Government Relations: Intergovernmental Affairs	5.50	275.00	1,512.50
D: 2024 Water Calls			
Invoice Total Project 1: \$3,762.50			
Project 2: Interconnection Pipeline Project			
Government Relations: Federal	2.50	275.00	687.50
Federal Agency Funding {Tatum}			
Government Relations: Federal	2.50	275.00	687.50
Congressional: Future Funding Requirements and Timing (internal meetings) {McKinney}			

ACTIVITY	HOURS	RATE	AMOUNT
Government Relations:Federal Congressional: WRDA-24 Lobbying (Chairman's Mark): Chairman Graves, Rep. Garcia, Rep. Fong, Rep. Napolitano, Rep. Obernolte, Rep. Valadao, Rep. Rouzer, House Committee staff, Senate Committee staff {McKinney}	10	275.00	2,750.00
Government Relations:Federal Congressional: House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee clarifying amendments WRDA-24 and Committee markup {McKinney}	8	275.00	2,200.00
Government Relations:Federal Congressional: E&WD FY2025 Community Project Funding Request -- House Lobbying {McKinney}	3	275.00	825.00
Government Relations:California Agency: DWR {McKinney}	2	275.00	550.00
Government Relations:Federal Congressional: FY2025 E&WD Request {Simonetti}	1	250.00	250.00
Government Relations:Federal Congressional: DC Materials Preparation and Scheduling Calls {Simonetti}	3	250.00	750.00
Government Relations:Federal Congressional: House/Senate Interconnection Meetings final WRDA Lobbying push {Simonetti}	7	250.00	1,750.00
Government Relations:Federal Congressional: House of Representatives -- WRDA-24 Amendment {Simonetti}	4.50	250.00	1,125.00
Invoice Total Project 2: \$11,575.00			
Project 3: Other Projects Supporting the GSP			
P3-A: Water Recycling			
P3-B: Wastewater Treatment			
P3-C: Well Mitigations, Consolidations, and Repurposing			
Government Relations:California P3-C: Agency: Internal Consolidation Discussion and Grant Utilization {McKinney}	4	275.00	1,100.00
P3-D: Legislative Affairs			
Government Relations:California D: AB 560 Amendments {Tatum}	1	275.00	275.00
Government Relations:California D: Legislative: AB 560 Amendments: Internal calls, Asm. Bennett, Chair Papan, Chair Min, materials development {McKinney}	5	275.00	1,375.00
Government Relations:California D: Legislative: Legislative Affairs various bills {McKinney}	2.50	275.00	687.50
Government Relations:California D: Agency: DWR (Paul Gosselin mtg and preparation) {Simonetti}	2	250.00	500.00
Government Relations:California D: Legislative -- AB 560 Amendments and lobbying and internal discussions {Simonetti}	1.75	250.00	437.50
Government Relations:California D: Legislative -- Sacramento Legislative Affairs {Simonetti}	1	250.00	250.00
Invoice Total Project 3: \$4,625.00			
Project Administration			

ACTIVITY	HOURS	RATE	AMOUNT
General Business Items:Project Administration Board Meetings: Staff Calls {Tatum}	0.50	275.00	137.50
General Business Items:Project Administration Board Meetings: June Board Meeting {Tatum}	2.50	275.00	687.50
General Business Items:Project Administration Ad-Hoc Meetings: Internal Meetings and Staff Calls {McKinney}	3.50	275.00	962.50
General Business Items:Project Administration Board: Board Meeting Preparation {Simonetti}	1.75	250.00	437.50
Invoice Total Project Administration: \$2,225.00			

Compliance Reporting:			
Federal Reporting on Invoice: \$11,025.00			
Federal Reporting Quarterly: \$20,412.50			
State Reporting on Invoice: \$5,175.00			
State Reporting Quarterly: \$16,118.75			

Thank you for your business. Please make checks payable to Capitol Core Group, Inc.

SUBTOTAL	22,187.50
TAX	0.00
TOTAL	22,187.50
TOTAL OF NEW CHARGES	22,187.50
TOTAL DUE	\$22,187.50

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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

June 30, 2024
Project: No: 04101-23-002
Invoice No: 111241

Project Name: IWVGA Imported Water Conveyance Design Services

Client Project #:

See Monthly Progress Report attached to the front of this invoice.

Professional Services from June 01, 2024 to June 23, 2024

Phase: 121P Coordination Meetings

Labor

	Hours	Rate	Amount	
Senior Engineer	1.00	195.00	195.00	
Associate Biologist	1.20		0.00	
Project Administrator	1.30	101.00	131.30	
Associate Biologist	.50	130.00	65.00	
Totals	4.00		391.30	
Total Labor				391.30
Total this Phase:				\$391.30

Phase: 122S Stantec Coordination Meetings

Consultants

Consultants			2,541.50	
Total Consultants			2,541.50	2,541.50
Total this Phase:				\$2,541.50

Phase: 131P P&P General Project Management

Labor

	Hours	Rate	Amount	
Travel Time	1.50	80.00	120.00	
Senior Engineer	17.30	195.00	3,373.50	
Principal Engineer	1.50	227.00	340.50	
Principal Engineer	12.40	248.00	3,075.20	
Project Administrator	.40	101.00	40.40	
Totals	33.10		6,949.60	
Total Labor				6,949.60
Total this Phase:				\$6,949.60

Phase: 132S Stantec General Project Management

Consultants

Consultants			704.38	
Total Consultants			704.38	704.38
Total this Phase:				\$704.38

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For billing inquiries, please email Billing@ppeng.com.

Project	04101-23-002	IWVGA Imported Water Conveyance Design	Invoice	111241
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Phase: 231P Surveying

Labor

	Hours	Rate	Amount	
Travel Time	33.00	80.00	2,640.00	
1-Man Survey Crew	30.00	200.00	6,000.00	
2-Man Survey Crew	3.50	285.00	997.50	
Senior Engineer	4.00	178.00	712.00	
Senior Technician	7.00	130.00	910.00	
Assistant Technician	1.00	91.00	91.00	
Assistant Surveyor	1.50	106.00	159.00	
Intern	1.80	65.00	117.00	
Licensed Surveyor	6.50	180.00	1,170.00	
Totals	88.30		12,796.50	
Total Labor				12,796.50

Reimbursable Expenses

Travel & Mileage	686.88	
Per Diem - Meals & Incidentals	441.60	
Total Reimbursables	1,128.48	1,128.48

Unit Billing

Lumber				
6/3/2024	Lumber -	80.0 Units @ 2.00	160.00	
6/4/2024	Lumber -	80.0 Units @ 2.00	160.00	
UAV with Survey Camera - Daily Use				
6/18/2024	UAV with Survey Camera - Daily Use	1.0 Day @ 300.00	300.00	
6/22/2024	UAV with Survey Camera - Daily Use	1.0 Day @ 300.00	300.00	
Total Units		1.0 times	920.00	920.00
Total this Phase:				\$14,844.98

Phase: 251P P&P Coordination Geotechnical Services

Labor

	Hours	Rate	Amount	
Senior Technician	.60	150.00	90.00	
Totals	.60		90.00	
Total Labor				90.00
Total this Phase:				\$90.00

Phase: 252G Soils Engineering Geotechnical Services

Consultants

Consultants	121,423.33	
Total Consultants	121,423.33	121,423.33
Total this Phase:		\$121,423.33

Phase: 271P BLM Special Use Permit

Labor

	Hours	Rate	Amount	
Senior Engineer	3.00	195.00	585.00	
Associate Engineer	1.00	133.00	133.00	

Project	04101-23-002	IWVGA Imported Water Conveyance Design			Invoice	111241
Associate Engineer		11.40	140.00		1,596.00	
Totals		15.40			2,314.00	
Total Labor						2,314.00
Total this Phase:						\$2,314.00
Phase:	274P	Kern County Roads Franchise Agreement/Encroachment Permit				
Labor						
		Hours	Rate	Amount		
Senior Engineer		1.00	178.00	178.00		
Totals		1.00		178.00		
Total Labor						178.00
Total this Phase:						\$178.00
Phase:	275P	SCE Encroachment Permit (Transmission Line Under Crossing)				
Labor						
		Hours	Rate	Amount		
Senior Engineer		10.00	178.00	1,780.00		
Senior Engineer		1.40	195.00	273.00		
Totals		11.40		2,053.00		
Total Labor						2,053.00
Total this Phase:						\$2,053.00
Phase:	276P	Coordination with Cal Parks				
Labor						
		Hours	Rate	Amount		
Senior Engineer		1.40	195.00	273.00		
Principal Engineer		5.80	207.00	1,200.60		
Project Administrator		.90	101.00	90.90		
Totals		8.10		1,564.50		
Total Labor						1,564.50
Total this Phase:						\$1,564.50
Phase:	284S	Scour Analysis of BLM Drainage Crossings				
Consultants						
Consultants				3,921.50		
Total Consultants				3,921.50		3,921.50
Total this Phase:						\$3,921.50
Phase:	31T7	Instrumentation and Controls TM				
Consultants						
Consultants				2,656.50		
Total Consultants				2,656.50		2,656.50
Total this Phase:						\$2,656.50
Phase:	31TX	Mechanical Process-Pump Selection				
Consultants						
Consultants				80.50		
Total Consultants				80.50		80.50

Project	04101-23-002	IWVGA Imported Water Conveyance Design	Invoice	111241
			Total this Phase:	\$80.50
Phase:	321P	P&P 60% Submittal		
Labor				
		Hours	Rate	Amount
Senior Engineer		4.50	186.00	837.00
Senior Engineer		9.30	178.00	1,655.40
Senior Engineer		59.80	195.00	11,661.00
Assistant Engineer		24.90	126.00	3,137.40
Associate Specialist		.50	147.00	73.50
Senior Specialist		7.50	165.00	1,237.50
Principal Engineer		5.50	207.00	1,138.50
Principal Engineer		.10	227.00	22.70
Principal Const. Manager		2.00	215.00	430.00
	Totals	114.10		20,193.00
	Total Labor			20,193.00
Reimbursable Expenses				
Filing Fees				868.25
Other Direct Reimb Expenses				638.86
	Total Reimbursables		1,507.11	1,507.11
			Total this Phase:	\$21,700.11
Phase:	322D	P&P Drafting 60% Submittal		
Labor				
		Hours	Rate	Amount
Assistant Engineer		8.10	126.00	1,020.60
Associate Technician		61.00	125.00	7,625.00
Assistant Engineer		55.80	133.00	7,421.40
	Totals	124.90		16,067.00
	Total Labor			16,067.00
			Total this Phase:	\$16,067.00
Phase:	323S	Stantec 60% Pumping Facility Design and Specs		
Consultants				
Consultants				9,918.75
	Total Consultants		9,918.75	9,918.75
			Total this Phase:	\$9,918.75
Phase:	324T	60% Bennett Trenchless Consultants		
Consultants				
Consultants				16,534.13
	Total Consultants		16,534.13	16,534.13
			Total this Phase:	\$16,534.13
Billing Limits		Current	Prior	To-Date
Total Billings		223,933.08	2,506,442.12	2,730,375.20
Budget				3,770,969.00
Budget Remaining				1,040,593.80
			Total this Invoice	\$223,933.08

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

June 30, 2024
Project No: 04101-23-001
Invoice No: 111244

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

Client Project #:

TSK 1 Initial Coordination: Continued Coordination tasks with staff, client, and agencies to keep project schedule on track. Administrative tasks for overall project progression. Weekly coordination meetings and tasks for project progression. Coordination meetings with sub consultants. Internal management meetings for project progression discussions, staff changes, and all related project status updates. Internal staff coordination based on agency feedback and updates from meetings. Follow up on amendments and notice to proceed. Attend all meetings with BLM and client and draft notes for review and sending out to group. Process sub consultant invoices, reimbursable expenses and timesheets for approval. Export data from monitoring work. Email correspondence.

TSK 2 Geotechnical Studies: Update Geotech field maps. Check in meeting with BLM for Geotech Boring monitoring updates. Email correspondence.

TSK 3 Technical Studies: Biological Resources - Updates to biological technical reports based on comments/feedback from BLM and CDFW. Prepare redacted BA/BE for public review for sensitive areas. Habitat mapping preparation ahead of survey. Preparation and research efforts for botany survey. Coordination meeting and email communication. Continued efforts on BLM requirements for CMAs. Cultural Resources - finalize report, send to BLM, email correspondence, updates to report. Upload updated reports and comments to Sharepoint Site.

TSK 5 Regulatory Compliance and Permitting: Follow up on submittal of permits for geotechnical work to CDFW, RWQCB, and USACE waivers. Review CDFW LSA Incomplete application letter. Compiling ARD comments and edits to have done for permit package resubmittal. Internal meeting with sub consultant for edits to the ARD based on LSA comments. Coordination with sub consultant on edits and updates to ARD report. Edits to figures.

TSK 6 CEQA/NEPA Documentation: Coordination meetings on cumulative impacts and alternatives analysis. Updating cumulative impact section. Updates to EA Alternatives sections. Updates to bio resources section based on BA/BE comments received. Updates to project description based on alignment updates from design. Updates to exhibits. Internal QAQC on EIR and EA sections and IS for submittal to agencies and client. Edits to figures in environmental document. Email correspondence.

Professional Services from June 01, 2024 to June 23, 2024

Phase: TSK1 Initial Coordination (Kick Off Meetings)

Labor

	Hours	Rate	Amount	
Principal Engineer	1.00	240.00	240.00	
Principal Planner	6.40	198.00	1,267.20	
Senior Project Administrator	44.40	122.00	5,416.80	
Totals	51.80		6,924.00	
Total Labor				6,924.00
Total this Phase:				\$6,924.00

Phase: TSK2 Geotechnical Studies

Labor

	Hours	Rate	Amount	
Senior Specialist	.10	157.00	15.70	
Principal Planner	2.40	198.00	475.20	
Associate Biologist	20.20	136.00	2,747.20	
Senior Project Administrator	2.80	122.00	341.60	
Totals	25.50		3,579.70	
Total Labor				3,579.70

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For billing inquiries, please email Billing@ppeng.com.

Project	04101-23-001	IWVGA CEQA_NEPA Permitting	Invoice	111244
			Total this Phase:	\$3,579.70
Phase:	TSK3	Technical Studies		
Labor				
		Hours	Rate	Amount
Principal Biologist		7.00	180.00	1,260.00
Totals		7.00		1,260.00
Total Labor				1,260.00
			Total this Phase:	\$1,260.00
Phase:	TSK5	Regulatory Compliance and Permitting		
Labor				
		Hours	Rate	Amount
Associate Specialist		.30	127.00	38.10
Associate Biologist		24.10	143.00	3,446.30
Totals		24.40		3,484.40
Total Labor				3,484.40
			Total this Phase:	\$3,484.40
Phase:	TSK6	CEQA/NEPA Documentation		
Labor				
		Hours	Rate	Amount
Associate Biologist		3.60	143.00	514.80
Associate Planner		1.90	131.00	248.90
Assistant Planner		6.20	103.00	638.60
Assistant Planner		6.70	110.00	737.00
Principal Planner		1.60	198.00	316.80
Associate Biologist		4.00	136.00	544.00
Totals		24.00		3,000.10
Total Labor				3,000.10
			Total this Phase:	\$3,000.10
			Total this Invoice	\$18,248.20

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

June 30, 2024
Project No: 04101-23-001
Invoice No: 111225

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

Client Project #:

TSK 1 Initial Coordination: Continued Coordination tasks with staff, client, and agencies to keep project schedule on track. Administrative tasks for overall project progression. Weekly coordination meetings and tasks for project progression. Coordination meetings with sub consultants. Internal management meetings for project progression discussions, staff changes, and all related project status updates. Internal staff coordination based on agency feedback and updates from meetings. Follow up on amendments and notice to proceed. Attend all meetings with BLM and client and draft notes for review and sending out to group. Process sub consultant invoices, reimbursable expenses and timesheets for approval. Email correspondence.

TSK 2 Geotechnical Studies: Continued email correspondence with CDFW to discuss boring sites and mitigation measures. Review and discuss boring locations and make edits to all prepared maps based on discussions. Submit resumes for qualified biological staff to BLM for approval for required additional botany surveys. Review mitigation measures for geotechnical work and revise based on meetings with BLM and CDFW. Map updates for geotechnical locations. Meeting with BLM to review and edits to POD and CMAs for geotechnical work and resolved questions/comments on prepared document. Check in with CDFW and email correspondence. Review revegetation plan for geotechnical work. Email correspondence.

TSK 3 Technical Studies: Biological Resources - Surveys areas updated in alignment. Updates to biological technical reports based on comments/feedback from BLM and CDFW. Prepare redacted BA/BE for public review for sensitive areas. Habitat mapping preparation ahead of survey. Preparation and research efforts for botany survey. Coordination meeting and email communication. Continued efforts on BLM requirements for CMAs. Cultural Resources - finalize report, send to BLM, email correspondence, updates to report.

TSK 4 Public Outreach: Updates to scoping report per meetings with BLM and coordination meetings.

TSK 5 Regulatory Compliance and Permitting: Follow up on submittal of permits for geotechnical work to CDFW, RWQCB, and USACE waivers. Review CDFW LSA Incomplete application letter. Compiling ARD comments and edits to have done for permit package resubmittal. Internal meeting with sub consultant for edits to the ARD based on LSA comments. Coordination with sub consultant on edits and updates to ARD report. Edits to figures.

TSK 6 CEQA/NEPA Documentation: Coordination meetings on cumulative impacts and alternatives analysis. Updating cumulative impact section. Updates to EA Alternatives sections. Updates to bio resources section based on BA/BE. Updates to project description based on alignment updates from design. Updates to exhibits. Internal QAQC on EIR and EA sections and IS for submittal to agencies and client. Edits to figures in environmental document. Email correspondence.

Professional Services from May 01, 2024 to May 31, 2024

Phase: TSK1 Initial Coordination (Kick Off Meetings)

Labor

	Hours	Rate	Amount	
Principal Planner	14.40	198.00	2,851.20	
Principal Biologist	9.30	180.00	1,674.00	
Senior Project Administrator	23.50	122.00	2,867.00	
Totals	47.20		7,392.20	
Total Labor				7,392.20

Consultants

Consultants			2,292.82	
Total Consultants			2,292.82	2,292.82

Total this Phase: \$9,685.02

Phase: TSK2 Geotechnical Studies

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Project	04101-23-001	IWVGA CEQA_NEPA Permitting	Invoice	111225
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Labor

	Hours	Rate	Amount	
Associate Specialist	30.30	127.00	3,848.10	
Senior Specialist	22.40	157.00	3,516.80	
Principal Planner	.30	198.00	59.40	
Associate Biologist	10.10	136.00	1,373.60	
Senior Project Administrator	3.50	122.00	427.00	
Totals	66.60		9,224.90	
Total Labor				9,224.90

Consultants

Consultants			6,362.38	
Total Consultants			6,362.38	6,362.38

Total this Phase: \$15,587.28

Phase: TSK3 Technical Studies

Labor

	Hours	Rate	Amount	
Senior Planner	.50	152.00	76.00	
Associate Biologist	11.00	136.00	1,496.00	
Assistant Biologist	.60	111.00	66.60	
Totals	12.10		1,638.60	
Total Labor				1,638.60

Total this Phase: \$1,638.60

Phase: TSK5 Regulatory Compliance and Permitting

Labor

	Hours	Rate	Amount	
Principal Biologist	.30	180.00	54.00	
Totals	.30		54.00	
Total Labor				54.00

Total this Phase: \$54.00

Phase: TSK6 CEQA/NEPA Documentation

Labor

	Hours	Rate	Amount	
Principal Engineer	1.40	240.00	336.00	
Associate Planner	9.80	124.00	1,215.20	
Assistant Planner	4.30	103.00	442.90	
Principal Planner	2.00	198.00	396.00	
Senior Project Administrator	3.90	122.00	475.80	
Totals	21.40		2,865.90	
Total Labor				2,865.90

Total this Phase: \$2,865.90

Total this Invoice \$29,830.80

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

June 30, 2024
Project: No: 04101-24-002
Invoice No: 111245

Project Name: IWVGA Imported Pipeline Mojave Tank Farm Alternative

Client Project #:

TSK1 Initial Coordination: Review contracts and sub agreements. Project set up tasks. Maps discussion and coordination for Mojave Tank Farm alignment. Kick off with GIS team. Discuss Phase 2 Mojave Tank Farm portion with BLM for path forward. Coordination meeting with BLM, Stetson, internal staff and subs. Notes.

TSK2 Technical Studies: Project set up tasks for technical studies. Prepare survey maps. Responses to inquiries on additional pipeline area. Coordination efforts with DOD staff for access for exploratory surveys.

TSK3 CEQA_NEPA Compliance: Coordinate cumulative impact notices for the additional area. Coordinate with AQ sub consultant for modeling to incorporate into current document. Revise maps for CEQA_NEPA document.

Professional Services from June 01, 2024 to June 23, 2024

Phase: TSK1 IWVGA Imported Pipeline Project Mojave Tank Farm Analysis Initial Coordination

Labor

	Hours	Rate	Amount	
Principal Planner	1.80	198.00	356.40	
Senior Project Administrator	9.60	122.00	1,171.20	
Totals	11.40		1,527.60	
Total Labor				1,527.60
Total this Phase:				\$1,527.60

Phase: TSK2 IWVGA Mojave Tank Farm Analysis Technical Studies

Labor

	Hours	Rate	Amount	
Associate Biologist	1.20	143.00	171.60	
Principal Planner	1.00	198.00	198.00	
Totals	2.20		369.60	
Total Labor				369.60

Consultants

Consultants			10,769.75	
Total Consultants			10,769.75	10,769.75
Total this Phase:				\$11,139.35

Phase: TSK3 IWVGA Mojave Tank Farm Analysis CEQA_NEPA Compliance

Labor

	Hours	Rate	Amount	
Senior Engineer	4.00	210.00	840.00	
Associate Specialist	5.40	142.00	766.80	
Principal Engineer	2.50	220.00	550.00	
Associate Planner	2.50	131.00	327.50	

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Project	04101-24-002	IWVGA Imported Pipeline Mojave Tank Farm		Invoice	111245
Principal Planner		.40	198.00	79.20	
Totals		14.80		2,563.50	
Total Labor					2,563.50
			Total this Phase:		\$2,563.50
			Total this Invoice		<u>\$15,230.45</u>

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

June 30, 2024
Project: No: 04101-24-002
Invoice No: 111226

Project Name: IWVGA Imported Pipeline Mojave Tank Farm Alternative

Client Project #:

TSK1 Initial Coordination: Review contracts and sub agreements. Project set up tasks. Maps discussion and coordination for Mojave Tank Farm alignment. Kick off with GIS team. Discuss Phase 2 Mojave Tank Farm portion with BLM for path forward. Coordination meeting with BLM, Stetson, internal staff and subs. Notes.

TSK2 Technical Studies: Project set up tasks for technical studies. Prepare survey maps. Prepare landowner contact information. Mail notices to parcel owners for surveys and environmental analysis.

Professional Services from May 01, 2024 to May 31, 2024

Phase: TSK1 IWVGA Imported Pipeline Project Mojave Tank Farm Analysis Initial Coordination

Labor

	Hours	Rate	Amount	
Senior Engineer	1.00	210.00	210.00	
Principal Engineer	1.10	240.00	264.00	
Principal Planner	3.50	198.00	693.00	
Senior Project Administrator	9.40	122.00	1,146.80	
Totals	15.00		2,313.80	
Total Labor				2,313.80
Total this Phase:				\$2,313.80

Phase: TSK2 IWVGA Mojave Tank Farm Analysis Technical Studies

Labor

	Hours	Rate	Amount	
Travel Time	7.20	90.00	648.00	
Senior Specialist	.40	157.00	62.80	
Principal Engineer	6.00	220.00	1,320.00	
Principal Planner	1.00	198.00	198.00	
Associate Biologist	28.60	122.00	3,489.20	
Associate Biologist	53.90	136.00	7,330.40	
Senior Project Administrator	18.90	122.00	2,305.80	
Totals	116.00		15,354.20	
Total Labor				15,354.20

Reimbursable Expenses

Travel & Mileage	416.07	
Other Direct Reimb Expenses	128.94	
Total Reimbursables	545.01	545.01
Total this Phase:		\$15,899.21

Phase: TSK3 IWVGA Mojave Tank Farm Analysis CEQA_NEPA Compliance

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For billing inquiries, please email Billing@ppeng.com.

Project	04101-24-002	IWVGA Imported Pipeline Mojave Tank Farm	Invoice	111226
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Labor

	Hours	Rate	Amount	
Associate Specialist	5.40	134.00	723.60	
Senior Specialist	6.10	157.00	957.70	
Senior Specialist	.40	185.00	74.00	
Project Administrator	.60	100.00	60.00	
Principal Biologist	.20	180.00	36.00	
Totals	12.70		1,851.30	
Total Labor				1,851.30

Reimbursable Expenses

Other Direct Reimb Expenses	391.00	
Total Reimbursables	391.00	391.00

Total this Phase: \$2,242.30

Total this Invoice \$20,455.31

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The Daily Independent
P.O. Box 7
Ridgecrest, CA 93555

Office Hours: Mon - Fri.
9:30 am - 2:30 pm
Phone Number: 760-375-4481
Fax Number: 760-375-4880

IWV Ground Authority
500 W Ridgecrest Blvd
Ridgecrest CA 93555

Invoice 129155
Account Number 142701

[illegible]

Please submit payment to the above address. Should you have any billing questions, please contact
Paula McKay at 1-760-375-4481.

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State of California
CALIFORNIA STATE LANDS COMMISSION
Attn: Accounting, 100 Howe Ave, Suite 100 South, Sacramento, CA 95825
TAX ID# 68-0291104

INVOICE

Billed To:
Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority
ATTN: April Keigwin
100 W. California Avenue
Ridgecrest, CA 93555

Invoice Date: 08/21/2023
Invoice Number: 59168
Due Date: 10/25/2023
Lease Number: 9700
Rent Period: Annual
Index: 3010
PCA: 88001
Source: 152200

Lessee: Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority

General Lease - Public Agency Use, for four groundwater monitoring wells, on State school land in a portion of Section 16, T24S; R38E; MDM, near Highway 395 and Pearsonville in the county or counties of: Inyo

10/25/2022 Comm Mtg-52 Issuance of General Lease – Public Agency Use with annual rent beginning 10/25/2022 in amount of \$140 per year for 20 years with an annual Consumer Price Index, Dept. of Industrial Relations adjustment using the month of February.

Charges	Amount Due	Charge Description
CPI Rent	\$150.35	Annual Rental Due Date = 10/25/2023

Total Balance Due On : 10/25/2023

\$150.35

LATE PAYMENTS SHALL BE SUBJECT TO PENALTY AND INTEREST 2 CCR § 1911

This invoice is sent as a courtesy reminder only. The lessee's obligation is to pay rent according to the schedule and amount set forth within the lease.

For questions regarding the invoice call (916) 574-1943. To make a payment by Mastercard, Visa, Discover or e-check go online to pay.slc.ca.gov or call (916) 562-0026.

Please write your lease number on your payment

Return this stub and remittance payable to:
CA STATE LANDS COMMISSION
Attn: Accounting
100 Howe Ave, Suite 100-South
Sacramento, CA 95825-8202

Lessee: Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority

☐ Change of Address - Please note changes.

Invoice Date: 08/21/2023
Invoice Number: 59168
Due Date: 10/25/2023
Lease Number: 9700
Rent Period: Annual
Amount Due: \$150.35
Index: 3010
PCA: 88001
Source: 152200

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TO: IWVGA Board Members

DATE: July 2, 2024

FROM: IWVGA Staff

SUBJECT: Agenda Item 9 – Funding Status – Interconnection Pipeline Project

BACKGROUND AND DISCUSSION:

In 2023, the Board directed Capitol Core Group to seek Congressional authorization for the “interconnection (imported water) pipeline project” under Section 219 – Environmental Infrastructure of the *Water Resources Development Act* (“WRDA”). WRDA is a biennial piece of legislation that authorizes new, reauthorizes existing, and deauthorizes water resource projects under the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) jurisdiction. Congress generally considers WRDA a “must pass” piece of legislation.

Since 2023, Capitol Core has sought Congressional authorization for the interconnection pipeline project. In 2023, Senator Alex Padilla (D-CA) and Representative Mike Garcia (R-CA 26th) agreed to submit a request for the project’s authorization for consideration by the respective Senate and House of Representatives Committees of jurisdiction. Newly elected Representative Vince Fong (R-CA 20th) played an instrumental role in assisting with this funding request.

Projects authorized under Section 219 have ten years to complete construction. Amounts authorized by Congress must be appropriated through the Community Project Funding request process (“Congressionally directed spending”) in the Energy & Water Resources Development Act (E&WD). Appropriated amounts must be sought in the fiscal years, and spending for the project is required. In other words, the Authority will need to seek the appropriation of funds for each year’s construction phase as the roughly 3 to 4 years of construction work actually occurs. This is analogous to a homeowner authorizing construction on a project at their home but actually providing the funding as the project moves forward.

UPDATE:

United States Senate:

On May 16, 2024, Senator Thomas Carper (D-DE), Chairman of the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works, released his discussion draft of WRDA-2024. Section 302(a) Item 411 of the draft bill authorizes the interconnection pipeline project and provides the Authority \$5 million for remaining planning and land acquisition activities associated with the project. This funding should be more than enough to place the project in a shovel-ready state. On May 22, 2024, the Senate Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure reported (passed) WRDA-24 (S. 4367) by a vote of 19-0. S. 4367 is pending debate on the Senate Floor (Calendar Item 401).

United States House of Representatives:

On June 25, 2024, Representative Sam Graves (R-MO 6th), Chairman of the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, released his discussion draft of WRDA-2024. Section 328, Item 427 of the draft bill authorized a water supply project in the Indian Wells Valley. It incorrectly designated the City of Indian Wells, California, as the project’s non-federal sponsor. The authorization provided the project with \$50 million. On June 26, 2024, the House Committee marked up the draft legislation. Representative Fong (R-CA 20th), a member of the Committee, successfully offered an amendment to clarify the geographic location and designated Kern County as the non-federal sponsor. The House Committee on

Transportation and Infrastructure reported (passed) WRDA-24 (HR 8812) by a vote of 61-2. HR 8812 is pending debate on the House Floor upon consideration by the House Rules Committee. Obviously, \$50 million is a considerable level of funding. In fact, this level of funding ensures that the construction phase will be well underway when the Authority seeks the remaining funding authorization in the Water Resources Development Act of 2026.

Reconcilable Actions:

Differences between HR 8812 and S. 4367 will be resolved in the Conference Committee upon the bills' passage by both the House and Senate, respectively. The explicit authorization of the interconnection pipeline project within HR 8812 and S. 4367 makes the project not subject to reconciliation by the Conference Committee. The differences between the authorization contained in the two bills are 1) the designated non-federal sponsor (either IWVGA as stated in the Senate bill or Kern County as stated in the House bill) and 2) the amounts authorized (\$5 million in the Senate bill and \$50 million in the House bill). These two issues are subject to reconciliation by the Conference Committee. Capitol Core is working with Members of the Senate to obtain a technical amendment to resolve the non-federal sponsor designation and receive the \$50 million as contained in the House version of the bill.

Policy Differences and Eligibility:

The House Committee staff questioned the eligibility of the Authority as the non-federal sponsor for two reasons:

1. It questioned the Authority's status as a political subdivision of the State of California. Under WRDA, only public agencies are eligible entities.
2. It further questioned the Authority's eligibility, given that two federal agencies, BLM and the U.S. Navy, serve as ex-officio members of its board. Federal agencies cannot serve as non-federal sponsors under USACE civil works projects authorized by WRDA.

The Senate Committee staff disagrees with the House Committee staff's assessment. California Government Code Section 6500 allows counties, cities, special districts, and other public agencies to enter into agreements that create new and distinct authorities, such as Joint-Power Authorities. These authorities are created when two or more local governments enter into a cooperative agreement to provide any service they could provide. A joint powers agreement involves mutually agreeing to specific conditions and terms that may limit each agency's ability to act independently. Still, it does not alter the basic structure of each agency's decision-making process, and to determine a political subdivision of the State of California, JPAs are eligible entities. The status of the ex-officio, non-voting member federal agencies does not create eligibility issues for the Authority. The U.S. Navy and the BLM are not subject to the terms and conditions of the JPA. These agencies are included to discuss the considerable impact to the regional water supply.

The policy difference between the House and Senate on the project's funding is more substantive. The Senate provided the project with \$5 million. This equates to one year of funding (FY2026) to fully complete planning, design, and right-of-way acquisition (land purchases). In simple terms, the Senate demonstrated its approval of the project, and it ensured the project had the funding to be fully shovel-ready at the next funding opportunity, which coincides roughly with the actual projected construction phase. Construction funding would then be authorized in the WRDA-2026 legislation. The House, on the other hand, demonstrated that it not only approved of the project but also provided \$50 million, equaling one-third of the project's anticipated costs of \$150 million. This level of funding will get us a third of the way into the construction phase and maybe even halfway through if the local matching funds and/or state grants are obtained during this early phase.

Obviously, the IWVGA favors the House version (HR 8812), but both versions are acceptable, and preliminary discussions with the Senate staff lead us to believe that the final funding level will move the project well into the construction phase.

County as Non-Federal Sponsor:

Kern County serving as the project's non-federal sponsor would not be uncommon or difficult. If reconciliation of the House and Senate versions designate Kern County as the non-federal sponsor, the following items should occur:

1. The Funding Agreement will be between Kern County and USACE. The County should designate IWVGA as its "Agent" for the project.
2. A funding pass through Agreement and Kern County-IWVGA Agreement would be required.
3. Appropriations requests for the project would be sponsored by the County.

Work on the required agreements may be needed in 2024, but these are routine agreements that will not delay the process.

Timing:

With few legislative days remaining in July, it is unlikely that either the House or Senate will pass WRDA-24 before the August Congressional recess. WRDA-24 will have action in the fall of 2024 and may take until December 31, 2024, to gain passage. Again, as already stated, Congress generally considers WRDA a "must pass" piece of legislation, so it would be wise to begin working agreements with Army Corp immediately. To this end, Staff has already begun preliminary work on the required agreements and can provide further updates on the Army Corp's form agreement.

ACTION ITEMS:

FY2026 Funding Request

Legislative deadlines may require IWVGA to prepare and request FY2026 funding before WRDA-24's passage. The request, including the interconnection pipeline project, would be considered subject to WRDA-24's passage. Development of the funding request (Congressionally directed spending or "earmark") is requested.

USACE Environmental Infrastructure Agreement

Delays in negotiating the Funding Agreement between USACE and non-federal sponsors have been common. These delays may impact the tight timelines associated with the interconnection project. To avoid this issue, Capitol Core Group recommended that staff review the standard USACE model agreement for Section 219/Environmental Infrastructure Projects and provide recommendations for Board consideration. Staff seeks authorization from the board to review and provide recommendations on the Model Funding Agreement before WRDA-24 passage at the next board meeting.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Direct Capitol Core Group to prepare a \$5 million fiscal year 2026 funding request to be included in the Energy and Water Development Act.
2. Direct staff counsel to review the USACE Model Funding Agreement for Environmental Infrastructure Projects and report on findings at the next board meeting.

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CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES APPROVE INDIAN WELLS VALLEY PIPELINE PROJECT

In a bipartisan and bicameral effort, two Congressional Committees have approved the authorization of the Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority's interconnection pipeline project. U.S. Senator Alex Padilla (D-CA), Representative Vince Fong (R-CA 20th), and Representative Mike Garcia (R-CA 27th) co-sponsored the authorization in the biennial Water Resources Development Act ("WRDA"). Considered by Congress a must-pass bill, WRDA provides the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers with Congressional authority to work on civil public works projects. The IWVGA project would bring imported water supplies to the Indian Wells Valley to meet sustainability requirements. If approved by Congress, the authorization would allow the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to work with IWVGA to construct the project over a ten-year period beginning in 2025.

"Senator Padilla and Representatives Fong and Garcia have worked on this authorization request for nearly a year. It represents a huge step in bringing the Indian Wells Valley to water sustainability. On behalf of the Authority and the Valley's residents, I thank the Senator and Representatives for championing this project," said Phillip Peters, IWVGA Chairman and Kern County Supervisor.

IWVGA has sought federal and State funding to defer required infrastructure costs associated with implementing the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) and help ensure continued water resources in the basin. IWVGA has received nearly \$13.5 million to develop the Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP), conduct planning and permitting activities associated with the interconnection pipeline, and mitigate well failures through system consolidations that would otherwise be borne by property owners and water ratepayers. In addition to the amounts authorized in WRDA, the Authority is seeking an additional \$3.9 million for funding assistance for the interconnection pipeline and required updates to the GSP.

The 50-mile interconnection pipeline would connect the Indian Wells Valley to the Antelope Valley East Kern Water Agency facilities, allowing for the conveyance of more than 3,000+ acre-feet of imported water supplies. *"The Authority has been able to obtain needed infrastructure funding and focus ratepayer funding on the purchase of water supplies, which is not currently eligible for grant or other funding,"* said Peters.

The Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority is committed to effectively and efficiently achieving the sustainability goals outlined in the State-approved GSP and aims to make significant strides in addressing the critical water challenges facing the Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Basin.

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IWVGA ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

STAFF REPORT

TO: IWVGA Board Members **DATE:** July 10, 2024

FROM: IWVGA Staff

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item 10 – Approval of Master Agreement Between U.S. Department of the Interior Bureau of Land Management, Ridgecrest Field Office and Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority, CACA-106369761**

BACKGROUND

Provost and Pritchard Consulting Group (P&P) is preparing CEQA/NEPA Documents and providing Permit Documentation services for the Imported Water Pipeline Project (Project) which will bring imported water supplies into the Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Basin through a connection with Antelope Valley – East Kern Water Agency’s California City pipeline to the Indian Wells Valley Water District water system.

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has NEPA responsibility for this Project. On April 12, 2023, the Board authorized a reimbursement agreement with the BLM which included an initial baseline estimate of BLM’s costs of \$104,298.84 and required additional reimbursement of BLM’s eventual actual costs.

As the responsible agency, the BLM has vested interests in ensuring that the strongest documentation and environmental review possible is done while also respecting and ensuring that the costs are appropriately constrained. On April 10, 2024, the Board authorized up to an additional \$200,000.00 for reimbursement to the BLM to complete their effort through the final approval of the NEPA document; including conducting field observations during geotechnical investigations, review of the Administrative Draft Environmental Assessment/Environmental Impact Report, and review of the Draft-Final Environmental Assessment/Environmental Impact Report. In addition, the amendment included costs for the BLM to review the additional technical studies required to for the future pipeline to connect to the Antelope Valley East Kern Water Agency’s Mojave Tank Farm and the additional biological resource surveys and reports.

DISCUSSION

Pursuant to the approval of additional costs for reimbursement at the April 2024 Board, the BLM has provided the attached Memorandum of Agreement with a baseline estimate of BLM’s costs of \$199,976.00. The Agreement requires reimbursement of BLM’s eventual actual costs, an initial deposit of \$25,000.00, and periodic replenishment of the deposited funds to maintain a minimum balance of \$10,000.00.

The Memorandum of Agreement is BLM’s required form of agreement to provide for the reimbursement authorized at the April 2024 Board meeting.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Staff recommends the Board approve the Master Agreement Between U.S. Department of the Interior Bureau of Land Management, Ridgecrest Field Office and Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority, CACA-106369761 authorizing up to an additional \$199,976.00 to reimburse the Bureau of Land Management.

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United States Department of the Interior
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Ridgecrest Field Office
300 S. Richmond Road
Ridgecrest, CA 93555
www.blm.gov/ca/ridgecrest



May 21, 2024

IN REPLY REFER TO:

(LLCAD05000.55)

2800

CACA106369761

CERTIFIED - RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED: 9171 9690 09356 0247 6645 67

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

Enclosed are two original copies of a Memorandum of Agreement (MA) between the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority (IWVGA), hereinafter referred to as the Parties. Upon signature by the Parties, the subject MA for providing cost reimbursement to the United States for your Master Agreement will be in full force and effect. In addition to the aforementioned items, enclosed is a copy of "Cost Reimbursement Option Document" for the IWVGA. Please read this document, make the appropriate selection, sign, and return it with the MOAs.

Processing Fee Category Determined

Enclosed is a Cost Reimbursement Agreement (CRA) (Enclosure 1) with a Financial Plan estimating the cost of processing your application. Please review the CRA, and if it is acceptable and you wish to proceed with this project, sign both copies of the CRA where indicated and return it to this office to establish the cost reimbursement account. Furthermore, indicate the Proffer of Monetary contribution the distribution of any funds remaining in the account after the account is closed. Enclosure 2.

According to Federal regulations found at 43 CFR 2804.14, the BLM is required to be reimbursed for the costs incurred in processing a ROW application. Based on a preliminary review of the proposal and resource information available within this office, we have determined the appropriate processing category for your application is Category 6. When the estimated time to process an application exceeds 50 hours, the category is, by definition, a Category 6, for which the BLM is obligated to collect full reasonable costs according to the 2024-cost recovery schedule (Enclosure 3).

Other Fees

According to Federal regulations found at 43 CFR 2804.14, the BLM is required to be reimbursed for the costs incurred in monitoring a ROW application. If your application is granted, you will be required to pay additional fees for monitoring your ROW.

Return the signed CRA to this office with an initial deposit of \$50,000 out of a total amount of \$199,975.66 via check or electronic transfer per the enclosed form (Enclosure 4). IWVGA shall submit or transfer the payment within 30 days of receipt of this Decision. Please make your check or

money order payable to USDO/BLM, reference serial number CACA106369761 on your payment, and mail it to BLM Ridgecrest Field Office, 300 South Richmond Rd., Ridgecrest, CA 93555, Attn: Paul Rodriguez. These fees are estimated and, dependent upon the actual labor necessary to review and process your application, the fee amount may change as stated in Section II of the CRA.

How to Appeal This Decision

This decision may be appealed to the Interior Board of Land Appeals, Office of the Secretary, in accordance with the regulations contained in 43 CFR, Part 4 and the enclosed Form 1842-1 (Enclosure 5). If an appeal is taken, your notice of appeal must be filed in this office (at the above address) within 30 days from receipt of this decision. The appellant has the burden of showing that the decision appealed from is in error.

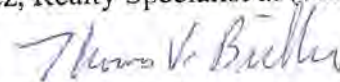
If you wish to file a petition (request) pursuant to regulations 43, CFR 2801.10 or 2881.10 for a stay (suspension) of the effectiveness of this decision during the time that the Board, the petition for a stay, is reviewing your appeal must accompany your notice of appeal. A petition for a stay is required to show sufficient justification based on the standards listed below. Copies of the notice of appeal and petition for a stay must also be submitted to each party named in this decision and to the Interior Board of Land Appeals and to the appropriate Office of the Solicitor (see 43 CFR 4.412) at the same time the original documents are filed with this office. If you request a stay, you have the burden of proof to demonstrate that a stay should be granted.

Standards for Obtaining a Stay

Except as otherwise provided by law or other pertinent regulation, a petition for a stay of a decision pending appeal shall show sufficient justification based on the following standards:

- (1) The relative harm to the parties if the stay is granted or denied,
- (2) The likelihood of the appellant's success on the merits,
- (3) The likelihood of immediate and irreparable harm if the stay is not granted, and
- (4) Whether the public interest favors granting the stay.

The BLM is making every effort to process applications in a timely manner. Should you have any questions or concerns, please contact Paul Rodriguez, Realty Specialist at (760) 384-5455 or prodriqu@blm.gov.



Thomas V. Bickauskas
Acting Field Manager

Enclosures (5):

- 1) Cost Reimbursement Agreement
- 2) Proffer of Monetary Contribution
- 3) 2024 Cost Recovery Fee Schedule
- 4) BLM Information your bank requires when paying the BLM ELECTRONICALLY (ACH)
- 5) Form 1842-1-Information on taking appeals to the Interior Board of Land Appeals

Case File CACA106369761
Copy to Reading File
Copy to Central File

P Rodriguez: pr: 5/20/2024

MASTER AGREEMENT

Between

U.S. Department of the Interior

Bureau of Land Management,

Ridgecrest Field Office

And

Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority

CACA106369761

City of California to City or Ridgecrest 20 or 24-inch Buried Water pipeline.

I. PREAMBLE

This Master Agreement is an agreement between the Bureau of Land Management Authorized Officer/Field Manager, and the Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority, hereinafter referred to as “Applicant”, is proposing the construction of a 20 or 24 inch in diameter water pipeline, on public lands administered by the Department of Interior, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Ridgecrest Field Office (RIFO).

BLM has determined that an Environmental assessment (EA) is required. The Environmental Analysis (EA) must comply with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), 42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq., and related requirements, BLM NEPA Handbook H-1790-1. The EA will need to be prepared before a decision on the Project can be made.

The purpose of this Master of Agreement (hereinafter “MA”) is to set forth the understanding between Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and Applicant, Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority (IWVGWA), (hereinafter “Parties”) pertaining to conditions and procedures to be followed in preparing and completing an EA, including the environmental and technical information collection, analysis and reporting necessary to fully comply with the NEPA regulations and guidelines pertaining thereto, and to address any cost reimbursement aspects of the project. Processing includes such matters as, but is not limited to, environmental review; application processing; administrative management; long-term compliance, monitoring, and decommissioning for this right-of-way (ROW) application and/or grants associated with the IWVGWA.

II. PURPOSE

The purpose of this MA is to act as a written agreement between IWVGWA and BLM (RIFO) for monitoring of existing authorizations, renewal, and amendments, of existing ROW (s) grants. Additionally, this agreement will explain the process for review of proposed operations administration and maintenance activities that may not require a new or amended ROW grant, but would fall under a Notice to Proceed, of existing ROW (s). The MA will also explain how BLM will monitor and recover monitoring cost, and other provisions BLM deems necessary per 43 CFR 2804.18. This MA also establishes procedures for the full, reasonable cost recovery in advance for the costs expected to be incurred by the BLM in the processing and monitoring of ROWs and Notice to Proceed applications submitted by the authorizations issued to IWVGWA pursuant to 43 CRFR 2804.20 and 2804.21 and 2805.16, Processing fees (cost estimate) will be updated as specified in the Master Agreement, Enclosed Financial Plan Cost estimate (43 CFR 2804.14(b)).

II. GENERAL RESPONSIBILITIES

- A. The BLM shall be responsible for ensuring compliance with all requirements of the NEPA regulations, and shall be responsible for the scope and content of the EA.
- B. The Applicant shall engage an environmental consultant, referred to as the “contractor”, for appropriate baseline collection, scoping, project impact assessment, and preparation of the EA. The contractor may employ such other consultants and experts, with the approval of the BLM, as required for adequate data collection, analysis and EA preparation.
- C. BLM shall be responsible for consulting with the US Fish and Wildlife Service for a Section 7 Consultation under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended, and the California State Historic Preservation Officer for a Section 106 Consultation under the National Historic Preservation Act. At the discretion of the BLM, the consultant shall furnish such data on information required to accomplish such consultation.

III. CONTRACTOR PROVISIONS

- A. The Applicant shall prepare and execute a contract (s) with the approved contractor for preparation of the EA, which is consistent with the MA and is agreeable to BLM. All costs incurred pursuant to the contract shall be the sole responsibility of the Applicant.
- B. The contract shall provide that the contractor agrees to hold harmless and indemnify BLM with respect to any and all claims, demands, cause(s) of action, and liabilities which may arise from the contractor’s performance, purchases or services utilized in the preparation of the EA.

- C. The contract shall provide that the contractor shall cooperate in defense of any suit involving the legality or adequacy of BLM's compliance with NEPA with regard to this EA.
- D. Applicant shall require full cooperation of the contractor with respect to participation in public meetings required by BLM to foster public familiarity and participation with respect to the NEPA process.
- E. If for any reason, a change in the contractor or subcontractors becomes necessary, the BLM and Applicant will jointly engage in selection procedures for a new contractor.

IV. GENERAL PROVISIONS

- A. Subject to confidentiality requirements in paragraph V.I., in all instances involving questions as to the content or relevance of any material (including all issues, data, analyses, conclusions, and wording) in the EA, BLM shall make the final determination on the inclusion, deletion, or revision of the material, and shall have the ultimate responsibility of ensuring compliance with the requirements of NEPA.
- B. Applicant agrees to hold harmless and indemnify the BLM, its officers, agents, and employees, with respect to any and all judgments or settlements arising from claims, demands or causes of action in connection with any failure by the APPLICANT to pay for the employment of the contractor or which may arise from the termination of performance of the Consulting Contracts or from any other failure by Applicant to pay the contractor for their services or purchases of materials utilized for the development and preparation of the EA, or from termination of this MA. This indemnification by Applicant does not extend to suits by third parties (other than the contractor against the BLM) involving the legality or adequacy of compliance with NEPA. In addition, Applicant agrees to hold harmless and indemnify BLM with respect to all judgments or settlements arising from all claims, demands or causes of action in connection with any portion or element or work to be performed by the applicant or any contractor as contemplated by and, or in connection with this MA.
- C. The Parties agree:
 - 1. In the preparation of the EA, the Parties shall be represented by their respective project representative or designee.

BLM:

Paul Rodriquez
 Realty Specialist
 Bureau of Land Management

OR

Max Wiegmann
 NEPA Coordinator
 Bureau of Land Management

300 S. Richmond Road
Ridgecrest CA. 93555
(760) 384-5555
e-mail: prodriqu@blm.gov

300 S. Richmond Road
Ridgecrest CA. 93555
(951) 697-5233
e-mail: mwiegmann@blm.gov

For Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority:

Name/Title

Agency

Mailing Address

City/State/Zip

Telephone/Cell Phone

E-mail

1. The successful preparation of the EA requires complete and full communication between all parties involved. It is the duty of the project representatives to ensure close consultation throughout the document preparation and review process. The

project representatives shall keep each other advised of the developments affecting the preparation of the Draft EA. Meetings between the BLM, Applicant and contractor shall be held as needed to ensure close consultation.

2. To the maximum extent practicable under existing laws and regulations, all parties agree to share all relevant information.
3. BLM shall determine:
 - (a) The scope and content of the EA for the Project to ensure that the requirements of the various federal and state statutes are met and that the statutory findings required of the BLM for their decisions on the Project can be made.
 - (b) Whether the work performed by the Applicant and consultants is satisfactory and, if not, how best to correct the deficiencies in the work; and
 - (c) The division of responsibilities among co-lead agencies, if any.

V. PROCEDURES

- A. The contractor will be responsible for conducting scoping meetings with the public and other agencies at the beginning of the process. These meetings will be held to determine the areas of public and agency concerns pertaining to the proposed project, and to guide the Parties in scoping the EA. The BLM shall determine the final scope of the EA.
- B. Subject to paragraph I, the contractor shall have primary responsibility for writing or rewriting all sections, parts or chapters of the EA.
- C. The contractor shall produce an administrative draft EA for review by the BLM. The administrative draft shall include all text, maps, appendices, tables, charts and other materials that will be incorporated in the Draft EA. As determined by the BLM, a reasonable number of copies shall be provided by the contractor to each party to meet internal review needs.
- D. The BLM shall review the administrative draft EA and provide comments to the contractor in writing. The BLM may request revision of the administrative draft with further agency review if comments are substantial. Additional review may be required.
- E. The printing and mailing of the Draft EA shall be the responsibility of the Applicant/contractor. The BLM shall provide a mailing list to the contractor for distributing the EA to the public and to other Federal, State and local agencies as required by law.
- F. The BLM and contractor shall jointly schedule and conduct public meetings to receive comments on the Draft EA. The contractor shall receive and log all comments submitted on the Draft EA during the public review period and provide copies to BLM.

The contractor will prepare preliminary responses. BLM will review the responses for accuracy and identify any necessary revisions before they are incorporated into the Final EA. The Final EA will be prepared and reviewed in the same manner as the Draft EA.

- G. Upon acceptance and approval of the Final EA, BLM shall authorize the release of the Final EA to the public and to other Federal, State and local agencies. The final EA will be 508 compliance. The contractor shall be responsible for printing and mailing the Final EA.
- H. BLM reserves the right to prepare, at its option, selected sections of the Draft and/or Final EA. As appropriate, BLM will provide such prepared material in a time and manner consistent with the agreed upon schedule.
- I. Applicant and the contractor will, upon request, provide BLM all procedures and underlying data used in developing submitted sections of the Draft and/or Final EA including, but not limited to, final reports, subcontractor reports, and interviews with concerned private and public parties, whether or not such information may be contained in the working papers or the Draft or Final EA. BLM shall maintain confidentiality of all information, documents or materials which Applicant or the contractor designate as confidential in accordance with Federal and State laws, regulations and policies.
- J. BLM reserves the right to consult directly, without notice or report, with other Federal, State and local officials during the preparation of the EA to ensure objectivity and compliance with NEPA. BLM will immediately notify the Applicant and the contractor if matters discussed at any such consultation will require significant changes in the development of the EA or require significant costs pursuant to this MA.
- K. With respect to all analyses, including review, drafts and final copies of the EA, the Applicant and contractor shall be responsible for stenographic, 508 compliance, clerical, graphics, layout, printing and like costs. Applicant shall be solely responsible for the costs of preparing and providing to BLM sufficient copies of the Draft and Final EA and modifications as well as a copy of supporting technical documents prepared in conjunction with the Draft and/or Final EA by the contractor.
- L. Any and all media releases, public mail-outs, or formal/public discussions which are conducted by the BLM shall be conducted with the approval and at the direction of the BLM. This shall not affect the Applicant's rights to do public relations or work independently with respect to the Project, with the understanding that such public relations work may not appear to represent the BLM and will not attempt to influence the independent analysis, outcome, or decision-making process or the requirements of NEPA for BLM.

VI. COST REIMBURSEMENT AGREEMENT

- A. In accordance with Section 304(b) of FLPMA and 43 CFR 2804.19, Applicant agrees to reimburse BLM for the costs incurred by BLM for processing the application, and should the Application be approved, costs for issuing a ROW grant and monitoring the construction, operation, maintenance and termination of project facilities authorized by such ROW grant. Further, in accordance with 43 CFR 2804.14(f), Applicant waives consideration of reasonable costs, as would be determined under 43 CFR 2804.20 and 2804.21 and agrees to pay all actual costs incurred by the BLM related to this Application.
- B. This Agreement is subject to the Reimbursable Cost Provisions and the Descriptions of Direct and Indirect Costs /Financial Plan contained in Attachment #1. This cost estimate maybe amended should actual costs exceed estimated costs. A work plan schedule for the EAs will be prepared by BLM and the contractor and attached to this document as an Amendment.

The baseline estimates to fund the operation of the RIFO is approximately **\$199,976**, (Exhibit B). IWVGWA agrees to pay for all actual, reasonable costs incurred by the RIFO in executing the terms and work actions covered by this MA. IWVGWA agrees to pay full cost recovery for all actions processed under this agreement; the RIFO will also provide IWVGWA with separate cost estimate calculations for the project or work action processed under this MA prior to and after the completions of the work, if requested by IWVGWA. IWVGWA deposited **\$25,000.00**, to initially fund activities under the previous MA, with an outstanding balance of **\$79,318.8**, and replenished the fund as needed up to **\$25,000.00**, dependent upon project proposed work by IWVGWA. A minimum balance of **\$10,000.00** is expected to be maintained, and the BLM will inform IWVGWA if the minimum balance is reached and if the account requires additional funding, dependent upon projected proposed work by IWVGWA.

- C. Applicant will be advised as to the nature and extent of all major studies needed to complete the EA.
- D. Applicant agrees to fund and utilize third party assistance contractors to expedite processing the application. Third party assistance contractors may include, but are not limited to, contractors for preparation of NEPA documents, cultural resource inventories, biological inventories and surveys, engineering and design surveys, clerical staff support, NEPA adequacy reviews, resource specialist reviews, persons to aid in assembling the case file record, and compliance inspectors.
- E. BLM shall conduct monthly review of case processing and costs incurred. When BLM determines there are insufficient funds remaining for the next period of planned work, it shall inform the Applicant of the work proposed to be done and

request a further deposit. Deposits must be received prior to BLM incurring costs.

- F. Statements of BLM expenditures shall be furnished to Applicant upon request.
- G. Applicant shall have the right to conduct, at its own expense, reasonable audits of the books, records, and documents of BLM relating to the items on any particular accounting statement provided by BLM. Applicant shall have 90 days after receipt of the statement to raise objections to or dispute any particular entry of cost item.
- H. BLM shall provide full justification of any disputed entry or cost item within 30 days of receipt of the objection or will delete the entry or cost item. If Applicant still objects to the entry or cost item, an appeal to the State Director may be made within 30 days of receipt of BLM justification. The State Director's decision is the final administrative decision.
- I. Reimbursable funds, once obligated by BLM, are not refundable and will not be made refundable by termination of the Project, withdrawal of the Application, or non-issuance of a ROW grant.
- J. In accordance with 43 CFR 2804.27(a), if BLM denies the Application, Applicant must reimburse BLM for all costs BLM incurred in processing the Application. If the Applicant withdraws the application, Applicant will reimburse BLM for processing costs incurred by BLM in closing its review of the Application and which cannot reasonably be avoided after BLM receives written notice of withdrawal of the Application.
- K. Nothing herein shall be deemed to require BLM to maintain books, records, or documents other than those usually maintained by them, provided that such books, records, and documents reasonably segregate and identify the costs for which reimbursement is required and comply with generally accepted accounting practices for such documentation.

IV. REQUIREMENTS

- A. The parties to this MA agree to cooperate during the existence of this MA in the processing and or management of all action associated with IWVGWA, application, or grants.
- B. This MA must not be considered by either Party as an indicator that any final approval of the IWVGWA project has been reached by the BLM, either approving or rejecting any new projects.

- C. The parties to this MA agree to cooperate during the processing of the ROW application for the pipeline, PODs associated with a project, and the terms and condition of the grant associated with a project processed under the MA.
- D. The BLM hereby agrees to only use the funds for the work associated with IWVGWA project as identified within this MA. All work performed will be accounted for. The BLM will provide an annual cost accounting to you, categorized by BLM job discipline, which relates how the funds provided by IWVGWA were spent. BLM, upon request by IWVGWA, will provide up to two additional accountings throughout the fiscal year.
- E. The costs and charges outlined herein are estimated by the BLM; therefore, this agreement and/or the financial plan may need to be adjusted at future date. This adjustment may be at the request of either party to the MA.
- F. Fund balances (if any) will be carried over to other phases of the project, if the project expands beyond the scope of the ROW application processing e.g. to construction and monitoring of the pipeline.
- G. IWVGWA, or its assigns is required to maintain an MA and cost reimbursable account thru the existence of any Grant, which has been authorized. IWVGWA, will maintain, at a minimum, a positive balance of \$10,000.00, in the account as agreed to herein. If the account balance falls below that balance IWVGWA will deposit increments of \$50,000.
- H. The BLM hereby determines that the costs and charges calculated under Section V- (Procedures), below reflect fair and reasonable methods for charging IWVGWA for the work being completed on the IWVGWA Buried Pipeline construction Project, related projects. The individual Financial Plan for the project will reflect, based on the methods identified under the Cost Analysis, what is believed to be the fair and reasonable costs associated with each project and the related work involved in the processing of the ROW application(s) for the construction of the pipeline and plus all work related to the issuance of the grant. This includes site visits, environmental documentation preparation, decisions, grant preparation, and post-grant compliance and monitoring as identified in Section II (General Responsibilities), above.
- I. IWVGWA understands that BLM may need to hire from time-to-time temporary detailed employees to fill the gaps in staffing. IWVGWA will agree to participate in the funding of such a position, but the BLM must provide a detailed amendment and financial plan identifying the work that will be completed on the project by the detailed employee and the specific benefit to IWVGWA, that such funding will be gained.
- J. This MA, or a modified MA, will remain in full force and effect throughout the life of your buried water pipeline development operations, if active ROW grants exist on federal lands for current or future development.

V. COST ANALYSIS

A. This MA currently reflects only what constitutes the BLM's costs based on the nature of the IWVGWA operation and project at the time of this MA. The estimated costs may vary from the actual total cost of IWVGWA, as appropriate, with an annual updated audit and cost analysis. The costs of processing any additional applications and the long-term management of the grant, should any be issued, are broken down into three categories and are based on the following criteria.

1. **DIRECT COSTS:** Personnel costs occur in the form of base wages including allowances provided for benefits and leave surcharges. Wages are based on hourly wage and benefit adjustments allowed by law. In addition to wages, other direct costs include, but are not limited to, expenses related to travel, vehicles, including mileage, vehicle rental costs and other appropriate charges related to vehicle use. For Multi-year projects, wages and other direct costs may change and will influence the estimate.

2. **OPERATIONAL COSTS:** These are costs, which cannot be specifically identified with the processing of the application but are considered a cost to the organization. These operational costs have been estimated. Operational costs are for capitalized and non-capitalized equipment which includes, but is not limited to, space rental; telephone services; postage; budget and program development; educational programs; administrative and clerical support; training; safety management; public information; inquiries, reports; cartography and basic series mapping; telecommunications; maintenance equipment and system designs and implementation.

3. **INDIRECT ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS:** Indirect costs are those which cannot be specifically identified with the application. This is an account management surcharge assessed by the National Business Center in Denver Colorado. This portion of the account is managed from the 20.58% surcharge based on the monies expended from the account. This rate covers the establishing and handling of the cost reimbursement account at the National level. (This rate is subject to change by the National Business Center annually requiring recalculation of the costs associated with this MA.) The indirect costs are subject to change annually. This percentage figure has been developed in accordance with Department of the Interior procedures and represents those administrative and program costs, excluding management overhead, which can be attributed to processing the Application. Indirect costs include a portion of the costs for capitalized and non-capitalized equipment; space rental; telephone services; postage; personnel transfer costs; budget and program development; administrative and clerical support; training; safety management; public information, inquiries and reports; cartography and basic series mapping; aviation management; telecommunications; maintenance of equipment and tools; and systems design and implementation.

B. This document is prepared in compliance with Section 504 (g) of the Federal Lands Policy Management Act of October 21, 1976, 43 U.S.C. 1761, and Title 43 Code of Federal

Regulations 2800, which require an applicant for a ROW to reimburse the United States for all reasonable administrative and other costs incurred in the processing of an application for a ROW, and in the inspection and the monitoring of construction, operation, maintenance and termination of the ROW.

All category 5 and 6 rights-of-way applications and authorizations are subject to appropriate cost recovery fees for processing and monitoring as well as rental fees as required by 43 CFR 2804.14- Processing fees, CFR 2804.18-Provision of the Master Agreement, 43 CFR 2805.12-Terms and Conditions of Grants, 2805.16-Monitoring Fees, and -43 CFR 2806.10-Rental.

Rent:

The rental fee for a project area will be based on the total public land acreage of the project area included in the ROW grant.

BLM will use the Per Acre Rent Schedule (see paragraph (c) of this section) to calculate rent for all linear ROW authorizations, regardless of the granting authority (FLPMA, MLA, and their predecessors). Counties (or other geographical areas) are assigned to an appropriate zone in accordance with §2806.21. The BLM will adjust the per acre rent values in the schedule annually in accordance with CFR §2806.22.

(a), and it will revise the schedule at the end of each 10-year period in accordance with §2806.22.

(b) The annual per acre rent for all types of linear ROW facilities is the product of four factors: The per acre zone value multiplied by the encumbrance factor multiplied by the rate of return multiplied by the annual adjustment factor (see §2806.22(a)).

(c) You may obtain a copy of the current Per Acre Rent Schedule from any BLM State, district, or field office or by writing: U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management, 20 M Street SE., Room 2134LM, Washington, DC 20003. We also post the current rent schedule at <http://www.blm.gov>.

Bond: CFR §2805.20-Bonding Requirements.

The BLM requires bonding of all new commercial or non-commercial uses, ROW grants, and land use authorization on public lands, which are not specifically exempt.

The Bond, in a form acceptable to the authorized officer, shall be furnished by the applicant/holder prior to any grant or land use authorization being issued.

BLM will not issue the Right-away-grant until the bond is accepted.

If you hold a grant or lease under this part, you must comply with the following bonding requirements:

(a) The BLM may require that you obtain, or certify that you have obtained, a performance and reclamation bond or other acceptable bond instrument to cover any losses, damages, or injury to human health, the environment, or property in connection with your use and occupancy of the ROW, including costs associated with terminating the grant, and to secure all obligations imposed by the by the grant and applicable laws and regulations. If you plan to use hazardous materials in the operation of your grant, you must provide a bond that covers liability for damages or injuries resulting from releases or discharges of hazardous materials. The BLM will periodically review your bond for adequacy and may require a new bond, an increase or decrease in the value of an existing bond, or other acceptable security at any time during the term of the grant or lease.

(1) The BLM must be listed as an additionally named insured on the bond instrument if a State regulatory authority requires a bond to cover some portion of environmental liabilities, such as hazardous material damages or releases, reclamation, or other requirements for the project. The bond must:

- (i) Be redeemable by the BLM.
- (ii) Be held or approved by a state agency for the same reclamation requirements as specified by our ROW authorization; and
- (iii) Provide the same or greater financial guarantee that we require for the portion of environmental liabilities covered by the State's bond.

(2) *Bond acceptance.* The BLM authorized officer must review and approve all bonds, including any State bonds, prior to acceptance, and at the time of any ROW assignment, amendment, or renewal.

(3) *Bond Amount.* Unless you hold a solar or wind energy lease under subpart 2809, the bond Amount will be determined based on the preparation of a RCE, which the BLM requires you to prepare and submit. The estimate must include our cost to administer a reclamation contract and will be reviewed periodically for adequacy. The BLM may also consider other factors, such as salvage value, when determining the bond Amount.

(4) You must post a bond on or before the deadline that we give you.

(5) Bond components that must be addressed when determining the RCE Amount include, but are not limited to:

(i) Environmental liabilities such as use of hazardous materials waste and hazardous substances, herbicide use, the use of petroleum-based fluids, and dust control or soil stabilization materials;

(ii) The decommissioning, removal, and proper disposal, as appropriate, of any improvements and facilities; and

(iii) Interim and final reclamation, re-vegetation, recontouring, and soil stabilization. This component must address the potential for flood events and downstream sedimentation from the site that may result in offsite impacts.

(6) You may ask us to accept a replacement performance and reclamation bond at any time after the approval of the initial bond. We will review the replacement bond for adequacy. A surety company is not released from obligations that accrued while the surety bond was in effect unless the replacement bond covers those obligations to our satisfaction.

(7) You must notify us that reclamation has occurred, and you may request that the BLM reevaluate your bond. If we determine that you have completed reclamation, we may release all or part of your bond.

(8) If you hold a grant, you are still liable under §2807.12 if:

(i) We release all or part of your bond;

(ii) The bond Amount does not cover the cost of reclamation; or

(iii) There is no bond in place.

4. **DEPOSIT:** Based on the criteria set forth within this MA, BLM requires a deposit of \$199,976. As listed in the Table of Cost Estimate to this MA. The financial plan is for the cost associated with the account set up and the estimate of the costs associated with the Processing of the application (s) ROW application processing for the construction of the pipeline, and Environmental Assessment for the IWVGWA Project.

VI. MODIFICATION OR TERMINATION

- A. This MA may be amended, supplemented, or modified only by a written agreement signed by the parties.
- B. This MA will terminate at such time when it is superseded by a subsequent agreement; or the termination of your application; or the termination of grants issued to IWVGWA.

VI. AUTHORIZATION

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned parties agree that the terms of this MA outlining estimated costs and charges for the environmental analysis, fieldwork, administrative and all other associated expenditures outlined herein are considered to be fair and reasonable. Further, the undersigned parties understand that modifications can be made to this MA at the request of either party but must be agreed to by both parties. Once signed, this MA will expire or terminate only by the terms set forth within this document.

VII. TERMINATION

- A. Any party to this MA may terminate the same upon 30 days written notice to the other party. During the 30-day period, the parties will actively attempt to resolve any disagreement.
- B. In the event of termination of the MA and if the preparation of an EA is still required, it is agreed as follows:
 - 1. BLM shall have access to all documentation, reports, analyses, and data developed by the Applicant and contractor.
 - 2. Liability to the contractor for termination shall be in accordance with Section IV. B.

VIII. MODIFICATION

This MA may be modified by the parties hereto by mutually agreed upon written amendment.

IX. MISCELLANEOUS

No member of or delegate to Congress, or resident commissioner, shall be admitted to any share or part of this agreement, or to any benefit arising from it. However, this clause does not apply to the agreement to the extent that it is made with a corporation for the corporation's general benefit.

X. This MA will be effective as of the last date signed below:

For: The Bureau of Land Management

For : The Indian Wells Groundwater Authority

Thomas V Bickauskas

Acting, Field Manager

Date

Date

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

PROFFER OF MONETARY CONTRIBUTION

FORM APPROVED
OMB NO. 1004-0131
EXPIRES: JANUARY 31, 1986

State: (two digit code) [][]
Office: (three digit Org code) [][][]

INSTRUCTIONS

Submit one copy of each contributor, District grazing case file, and District job file.

I. Names(s)	Address(es) (include zip code)

do hereby contribute the sum of \$ to the Bureau of Land Management. Contributions are made under the provisions of Section 9 of the Taylor Grazing Act (43 U.S.C. 315h), as amended, and Section 307 (c) of the Federal Land Policy and Management act (43 U.S.C. 1737). Specifically this contribution is for the purpose of *

II. The unexpended balance, if any, remaining after completion of the work described in the paragraph above shall be:
☐ Returned to the contributor(s)
☐ Used for general purposes *

III. Contribution, made payable to the Bureau of Land Management, is attached in the form of (specify check, money order, etc.).

Signature of Contributor	Title (as applicable)	Date
Signature of Contributor	Title (as applicable)	Date
Signature of Contributor	Title (as applicable)	Date
Signature of Contributor	Title (as applicable)	Date
Signature of Contributor	Title (as applicable)	Date

Accepted in Behalf of the Secretary of the Interior for deposit in the Treasury of the United States and for Expenditure for the purpose specified herein

Signature of Authorized Officer	Title	Date
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* contributions of general purposes are accepted to help pay for the expenses of construction or application of conservation and range improvement projects in general, or for the payment of expenses incident to the administration, use, protection, and improvement of lands in the district where this contribution is received. Such contributions shall *not* be used for specific administrative purposes.

such as the payment of salaries of named individuals or positions, or the performance of specific functions by such individuals, or the maintenance of offices at particular locations unless approved by the Director. The contribution shall *not* be used for any purpose at variance with existing Bureau policy, regulation, or law regarding the development, conservation, and use of the public lands.

**Calendar Year 2024 Cost Recovery Processing and Monitoring Fee Schedule
for FLPMA and MLA Rights-of-Way Actions**

Processing Category	Federal Work Hours Involved	Processing and Monitoring fee per application as of January 1, 2024. To be adjusted annually for changes in the IPD-GDP.
1. Applications for new grants, assignments, renewals, and amendments to existing grants.	Estimated Federal work hours are $>1 \leq 8$.	\$151
2. Applications for new grants, assignments, renewals, and amendments to existing grants.	Estimated Federal work hours are $> 8 \leq 24$.	\$535
3. Applications for new grants, assignments, renewals, and amendments to existing grants.	Estimated Federal work hours are $> 24 \leq 36$.	\$1,007
4. Applications for new grants, assignments, renewals, and amendments to existing grants.	Estimated Federal work hours are $> 36 \leq 50$.	\$1,443
5. Master agreements.	Varies.	As specified in the agreement.
6. Applications for new grants, assignments, renewals, and amendments to existing grants.	Estimated Federal work hours are > 50 .	Full reasonable costs (FLPMA) Full actual costs (MLA)

Information required when paying the BLM WITH CREDIT CARD

Cardholder Name	
Amount Paid (Effective 6/1/2015 amount cannot exceed \$24,999.99)	\$
Bill for Collection Number	
Credit Card Type	VISA MASTERCARD DISCOVER AMERICAN EXPRESS
Credit Card Number	
Credit Card Expiration Date	MONTH YEAR
Phone Number (Required)	() -
Signature (Required)	

Information collected from this form may be subject to the requirements of the Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. 552a). This form is used solely as a method of payment for goods and or services provided to federal agencies, businesses and private individuals by the Bureau of Land Management. The information collected will be stored in a secure location with access limited to designated employees. Any information collected may be subject to disclosure, but will be handled in accordance with the Privacy Act and Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requirements to ensure protection of personal privacy in the face of required disclosure. Information will not be shared with outside parties except as required by law.

It is a crime for any person knowingly and willfully to make any department or agency of the United States any false, fictitious or fraudulent statement or representations as to any matter within its jurisdiction. (Title 18 U.S.C. Section 1001)

(Cut here and return to BLM)

BLM Information your bank requires when paying the BLM ELECTRONICALLY (ACH)

FIELD NAME	REQUIRED INFORMATION
BLM's ACH Account Number	312051
ACH ABA Number	051036706
Company/Individual Name	
Identification Number	
BLM's ACH Bank Address	CASH LINK-ACH RECEIVER 5700 Rivertech Court Riverdale MD 20737 301-887-6600
BLM's Address	Bureau of Land Management Building 50, Denver Federal Center, PO Box 25047 Denver, CO 80225-0047
BLM Contact Information	CBS Customer Service Desk at 303-236-6795

You are responsible for any fees your financial institution may charge you for the actual transfer of funds. Please verify additional fees charged by your financial institution are not deducted from payment.

BLM Information your bank requires when paying the BLM ELECTRONICALLY (WIRE TRANSFER)

FIELD NAME	REQUIRED INFORMATION
Receiver DI Number/ Financial Institution	021030004 / Treasury NYC
Beneficiary Identifier/Account Number	14110008
Beneficiary Name	Bureau of Land Management
Originator to Beneficiary Information	
BLM Contact Information	CBS Customer Service Desk at 303-236-6795
Financial Institution Address	TREASURY NYC 401 14 th Street SW Washington, DC 20327
BLM's Tax ID#	84-0437540

You are responsible for any fees your financial institution may charge you for the actual transfer of funds. Please verify additional fees charged by your financial institution are not deducted from payment.

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

INFORMATION ON TAKING APPEALS TO THE INTERIOR BOARD OF LAND APPEALS

DO NOT APPEAL UNLESS

1. This decision is adverse to you,
AND
2. You believe it is incorrect

IF YOU APPEAL, THE FOLLOWING PROCEDURES MUST BE FOLLOWED

1. NOTICE OF APPEAL	A person who wishes to appeal to the Interior Board of Land Appeals must file in the office of the officer who made the decision (not the Interior Board of Land Appeals) a notice that they wish to appeal. A person served with the decision being appealed must transmit the <i>Notice of Appeal</i> in time for it to be filed in the office where it is required to be filed within 30 days after the date of service. If a decision is published in the FEDERAL REGISTER, a person not served with the decision must transmit a <i>Notice of Appeal</i> in time for it to be filed within 30 days after the date of publication (43 CFR 4.411 and 4.413).
2. WHERE TO FILE NOTICE OF APPEAL.....	U.S. Bureau of Land Management Ridgecrest Field Office 300 S. Richmond Road Ridgecrest, CA 93555
WITH COPY TO SOLICITOR.....	U. S. Department of the Interior Office of the Regional Solicitor 2800 Cottage Way, Room E1712 Sacramento, CA 95825
3. STATEMENT OF REASONS	Within 30 days after filing the <i>Notice of Appeal</i> , file a complete statement of the reasons why you are appealing. This must be filed with the United States Department of the Interior, Office of Hearings and Appeals, Interior Board of Land Appeals, 801 N. Quincy Street, MS 300-QC, Arlington, Virginia 22203. If you fully stated your reasons for appealing when filing the <i>Notice of Appeal</i> , no additional statement is necessary (43 CFR 4.412 and 4.413).
WITH COPY TO SOLICITOR.....	U. S. Department of the Interior Office of the Regional Solicitor 2800 Cottage Way, Room E1712 Sacramento, CA 95825
4. SERVICE OF DOCUMENTS	A party that files any document under 43 CFR Subpart 4, must serve a copy of it concurrently on the appropriate official of the Office of the Solicitor under 43 CFR 4.413(c) and 4.413(d). For a notice of appeal and statement of reasons, a copy must be served on each person named in the decision under appeal and for all other documents, a copy must be served on each party to the appeal (including intervenors). Service on a person or party known to be represented by counsel or other designated representative must be made on the representative. Service must be made at the last address of record of the person or party (if unrepresented) or the representative, unless the person, party or representative has notified the serving party of a subsequent change of address.
5. METHOD OF SERVICE	If the document being served is a notice of appeal, service may be made by (a) Personal delivery; (b) Registered or certified mail, return receipt requested; (c) Delivery service, delivery receipt requested, if the last address of record is not a post office box; or (d) Electronic means such as electronic mail or facsimile, if the person to be served has previously consented to that means in writing. All other documents may be served by (a) Personal delivery; (b) Mail; (c) Delivery service, if the last address of record is not a post office box; or (d) Electronic means, such as electronic mail or facsimile, if the person to be served has previously consented to that means in writing.
6. REQUEST FOR STAY	Except where program-specific regulations place this decision in full force and effect or provide for an automatic stay, the decision becomes effective upon the expiration of the time allowed for filing an appeal unless a petition for a stay is timely filed together with a Notice of Appeal (43 CFR 4.21). If you wish to file a petition for a stay of the effectiveness of this decision during the time that your appeal is being reviewed by the Interior Board of Land Appeals, the petition for a stay must accompany your Notice of Appeal (43 CFR 4.21 or 43 CFR 2801.10 or 43 CFR 2881.10). A petition for a stay is required to show sufficient justification based on the standards listed below. Copies of the Notice of Appeal and Petition for a Stay must also be submitted to each party named in this decision and to the Interior Board of Land Appeals and to the appropriate Office of the Solicitor (43 CFR 4.413) at the same time the original documents are filed with this office. If you request a stay, you have the burden of proof to demonstrate that a stay should be granted. Standards for Obtaining a Stay Except as otherwise provided by law or other pertinent regulations, a petition for a stay of a decision pending appeal shall show sufficient justification based on the following standards: (1) the relative harm to the parties if the stay is granted or denied, (2) the likelihood of the appellant's success on the merits, (3) the likelihood of immediate and irreparable harm if the stay is not granted, and (4) whether the public interest favors granting the stay.

Unless these procedures are followed, your appeal will be subject to dismissal (43 CFR 4.402). Be certain that **all** communications are identified by serial number of the case being appealed.

NOTE: A document is not filed until it is actually received in the proper office (43 CFR 4.401(a)). See 43 CFR Part 4, Subpart B for general rules relating to procedures and practice involving appeals.

43 CFR SUBPART 1821-GENERAL INFORMATION

Sec. 1821.10 Where are BLM offices located? (a) In addition to the Headquarters Office in Grand Junction, CO and seven national level support and service centers, BLM operates 12 State Offices each having several subsidiary offices called Field Offices. The addresses of the State Offices can be found in the most recent edition of 43 CFR 1821.10. The State Office geographical areas of jurisdiction are as follows:

STATE OFFICES AND AREAS OF JURISDICTION:

Alaska State Office -----	Alaska
Arizona State Office -----	Arizona
California State Office -----	California
Colorado State Office -----	Colorado
Eastern States Office -----	Arkansas, Iowa, Louisiana, Minnesota, Missouri and, all States east of the Mississippi River
Idaho State Office -----	Idaho
Montana State Office -----	Montana, North Dakota, and South Dakota
Nevada State Office -----	Nevada
New Mexico State Office -----	New Mexico, Kansas, Oklahoma, and Texas
Oregon State Office -----	Oregon and Washington
Utah State Office -----	Utah
Wyoming State Office -----	Wyoming and Nebraska

(b) A list of the names, addresses, and geographical areas of jurisdiction of all Field Offices of the Bureau of Land Management can be obtained at the above addresses or any office of the Bureau of Land Management, including the Headquarters Office, Bureau of Land Management, 760 Horizon Drive, Grand Junction, CO 81506.

(Form 1842-1, September 2020)

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IWVGA ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE
STAFF REPORT

TO: IWVGA Board Members **DATE:** July 10, 2024

FROM: IWVGA Staff

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item 11 – Master Confidentiality Agreement with the Bureau of Land Management for the Interconnection Pipeline Project in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act and the Archaeological Resources Act**

BACKGROUND

The attached agreement simply provides that the Authority and its contractor will treat information that is covered National Historic Preservation Act and the Archaeological Resources Act as confidential and it will not release such information without the express written consent of the BLM.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

This is an informational item. No Board Action is required.

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United States Department of the Interior
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Ridgecrest Field Office
300 S. Richmond Road
Ridgecrest, CA 93555
www.blm.gov/office/ridgecrest-field-office



**Release of Information – Confidentiality Agreement Between
the Bureau of Land Management – Ridgecrest Field Office
and the Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority**

Section 304 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) and Section 9(a) of the Archaeological Resources Protection Act (ARPA) provide Federal agencies with the authority to restrict information about historic and archaeological resources. Such resources may be fragile and may be damaged or destroyed by theft, vandalism, and unauthorized public visitation. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) may share some confidential historic and archaeological information through a project specific data sharing agreement, consistent with the BLM Manual 8110, Section .55 Confidentiality.

Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority requests access to information detailed in the “*CLASS III INVENTORY/PHASE I SURVEY, EXTENDED PHASE I TESTING, AND NRHP/CRHR ELIGIBILITY EVALUATIONS FOR THE INDIAN WELLS VALLEY GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY IMPORTED WATER PIPELINE PROJECT, KERN COUNTY, CALIFORNIA*” cultural resources report managed by the Ridgecrest Office of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) within the **Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority Imported Water Pipeline Project area of potential effect**. The BLM will provide the above mentioned cultural resources to **Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority**, temporarily for the purpose of completing an Environmental Assessment document AND in-part to facilitate the CEQA Environmental Impact Report

By signing this agreement, **Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority** and its designated contractor, **Provost & Pritchard Consulting Group** (collectively the Parties), acknowledges that the data provided is the property of the United States Government and the data shall not be released to any unauthorized individuals without BLM’s express written permission. It is acknowledged that this information is confidential in nature and, by signing the Parties agree to fully respect and maintain this confidentiality. The parties acknowledge and agree that specific site information and/or locations will not be distributed in public documents or presentations or made available to unauthorized individuals without BLM’s express written permission. When the **Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority** has completed their tasks and no longer needs to utilize the data, it will be returned to the BLM - or destroyed.

The Parties acknowledge that the written consent of the BLM – Field Manager is required to authorize distribution of this information to any individuals or agencies, and the Parties will notify the Field Manager of any requests to obtain any BLM data. This agreement will remain in force and effect for the Parties so long as the Parties have access to this information.

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United States Department of the Interior
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Ridgecrest Field Office
300 S. Richmond Road
Ridgecrest, CA 93555
www.blm.gov/office/ridgecrest-field-office



Signature page for **Release of Information – Confidentiality Agreement**

Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority

Date

Provost & Pritchard Consulting Group

Date

Accepted by BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT – RIDGECREST FIELD OFFICE

Thomas Bickaaskas
Field Manager (Acting)

Date

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IWVGA ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE
STAFF REPORT

TO: IWVGA Board Members **DATE:** July 10, 2024

FROM: IWVGA Staff

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item 12 – \$3.3 Million Consolidation Grant for Shallow Well Consolidation Project.**

BACKGROUND

The Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority (IWVGA) has been awarded a \$3.3 million grant from the California Department of Water Resources' Urban Community Drought Relief Grant (UCDRG) Program to implement a Shallow Well Consolidation Project. The UCDRG Program is intended to address impacts to basin water supplies for the benefit of human health and safety. The \$3.3 million grant can be used for planning, designing, and constructing projects to consolidate shallow wells that may be impacted by declining groundwater levels into the Indian Wells Valley Water District's (IWVWD) water distribution system.

OVERVIEW OF PROPOSAL

Unfortunately, while \$3.3 million is a considerable investment, these construction projects are far from inexpensive. In fact, if one presumes even the most favorable circumstances, it's hard to conclude that this level of funding could consolidate more than a couple dozen of the more than 800 shallow wells in the Basin.

Accordingly, staff is recommending that the Authority pursue a policy to use these funds for both actual construction of projects and future grant design work. In particular, staff is recommending that the Authority prepare preliminary feasibility level studies that will place the Authority in a favorable position to request more funding for specific construction projects in specific consolidation areas.

If the Board is amenable to this policy staff will return to the Board with a budget proposal.

Staff is presently working on construction proposals and it is anticipated that one, or more, proposals will be brought forward at a future board meeting.

BRIEF SUMMARY OF CURRENT CIRCUMSTANCES

In preparation for this grant proposal, staff has already performed some brief preliminary investigations into potential consolidation areas. Additionally, staff has examined areas where shallow well impacts have already been felt and/or Shallow Well Mitigation assistance has already been applied for. Figure 1 illustrates an overview of the regional areas of concern.

The following are potential consolidation areas that have already identified in the very preliminary

investigations:

Dune III and Home Town Water Association Consolidations

Sometime ago, the State Water Resources Control Board identified the Dune III Mutual Water Company (Dune III) and the Hometown Water Association as water systems that would benefit from consolidation into the IWWWD. Accordingly, IWWWD was awarded consolidation grants for these two systems. Nonetheless, these systems were listed as potential candidates for consolidation in the IWVGA's Shallow Well Consolidation Project because IWWWD was not moving forward on these awarded consolidation grants.

More recently and in a split vote with considerable debate, the IWWWD Board agreed to accept the awarded consolidation grants. The IWWWD expects to execute a funding agreement at the end of July with the bid phase in the fall and construction beginning in early 2025.

For reference purposes, included in Attachment A and B are the Staff Reports for Dune III Water System and Hometown Water Association, which describe the water systems, wells, declining groundwater levels, and the feasibility of consolidation.

Dune III Extension Area – Yellowbird Water Cooperative

The Dune III water system is near two wells (Stark Street Well and Byerly Well) that have already been impacted by declining groundwater levels. Both of these wells were awarded funding under the IWVGA's Shallow Well Mitigation Program. Consolidating other shallow wells in this area would address future impacts from declining water levels.

In addition to the two shallow wells that were approved for the Shallow Well Mitigation Program, the Dune III extension area (Figure 2) shows several de minimis wells and the Yellowbird Water Cooperative in the area south of Dune III. Water service could be provided to this area by connecting to the pipeline system the IWWWD will put in place for the consolidation of Dune III, also shown in Figure 2. GA staff contacted IWWWD to coordinate pipe sizing and capacity of the Dune III improvements to accommodate service to the area south of Dune III (Dune III Extension Area). The IWWWD indicated the plans for the Dune III pipelines are complete and they will not coordinate to determine if the capacity is available for the Dune III extension area.

Rademacher Way Area

On August 14, 2023, owner of a home on Rademacher Way contacted the Authority regarding water quality issues in the area. The home is presently connected to the Desert Sands Mutual Water Cooperative well located at 1618 Gordon Street, shown in Figure 3. The well has 5 connections, and was originally drilled in 1956, but was replaced in 2016 due to a well casing failure. Of the 5 connected properties, only one home is still using the well's water. Two of the properties with connections have since tied into the IWWWD system, one is using their neighbor's well water, and another is connected to the well but that home is currently hauling water from the IWWWD bulk station to an onsite storage tank.

It was reported that the replacement well's water quality has had high amounts of arsenic, minerals, and salt, since it was drilled in 2016. There were reports of pipe leakage in relatively newly

installed pipes (installed in 2021) due to corrosion, household appliances impacted due to sand and sediment build up from the well water, and livestock that have passed away after drinking the water. The home owners have been receiving emergency bottled water assistance through Self-Help Enterprises since November 2023 because of the safety concern.

As shown in Figure 4, water levels in the area have declined significantly due to IWWVD pumping in the 2000s. IWWVD has relocated its pumping but the water levels have remained low. Water quality testing done in November 2023 through Self-Help Enterprises show arsenic levels as 112 ug/L, greater than ten times the Maximum Contaminant Level of 10 ug/L. Cornerstone Engineering has developed plans to connect his home to the IWWVD system. The design plans were developed and approved to bring these homes into the IWWVD system in 2021, however the project was never completed. The proposed pipeline in relation to the IWWVD distribution system and the existing wells are shown in Figure 3. A conceptual level budget of \$200,000 is a fair estimate update the plans, bid the project, and complete construction of pipeline.

Additional residents in the area have expressed an interest in consolidation of water service. Discussions with these residents are ongoing.

Staff is not yet ready to recommend the use of grant funding for this project but staff is working on such a proposal and it is anticipated that such a proposal will be brought forward in coming weeks.

Other Areas of Interest

Staff has started a preliminary evaluation of the Las Flores Avenue area as a yet another potential area of concern due to the low groundwater levels identified during the Halpin application for the Shallow Well Mitigation Program. Figure 5 shows an illustration of the general area evaluated.

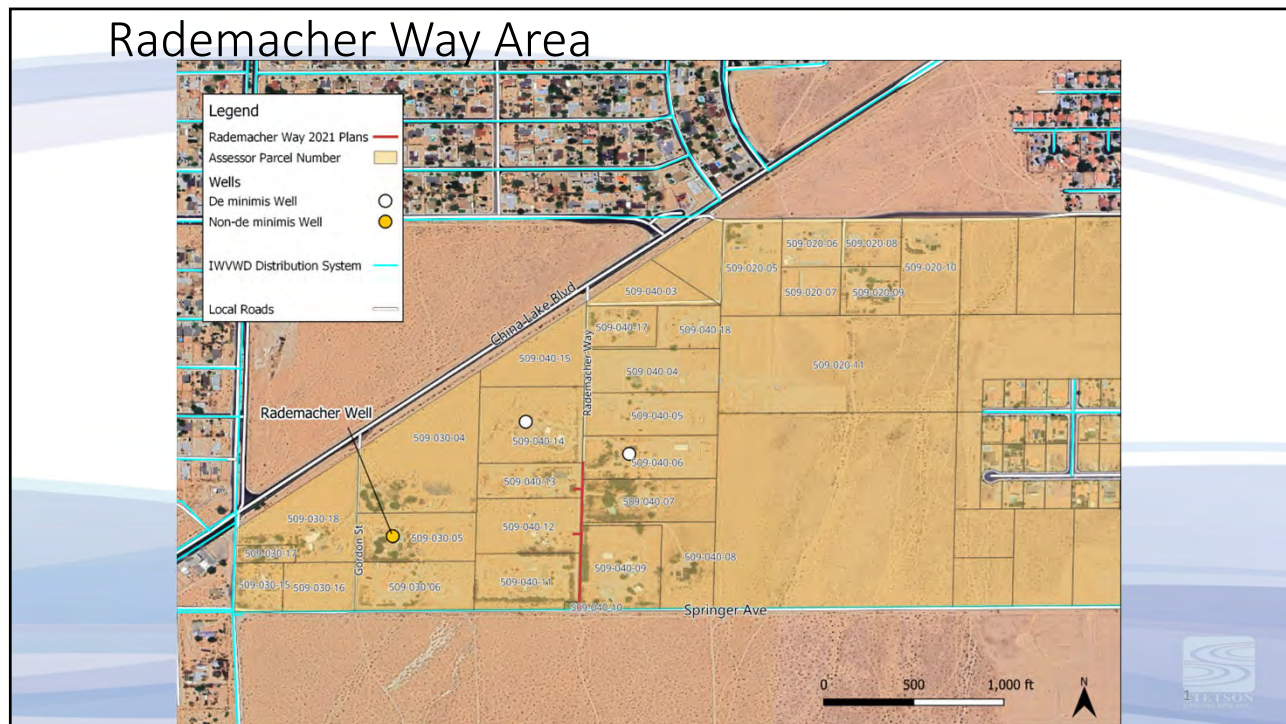
Additionally, the Inyokern Community Service District's (IKCSD) well recently failed leaving 280 properties without water, at least temporarily, and there are concerns about the reliability of water supply to the community. IKCSD has one active well which serves about 245 residential customers. The IWWVD, the City of Ridgecrest, Kern County, and the State Water Resources Control Board are providing assistance to the community. Staff is presently unaware of the exact nature and cause of the well failure. Staff hopes to provide a verbal update at the meeting on this subject. Figure 6 shows the IKCSD's system in relation to the IWWVD service area and sphere of influence boundaries.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Staff recommends that the Board direct staff to prepare a preliminary budget for the preparation feasibility level studies that will place the Authority in favorable position to request more funding for specific construction projects in specific consolidation areas, beginning with those listed herein. Likewise, now that the IWWVD is allowing consolidations into its system, Staff recommends that the Board direct staff to prepare preliminary budgets and consolidation reports for the consolidation of any wells that staff believes meets the requirements of the grant and will produce long term benefits to the Basin water supply.

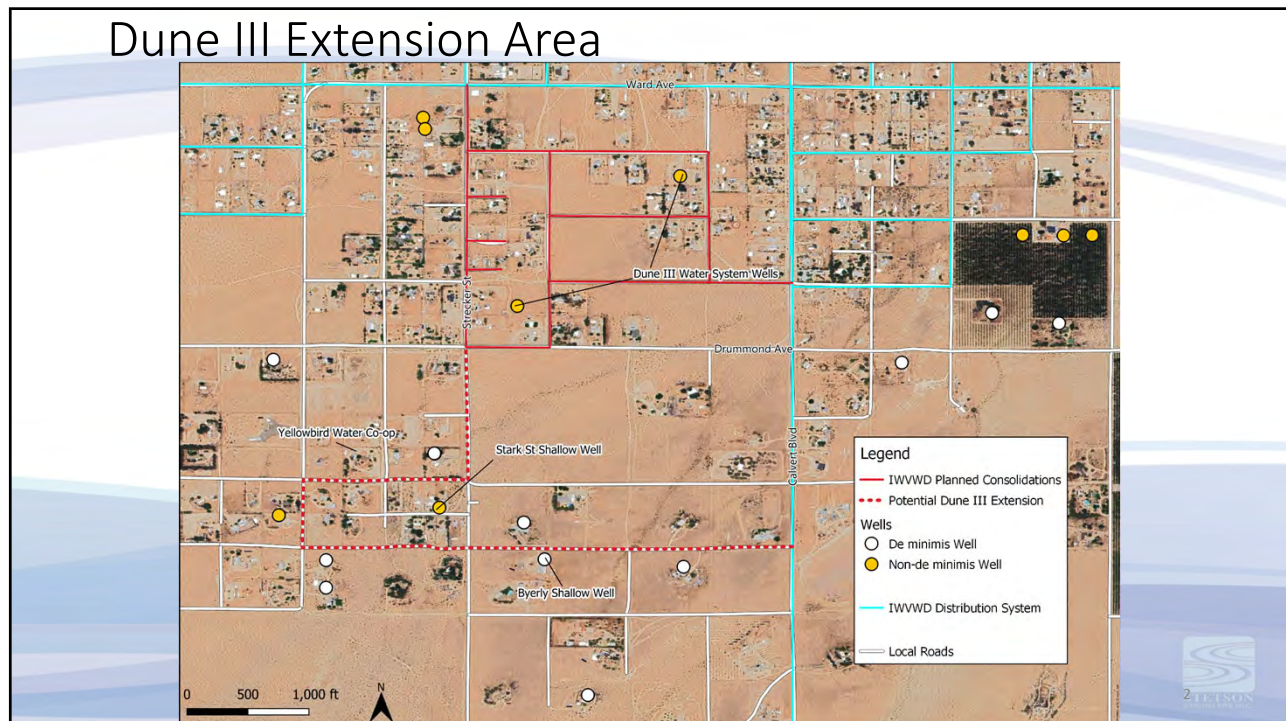
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Rademacher Way Area



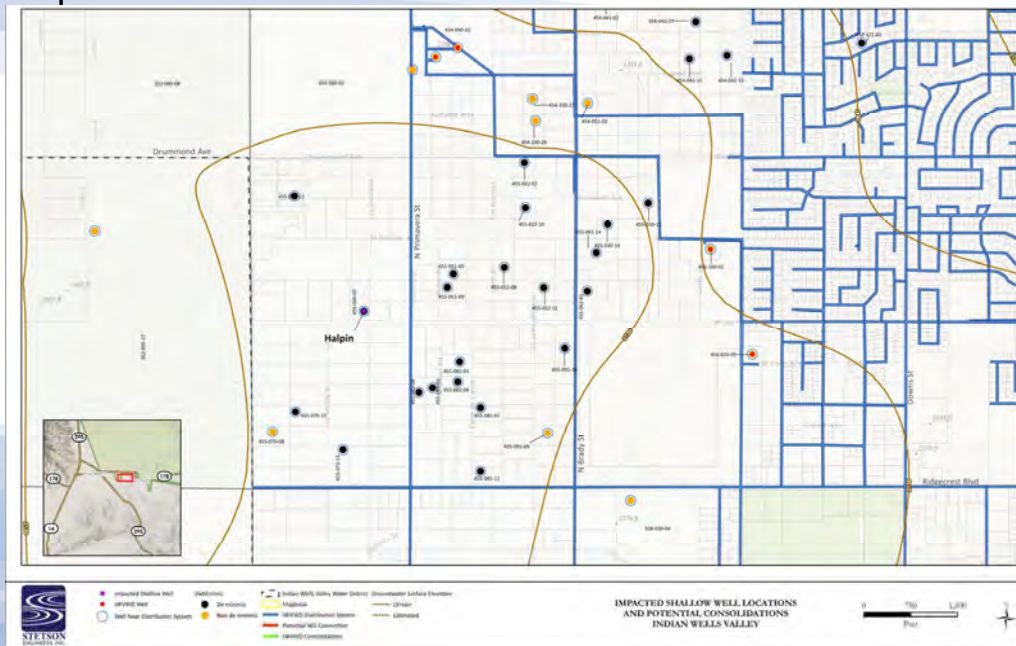
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Dune III Extension Area



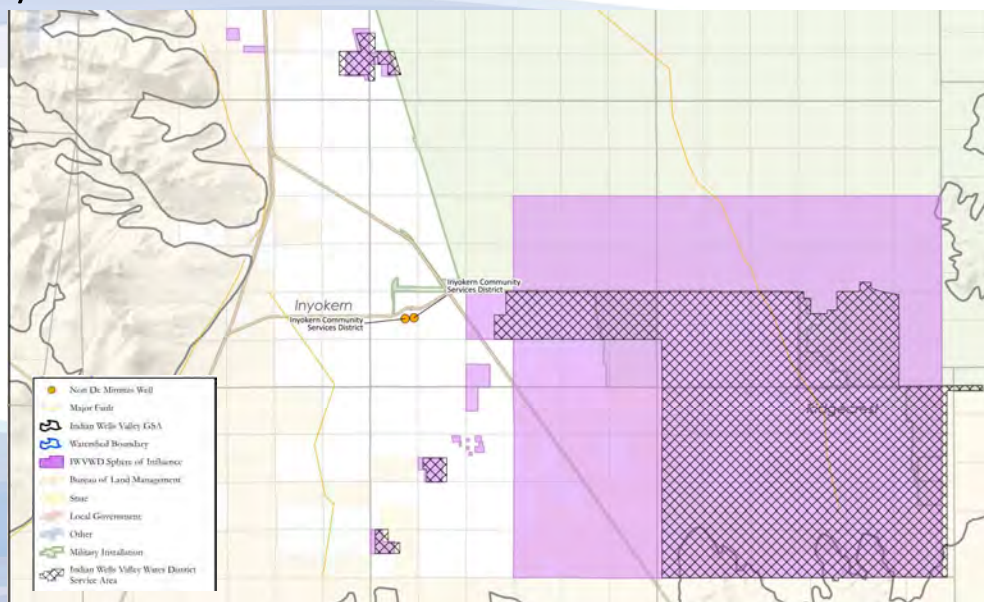
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Halpin Well Area



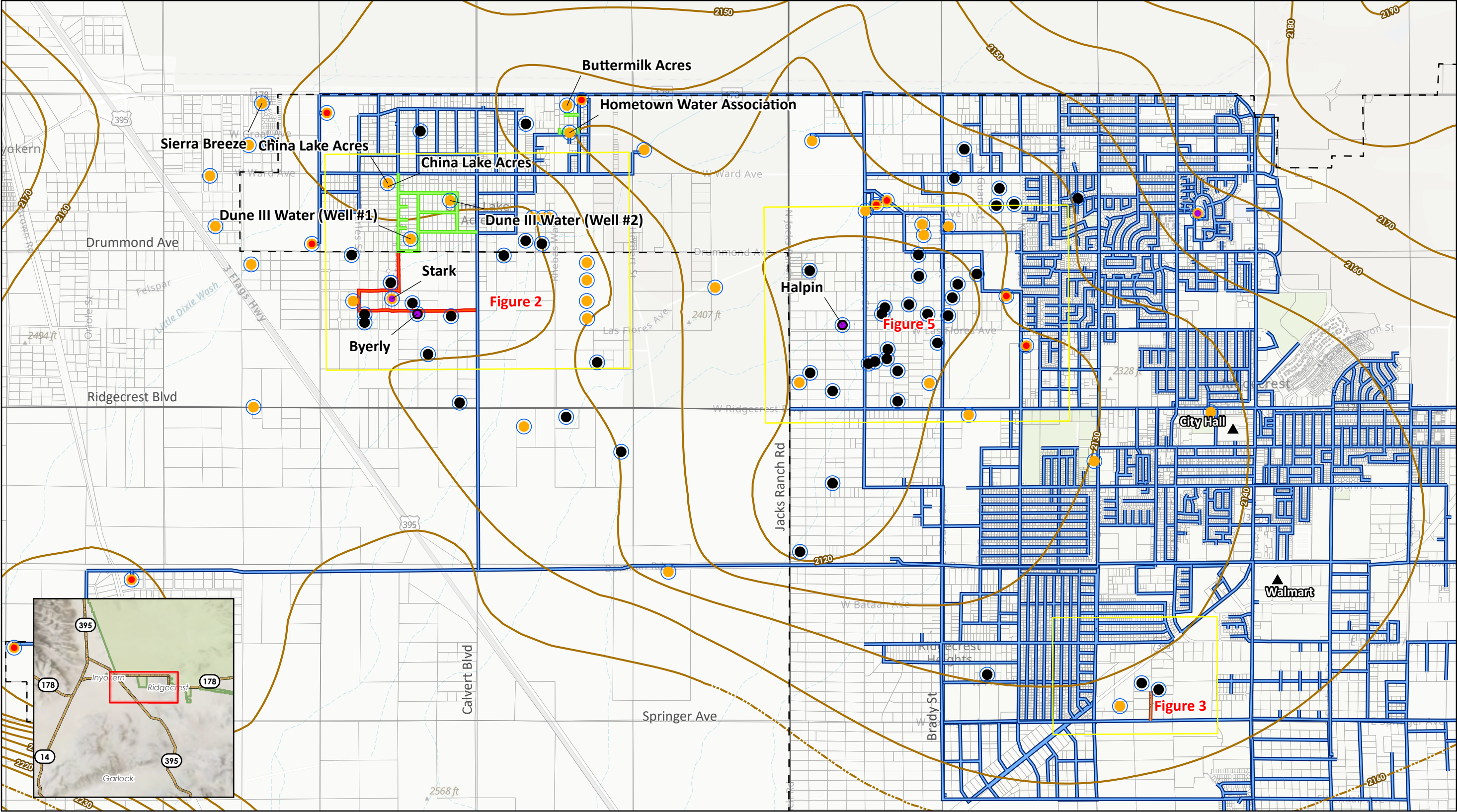
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Inyokern CSD



4

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- ▲ Landmark

● Impacted Shallow Well

● IWVWD Well

○ Well Near Distribution System

● De minimis

● Non de minimis

Indian Wells Valley Water District

Mapbook

IWVWD Distribution System

Potential WD Connection

Rademacher Way 2021 Design

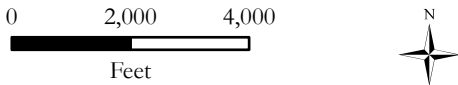
IWVWD Consolidations

Groundwater Surface Elevation

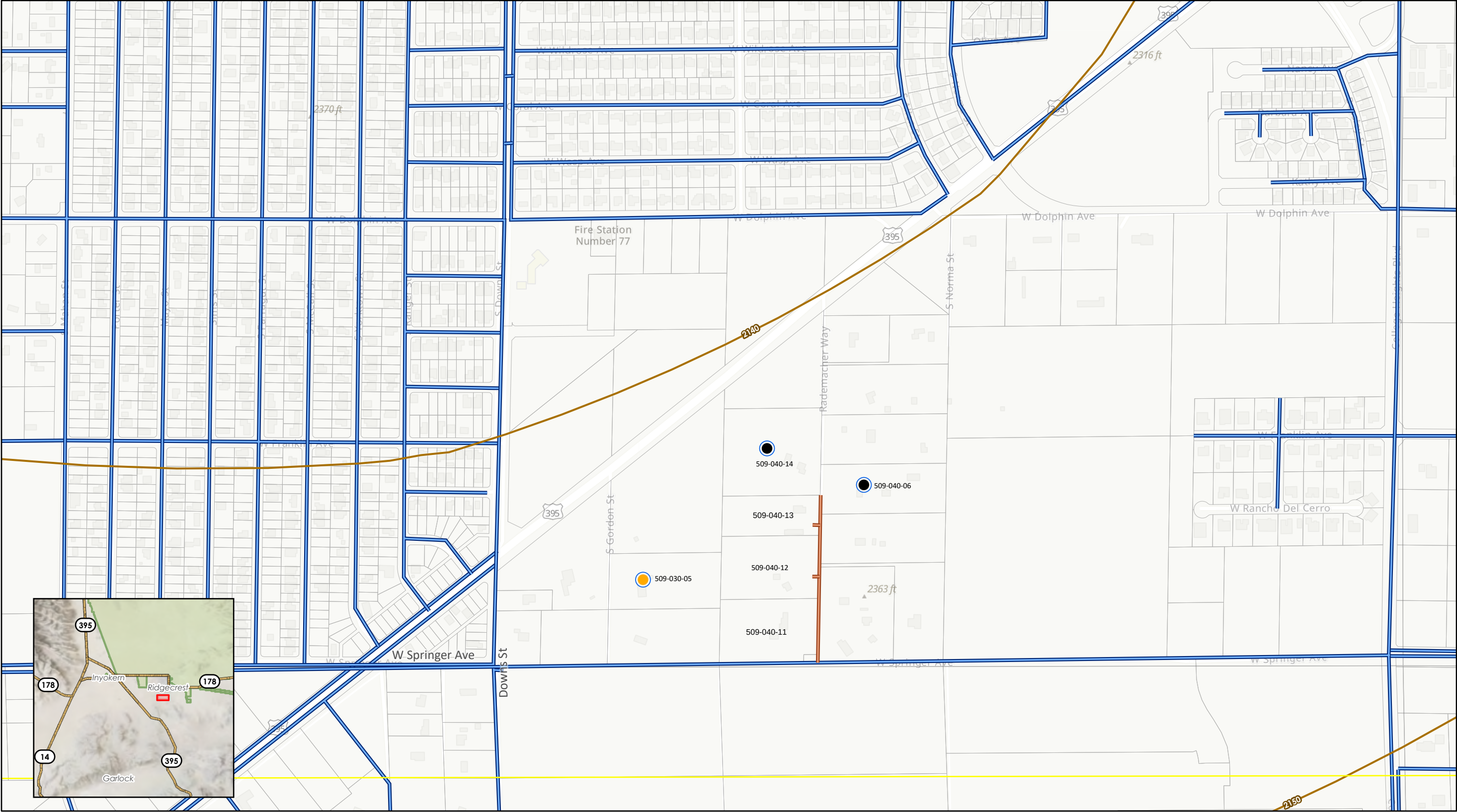
Certain

Estimated

IMPACTED SHALLOW WELL LOCATIONS
AND POTENTIAL CONSOLIDATIONS
INDIAN WELLS VALLEY

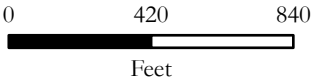


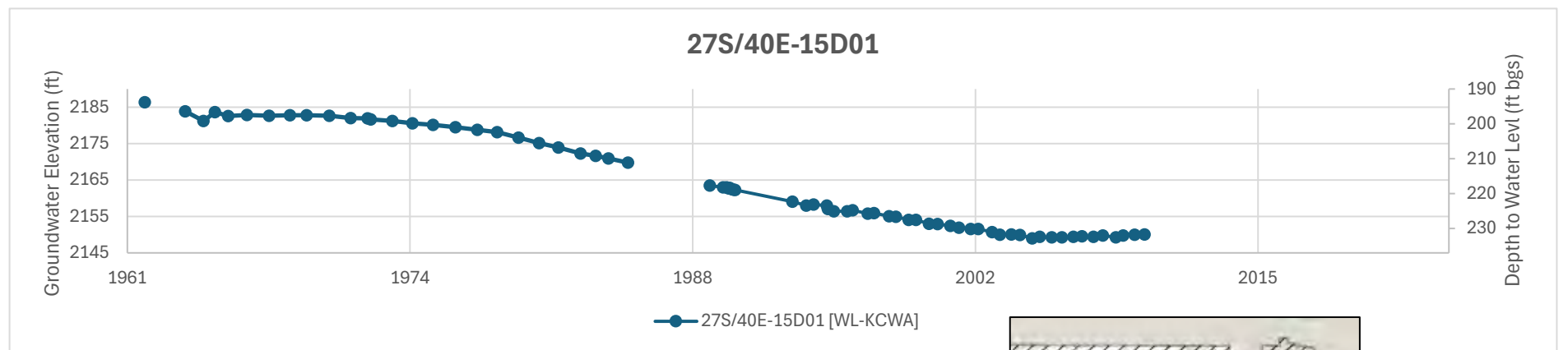




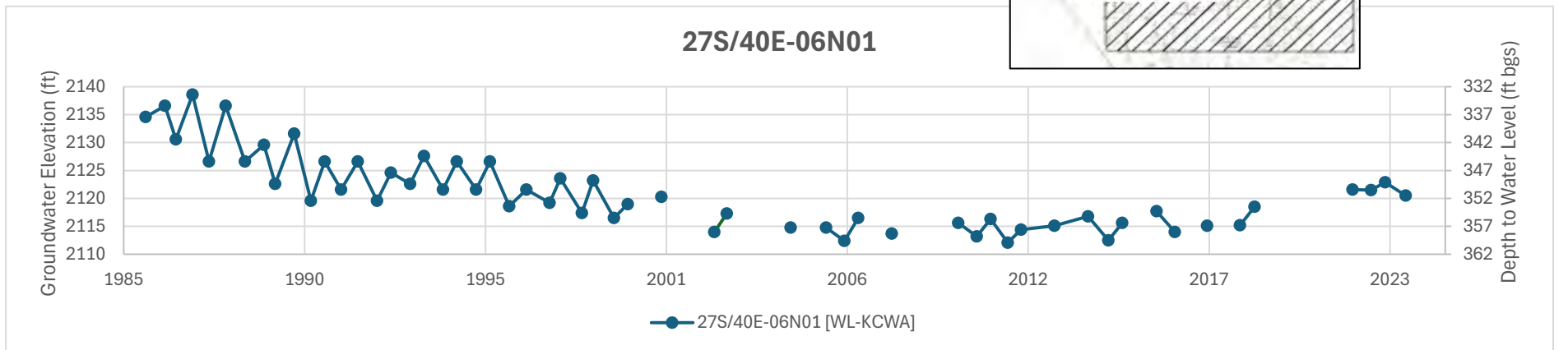
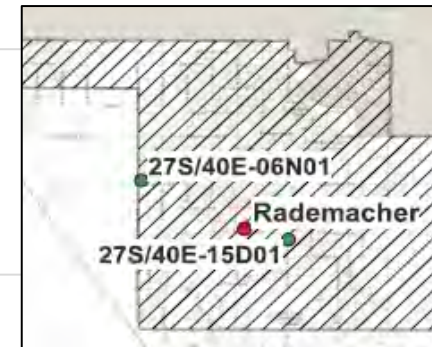
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|-------------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Well Near Distribution System | Indian Wells Valley Water District | IWVWD Consolidations |
| DeMinimis | Mapbook | Groundwater Surface Elevation |
| Non de minimis | IWVWD Distribution System | Certain |
| | Potential WD Connection | Estimated |
| | Rademacher Way 2021 Design | |

IMPACTED SHALLOW WELL LOCATIONS
AND POTENTIAL CONSOLIDATIONS
INDIAN WELLS VALLEY





Land Surface Elevation (27S/40E-15D01) = 2,382 feet above mean sea level.



Land Surface Elevation (27S/40E-06N01) = 2,472 feet above mean sea level.

Source: Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority Data Management System.



STETSON ENGINEERS INC.

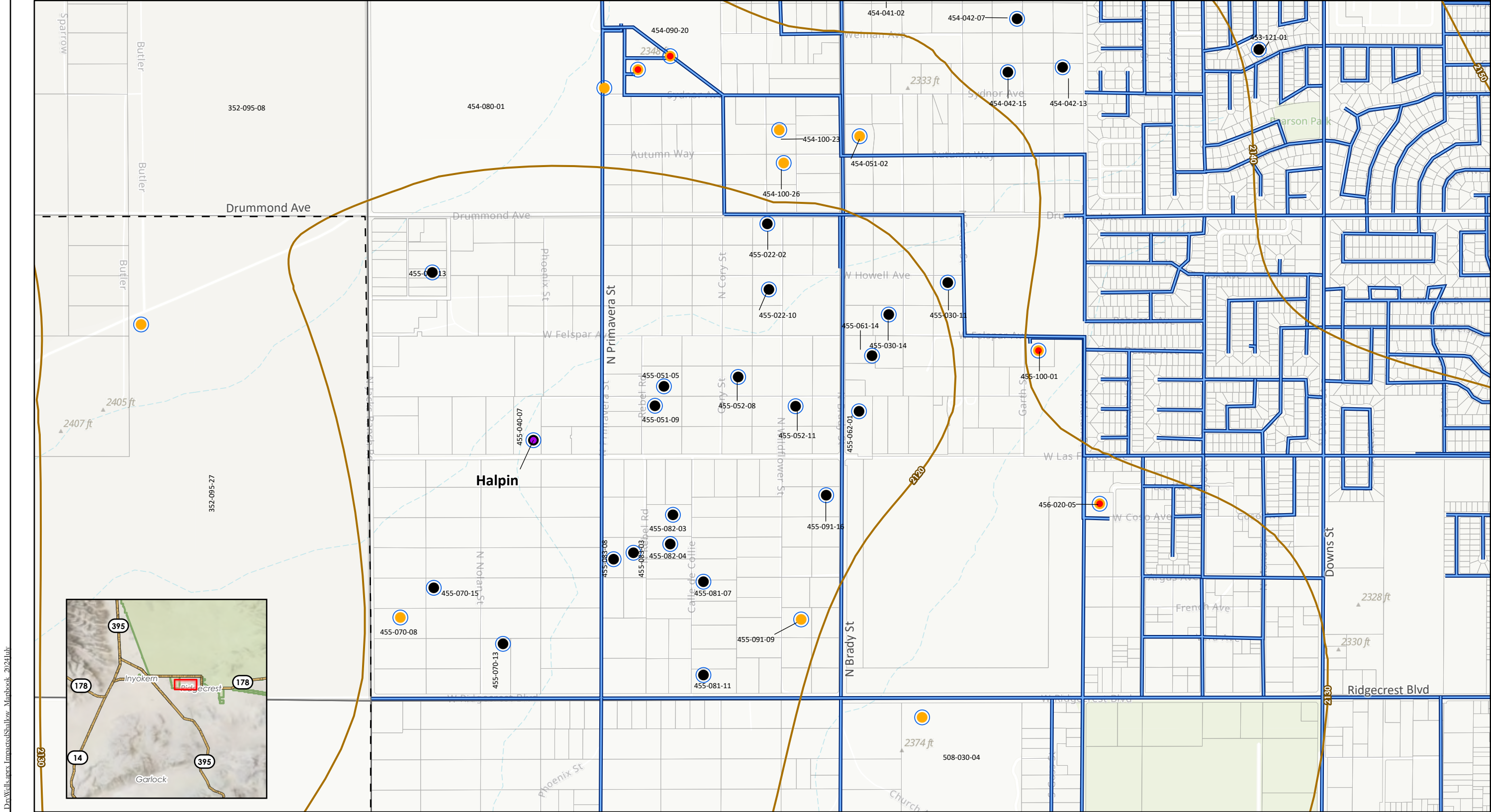
Covina San Rafael Mesa, Arizona

WATER RESOURCE ENGINEERS

HYDROGRAPH FOR THE 27S/40E-15D01 AND 27S/40E-06N01

FIGURE 4

Figure 5

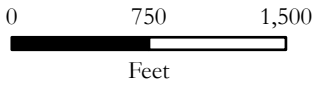


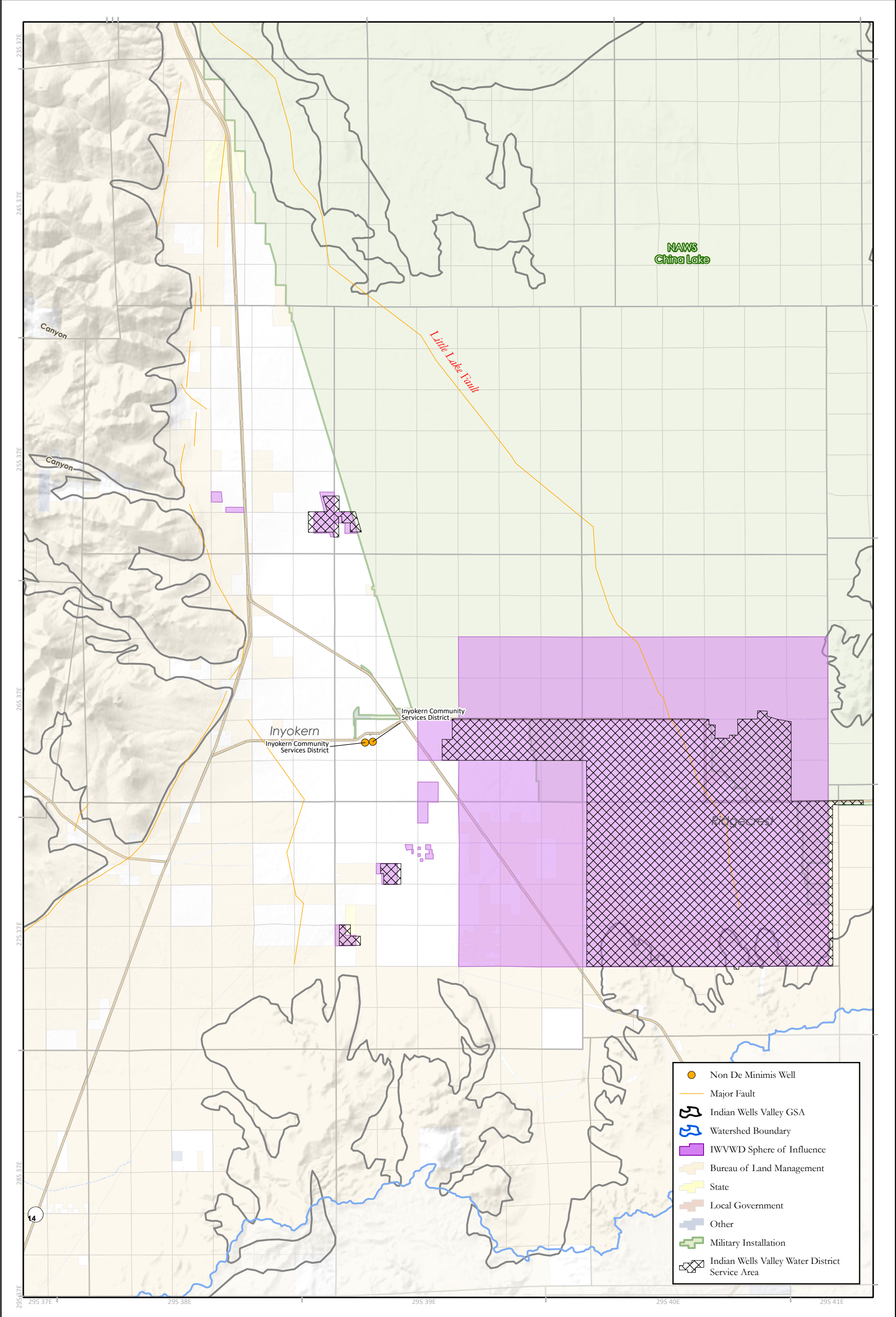
Document Path: I:\ir2652\I\WV WD Dr Wells.aprx Impacted\Shallow Mapbook 2024 July



- | | | | |
|-------------------------------|----------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Impacted Shallow Well | De minimis | Indian Wells Valley Water District | Groundwater Surface Elevation |
| IWVWD Well | Non de minimis | Mapbook | Certain |
| Well Near Distribution System | | IWVWD Distribution System | Estimated |
| | | Potential WD Connection | |
| | | IWVWD Consolidations | |

IMPACTED SHALLOW WELL LOCATIONS
AND POTENTIAL CONSOLIDATIONS
INDIAN WELLS VALLEY





INYOKERN COMMUNITY SERVICE DISTRICT
AND INDIAN WELLS VALLEY WATER DISTRICT SERVICE AREA

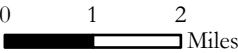


FIGURE 6

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IWVGA ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

STAFF REPORT

TO: IWVGA Board Members **DATE:** July 17, 2024

FROM: IWVGA Staff

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item 13: Approval of Change In Budget in Import Pipeline Project to Cover Revegetation of Geotechnical Test Sites and Enhanced Technical Monitoring for Biological, Archaeological and Tribal Monitors during the Geotechnical Testing Phase of Design Work**

BACKGROUND

On February 28, 2023, the Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority (IWVGA) executed a Contract Services Agreement (CSA) with Provost and Pritchard Consulting Group (P&P) for CEQA/NEPA Documents and Permit Documentation services for the Imported Water Pipeline Project. A Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) Implementation Grant through the California Department of Water Resources is providing \$7.6 million for planning and design-level activities, including CEQA/NEPA Documents and Permit Documentation services for the Imported Water Pipeline Project, which will bring imported water supplies into the Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Basin through an imported water connection from Antelope Valley – East Kern Water Agency’s California City pipeline to the Indian Wells Valley Water District water system.

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is the federal lead agency and has NEPA responsibility for this Project. As such, the BLM has vested interests in ensuring that the strongest documentation and environmental review possible is done while also respecting and ensuring that the costs are appropriately constrained.

The CSA’s original scope of work for a total not-to-exceed fee of \$1,013,722.00 includes Task 1 (Initial Coordination), Task 2 (Geotechnical Investigations Initial Coordination), Task 3 (Technical Studies), Task 4 (Public Outreach), Task 5 (Regulatory Compliance Permitting) and Task 6 (CEQA/NEPA). On August 23, 2023 the Board approved Scope and Budget Amendment No. 1 for a change in the scope of work and an increase in budget of \$58,876.00 for a total not-to-exceed fee in the CSA of \$1,072,598.00. This includes BLM’s request for biological monitoring during geotechnical borings and additional technical study transects. On November 8, 2023, the Board approved Scope and Budget Amendment No. 2 for a change in the scope of work and an increase in budget of \$103,000.00 for a total not-to-exceed fee of \$1,175,598.00. This includes BLM’s request for drafting of a Plan of Development for geotechnical work and additional tribal monitoring. On March 26, 2024, the Board approved a Scope and Budget Amendment No. 3 for a change in the scope of work and an increase in budget of \$52,800.00 for a total not-to-exceed fee of \$1,228,398.00 per the BLM’s request for additional biological resource tasks and additional botanical survey and reporting. On May 9, 2024, the General Manager executed a No-Cost Change

Order No. 4 to adjust budget within scope tasks.

DISCUSSION

Scope and Budget Amendment No. 5

IWVGA has applied for a Notice to Proceed, seeking authorization to drill geotechnical soil investigation boreholes within private parcels, existing local and county rights-of-way (ROW), on United State Bureau of Land Management (BLM) lands, and on prescriptive easements on United State BLM lands for the IWVGA Imported Water Pipeline Project (Project) (BLM serial number CA-059994).

On behalf of the IWVGA, P&P has submitted a Plan of Development (POD) for the geotechnical investigations to BLM. The POD outlines the requirements under which BLM allows for transportation and development, including geotechnical borings, on BLM land. BLM approved the POD for the Project subject to various requirements including, but not limited to, a specific geotechnical biological mitigation memo, a Revegetation and Restoration Plan and the requirement for an authorized desert tortoise biologist, a biologist qualified to handle mohave ground squirrel, a cultural resources monitor, and a tribal monitor. This equals a total of four monitors. P&P worked diligently to find a biologist qualified to handle both desert tortoise and mohave ground squirrel; therefore, reducing the number of required monitors to three.

The geotechnical work for the proposed Project would consist of drilling a total of 228 geotechnical boreholes, of which 102 are on BLM land and 126 boreholes on non-BLM land. The boreholes will be approximately 8 inches in diameter to a target depth between 15 to 100 feet below ground surface. In addition, the geotechnical investigation will include excavating 53 2-foot-wide by 8-foot-long by 6-foot-deep test pit with a small backhoe with a 2-foot-wide bucket at locations where rocky conditions are suspected. Of the test pits, 41 are on BLM land and 12 on non-BLM land. The borings and test pits will provide geotechnical data to IWVGA to better understand the makeup of the underlying soil and aid in the design of the Project.

Pursuant to the POD, the three monitors are required to be present and observe the various heavy equipment required to drill all 228 geotechnical boreholes and test pits. This scope of work includes the three monitors being present for 4 days a week for 10-hour workdays, for 44 total days.

P&P has requested change orders for additional costs under Task 2 (Geotechnical Studies). Additionally, P&P has requested the addition of Task 7 (Geotechnical Monitoring). Requests include: Task 2, additional work to the Revegetation and Restoration Plan; and Task 7, three geotechnical monitors per the BLM Plan of Development.

The change in cost is \$277,716.00 compared to the prior amended fee amount of 1,228,398.00. Therefore, an amendment of the not-to-exceed fee in the CSA to \$1,506,114.00 is needed. P&P's Change Order Request has been included in the Board Packet as an attachment to this Staff Report.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Staff recommends the Board approve...

Scope and Budget Amendment No. 5 for the change in Scope of Work and a Contract Sum increase of \$277,716.00 for the Contract Services Agreement with Provost and Pritchard Consulting Group, for CEQA/NEPA Documents and Permit Documentation Services for the Imported Water Pipeline.

Approval of Scope and Budget Amendment No. 5 results in a total change in cost is of \$277,716.00 compared to the prior amended fee amount of \$1,228,398.00. This results in a proposed total not-to-exceed fee in the CSA to \$1,506,114.00.

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PROVOST & PRITCHARD CONSULTING GROUP

400 E Main St, Ste 300 • Visalia, CA 93291 • (559) 636-1166
www.provostandpritchard.com

SCOPE & BUDGET AMENDMENT NO. 5

To:	Bianca Cabrera, Stetson Engineers, Inc.	Email:	BiancaC@stetsonengineers.com
From:	Dawn Marple, Principal Planner	Date:	July 8, 2024
Subject:	Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority Imported Pipeline Project CEQA/NEPA and Permitting Documentation: Contract Amendment No. 5		

A contract amendment is hereby submitted to Stetson Engineering Inc. for the Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority (IWVGA) Imported Pipeline Project California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)/National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Permitting Documentation Project (Job No. 4101-23-001) to incorporate the changes discussed below. This contract amendment is subject to the same terms and conditions of the original agreement for the project dated February 28, 2023.

BACKGROUND

Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority (IWVGA) has applied for a Notice to Proceed, seeking authorization to drill geotechnical soil investigation boreholes within private parcels, existing local and county rights-of-way (ROW), on United State Bureau of Land Management (BLM) lands, and on prescriptive easements on BLM lands for the IWVGA Imported Water Pipeline Project (Project) (BLM serial number CA-059994).

On behalf of the IWVGA, P&P has submitted a Plan of Development (POD) for the geotechnical investigations to BLM. The POD outlines the requirements under which BLM allows for transportation and development, including geotechnical borings, on BLM land. BLM approved the POD for the Project subject to various requirements including, but not limited to, a specific geotechnical biological mitigation memo, a Revegetation and Restoration Plan and the requirement for staff to monitor the work: 1) an authorized desert tortoise biologist, 2) a biologist qualified to handle mohave ground squirrel, 3) a cultural resources monitor, and 4) a Native American tribal monitor. P&P has located a biologist qualified to handle both desert tortoise and mohave ground squirrel; therefore, reducing the number of required monitors to three.

The geotechnical work for the proposed Project would consist of drilling a total of 228 geotechnical boreholes, of which 102 are on BLM land and 126 boreholes on non-BLM land. The boreholes will be approximately 8 inches in diameter to a target depth between 15 to 100 feet below ground surface. In addition, the geotechnical investigation will include excavating 53 2-foot-wide by 8-foot-long by 6-foot-deep test pit with a small backhoe with a 2-foot-wide bucket at locations where rocky conditions are suspected. Of the test pits, 41 are on BLM land and 12 on non-BLM land. The borings and test pits will provide geotechnical data to IWVGA to better understand the makeup of the underlying soil and aid in the design of the Project.

TSK 2 – GEOTECHNICAL STUDY

A geotechnical specific Biological Mitigation Measures memo as well as a Revegetation and Restoration Plan were developed in coordination with BLM for inclusion in the POD. The Biological Mitigation Memo has been attached to the POD as Attachment C2 and the Revegetation and Restoration Plan has been attached to the POD as Attachment F. The Revegetation Plan will require P&P staff to implement reseeding at all geotechnical sites in the winter of 2024.

TSK 7 – GEOTECHNICAL MONITORING

In compliance with the POD, this scope of work includes the three monitors that are required to be present and observe the various heavy equipment required to drill all 228 geotechnical boreholes and test pits. This scope of work includes the three monitors being present for 4 days a week for 10-hour workdays, for 44 total days. This scope of work assumes that the geotechnical investigation work will be conducted weekly.

As described in the approved Plan of Development (POD), BLM is requiring the use of technical monitors (biological, cultural resources, and tribal monitors) during geotechnical boring ground disturbing activities to enforce approved mitigation measures that will protect biological, cultural, and/or tribal cultural resources encountered during geotechnical boring activities. The biological monitor must conduct worker environmental awareness training prior to any excavation of boreholes or test pits.

All geotechnical boring ground disturbing activities taking place on BLM owned lands must be completed prior to August 1st and not begin again until March 1st, during the MGS dormancy period. After the MGS dormancy period ends, geotechnical work and required monitoring will resume if needed on any remaining BLM owned lands, privately owned lands, and any lands under California Department of Fish and Wildlife jurisdiction covered under the approved Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement.

P&P has partnered with ASM Affiliates (ASM) to conduct cultural resources (archaeological) and Native American monitoring services in support of the Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority (IWVGA) Imported Water Pipeline Project for the duration of geotechnical boring activities. The cultural monitoring services will be managed by ASM's archaeologists who satisfy the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualification Standards.

P&P has partnered with Environmental Plus Consulting Group (EPC) to conduct Desert tortoise and Mojave ground squirrel monitoring with a BLM approved biologist during the geotechnical boring activities. The monitor will conduct a Worker's Environmental Awareness Program Training prior to ground disturbing activities, as well as complete a daily pre-activity survey and document existing conditions.

Any additional monitoring beyond the assumed 44 days described above, will result in an additional amendment sent for approval to Stetson Engineering, Inc. and the Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority.

REVISED FEE

The following table shows the increases in budget for the use of technical monitors during the geotechnical boring activities:

BUDGET AMENDMENT			
Phase Name	Current Budget	Increase in Budget	Revised Budget
TSK 1 – Initial Project Coordination	\$150,555	\$0	\$150,555
TSK 2 – Geotechnical Investigation	\$110,480	\$20,151	\$130,631
TSK 3 – Technical Studies	\$437,040	\$0	\$437,040
TSK 4 – Public Outreach	\$98,235	\$0	\$98,235
TSK 5 – Regulatory Compliance	\$249,142	\$0	\$249,142
TSK 6 – CEQA/NEPA Documentation	\$182,946	\$0	\$182,946
TSK 7 – Geotechnical Monitoring	\$0	\$257,565	\$257,565
Totals:	\$1,228,398	\$277,716	\$1,506,114

Please sign, date and return to Dawn E. Marple at Provost & Pritchard Consulting Group by emailing dmарple@ppeng.com, signifying approval of this Contract Amendment.

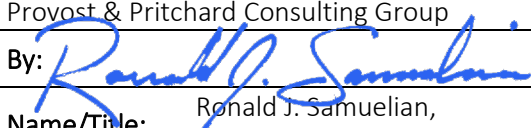
Client: Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority

By:

Name/Title: Carol Thomas-Keefer

Date Signed:

Provost & Pritchard Engineering Group, Inc. dba
Provost & Pritchard Consulting Group

By: 

Name/Title: Ronald J. Samuelian,
President

Date Signed: July 8, 2024

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IWVGA ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE
STAFF REPORT

TO: IWVGA Board Members

DATE: July 10, 2024

FROM: IWVGA Staff

SUBJECT: Agenda Item 14 – Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Model Update

BACKGROUND

The Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) was submitted to the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) in January 2020. DWR approved the GSP on January 13, 2022 and provided seven Recommended Corrective Actions (RCAs) to be addressed in the next update of the GSP. The GSP provides the framework and path to achieve sustainability in the Indian Wells Valley by no later than 2040. According to 23 California Code of Regulations (CCR) § 356.4, DWR requires Groundwater Sustainability Agencies, such as the Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority (IWVGA), to evaluate GSPs at least every 5 years and provide a written assessment to DWR. This written assessment is also called the Periodic Evaluation. The Indian Wells Valley Periodic Evaluation is to be submitted to DWR no later than January 31, 2025. If a Periodic Evaluation determines that changes to the GSP must be made, the Periodic Evaluation may be accompanied by an Amended GSP.

DISCUSSION

As part of the Periodic Evaluation, the IWVGA has determined the Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Basin (Basin) Hydrogeologic Conceptual Model (HCM) and Basin Groundwater Model (Model) requires updates to address data gaps and include new data on the Basin. Since the 2020 GSP, the Navy has required a Configuration Management Plan (CMP) for Navy participation in the modeling processes of the Model. The CMP required a Technical Modeling Group (TMG) consisting of experts knowledgeable in modeling, geology, and hydrogeology to provide support during modeling processes. The TMG has been meeting since May 2022 to evaluate new information for inclusion in the model and support updating of the Model. The TMG has completed its update of the Model, and the updated Model has been calibrated. Since model calibration, two model scenarios have been run – a Baseline Scenario and a 2025 Implemented Management Scenario. The Baseline Scenario models pumping in the Basin based on current pumping with growth for domestic and municipal pumping and the Navy’s stated future pumping. The 2025 Implemented Management Scenario builds upon the Baseline pumping and models pumping based on what GSP implementation has already occurred and what is currently anticipated to occur (Imported Water will be available in 2030). Attached is a presentation on the Model updates as well as calibration and model scenario results.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

This is an informational item. No Board Action is required.

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Indian Wells Valley 2025 GSP Groundwater Model Periodic Evaluation

Susan Rybarski, MSc
And
Steven Bacon, PhD, PG, CEG
Desert Research Institute (DRI)

In collaboration with
Stetson Engineers

Impactful science, inspiring solutions.

1

Acknowledgements

- As specified in the Navy required Configuration Management Plan for the groundwater model, a **Technical Model Group** was formed in early 2022 to review technical Configuration Items and make recommendations to the Groundwater Authority for updating the groundwater model in preparation of the 5-year GSP in 2025.
- **Configuration Items** include new and old geologic, geophysical, and hydrologic data to be evaluated for inclusion in the 2025 GSP groundwater model periodic evaluation.

Technical Model Group Members:

- Don Decker, PhD – Domestic Well Owners
- Emma Lynch – U.S. Bureau of Land Management
- Donna Ogilvie – U.S. Navy
- Steven Bacon, PhD, PG, CEG – Desert Research Institute
- Susan Rybarski, MSc – Desert Research Institute
- Helena Chu – Stetson Engineers
- Jeff Helsey, PE – Stetson Engineers
- Chaoying Jiao, PhD, PG, CHG – Stetson Engineers
- Jean Moran, PG, CHG – Stetson Engineers



2

Model Elements Evaluated

1. Model domain configuration
2. Faults
3. Hydrogeologic framework (i.e., geologic layers)
4. Evapotranspiration (ET) zones and extinction depths
5. Recharge distribution: spatially and at depth



3

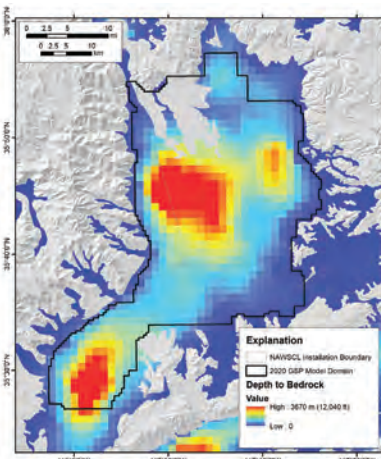
Model Domain Configuration

2025 Model Domain (green)

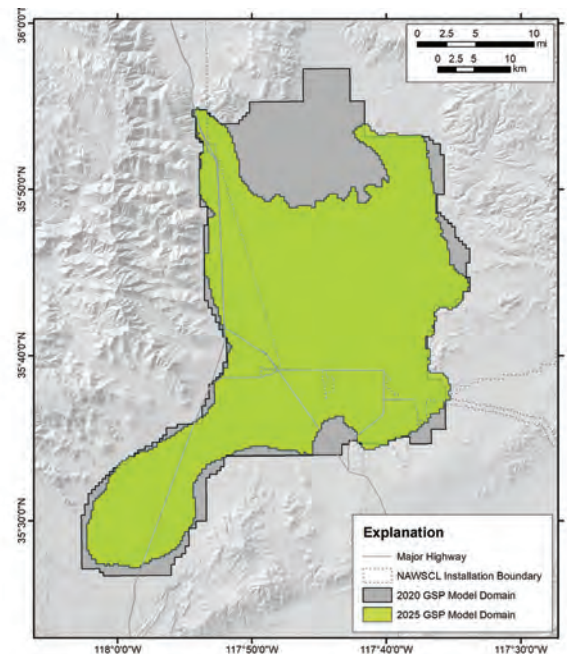
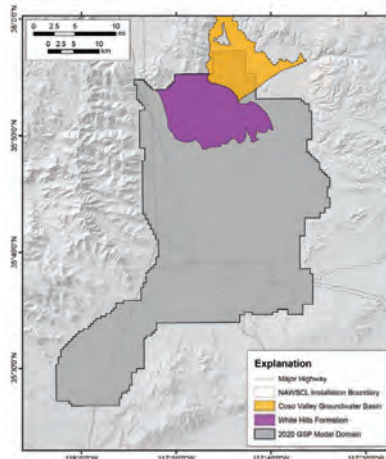
Reduction in area of 22%

2020 = 458.6 mi² 2025 = 356.0 mi²

USGS Depth to Bedrock Map

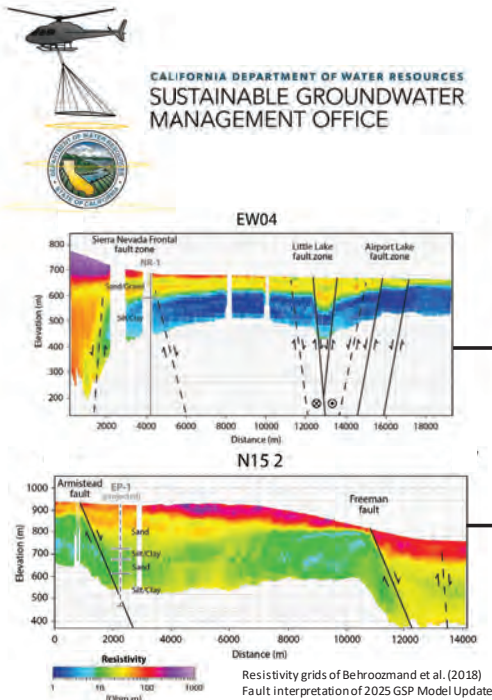


Geologic and Groundwater Basin Maps

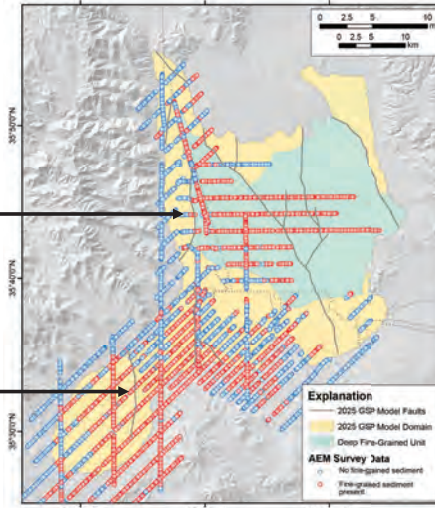


4

Inclusion of a Thick Clay Unit

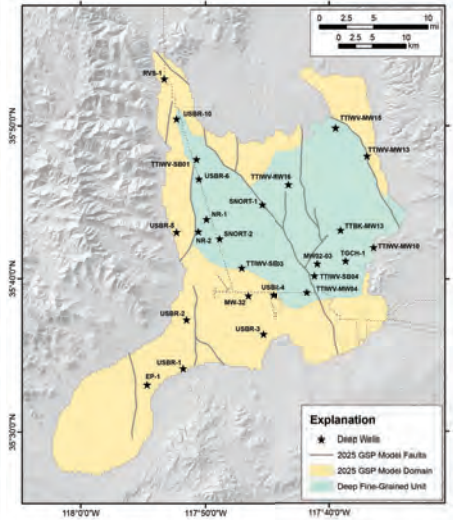


2017 Airborne Electromagnetic (AEM)
Survey Data used to Define
Extent and Top of Thick Clay Layer
and Location of Faults



Raw AEM data processed by Dr. Ryan Smith
(Colorado State University) for 2025 GSP Model Update

Deep Well Logs used to Verify
AEM Survey Data and to
Determine Thickness of Clay Layer



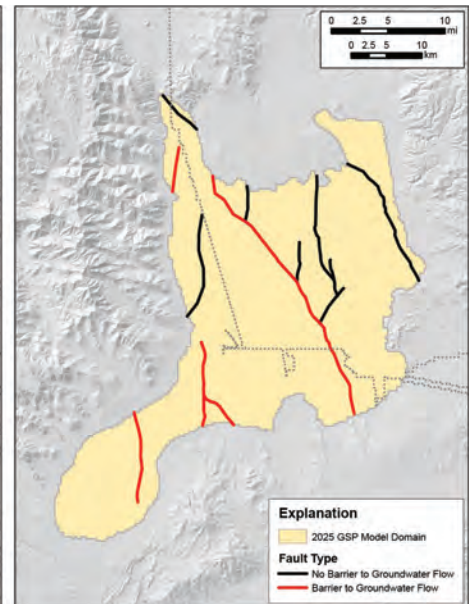
Inclusion of Additional Faults



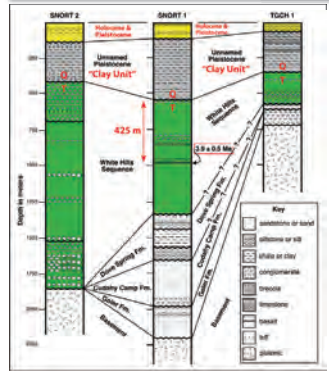
2020 GSP Model



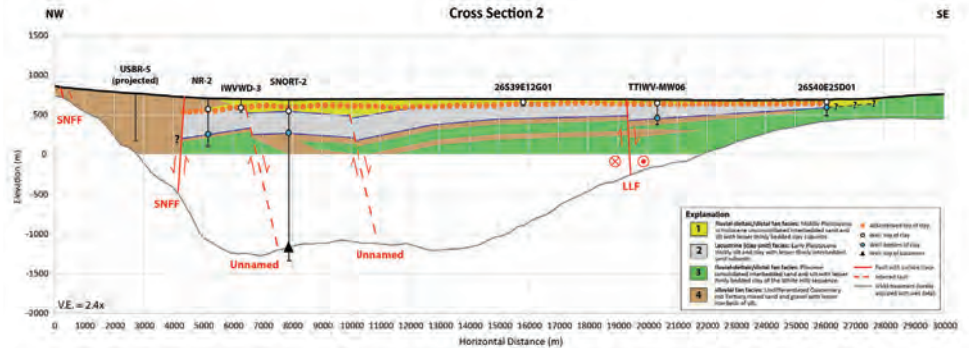
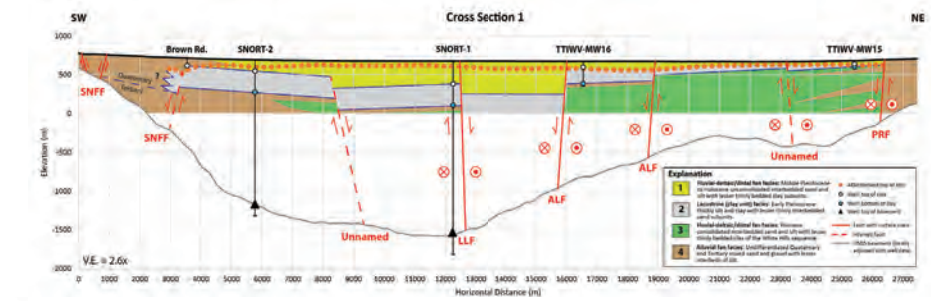
2025 GSP Model



Characterized Thick Clay Unit using Tectonic Block Model

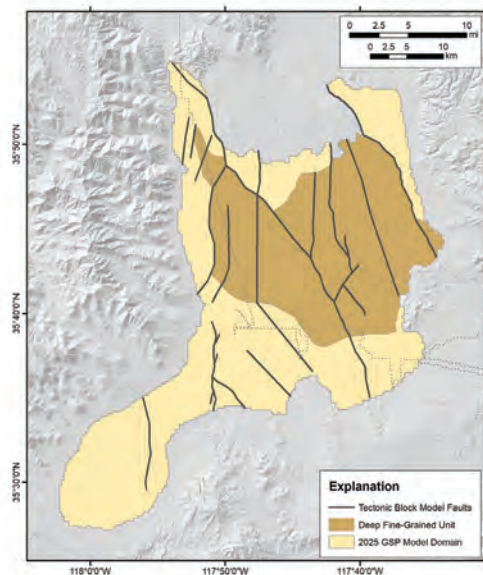


adapted from Monasterio et al. (2002)



7

Developed 3D Model of Faulted Thick Clay Unit

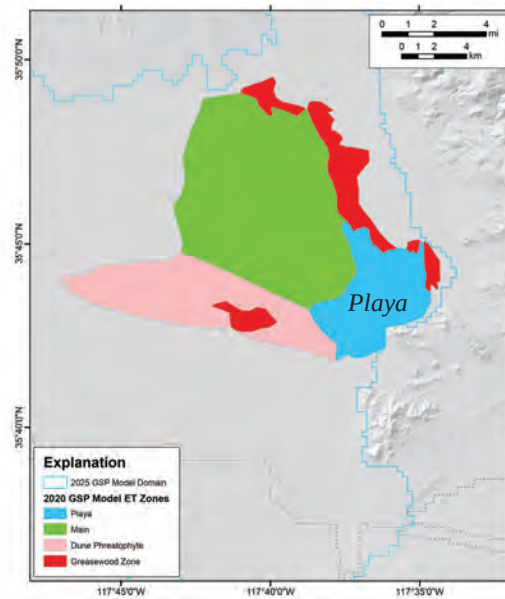


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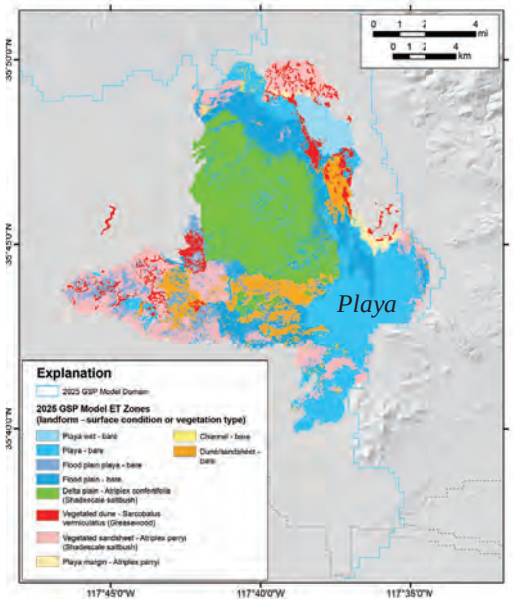
Updated Evapotranspiration (ET) Zones in China Lake Basin



2020 GSP Model



2025 GSP Model



9

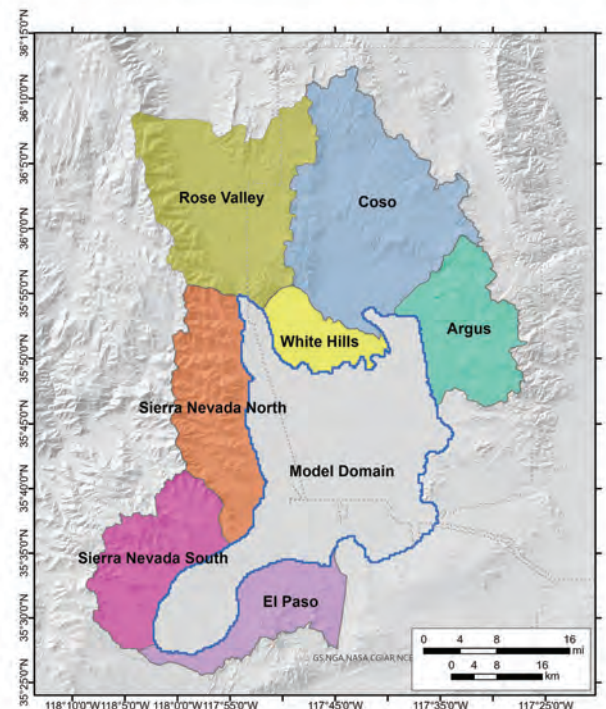
Updated Recharge Distribution

2020 GSP

Inflows	AFY
Mountain Front Recharge	
Sierra Nevada North	2,100
Sierra Nevada South	1,500
Argus	1,600
Rose Valley	2,400
El Paso	50
Total	7,650

2025 GSP

Inflows	AFY
Mountain Front Recharge	
Sierra Nevada North	3,000
Sierra Nevada South	380
Argus	1,740
Rose Valley	1,920
El Paso	320
White Hills	300
Total	7,650



2025 GSP Model Calibration

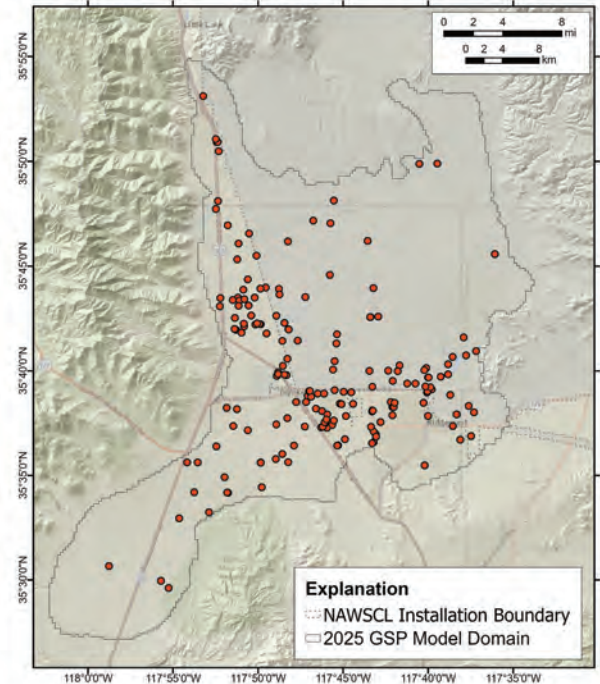
- The model was calibrated to **8,285 measurements** at **190 well locations** throughout the basin
- Model error was reduced by 12 feet (45%)** compared to the 2020 GSP Model!

2025 GSP Model Error

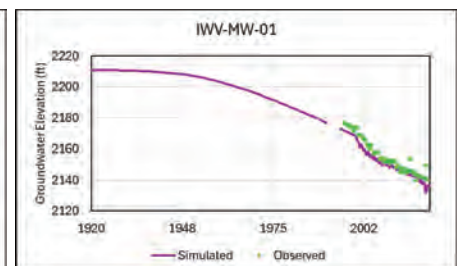
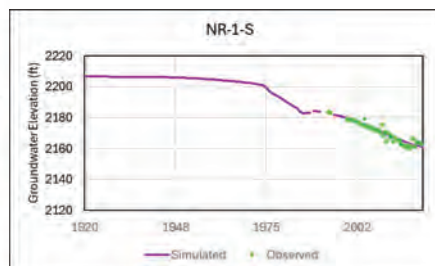
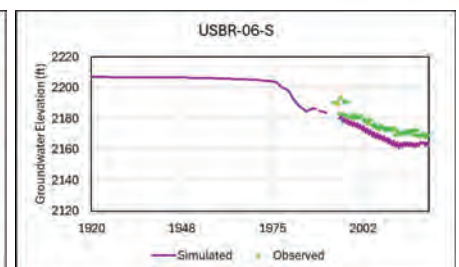
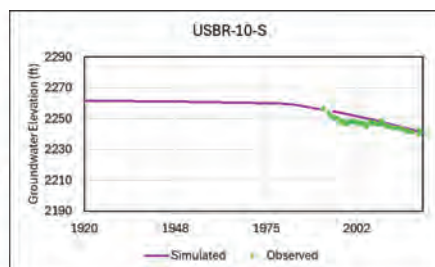
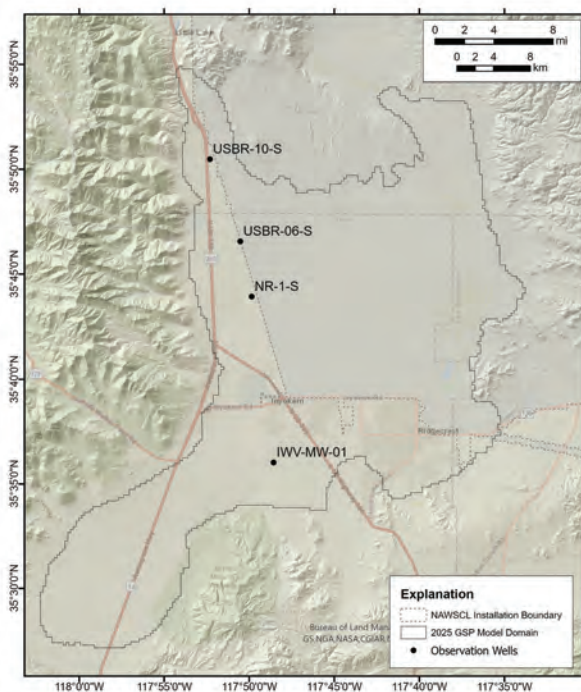
	Error (ft)	Relative Error (%)
Mean Error (ME)	5.71	0.68
Mean Absolute Error (MAE)	14.47	1.72
Root Mean Squared Error (RMSE)	20.83	2.48

2020 GSP Model Error

	Error (ft)	Relative Error (%)
Mean Error (ME)	16.08	1.91
Mean Absolute Error (MAE)	26.51	3.16
Root Mean Squared Error (RMSE)	48.88	5.82

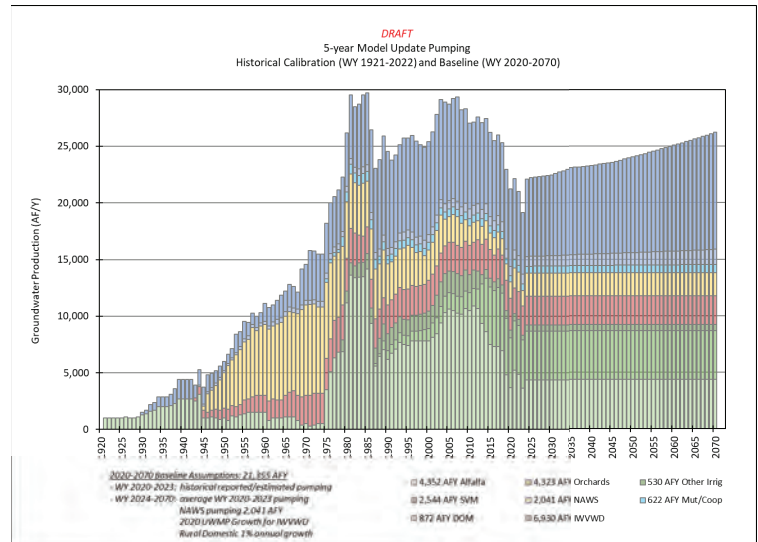


2025 GSP Simulated Groundwater Levels



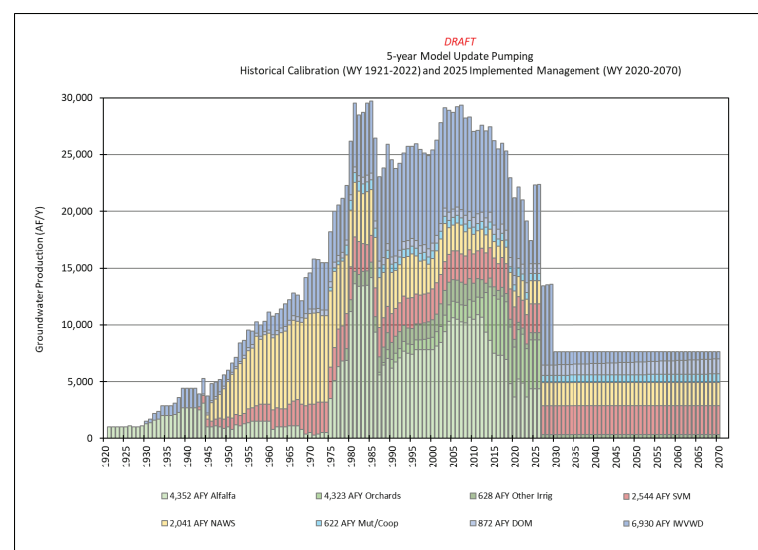
2025 GSP Modeling Scenarios: Baseline

- Indian Wells Valley Water District (IWWVD) pumping to follow their 2020 Urban Water Management Plan (UWMP) projected pumping
- Navy: 2,041 AFY – Navy requested for planning purposes
- Domestic pumpers: 832 AFY, 1% growth rate from WY 2020, starting in WY 2024
- Inyokern CSD: 1% growth from WY 2020-2023 average, starting in WY 2024
- Assumes averages of Water Year (WY) 2020-2023 pumping for all other pumpers and to continue statically
 - Mutuals/Co-ops
 - SVM/Trona
 - City/County
 - All Ag
- No Imported Water
- No Recycled Water
- No Pumping Optimization
- No Lease Market

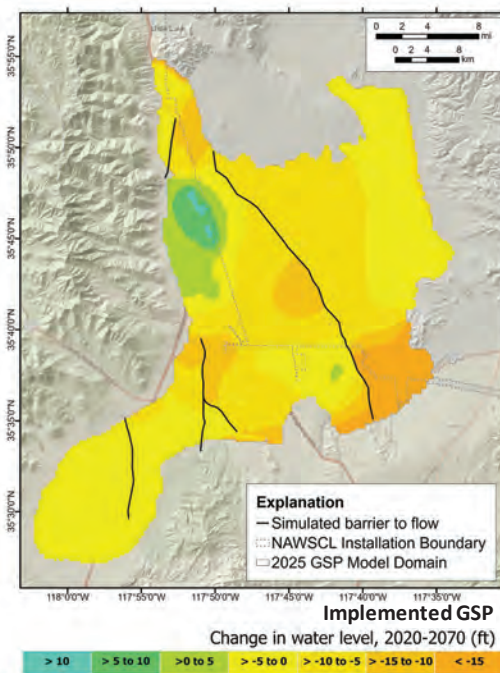
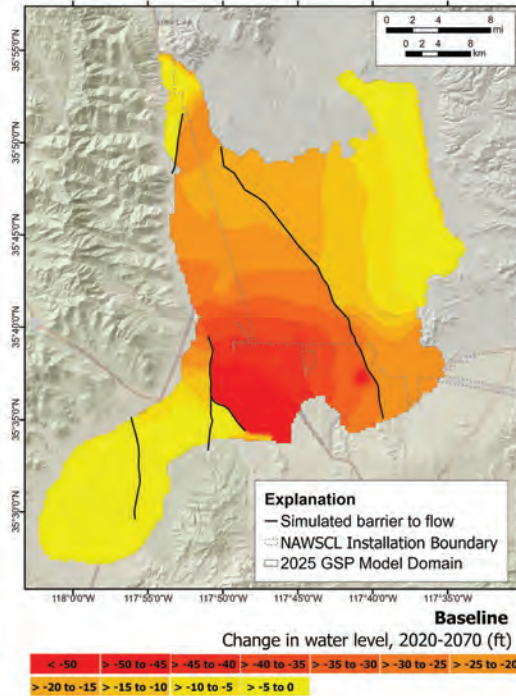


2025 GSP Modeling Scenarios: Implemented GSP

- Indian Wells Valley Water District (IWWVD) pumping to match 2020 Urban Water Management Plan (UWMP) projected pumping, then reduced to meet sustainable yield (7,650 AFY)
- Navy: 2,041 AFY – Navy requested for planning purposes
- Domestic pumpers: 832 AFY, 1% growth rate from WY 2020, starting in WY 2024
- Inyokern CSD: 1% growth from WY 2020-2023 average, starting in WY 2024
- Assumes averages of Water Year (WY) 2020-2023 pumping for all other pumpers and to continue statically
 - Mutuals/Co-ops
 - SVM/Trona
 - County
- Transient Pool finished by 2026
 - All ag pumpers not in transient pool to stop pumping starting WY 2024
- City: 325 AFY – to include expansions to parks currently underway
- Imported Water available in 2030
- No Recycled Water
- No Pumping Optimization
- No Lease Market

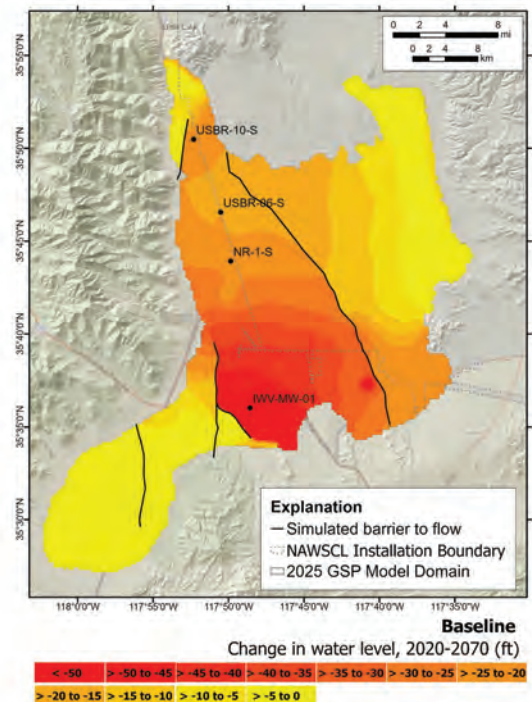
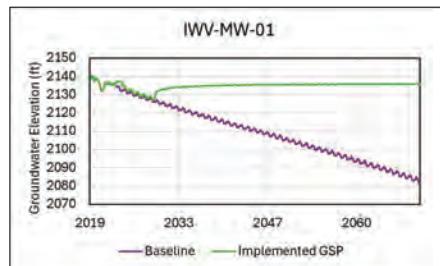
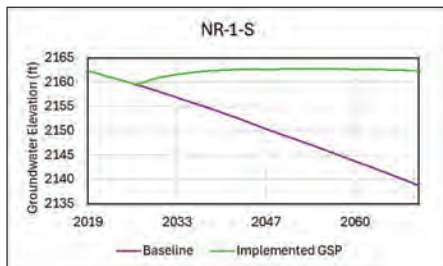
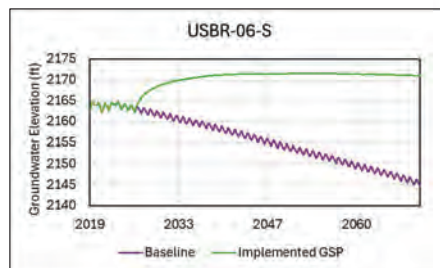
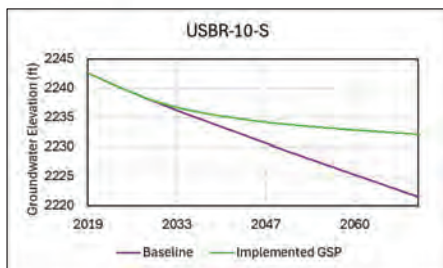


2025 GSP Predictive Model Results

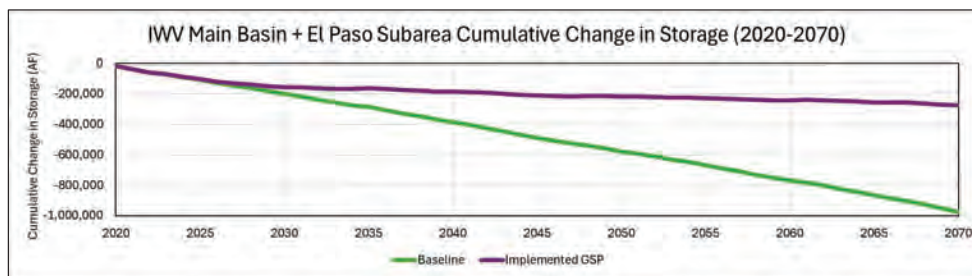
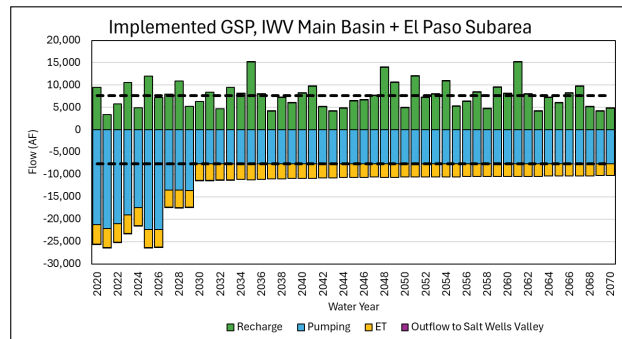
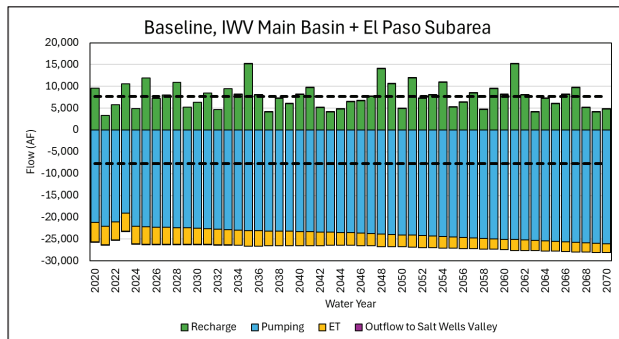


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2025 GSP Predictive Model Results



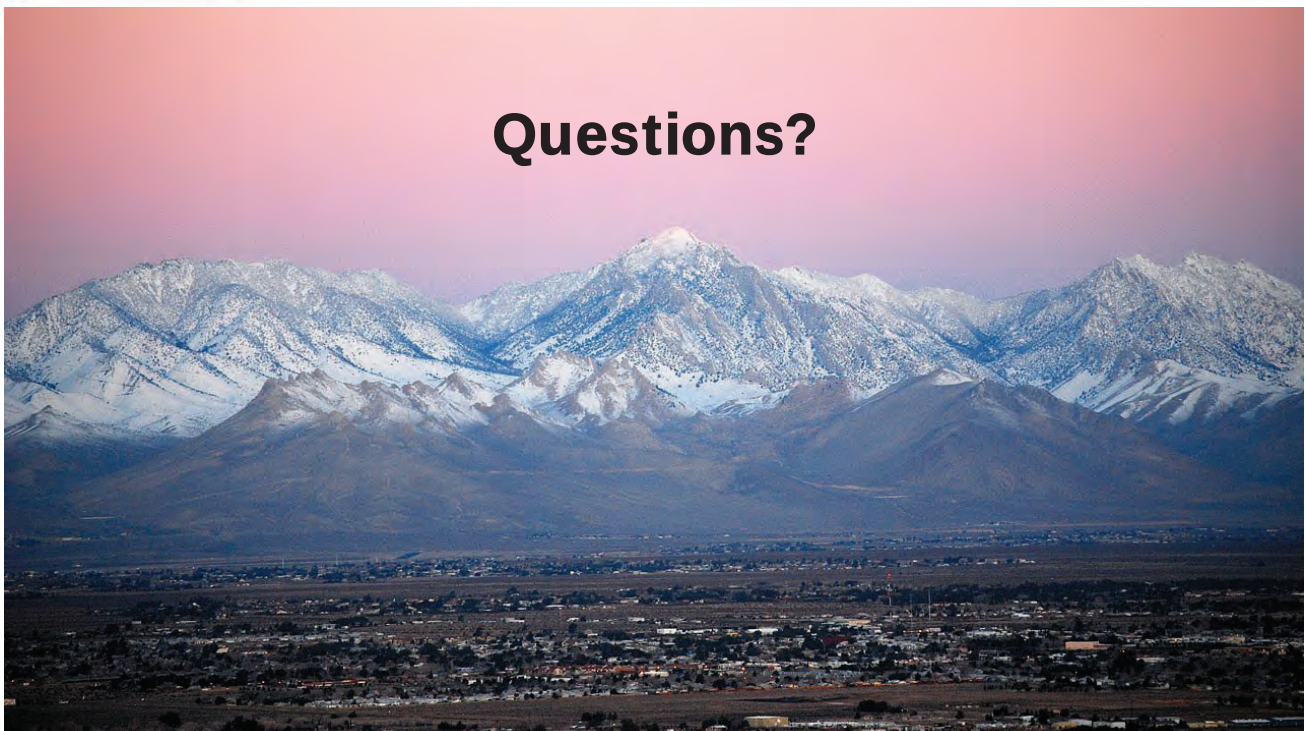
2025 GSP Predictive Model Results



Impactful science, inspiring solutions.

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Questions?



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IWVGA ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

STAFF REPORT

TO: IWVGA Board Members

DATE: July 10, 2024

FROM: IWVGA Water Resources Manager

SUBJECT: AGENDA ITEM 15 – WATER RESOURCES MANAGER’S REPORT

AGENDA ITEM 15a – GRANT FUNDING UPDATE

SGMA Implementation Round 1 Update

- Invoice # 7
 - Covers January 2024 to March 2024
 - Total requested payment: \$584,148.88
 - Status: Submitted May 31, 2024
- Invoice # 8
 - Covers April 2024 to June 2024
 - Due: August 31, 2024

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.
- DWR has executed the grant agreement.
- Potential systems/wells for consolidation in areas near impacted shallow wells are being further investigated.
 - Dune III Extension area
 - Consists of several de minimis well pumpers
 - GA staff have reached out to IWVWD to discuss coordination and collaboration of the design
 - IWVWD’s design and plans for the Dune III area are complete
 - Ongoing discussion with IWVWD on collaboration with Dune III to incorporate Dune III extension area. Bid phase for IWVWD Dune III Consolidation to occur in Fall 2024
 - Hometown Water Association
 - Small water system located in the China Lake Acres area
 - Consists of one 325 ft deep groundwater well
 - Serves approximately 25 customers through 12 service connections
 - Drilled in 1978
 - System is currently unable to financially keep up with the operation, maintenance, and reporting requirements for the system
 - IWVWD Consolidation Project to be completed in-house
 - Project estimated cost: \$270,066

- Project completion time: 4 months
- Rademacher
 - Poor water quality (arsenic, minerals, and salts) in the Rademacher area
 - A shared well drilled in 2016 has 5 total connections
 - One family currently receiving emergency bottled water assistance and another is hauling water
 - Cornerstone Engineering developed plans to consolidate water supply from IWVWD, however project was never completed
 - Ongoing discussions with Rademacher residents for interest in consolidation
- Invoice # 2
 - Covers April 2024 to June 2024
 - Due: August 31, 2024

2023 Drinking Water System Infrastructure Resilience and Sustainability Program

Staff submitted an application for federal funding on November 6, 2023 for approximately \$2.8 million to fund planning, design, environmental, and right-of-way tasks for the Imported Water Project. Funding awards are anticipated to be announced in Summer 2024.

AGENDA ITEM 15b – GSP IMPLEMENTATION PROJECTS/MANAGEMENT ACTION UPDATES

Imported Water Project

- Imported Water Pipeline Design Services
 - Coordination Meetings:
 - Bi-weekly meetings with BLM
 - Updated Draft Plan of Design with addition of Mojave Tank Alignment in compliance with the BLM's Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan is scheduled to be submitted to the BLM by early July
 - Updated SF-299 Application with addition of Mojave Tank Alignment to obtain a Special Use Permit is scheduled to be submitted to the BLM by early July
 - P&P began geotechnical borings with cultural and biological monitoring on BLM land after receiving Geotech Special Use Permit and encroachment permit from Kern County
 - Received approval of mitigation measures in the Lake and Streambed Alteration Permit (LSA) for endangered species with California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) on May 17
 - Allows boring locations next to aquatic features
 - Coordinating completion of LSA Permit and LSA Agreement
 - Continuing ongoing coordination with State Water Resources Control Board Division of Drinking Water (DDW), Caltrans, United Pacific Rail Road (UPRR), and Southern California Edison (SCE)
 - SCE reviewing Customer/ Project Information Sheet (CPIS) application
 - Submitted encroachment permit with UPRR for crossing along alignment near Highway 395 with application fee of \$755 for UPRR

review

- o Continuing soils borings in California City and Kern County right-of-way
 - Completed 51 soil borings and 23 test pits during the month of June primarily between Pump Station No. 3 and along Hwy 395
 - Began working along Redrock Randsburg Road, starting towards the west at the end of the month.
- o Continuing utility research and trenchless crossing identification
 - Working on scour analysis for the Cantil and Redrock Canyon drainage washes, in non-BLM land near Neuralia Road and Redrock Randsburg Road
- o Continuing 60% Design level
 - Continuing completing pumpstation piping design, grading plans, and regulating tank design and profiles as more geotechnical information becomes available
- o Staff reviewing the updated draft Electrical System and Control Strategy TM
- o Coordinating additional modeling scenarios with AVEK on design considerations of upstream hydraulics and constraints
- o Next Steps:
 - Provide the System Hydraulics and Transient Mitigation Analysis TM
 - Provide the updated Preliminary Permitting Requirements TM per Staff comments
 - Complete soil borings
 - Submit updated SF-299 Application to obtain Special Use Permit to include Mojave Tank Farm alignment
 - Next Milestones
 - Obtain CDFW approval of the mitigation measures for Lake and Streambed Alteration Permit for soil borings next to aquatic features
 - Provide 60% Design Submittal by August 2024
- Imported Water Pipeline Environmental Services
 - o Coordination Meetings
 - Weekly meetings with BLM
 - Continuing additional biological survey requirements from BLM
 - South Environmental (SE) subconsultants completed botany surveys in Mohave Tank Farm alignment
 - Began biological and cultural monitoring of borings on BLM land
 - Finalizing NEPA Public Scoping Period Summary Report
 - Drafting updated EA sections based on comments provided by BLM
 - o Provided updated schedule
 - Draft EA for 45- day Public Comment Period updated from November 2024 to February 2025
 - Start date of April 2025 for certification of EA/ EIR remains unchanged
 - o Final Draft Cultural Report being prepared
 - o Continuing coordination with AVEK on Mojave Tank Farm Alignment
 - o Coordinating with U.S. Department of Defense (DOD) for surveying alignment within AVEK's easement in DOD Edwards Airforce Base land
 - Initial meeting with DOD, BLM, and P&P occurred on May 27 to discuss next steps
 - DOD is a cooperating agency for this portion of the project

- DOD to join biweekly meetings with BLM
 - BLM and DOD archeological and cultural leads are coordinating directly with each other
 - Drafting 813 form for permission to survey
 - Air Quality, Greenhouse Gas, Energy, and Noise subconsultant continuing models and tasks
- Coordinating with United States Fish and Wildlife Service, BLM, and GA/ WRM Staff on requirements to obtain an Incidental Take Permit
 - Determined Section 7 consultation required for the portions of the project occurring on federal land
 - P&P to coordinate with USFW on Section 10 Habitat Conservation Plan on private land
- Next Steps:
 - Provide draft EA for 45- day Public Comment Period by February 2025
 - Next Milestones:
 - Finalize NEPA compliance for geotechnical borings and environmental surveys/ studies within BLM property
 - Complete all technical analyses/ Special Studies within BLM land and along Mojave Tank Farm Alignment
- Imported Water Pipeline Right-of-Way Services
 - Continue obtaining Rights of Entry from property owners along the pipeline alignment to allow performance of biological/technical studies and geotechnical borings
 - Staff reviewing draft Right of Way Acquisition Plan
 - Next Milestone:
 - Provide a final Right of Way Acquisition Plan
- Submittals to DWR
 - Submit Initial Study due September 1, 2024
 - Continuing monthly coordination meetings with DWR on IP Grant progress
- US Army Corps of Engineers Planning Assistance to States (PAS) Program
 - USACE Staff reviewing final proposed project list to start the development of an agreement with Army Corps
 - GA Staff coordinating meeting with Army Corps to support development of an agreement
 - Next Steps:
 - Execute an agreement with Army Corps

Shallow Well Mitigation Program

Impacted Shallow Wells	Evaluation Status
Stark Street	Application approved for partial funding. Completed
Heritage	Application Declined. Completed
Byerly	Application approved for partial funding. Completed
Halpin	Application approved for partial funding. Completed
Rademacher	Water Quality. Directed to the Shallow Well Mitigation Program and Capital Core. Kern County researching funding. Possible use of new DWR Consolidation Grant.

GSP Periodic Evaluation and Amendment

- Draft Releases
 - First draft section of Periodic Evaluation distributed to TAC, interested parties, and posted to GA website.
 - Comments due June 17, 2024.
 - Two sets of comments received and reviewed

Revised Periodic Evaluation Schedule of Draft Releases

New Information Collected	May 2024
GSA Authorities and Enforcement Actions	July 2024
Monitoring Networks	July 2024
Outreach, Engagement, and Coordination	July 2024
Groundwater Conditions Relative to Sustainable Management Criteria	July 2024
Basin Setting Based on New Information/Changes in Water Use	July 2024
Status of Projects and Management Actions	August 2024
Full Draft Periodic Evaluation	August 2024

Revised Submittal Process Schedule

Complete Draft Periodic Evaluation Released	September 2, 2024
Complete Draft Plan Amendment Released	September 30, 2024
Periodic Evaluation Comment Period	September 3, 2024 – October 7, 2024
Plan Amendment Comment Period	October 1, 2024 – November 4, 2024
Final Periodic Evaluation for Board Approval	November 13, 2024
Final Plan Amendment for Board Approval	January 8, 2025
Submittal to DWR	January 31, 2025

2023 Annual Report

WY 2023 Annual Report

- Comments on the draft WY 2023 Annual Report were due to the WRM by February 2, 2024.
 - Comments were provided by Mohave Pistachio, LLC and Searles Valley Minerals Inc.
- The draft WY 2023 Annual Report and comments are available on the IWVGA website.
- The final WY 2023 Annual Report was provided at the IWVGA March Special Board Meeting and was due to DWR on April 1, 2024.
- WY 2023 Annual Report was successfully submitted to DWR on March 29, 2024
- May 24, 2024 DWR sent IWVGA a letter accepting WY 2023 Annual Report as submitted and stated the report largely satisfies the requirements of the GSP Regulations.
- Response to WY 2023 Annual Report comments currently being drafted

AGENDA ITEM 15c – MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

Data Collection and Monitoring

- Staff continued to process depth-to-water and groundwater elevation data from the Spring 2024 groundwater monitoring event.
- Spring 2024 IWV GWMP water level data was uploaded to the SGMA website and the IWVGA's online Data Management System.

GSP Model Configuration Management Plan (CMP)

- Technical Model Group (TMG)
 - TMG includes the Navy, TAC representatives, DRI, and Stetson
 - June 4, 2024 TMG meeting/call to review baseline modeling and scenario modeling assumptions
 - June 18, 2024 TMG meeting/call to review baseline and scenario modeling results
- Summer 2024 Schedule
 - Sensitivity analysis
 - Development of GSP model scenarios and water budgets
 - Biweekly TMG meetings to be scheduled to monitor modeling progress

Subflow from Rose Valley to IWV

- Ongoing work with BLM regarding Cultural Survey and Permitting for second monitoring well

ACTION(S) REQUIRED BY THE BOARD

There are no actions required by the Board.

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To: Carol Thomas-Keefer, General Manager – Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority

From: Michael W. McKinney, Capitol Core Group

cc: Keith Lemieux, Counsel IWVGA
Phillip Hall, Counsel, IWVGA
Steve Johnson, Stetson Engineers
Jeff Simonetti, Capitol Core Group
Todd Tatum, Capitol Core Group

Date: July 10, 2024

Subject: June 2024 Project Update

The following will provide activities and updates for June 2024.

Task 1: Imported Water Supplies

In June, Capitol Core continued to work with our potential water suppliers and transfer partners to determine a pathway forward on getting imported water into the basin. We are currently working on pricing, terms and conditions for these water supplies and how we will receive physical deliveries. These negotiations involve multiple parties and are ongoing.

Task 2: Interconnection Pipeline Project

UPDATE: PRIORITY: *Water Resources Development Act of 2024*

See separate staff report.

Task 3: Other Projects Supporting the GSP

UPDATE: PRIORITY: *Energy & Water Development Act for Fiscal Year 2025*

The House Committee on Appropriations marked up the Energy and Water Development on June 28th, but they have not yet released the full Subcommittee report on which Community Project Funding Requests were selected. We will provide a further update once the full Subcommittee report is released.

Federal Legislative Updates

UPDATE: *HR 8070: Service Member Quality of Life Act and the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2025 (NDAA-25)*

Provides Authorization to the Department of Defense for Fiscal Year 2025. Section 2082 of the legislation provides public agencies with grants to carry out specific quality-of-life programs, including education, workforce training, tailing spouse employment, childcare, afterschool programs, post-military employment training, counseling, and mental health. The City of Ridgecrest has requested an amendment to the proposal expanding mental health to cover “rural health care facilities.” City-requested amendments are under consideration. The bill very broadly defines workforce support and installation resilience. Ancillary impact to the Groundwater Authority. Differs from DCIP by providing funding through the Military Construction process (“MILCON”).

The bill passed by a vote of 217-199 on June 14th and now awaits reconciliation with the Senate version. There are substantial differences in policy language between the House and Senate versions, so the reconciliation of the two versions may prove to be challenging.

NEW REPORT: *Mojave Desert Sentinel Landscape*

As part of the interconnection project, the IWVGA will likely have to mitigate for protected species including the Desert Tortoise and Mojave Ground Squirrel. Capitol Core has worked collaboratively with the IWVGA engineering team as well as the base command at China Lake to determine potential pathways to secure funding for this mitigation requirement. There is a new program called the Mojave Desert Sentinel Landscape that was just formed in May and may be able to assist us with our mitigation requirements. Please see the link [here](#) for more information and a map on the project boundaries.

The program is a multi-agency collaboration including the Department of Defense, Department of Agriculture, Department of the Interior and multiple state partners to address the issues of recovering threatened or endangered species, restoring habitat and managing watersheds to address climate change. The boundary of the project area abuts the installations in our region (China Lake, Edwards AFB, Fort Irwin, MCLB Barstow and 29 Palms) and encompasses approximately 3.5 million acres of land, including a portion of the proposed right of way for the interconnection project. While there are other Sentinel Landscapes across the US, the Mojave Desert Sentinel Landscape was just formed in May. Due to its very recent formation, Capitol Core is still assessing the potential pathways for ways to address endangered species mitigation for our project. We will report back to the public once we have further information if there is a potential pathway forward.

State Legislative Updates

NEW REPORT: *California State Budget*

On June 29th, Governor Newsom signed the California State Budget into law. The bill included \$16 billion in budget cuts across multiple policy areas. Both the State Department of Water Resources as well as local programs such as the Self-Help Enterprises emergency water hauling program received budget cuts. Self-Help provided emergency bottled and hauled water to rural communities in the state that experienced well failures or water quality challenges. It is our understanding that Self-Help is working to reinstate some of this funding through the budget cleanup bills, but it is still being determined whether their efforts will be successful.

NEW REPORT: *California Water Bond (November 2024 Ballot)*

The California Legislature on June 29th made final amendments to Senate Bill 867 which would put a \$10 billion climate bond onto the November Ballot. While the climate bond has multiple areas where the funding would go to, \$3.8 billion of the program would go to safe drinking water, drought, flood and water resilience programs. The bill requires a 2/3 vote of both chambers of the legislature and the Governor's signature by **no later than July 3rd** to qualify for the November ballot.

UPDATE: *Individual bill reports in the CA Legislature*

AB 1827 (Papan, D-21st): Higher Consumptive Water Parcels passed the Assembly Committee on Local Government by a vote of 5-2. The bill proceeds to its final legislative Committee, the Assembly Committee on Appropriations.

AB 2079 (Bennett, D-38th): High Capacity Wells has failed reconsideration in the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Water. The bill is dead.

AB 2799 (Alanis, R-22nd): SGMA: Small Farms: Fees has changed the principal author. The bill, originally introduced by then-Assembly Member Fong, is now being carried by Assembly Member Alanis. It is pending a hearing in the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Water.

SB 1156 (Hurtado, D-16th): WRDA: Groundwater Sustainability Agencies: Financial Disclosure Requirements passed the Assembly Committee on Elections by a vote of 8-0 yesterday. The bill now proceeds to its final legislative hurdle, the Assembly Committee on Appropriations.

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