

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, December 11, 2024

Closed Session – 10:00 a.m.

Open Session will begin at 10:45 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 1115 Truxtun Ave, Fifth Floor District One Office, Bakersfield, CA. 93301.

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) - 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 – 10:45 a.m.

- a. Report on Closed Session
- b. Pledge of Allegiance
- c. Roll Call

6. BOARD MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS

7. 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.

8. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

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

9. CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Approve Minutes of Board Meeting October 9, 2024
- b. 2025 Board Meeting Schedule
- c. Extension Letter Agreement for Professional Services with Regional Government Services
- d. Approve Expenditures

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

**Due to cancellation of the November meeting, invoice totals shown below are higher than usual as they cover multiple months.*

- i. \$385,849.29 – Stetson Engineers
- ii. \$55,477.82 – Regional Government Services – (Replenishment / Extraction)
- iii. \$29,775.00 – Capitol Core Group – (Replenishment)
- iv. \$371,358.80 – Provost & Pritchard – (SGMA IP Grant)
- v. \$250,000.00 – City of Ridgecrest – (Replenishment / Extraction) (Nov. 2024)
- vi. \$250,000.00 – City of Ridgecrest – (Replenishment / Extraction) (Dec. 2024)
- vii. \$1,038.00 – The Daily Independent – (Extraction)
- viii. \$13,481.50 – Indian Wells Valley Water District – (Consolidation Grant)

10. RESOLUTION 03-24 REGARDING THE 2025 BOARD ROTATION

11. BOARD REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF 2025 BUDGET

12. BOARD REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF 2025 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA, 2025 CAPITOL CORE GROUP WORKPLAN AND CONTRACT AMENDMENT

13. BOARD REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF COMMUNICATIONS AGREEMENT WITH WESTBOUND COMMUNICATIONS

14. BOARD REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF AMENDMENT NO. 1 TO AGREEMENT FOR PROFESSIONAL LEGAL SERVICES WITH RICHARDS, WATSON & GERSHON

15. PUBLIC COMMENT ON CLOSED SESSION

16. CLOSED SESSION

- 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 v Indian Wells Valley Water District, et al. Orange County Superior Court Case No. 30-2021-01187275-CU-OR-CJC

17. REPORT ON CLOSED SESSION

18. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – JANUARY 8, 2025

19. 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, October 9, 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	Commander Sims, 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, Steve Johnson and Carol Thomas-Keefer.

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 10:18 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	Aye

3. PUBLIC COMMENT ON CLOSED SESSION:

None.

Chairman Peters calls the meeting into Closed Session at 10:19 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 11:13 p.m.

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

Meeting reconvenes into Open Session at 11:17 a.m.

- Report on Closed Session – Counsel Hall states there was no reportable action taken by the board that would require disclosure under The Brown Act.
- Pledge of Allegiance is led by Chairman Peters
- 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, Sophia Merk, Mike Neel, and Carol Wilson.

7. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS:

Director Griffin suggests closed session begin at 10:00 am and promptly ends at 11:00 am, and if there is a need to go back in and have a further discussion that closed session resume at the end of the meeting. Griffin also invites board members and public to the IWVWD Public Workshop being held October 21 at the USO building.

8. CONSENT AGENDA:

- Approve Minutes of Board Meeting September 11, 2024
- Approve Expenditures

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

- \$117,292.30 – Stetson Engineers
- \$18,660.39 – Regional Government Services – (Replenishment / Extraction)
- \$14,225.00 – Capitol Core Group – (Replenishment)
- \$593,264.61 – Provost & Pritchard – (SGMA IP Grant)

Motion made by Chuck Griffin and seconded by John Vallejo to approve Minutes of Board Meeting September 11, 2024 and the following expenditures in the amount of, \$117,292.30 to Stetson Engineers, \$18,660.39 to Regional Government Services, \$14,225.00 to Capitol Core Group, and \$593,264.61 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. UPDATE ON RADEMACHER CONSOLIDATION AND APPROVAL OF REIMBURSEMENT AGREEMENT BETWEEN INDIAN WELLS VALLEY GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY AND INDIAN WELLS VALLEY WATER DISTRICT:

Counsel Hall provides staff report and agreement. Jeff Helsley provides presentation of proposed project.

The Board hears public comment from Sophia Merk, Judie Decker, West Katzenstein, Renee Westa-Lusk, and Elaine Mead.

Motion made by Scott Hayman and seconded John Vallejo to approve reimbursement agreement with IWVWD for Rademacher Consolidation Project.

Motion carries by the following roll call vote:

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

10. RECYCLED WATER PRESENTATION:

Michael McKinney provides staff report. Counsel Hall provides presentation.

The Board hears public comment from Donna Hocker, Judie Decker, George Croll and Josh Nugent.

11. GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY PLAN MODELING AND PERIODIC EVALUATION UPDATE:

Jeff Helsley provides staff report and presentation.

The Board hears public comment from Josh Nugent, Don Decker and Renee Westa-Lusk.

12. 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

The Board hears public comment from Renee Westa-Lusk.

13. GENERAL MANAGERS REPORT:

Carol Thomas-Keefer presents staff report, C&E updates, and JPA amendment regarding board member alternates. Michael McKinney presents 2023-2024 Legislative and Policy Status Report.

The Board hears public comment from Don Decker.

14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – NOVEMBER 13, 2024

15. ADJOURN:

Chairman Peters adjourns the meeting at 1:59 p.m. on October 9, 2024.

Respectfully submitted,

April Keigwin
Clerk of the Board
Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority

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2025

IWVGA REGULAR BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE

January						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

February						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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March						
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30	31					

April						
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27	28	29	30			

May						
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25	26	27	28	29	30	31

June						
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29	30					

July						
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27	28	29	30	31		

August						
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31						

September						
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October						
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November						
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30						

December						
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REGIONAL
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SERVICES

SERVING PUBLIC AGENCIES SINCE 2002

**AMENDMENT NO. 1 TO MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATIVE
SERVICES AGREEMENT**

This document constitutes Amendment No. 1 to the Management and Administrative Services Agreement between the **INDIAN WELLS VALLEY GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY** (“Agency”), and Regional Government Services Authority (hereinafter called “RGS”); and is made and entered into this 11th day of December 2024.

RECITALS

The Agency and RGS entered into an Agreement for services dated December 13, 2023. This Amendment is entered into with reference to the following facts and circumstances:

- A. **Section 4.1, Term**, is amended to continue the term of service through March 31, 2025.
- B. All other terms and conditions of the Agreement shall remain in full force and effect.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have caused this Additional Services Amendment to be executed on the date first above written by their respective officers duly authorized in that behalf.

Dated: _____

Dated: _____

Indian Wells Valley Groundwater
Authority

Regional Government Services Authority

President, Board of Directors

Sophia Selivanoff, Executive Director

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Invoice

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

Invoice Number: 2652-85
Invoice Date: 10/31/24

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

Professional Services through 8/31/2024

Water Resources Management 2024

01 - Meetings & Prep

Professional Services

	<u>Bill Hours</u>	<u>Bill Rate</u>	<u>Charge</u>
Principal	3.00	\$244.00	\$732.00
Special Project Director	4.00	\$244.00	\$976.00
Supervisor I	17.50	\$212.00	\$3,710.00
Senior III	5.00	\$138.00	\$690.00
Associate I	1.00	\$126.00	\$126.00
Assistant I	8.75	\$101.00	\$883.75
Assistant II	23.75	\$96.00	\$2,280.00

Professional Services Subtotal: \$9,397.75

Reimbursables

	<u>Charge</u>
Lodging	\$87.97
Mileage	\$140.70

Reimbursables Subtotal: \$228.67

Meetings & Prep Subtotal: \$9,626.42

01.02 - LADWP Releases Analysis and Presentation

Professional Services

	<u>Bill Hours</u>	<u>Bill Rate</u>	<u>Charge</u>
Supervisor I	0.50	\$212.00	\$106.00
Supervisor II	8.00	\$197.00	\$1,576.00
Assistant II	0.50	\$96.00	\$48.00

Professional Services Subtotal: \$1,730.00

LADWP Releases Analysis and Presentation Subtotal: \$1,730.00

02.01 - SGMA IP Grant Administration

Professional Services

	<u>Bill Hours</u>	<u>Bill Rate</u>	<u>Charge</u>
Assistant I	11.50	\$101.00	\$1,161.50

Professional Services Subtotal: \$1,161.50

SGMA IP Grant Administration Subtotal: \$1,161.50

02.02 - Urban Community Drought Relief Funding Administration

Professional Services

	<u>Bill Hours</u>	<u>Bill Rate</u>	<u>Charge</u>
Assistant I	6.50	\$101.00	\$656.50

Professional Services Subtotal: \$656.50

Urban Community Drought Relief Funding Administration Subtotal: \$656.50

04 - Data Mgmt System Support

Professional Services

<u>Bill Hours</u>	<u>Bill Rate</u>	<u>Charge</u>
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**04 - Data Mgmt System Support****Professional Services**

	<u>Bill Hours</u>	<u>Bill Rate</u>	<u>Charge</u>
Special Project Director	1.50	\$244.00	\$366.00
Supervisor II	1.00	\$197.00	\$197.00
Senior III	4.75	\$138.00	\$655.50
Senior Associate	17.00	\$132.00	\$2,244.00
Associate I	1.50	\$126.00	\$189.00

Professional Services Subtotal: \$3,651.50

Reimbursables

	<u>Charge</u>
Data	\$611.88
Other Expenses	\$2,904.00

Reimbursables Subtotal: \$3,515.88

Data Mgmt System Support Subtotal: \$7,167.38

05 - General Project Mgmt**Professional Services**

	<u>Bill Hours</u>	<u>Bill Rate</u>	<u>Charge</u>
Special Project Director	2.75	\$244.00	\$671.00
Supervisor I	5.75	\$212.00	\$1,219.00
Supervisor II	19.00	\$197.00	\$3,743.00
Senior Associate	0.50	\$132.00	\$66.00

Professional Services Subtotal: \$5,699.00

General Project Mgmt Subtotal: \$5,699.00

06 - Model Transfer & Upgrade**Professional Services**

	<u>Bill Hours</u>	<u>Bill Rate</u>	<u>Charge</u>
Special Project Director	30.00	\$244.00	\$7,320.00
Supervisor I	8.00	\$212.00	\$1,696.00
Supervisor II	24.00	\$197.00	\$4,728.00
GIS Manager	1.00	\$126.00	\$126.00
Assistant II	22.25	\$96.00	\$2,136.00

Professional Services Subtotal: \$16,006.00

Sub-Contractors

	<u>Charge</u>
Board of Regents	\$12,597.37

Sub-Contractors Subtotal: \$12,597.37

Model Transfer & Upgrade Subtotal: \$28,603.37

07.01 - Imported Water: Planning/Design/Environmental**Professional Services**

	<u>Bill Hours</u>	<u>Bill Rate</u>	<u>Charge</u>
Principal	7.50	\$244.00	\$1,830.00
Supervisor I	17.00	\$212.00	\$3,604.00
Assistant I	6.25	\$101.00	\$631.25

Professional Services Subtotal: \$6,065.25

Imported Water: Planning/Design/Environmental Subtotal: \$6,065.25

09 - Recycled Water**Professional Services**

	<u>Bill Hours</u>	<u>Bill Rate</u>	<u>Charge</u>
Supervisor II	13.00	\$197.00	\$2,561.00
Assistant II	16.50	\$96.00	\$1,584.00

Professional Services Subtotal: \$4,145.00

Recycled Water Subtotal: \$4,145.00

**11 - Data Collection, Monitoring & Data Gaps**

Professional Services	<u>Bill Hours</u>	<u>Bill Rate</u>	<u>Charge</u>
Special Project Director	2.75	\$244.00	\$671.00
Supervisor I	0.50	\$212.00	\$106.00
Senior Associate	7.00	\$132.00	\$924.00
Associate I	57.50	\$126.00	\$7,245.00
<i>Professional Services Subtotal:</i>			<u>\$8,946.00</u>
Reimbursables			<u>Charge</u>
Equipment Purchase			\$656.26
Field Supplies			\$10.27
Meals			\$18.86
Mileage			\$188.27
Other Expenses			\$54.00
Postage			\$4.38
<i>Reimbursables Subtotal:</i>			<u>\$932.04</u>
<i>Data Collection, Monitoring & Data Gaps Subtotal:</i>			<u>\$9,878.04</u>

12 - Shallow Well Consolidation Project

Professional Services	<u>Bill Hours</u>	<u>Bill Rate</u>	<u>Charge</u>
Principal	6.00	\$244.00	\$1,464.00
Supervisor I	3.75	\$212.00	\$795.00
Assistant I	4.50	\$101.00	\$454.50
Assistant II	3.25	\$96.00	\$312.00
<i>Professional Services Subtotal:</i>			<u>\$3,025.50</u>
<i>Shallow Well Consolidation Project Subtotal:</i>			<u>\$3,025.50</u>

17 - Navy/Coso Royalty Fund: Develop FY24 Projects & Secure Funding

Professional Services	<u>Bill Hours</u>	<u>Bill Rate</u>	<u>Charge</u>
Principal	2.00	\$244.00	\$488.00
Special Project Director	2.00	\$244.00	\$488.00
<i>Professional Services Subtotal:</i>			<u>\$976.00</u>
<i>Navy/Coso Royalty Fund: Develop FY24 Projects & Secure Funding Subtotal:</i>			<u>\$976.00</u>

20 - Shallow Well Mitigation Program: Outreach & Impacts Evaluation

Professional Services	<u>Bill Hours</u>	<u>Bill Rate</u>	<u>Charge</u>
Principal	2.00	\$244.00	\$488.00
Assistant I	2.00	\$101.00	\$202.00
<i>Professional Services Subtotal:</i>			<u>\$690.00</u>
<i>Shallow Well Mitigation Program: Outreach & Impacts Evaluation Subtotal:</i>			<u>\$690.00</u>

21 - General Engineering

Professional Services	<u>Bill Hours</u>	<u>Bill Rate</u>	<u>Charge</u>
Principal	1.50	\$244.00	\$366.00
Special Project Director	11.50	\$244.00	\$2,806.00
Supervisor I	4.50	\$212.00	\$954.00
Supervisor II	27.00	\$197.00	\$5,319.00
GIS Manager	0.50	\$126.00	\$63.00
<i>Professional Services Subtotal:</i>			<u>\$9,508.00</u>
<i>General Engineering Subtotal:</i>			<u>\$9,508.00</u>

22 - GSP 5-Year Update

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

	<u>Bill Hours</u>	<u>Bill Rate</u>	<u>Charge</u>
Special Project Director	11.50	\$244.00	\$2,806.00
Supervisor I	2.25	\$212.00	\$477.00
Supervisor II	75.00	\$197.00	\$14,775.00
Senior III	8.00	\$138.00	\$1,104.00
GIS Manager	19.50	\$126.00	\$2,457.00
Assistant II	45.25	\$96.00	\$4,344.00

Professional Services Subtotal: \$25,963.00

Reimbursables

	<u>Charge</u>
Mileage	\$239.86

Reimbursables Subtotal: \$239.86

GSP 5-Year Update Subtotal: \$26,202.86

26 - Budget Support**Professional Services**

	<u>Bill Hours</u>	<u>Bill Rate</u>	<u>Charge</u>
Senior III	4.50	\$138.00	\$621.00
Assistant II	1.00	\$96.00	\$96.00

Professional Services Subtotal: \$717.00

Budget Support Subtotal: \$717.00

27 - Litigation Support**Professional Services**

	<u>Bill Hours</u>	<u>Bill Rate</u>	<u>Charge</u>
Principal	11.50	\$244.00	\$2,806.00
Special Project Director	3.00	\$244.00	\$732.00
Supervisor I	17.00	\$212.00	\$3,604.00
Assistant II	14.50	\$96.00	\$1,392.00

Professional Services Subtotal: \$8,534.00

Litigation Support Subtotal: \$8,534.00

***Water Resources Management 2024 Subtotal:* \$124,385.82**

***** Invoice Total *****

\$124,385.82

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

Northern California • Southern California • Arizona • Colorado • Oregon

Invoice

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

Invoice Number: 2652-86

Invoice Date: 11/19/24

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

Professional Services through 9/30/2024

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
Special Project Director	0.25	\$244.00	\$61.00
Supervisor I	17.50	\$212.00	\$3,710.00
Senior III	2.00	\$138.00	\$276.00
Senior Associate	1.00	\$132.00	\$132.00
Associate III	1.00	\$114.00	\$114.00
Assistant I	12.25	\$101.00	\$1,237.25
Assistant II	19.75	\$96.00	\$1,896.00

Professional Services Subtotal: \$10,476.25

Reimbursables

	<u>Charge</u>
Reproduction (Color)	\$86.33
Reproduction	\$8.25

Reimbursables Subtotal: \$94.58

Meetings & Prep Subtotal: \$10,570.83

02.01 - SGMA IP Grant Administration

Professional Services

	<u>Bill Hours</u>	<u>Bill Rate</u>	<u>Charge</u>
Senior III	0.50	\$138.00	\$69.00
Assistant I	9.75	\$101.00	\$984.75

Professional Services Subtotal: \$1,053.75

SGMA IP Grant Administration Subtotal: \$1,053.75

02.02 - Urban Community Drought Relief Funding Administration

Professional Services

	<u>Bill Hours</u>	<u>Bill Rate</u>	<u>Charge</u>
Assistant I	2.00	\$101.00	\$202.00

Professional Services Subtotal: \$202.00

Urban Community Drought Relief Funding Administration Subtotal: \$202.00

04 - Data Mgmt System Support

Professional Services

	<u>Bill Hours</u>	<u>Bill Rate</u>	<u>Charge</u>
Supervisor II	2.50	\$197.00	\$492.50
Senior III	5.50	\$138.00	\$759.00
Senior Associate	31.25	\$132.00	\$4,125.00

Professional Services Subtotal: \$5,376.50

Data Mgmt System Support Subtotal: \$5,376.50

**05 - General Project Mgmt****Professional Services**

	<u>Bill Hours</u>	<u>Bill Rate</u>	<u>Charge</u>
Special Project Director	4.75	\$244.00	\$1,159.00
Supervisor I	4.00	\$212.00	\$848.00
Supervisor II	16.00	\$197.00	\$3,152.00
Senior III	0.75	\$138.00	\$103.50
Assistant I	8.00	\$101.00	\$808.00

Professional Services Subtotal: \$6,070.50

General Project Mgmt Subtotal: \$6,070.50

06 - Model Transfer & Upgrade**Professional Services**

	<u>Bill Hours</u>	<u>Bill Rate</u>	<u>Charge</u>
Special Project Director	7.00	\$244.00	\$1,708.00
Supervisor II	30.50	\$197.00	\$6,008.50
Assistant II	4.50	\$96.00	\$432.00

Professional Services Subtotal: \$8,148.50

Model Transfer & Upgrade Subtotal: \$8,148.50

07.01 - Imported Water: Planning/Design/Environmental**Professional Services**

	<u>Bill Hours</u>	<u>Bill Rate</u>	<u>Charge</u>
Supervisor I	5.75	\$212.00	\$1,219.00
Assistant I	8.50	\$101.00	\$858.50
Assistant II	4.50	\$96.00	\$432.00

Professional Services Subtotal: \$2,509.50

Imported Water: Planning/Design/Environmental Subtotal: \$2,509.50

09 - Recycled Water**Professional Services**

	<u>Bill Hours</u>	<u>Bill Rate</u>	<u>Charge</u>
Supervisor I	0.50	\$212.00	\$106.00
Assistant I	1.00	\$101.00	\$101.00

Professional Services Subtotal: \$207.00

Recycled Water Subtotal: \$207.00

11 - Data Collection, Monitoring & Data Gaps**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
Senior Associate	15.25	\$132.00	\$2,013.00
Associate I	57.00	\$126.00	\$7,182.00

Professional Services Subtotal: \$9,423.00

Reimbursables

	<u>Charge</u>
Car Rental	\$725.34
Field Supplies	\$49.70
Lodging	\$537.56
Meals	\$124.65
Mileage	\$14.74
Other Expenses	\$54.00

Reimbursables Subtotal: \$1,505.99

Data Collection, Monitoring & Data Gaps Subtotal: \$10,928.99

12 - Shallow Well Consolidation Project

**12 - Shallow Well Consolidation Project**

Professional Services	<u>Bill Hours</u>	<u>Bill Rate</u>	<u>Charge</u>
Principal	4.50	\$244.00	\$1,098.00
Supervisor I	4.00	\$212.00	\$848.00
Supervisor II	4.00	\$197.00	\$788.00
Assistant I	5.75	\$101.00	\$580.75
Assistant II	2.00	\$96.00	\$192.00
<i>Professional Services Subtotal:</i>			<u>\$3,506.75</u>
<i>Shallow Well Consolidation Project Subtotal:</i>			<u>\$3,506.75</u>

17 - Navy/Coso Royalty Fund: Develop FY24 Projects & Secure Funding

Professional Services	<u>Bill Hours</u>	<u>Bill Rate</u>	<u>Charge</u>
Assistant II	0.25	\$96.00	\$24.00
<i>Professional Services Subtotal:</i>			<u>\$24.00</u>
<i>Navy/Coso Royalty Fund: Develop FY24 Projects & Secure Funding Subtotal:</i>			<u>\$24.00</u>

21 - General Engineering

Professional Services	<u>Bill Hours</u>	<u>Bill Rate</u>	<u>Charge</u>
Principal	3.00	\$244.00	\$732.00
Supervisor I	2.75	\$212.00	\$583.00
Supervisor II	21.00	\$197.00	\$4,137.00
GIS Manager	1.50	\$126.00	\$189.00
Assistant II	4.00	\$96.00	\$384.00
<i>Professional Services Subtotal:</i>			<u>\$6,025.00</u>
<i>General Engineering Subtotal:</i>			<u>\$6,025.00</u>

22 - GSP 5-Year Update

Professional Services	<u>Bill Hours</u>	<u>Bill Rate</u>	<u>Charge</u>
Supervisor II	45.50	\$197.00	\$8,963.50
Senior III	22.50	\$138.00	\$3,105.00
GIS Manager	1.00	\$126.00	\$126.00
Assistant II	35.50	\$96.00	\$3,408.00
<i>Professional Services Subtotal:</i>			<u>\$15,602.50</u>
<i>GSP 5-Year Update Subtotal:</i>			<u>\$15,602.50</u>

23 - Annual Report Preparation

Professional Services	<u>Bill Hours</u>	<u>Bill Rate</u>	<u>Charge</u>
Supervisor II	26.50	\$197.00	\$5,220.50
Senior III	4.50	\$138.00	\$621.00
<i>Professional Services Subtotal:</i>			<u>\$5,841.50</u>
<i>Annual Report Preparation Subtotal:</i>			<u>\$5,841.50</u>

26 - Budget Support

Professional Services	<u>Bill Hours</u>	<u>Bill Rate</u>	<u>Charge</u>
Supervisor I	4.50	\$212.00	\$954.00
Senior III	13.00	\$138.00	\$1,794.00
Assistant I	52.75	\$101.00	\$5,327.75
Assistant II	6.50	\$96.00	\$624.00
<i>Professional Services Subtotal:</i>			<u>\$8,699.75</u>
<i>Budget Support Subtotal:</i>			<u>\$8,699.75</u>



Project #: 2652

Invoice No: 2652-86

November 19, 2024

Page 4

27 - Litigation Support

Professional Services

	<u>Bill Hours</u>	<u>Bill Rate</u>	<u>Charge</u>
Principal	27.00	\$244.00	\$6,588.00
Special Project Director	12.50	\$244.00	\$3,050.00
Supervisor I	33.25	\$212.00	\$7,049.00
Supervisor II	3.00	\$197.00	\$591.00
Assistant I	14.00	\$101.00	\$1,414.00
Assistant II	37.50	\$96.00	\$3,600.00

Professional Services Subtotal: \$22,292.00

Litigation Support Subtotal: \$22,292.00

***Water Resources Management 2024 Subtotal:* \$107,059.07**

***** Invoice Total ***** **\$107,059.07**

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

Northern California • Southern California • Arizona • Colorado • Oregon

Invoice

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

Invoice Number: 2652-87

Invoice Date: 12/04/24

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

Professional Services through 10/31/2024

Water Resources Management 2024

01 - Meetings & Prep

Professional Services

	<u>Bill Hours</u>	<u>Bill Rate</u>	<u>Charge</u>
Principal	11.00	\$244.00	\$2,684.00
Supervisor I	25.75	\$212.00	\$5,459.00
Senior III	2.00	\$138.00	\$276.00
GIS Manager	0.50	\$126.00	\$63.00
Associate III	35.00	\$114.00	\$3,990.00
Assistant I	5.75	\$101.00	\$580.75
Assistant II	4.00	\$96.00	\$384.00

Professional Services Subtotal: \$13,436.75

Reimbursables

	<u>Charge</u>
Reproduction (Color)	\$26.70
Mileage	\$187.60

Reimbursables Subtotal: \$214.30

Meetings & Prep Subtotal: \$13,651.05

02.01 - SGMA IP Grant Administration

Professional Services

	<u>Bill Hours</u>	<u>Bill Rate</u>	<u>Charge</u>
Associate III	0.50	\$114.00	\$57.00
Assistant I	7.75	\$101.00	\$782.75
Assistant II	6.50	\$96.00	\$624.00

Professional Services Subtotal: \$1,463.75

SGMA IP Grant Administration Subtotal: \$1,463.75

02.02 - Urban Community Drought Relief Funding Administration

Professional Services

	<u>Bill Hours</u>	<u>Bill Rate</u>	<u>Charge</u>
Supervisor I	0.50	\$212.00	\$106.00
Senior III	0.50	\$138.00	\$69.00
Assistant I	5.25	\$101.00	\$530.25
Assistant II	1.00	\$96.00	\$96.00

Professional Services Subtotal: \$801.25

Urban Community Drought Relief Funding Administration Subtotal: \$801.25

05 - General Project Mgmt

Professional Services

	<u>Bill Hours</u>	<u>Bill Rate</u>	<u>Charge</u>
Principal	3.00	\$244.00	\$732.00
Special Project Director	6.00	\$244.00	\$1,464.00

**05 - General Project Mgmt****Professional Services**

	<u>Bill Hours</u>	<u>Bill Rate</u>	<u>Charge</u>
Supervisor I	12.00	\$212.00	\$2,544.00
Supervisor II	2.50	\$197.00	\$492.50
Senior III	1.50	\$138.00	\$207.00
Senior Associate	0.25	\$132.00	\$33.00
Associate III	0.50	\$114.00	\$57.00

Professional Services Subtotal: \$5,529.50

General Project Mgmt Subtotal: \$5,529.50

06 - Model Transfer & Upgrade**Professional Services**

	<u>Bill Hours</u>	<u>Bill Rate</u>	<u>Charge</u>
Special Project Director	3.25	\$244.00	\$793.00
Supervisor II	38.50	\$197.00	\$7,584.50
Associate III	0.75	\$114.00	\$85.50

Professional Services Subtotal: \$8,463.00

Sub-Contractors

	<u>Charge</u>
Board of Regents	\$12,785.99

Sub-Contractors Subtotal: \$12,785.99

Model Transfer & Upgrade Subtotal: \$21,248.99

07.01 - Imported Water: Planning/Design/Environmental**Professional Services**

	<u>Bill Hours</u>	<u>Bill Rate</u>	<u>Charge</u>
Principal	2.00	\$244.00	\$488.00
Supervisor I	27.25	\$212.00	\$5,777.00
Associate III	8.50	\$114.00	\$969.00
Assistant II	11.25	\$96.00	\$1,080.00

Professional Services Subtotal: \$8,314.00

Imported Water: Planning/Design/Environmental Subtotal: \$8,314.00

09 - Recycled Water**Professional Services**

	<u>Bill Hours</u>	<u>Bill Rate</u>	<u>Charge</u>
Supervisor I	3.75	\$212.00	\$795.00

Professional Services Subtotal: \$795.00

Recycled Water Subtotal: \$795.00

11 - Data Collection, Monitoring & Data Gaps**Professional Services**

	<u>Bill Hours</u>	<u>Bill Rate</u>	<u>Charge</u>
Special Project Director	1.50	\$244.00	\$366.00
Supervisor II	74.50	\$197.00	\$14,676.50
Senior III	2.75	\$138.00	\$379.50
Senior Associate	42.50	\$132.00	\$5,610.00
Associate I	50.75	\$126.00	\$6,394.50

Professional Services Subtotal: \$27,426.50

Reimbursables

	<u>Charge</u>
Car Rental	\$354.28
Field Supplies	\$51.43
Lodging	\$258.36
Meals	\$115.95
Mileage	\$644.54
Overnight Mail	\$604.36

**11 - Data Collection, Monitoring & Data Gaps****Reimbursables**

	<u>Charge</u>
Other Expenses	\$54.00
Toll	\$7.00

Reimbursables Subtotal: \$2,089.92

Data Collection, Monitoring & Data Gaps Subtotal: \$29,516.42

12 - Shallow Well Consolidation Project**Professional Services**

	<u>Bill Hours</u>	<u>Bill Rate</u>	<u>Charge</u>
Principal	9.50	\$244.00	\$2,318.00
Supervisor I	5.75	\$212.00	\$1,219.00
Associate III	12.50	\$114.00	\$1,425.00
Assistant I	3.50	\$101.00	\$353.50

Professional Services Subtotal: \$5,315.50

Shallow Well Consolidation Project Subtotal: \$5,315.50

17 - Navy/Coso Royalty Fund: Develop FY24 Projects & Secure Funding**Professional Services**

	<u>Bill Hours</u>	<u>Bill Rate</u>	<u>Charge</u>
Special Project Director	0.25	\$244.00	\$61.00

Professional Services Subtotal: \$61.00

Navy/Coso Royalty Fund: Develop FY24 Projects & Secure Funding Subtotal: \$61.00

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

	<u>Bill Hours</u>	<u>Bill Rate</u>	<u>Charge</u>
Special Project Director	1.00	\$244.00	\$244.00

Professional Services Subtotal: \$244.00

Navy/Coso Cooperative Agreement Subtotal: \$244.00

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

	<u>Bill Hours</u>	<u>Bill Rate</u>	<u>Charge</u>
Assistant I	2.25	\$101.00	\$227.25

Professional Services Subtotal: \$227.25

Shallow Well Mitigation Program: Outreach & Impacts Evaluation Subtotal: \$227.25

21 - General Engineering**Professional Services**

	<u>Bill Hours</u>	<u>Bill Rate</u>	<u>Charge</u>
Principal	1.50	\$244.00	\$366.00
Supervisor I	15.00	\$212.00	\$3,180.00
Assistant II	1.00	\$96.00	\$96.00

Professional Services Subtotal: \$3,642.00

General Engineering Subtotal: \$3,642.00

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

	<u>Bill Hours</u>	<u>Bill Rate</u>	<u>Charge</u>
Supervisor II	6.00	\$197.00	\$1,182.00
Senior III	37.00	\$138.00	\$5,106.00
GIS Manager	15.00	\$126.00	\$1,890.00
Associate III	102.25	\$114.00	\$11,656.50
Assistant II	9.25	\$96.00	\$888.00

Professional Services Subtotal: \$20,722.50

Sub-Contractors

	<u>Charge</u>
Board of Regents	\$10,287.05

**22 - GSP 5-Year Update***Sub-Contractors Subtotal:* \$10,287.05*GSP 5-Year Update Subtotal:* \$31,009.55**23 - Annual Report Preparation****Professional Services**

	<u>Bill Hours</u>	<u>Bill Rate</u>	<u>Charge</u>
Supervisor II	62.00	\$197.00	\$12,214.00
Senior III	3.50	\$138.00	\$483.00
GIS Manager	17.75	\$126.00	\$2,236.50

Professional Services Subtotal: \$14,933.50*Annual Report Preparation Subtotal:* \$14,933.50**26 - Budget Support****Professional Services**

	<u>Bill Hours</u>	<u>Bill Rate</u>	<u>Charge</u>
Supervisor I	2.75	\$212.00	\$583.00
Senior III	8.50	\$138.00	\$1,173.00
Associate III	44.00	\$114.00	\$5,016.00
Assistant I	2.50	\$101.00	\$252.50

Professional Services Subtotal: \$7,024.50*Budget Support Subtotal:* \$7,024.50**27 - Litigation Support****Professional Services**

	<u>Bill Hours</u>	<u>Bill Rate</u>	<u>Charge</u>
Principal	14.50	\$244.00	\$3,538.00
Supervisor I	3.25	\$212.00	\$689.00
GIS Manager	0.50	\$126.00	\$63.00
Associate III	13.50	\$114.00	\$1,539.00

Professional Services Subtotal: \$5,829.00**Sub-Contractors**

	<u>Charge</u>
Board of Regents	\$4,798.14

Sub-Contractors Subtotal: \$4,798.14*Litigation Support Subtotal:* \$10,627.14*Water Resources Management 2024 Subtotal:* \$154,404.40***** Invoice Total *******\$154,404.40**

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PO Box 1350
Carmel Valley, CA 93924

Invoice

Date	Invoice #
9/30/2024	17607

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

P.O. No.	Due Date	Inv Sent
	11/15/2024	10/28/2024

Date	Description	Amount
9/30/2024	Reimbursable Expenses for City of Ridgecrest Monthly Rent - please see attached	300.00
Total		\$300.00

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PO Box 1350
Carmel Valley, CA 93924

Invoice

Date	Invoice #
9/30/2024	17478

Bill To:

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

P.O. No.	Due Date	Inv Sent
	10/30/2024	10/15/2024

Date	Description	Amount
9/30/2024	Contract Services for September - please see attached	27,168.90
Total		\$27,168.90

Indian Wells Valley

Month: **September, 2024**

Hours and Rates by Pay Period					
Advisor	1st -15th		16th - EOM		Monthly
	Reg Hrs	Bill Rate	Reg Hrs	Bill Rate	Total Billed
CT	16.00	\$ 140.70	13.00	\$ 140.70	\$ 4,080.30
AK	79.10	\$ 110.25	69.30	\$ 110.25	\$ 16,361.10
GL	0.00	\$ -	0.00	\$ -	\$ -
HI	0.00	\$ -	0.00	\$ -	\$ -
DN	0.00	\$ -	0.00	\$ -	\$ -
GS	30.00	\$ 137.00	17.50	\$ 137.00	\$ 6,507.50
RM	0.25	\$ 176.00	1.00	\$ 176.00	\$ 220.00
Totals	125.35		100.80		\$ 27,168.90

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PO Box 1350
Carmel Valley, CA 93924

Invoice

Date	Invoice #
10/31/2024	17748

Bill To:

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

P.O. No.	Due Date	Inv Sent
	12/15/2024	11/25/2024

Date	Description	Amount
10/31/2024	Reimbursable Expenses for City of Ridgecrest Monthly Rent - please see attached	300.00
Total		\$300.00

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PO Box 1350
Carmel Valley, CA 93924

Invoice

Date	Invoice #
10/31/2024	17641

Bill To:

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

P.O. No.	Due Date	Inv Sent
	11/30/2024	11/13/2024

Date	Description	Amount
10/31/2024	Contract Services for October - please see attached	27,708.92
Total		\$27,708.92

Indian Wells Valley

Month: **October, 2024**

Hours and Rates by Pay Period					
Advisor	1st -15th		16th - EOM		Monthly
	Reg Hrs	Bill Rate	Reg Hrs	Bill Rate	Total Billed
CT	24.00	\$ 140.70	8.50	\$ 140.70	\$ 4,572.75
AK	78.50	\$ 110.25	75.00	\$ 110.25	\$ 16,923.37
GL	0.00	\$ -	0.00	\$ -	\$ -
HI	0.00	\$ -	0.00	\$ -	\$ -
DN	0.00	\$ -	0.00	\$ -	\$ -
GS	26.50	\$ 137.00	17.50	\$ 137.00	\$ 6,028.00
RM	1.05	\$ 176.00	0.00	\$ -	\$ 184.80
Totals	130.05		101.00		\$ 27,708.92

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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 2024-084**DATE** 11/04/2024 **TERMS** Net 45**DUE DATE** 12/19/2024**VENDOR ID**

195953

INVOICE PERIOD

October 2024

DATE	ACCOUNT SUMMARY	AMOUNT
10/02/2024	Balance Forward	14,225.00
	Other payments and credits after 10/02/2024 through 11/03/2024	0.00
11/04/2024	Other invoices from this date	0.00
	New charges (details below)	17,012.50
	Total Amount Due	31,237.50

ACTIVITY	HOURS	RATE	AMOUNT
Charges			
PROJECT 1: Imported Water Supplies			
P1-A: Ongoing Negotiations with Sellers			
Government Relations: Intergovernmental Affairs Water Supplies Memorandum, Discussion with Seller, and re-engagement strategy (Simonetti)	2.50	250.00	625.00
Government Relations: Intergovernmental Affairs Water Supplies Call (Follow-up discussion with Seller) (Simonetti)	0.50	250.00	125.00
Government Relations: Intergovernmental Affairs Water Supplies Strategy and re-engagement (McKinney)	2	275.00	550.00
Government Relations: Intergovernmental Affairs Water Supplies strategy, re-engagement, internal calls, preparation calls, and client meetings (Tatum)	4.50	275.00	1,237.50
Government Relations: Intergovernmental Affairs Water Supply: Meeting with RRG and follow-up with AVEK (Tatum)	2	275.00	550.00
P1-B: Other Required Agreements			
P1-C: Regulatory Approvals			
P1-D: 2024/2025 Water Supplies			
Government Relations: Intergovernmental Affairs Internal Water Calls, Client Calls, Meeting w/ Stetson Engineers, Client Meetings and Water Supplier Calls (Tatum)	4.50	275.00	1,237.50
Invoice Total Project 1: \$4,325.00 (16 hours)			

ACTIVITY	HOURS	RATE	AMOUNT
PROJECT 2: Interconnection Pipeline Project			
Government Relations:Federal Congressional: WRDA follow-up and FY2026 Energy & Water Development Act funding request {Simonetti}	1.75	250.00	437.50
Government Relations:Federal Congressional: WRDA-24 Conference Committee questions and follow-ups (House/Senate), client meetings and discussions {McKinney}	2	275.00	550.00
Government Relations:Federal Congressional: FY2026 E&WD Appropriations Request: Packet Development, Client Meetings, Rep. Fong meeting, Senator Padilla meeting, and internal strategy {McKinney}	5.50	275.00	1,512.50
Government Relations:Federal Agency: Client meeting -- Project transition to USACE {Tatum}	1	275.00	275.00
Invoice Total Project 2: \$2,775.00 (10.25 hours)			
PROJECT 3: Other Projects Supporting the GSP			
P3-A: Water Recycling Project			
P3-B: Wastewater Treatment Plant			
P3-C: Legislative Affairs			
Government Relations:California Legislative: 2025 Groundwater Adjudication Legislation {Simonetti}	4	250.00	1,000.00
Government Relations:Federal Agency: U.S. Navy Briefing (local command): preparation and meetings set up {Simonetti}	1.50	250.00	375.00
Government Relations:California Agency: 2025 Groundwater Adjudication Legislation meeting with SWRCB, DWR and Executive {McKinney}	3.50	275.00	962.50
Government Relations:California Legislative: Follow-up meetings with Legislature on 2025 Groundwater Adjudication Legislation {McKinney}	2.50	275.00	687.50
Government Relations:Federal Agency: USEPA BABA and waiver requirements {Tatum}	1.50	275.00	412.50
P3-Ad Hoc: C&E			
Miscellaneous Sales:Public Affairs FAQ Materials Review {Simonetti}	3.25	250.00	812.50
Miscellaneous Sales:Public Affairs Ad Development, FAQ-1 Development, copy development, C&E Strategy and copywriter coordination {McKinney}	4	275.00	1,100.00
Miscellaneous Sales:Public Affairs FAQ-2 Development, internal meetings, review, coordination w/ copywriter and PR Consultant {McKinney}	4	275.00	1,100.00
Miscellaneous Sales:Public Affairs Water District Public Workshop (virtual) {McKinney}	2	275.00	550.00
Invoice Total Project 3: \$7,000.00 (26.25 hours)			
PROJECT ADMINISTRATION			
PA-Board Meetings			
General Business Items:Project Administration October Meeting and Materials Preparation {Simonetti}	4.50	250.00	1,125.00

ACTIVITY		HOURS	RATE	AMOUNT
General Business Items:Project Administration October Meeting {McKinney}		3	275.00	825.00
General Business Items:Project Administration October Meeting {Tatum}		3.50	275.00	962.50
PA-Ad Hoc Reporting				
PA-MISC				
Invoice Total Project Administration: \$2,912.50				
Thank you for your business. Please make checks payable to Capitol Core Group, Inc.		SUBTOTAL		17,012.50
		TAX		0.00
		TOTAL		17,012.50
		TOTAL OF NEW CHARGES		17,012.50
		TOTAL DUE		\$31,237.50

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PROVOST & PRITCHARD CONSULTING GROUP

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www.provostandpritchard.com

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

October 25, 2024
Project No: 04101-23-002
Invoice No: 114311

Project Name: IWVGA Imported Water Conveyance Design Services

Client Project #:

Professional Services from September 01, 2024 to September 30, 2024

Phase: 121P Coordination Meetings

Labor

	Hours	Rate	Amount	
Senior Engineer	8.00	195.00	1,560.00	
Associate Engineer	1.00	140.00	140.00	
Principal Engineer	1.50	207.00	310.50	
Totals	10.50		2,010.50	
Total Labor				2,010.50
Total this Phase:				\$2,010.50

Phase: 131P P&P General Project Management

Labor

	Hours	Rate	Amount	
Senior Engineer	20.80	195.00	4,056.00	
Principal Engineer	8.20	248.00	2,033.60	
Project Administrator	.20	94.00	18.80	
Project Administrator	1.50	101.00	151.50	
Totals	30.70		6,259.90	
Total Labor				6,259.90
Total this Phase:				\$6,259.90

Phase: 132S Stantec General Project Management

Consultants

Consultants			5,271.31	
Total Consultants			5,271.31	5,271.31
Total this Phase:				\$5,271.31

Phase: 231P Surveying

Labor

	Hours	Rate	Amount	
Licensed Surveyor	2.50	180.00	450.00	
Totals	2.50		450.00	
Total Labor				450.00
Total this Phase:				\$450.00

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

Project	04101-23-002	IWVGA Imported Water Conveyance Design	Invoice	114311
Phase:	252G	Soils Engineering Geotechnical Services		
Consultants				
Consultants			29,319.25	
Total Consultants			29,319.25	29,319.25
		Total this Phase:		\$29,319.25
Phase:	262C	FW Yeager Corrosion Protection/System Design		
Labor				
		Hours	Rate	Amount
Senior Technician		4.50	150.00	675.00
Assistant Engineer		7.00	133.00	931.00
Totals		11.50		1,606.00
Total Labor				1,606.00
		Total this Phase:		\$1,606.00
Phase:	272P	CalTrans Encroachment Permit		
Labor				
		Hours	Rate	Amount
Senior Engineer		.70	195.00	136.50
Principal Engineer		.80	207.00	165.60
Totals		1.50		302.10
Total Labor				302.10
		Total this Phase:		\$302.10
Phase:	275P	SCE Encroachment Permit (Transmission Line Under Crossing)		
Labor				
		Hours	Rate	Amount
Senior Engineer		13.00	178.00	2,314.00
Senior Engineer		2.20	195.00	429.00
Totals		15.20		2,743.00
Total Labor				2,743.00
		Total this Phase:		\$2,743.00
Phase:	284S	Scour Analysis of BLM Drainage Crossings		
Labor				
		Hours	Rate	Amount
Principal Engineer		1.80	227.00	408.60
Totals		1.80		408.60
Total Labor				408.60
Consultants				
Consultants			14,248.50	
Total Consultants			14,248.50	14,248.50
		Total this Phase:		\$14,657.10
Phase:	31T7	Instrumentation and Controls TM		
Consultants				
Consultants			932.65	
Total Consultants			932.65	932.65

Project	04101-23-002	IWVGA Imported Water Conveyance Design	Invoice	114311
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Total this Phase: \$932.65

Phase: 31TX Mechanical Process-Pump Selection

Consultants

Consultants	276.00	
Total Consultants	276.00	276.00

Total this Phase: \$276.00

Phase: 323S Stantec 60% Pumping Facility Design and Specs

Consultants

Consultants	36,966.75	
Total Consultants	36,966.75	36,966.75

Total this Phase: \$36,966.75

Billing Limits

	Current	Prior	To-Date
Total Billings	100,794.56	3,575,097.80	3,675,892.36
Budget			3,770,969.00
Budget Remaining			95,076.64

Total this Invoice \$100,794.56

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

November 27, 2024
Project No: 04101-23-002
Invoice No: 115302

Project Name: IWVGA Imported Water Conveyance Design Services

Client Project #:

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

Phase: 121P Coordination Meetings

Labor

	Hours	Rate	Amount	
Senior Engineer	17.00	195.00	3,315.00	
Assistant Engineer	24.30	126.00	3,061.80	
Senior Biologist	2.90	137.00	397.30	
Senior Specialist	1.60	165.00	264.00	
Principal Engineer	.20	227.00	45.40	
Project Administrator	.20	94.00	18.80	
Totals	46.20		7,102.30	
Total Labor				7,102.30
			Total this Phase:	\$7,102.30

Phase: 131P P&P General Project Management

Labor

	Hours	Rate	Amount	
Senior Engineer	23.60	195.00	4,602.00	
Principal Engineer	9.50	248.00	2,356.00	
Project Administrator	3.40	101.00	343.40	
Totals	36.50		7,301.40	
Total Labor				7,301.40
			Total this Phase:	\$7,301.40

Phase: 132S Stantec General Project Management

Consultants

Consultants			1,706.31	
Total Consultants			1,706.31	1,706.31
			Total this Phase:	\$1,706.31

Phase: 133T Bennett Trenchless Engineers General Project Management

Consultants

Consultants			135.13	
Total Consultants			135.13	135.13
			Total this Phase:	\$135.13

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Project	04101-23-002	IWVGA Imported Water Conveyance Design	Invoice	115302
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Phase: 262C FW Yeager Corrosion Protection/System Design

Labor

	Hours	Rate	Amount	
Senior Engineer	1.20	195.00	234.00	
Totals	1.20		234.00	
Total Labor				234.00

Consultants

Consultants			15,615.85	
Total Consultants			15,615.85	15,615.85

Total this Phase: \$15,849.85

Phase: 271P BLM Special Use Permit

Labor

	Hours	Rate	Amount	
Senior Engineer	20.60	195.00	4,017.00	
Associate Engineer	48.50	140.00	6,790.00	
Assistant Specialist	3.20	112.00	358.40	
Associate Specialist	.80	147.00	117.60	
Senior Specialist	15.80	165.00	2,607.00	
Assistant Engineer	20.10	133.00	2,673.30	
Totals	109.00		16,563.30	
Total Labor				16,563.30

Total this Phase: \$16,563.30

Phase: 272P CalTrans Encroachment Permit

Labor

	Hours	Rate	Amount	
Principal Engineer	.50	207.00	103.50	
Assistant Engineer	9.30	133.00	1,236.90	
Totals	9.80		1,340.40	
Total Labor				1,340.40

Total this Phase: \$1,340.40

Phase: 275P SCE Encroachment Permit (Transmission Line Under Crossing)

Labor

	Hours	Rate	Amount	
Senior Engineer	14.70	178.00	2,616.60	
Senior Engineer	1.30	195.00	253.50	
Totals	16.00		2,870.10	
Total Labor				2,870.10

Total this Phase: \$2,870.10

Phase: 276P Coordination with Cal Parks

Labor

	Hours	Rate	Amount	
Principal Engineer	.10	207.00	20.70	
Totals	.10		20.70	
Total Labor				20.70

Project	04101-23-002	IWVGA Imported Water Conveyance Design	Invoice	115302
			Total this Phase:	\$20.70
Phase:	285T	Bennett Trenchless Prelim Design Report		
Consultants				
Consultants			21,128.38	
	Total Consultants		21,128.38	21,128.38
			Total this Phase:	\$21,128.38
Phase:	287C	FW Yeager Preliminary Design Report		
Consultants				
Consultants			17,205.15	
	Total Consultants		17,205.15	17,205.15
			Total this Phase:	\$17,205.15
Phase:	314G	Soils Engineering 30% Submittal		
Consultants				
Consultants			8,435.25	
	Total Consultants		8,435.25	8,435.25
			Total this Phase:	\$8,435.25
Phase:	31T7	Instrumentation and Controls TM		
Consultants				
Consultants			414.00	
	Total Consultants		414.00	414.00
			Total this Phase:	\$414.00
Phase:	31TX	Mechanical Process-Pump Selection		
Consultants				
Consultants			207.00	
	Total Consultants		207.00	207.00
			Total this Phase:	\$207.00
Phase:	321P	P&P 60% Submittal		
Labor				
		Hours	Rate	Amount
Senior Engineer		66.87	178.00	11,902.86
Senior Engineer		5.00	164.00	820.00
Senior Engineer		104.69	195.00	20,414.55
Assistant Engineer		48.20	126.00	6,073.20
Principal Engineer		15.10	248.00	3,744.80
Project Administrator		4.60	94.00	432.40
Project Administrator		3.20	101.00	323.20
Senior Technician		4.50	150.00	675.00
Principal Const. Manager		.70	215.00	150.50
Intern		2.20	65.00	143.00
	Totals	255.06		44,679.51
	Total Labor			44,679.51
			Total this Phase:	\$44,679.51

Project	04101-23-002	IWVGA Imported Water Conveyance Design	Invoice	115302
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Phase: 323S Stantec 60% Pumping Facility Design and Specs

Consultants

Consultants	22,459.50	
Total Consultants	22,459.50	22,459.50
Total this Phase:		\$22,459.50

Phase: 327P Project Description for CEQA/NEPA Process

Labor

	Hours	Rate	Amount	
Senior Specialist	1.30	165.00	214.50	
Totals	1.30		214.50	
Total Labor				214.50
Total this Phase:				\$214.50

Phase: 421P P&P Water Quality Bench Testing

Labor

	Hours	Rate	Amount	
Senior Engineer	4.00	164.00	656.00	
Totals	4.00		656.00	
Total Labor				656.00
Total this Phase:				\$656.00

Billing Limits

	Current	Prior	To-Date	
Total Billings	168,288.78	3,675,892.36	3,844,181.14	
Budget			4,692,613.03	
Budget Remaining			848,431.89	
Total this Invoice				\$168,288.78

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

November 22, 2024
Project: No: 04101-23-001
Invoice No: 115076

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

Client Project #:

For the month of October 2024, Provost & Pritchard performed the following services for the IWVGA Imported Water Pipeline Project:

Phase TSK1 Initial Coordination: Continued coordination efforts and meetings with applicant, BLM, USFWS regarding status and next steps for project. Email correspondence. Project administration and billings. Upload documents and reports to SharePoint site for group review. Prepare, review and submit task order for extensive revegetation plan. Prepare billings and update budget tracker with time spent on project tasks.

Phase TSK5 Regulatory Compliance and Permitting: Impact analysis for permitting agencies and BLM for geotechnical work and overall pipeline project. Disturbance and habitat mapping updates. Continued updates and coordination efforts for LSA package by permitting staff and email correspondence with permitting agencies. Prepare and discussion for disturbance memo requested by BLM. Data research on subconsultant materials.

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

Phase: TSK1 Initial Coordination (Kick Off Meetings)

Labor

	Hours	Rate	Amount	
Associate Biologist	2.80	143.00	400.40	
Principal Engineer	.20	240.00	48.00	
Principal Planner	2.80	198.00	554.40	
Senior Project Administrator	13.50	122.00	1,647.00	
Totals	19.30		2,649.80	
Total Labor				2,649.80
Total this Phase:				\$2,649.80

Phase: TSK4 Public Outreach

Labor

	Hours	Rate	Amount	
Associate Specialist	6.80	127.00	863.60	
Associate Biologist	9.10	143.00	1,301.30	
Senior Specialist	2.20	157.00	345.40	
Principal Planner	1.00	198.00	198.00	
Principal Biologist	1.40	180.00	252.00	
Senior Project Administrator	2.00	122.00	244.00	
Totals	22.50		3,204.30	
Total Labor				3,204.30
Total this Phase:				\$3,204.30

Phase: TSK5 Regulatory Compliance and Permitting

Labor

	Hours	Rate	Amount	
Associate Specialist	.40	127.00	50.80	
Associate Biologist	3.00	143.00	429.00	

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Project	04101-23-001	IWVGA CEQA_NEPA Permitting		Invoice	115076
Senior Specialist		.70	157.00	109.90	
Totals		4.10		589.70	
Total Labor					589.70
			Total this Phase:		\$589.70
			Total this Invoice		<u>\$6,443.80</u>

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www.provostandpritchard.com

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

October 24, 2024
Project No: 04101-23-001
Invoice No: 114253

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

Client Project #:

For the month of September 2024, Provost & Pritchard performed the following services for the IWVGA Imported Water Pipeline Project:

Phase TSK1 Initial Coordination: Continued coordination efforts and meetings with applicant, BLM, USFWS regarding status and next steps for project. Email correspondence. Project administration and billings. Upload information to SharePoint site for group review. Prepare, review and submit task order for extensive revegetation plan. Prepare billings and update budget tracker with time spent on project tasks.

Phase TSK5 Regulatory Compliance and Permitting: Impact analysis for permitting agencies and BLM for geotechnical work and overall pipeline project. Disturbance and habitat mapping updates. Continued updates and coordination efforts for LSA package by permitting staff and email correspondence with permitting agencies. Prepare and discussion for disturbance memo requested by BLM. Data research on subconsultant materials.

Phase TSK6 CEQA/NEPA Documentation: Continue drafting and making updates to environmental documentation based on updated technical reports, various meetings, and QAQC review comments. Prepare mitigation memos and cumulative impacts section. Reimbursable expense for requesting list of projects from Kern County to analyze cumulative impacts.

Professional Services from September 01, 2024 to September 30, 2024

Phase: TSK1 Initial Coordination (Kick Off Meetings)

Labor

	Hours	Rate	Amount	
Assistant Specialist	.20	110.00	22.00	
Associate Biologist	3.10	143.00	443.30	
Principal Engineer	.50	240.00	120.00	
Principal Planner	6.50	198.00	1,287.00	
Senior Project Administrator	12.80	122.00	1,561.60	
Totals	23.10		3,433.90	
Total Labor				3,433.90
Total this Phase:				\$3,433.90

Phase: TSK5 Regulatory Compliance and Permitting

Labor

	Hours	Rate	Amount	
Assistant Specialist	.20	110.00	22.00	
Associate Specialist	6.40	127.00	812.80	
Associate Biologist	32.80	143.00	4,690.40	
Senior Specialist	16.40	157.00	2,574.80	
Principal Planner	4.20	198.00	831.60	
Principal Biologist	.80	180.00	144.00	
Totals	60.80		9,075.60	
Total Labor				9,075.60
Total this Phase:				\$9,075.60

Phase: TSK6 CEQA/NEPA Documentation

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

Project	04101-23-001	IWVGA CEQA_NEPA Permitting	Invoice	114253
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Labor

	Hours	Rate	Amount	
Assistant Specialist	.20	110.00	22.00	
Associate Biologist	27.40	143.00	3,918.20	
Senior Specialist	23.80	157.00	3,736.60	
Senior Technician	19.50	159.00	3,100.50	
Associate Planner	42.50	131.00	5,567.50	
Assistant Planner	5.40	110.00	594.00	
Principal Planner	6.70	198.00	1,326.60	
Principal Biologist	.80	180.00	144.00	
Totals	126.30		18,409.40	
Total Labor				18,409.40

Reimbursable Expenses

Other Direct Reimb Expenses			648.31	
Total Reimbursables			648.31	648.31
Total this Phase:				\$19,057.71

Phase: TSK7 Geotechnical Borings - Monitoring Srvcs

Labor

	Hours	Rate	Amount	
Senior Specialist	.20	157.00	31.40	
Totals	.20		31.40	
Total Labor				31.40
Total this Phase:				\$31.40
Total this Invoice			<u><u>\$31,598.61</u></u>	

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

November 22, 2024
Project: No: 04101-24-002
Invoice No: 115077

Project Name: IWVGA Imported Pipeline Mojave Tank Farm Alternative

Client Project #:

For the month of October 2024, Provost & Pritchard performed the following tasks for the IWVGA Mojave Tank Farm Project:
Phase TSK1 Initial Coordination: Coordination meeting with BLM, applicant, USFWS, and DOD for project status and next steps update for the Phase 2 - Mojave Tank Farm Environmental tasks.

Phase TSK2 Technical Studies: Continued Bio and cultural survey preparations and coordination. Data mapping. Updates draft bio report with Mojave Tank Farm portion findings. Check in meetings and email correspondence with agency cultural staff and sub consultant. Reimbursable expenses from technical surveys. Wildlife Survey Invoice.

Phase TSK3 CEQA/NEPA Documentation: Incorporate updates of survey findings in EA/EIR for Mojave Tank Farm surveys. Internal QAQC review of environmental documents. Continue drafting and making updates to environmental documentation based on updated technical reports, various meetings, and QAQC review comments. Prepare mitigation memos and cumulative impacts section.

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

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

Labor

	Hours	Rate	Amount	
Principal Planner	3.90	198.00	772.20	
Senior Project Administrator	9.40	122.00	1,146.80	
Totals	13.30		1,919.00	
Total Labor				1,919.00
			Total this Phase:	\$1,919.00

Phase: TSK2 IWVGA Mojave Tank Farm Analysis Technical Studies

Labor

	Hours	Rate	Amount	
Associate Biologist	22.20	143.00	3,174.60	
Senior Specialist	8.60	157.00	1,350.20	
Principal Planner	.70	198.00	138.60	
Associate Biologist	.40	129.00	51.60	
Senior Project Administrator	2.00	122.00	244.00	
Totals	33.90		4,959.00	
Total Labor				4,959.00

Consultants

Consultants			17,563.38	
Total Consultants			17,563.38	17,563.38
			Total this Phase:	\$22,522.38

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	115077
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Labor

	Hours	Rate	Amount	
Associate Biologist	36.40	143.00	5,205.20	
Senior Specialist	7.70	157.00	1,208.90	
Associate Planner	37.40	131.00	4,899.40	
Assistant Planner	11.40	110.00	1,254.00	
Principal Planner	58.60	198.00	11,602.80	
Principal Biologist	4.20	180.00	756.00	
Totals	155.70		24,926.30	
Total Labor				24,926.30
		Total this Phase:		\$24,926.30
		Total this Invoice		<u>\$49,367.68</u>

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

October 24, 2024
Project: No: 04101-24-002
Invoice No: 114250

Project Name: IWVGA Imported Pipeline Mojave Tank Farm Alternative

Client Project #:

For the month of September 2024, Provost & Pritchard performed the following tasks for the IWVGA Mojave Tank Farm Project:

Phase TSK1 Initial Coordination: Coordination meeting with BLM, applicant, USFWS, and DOD for project status and next steps update for the Phase 2 - Mojave Tank Farm Environmental tasks.

Phase TSK2 Technical Studies: Continued Bio and cultural survey preparations and coordination. Data mapping. Updates draft bio report with Mojave Tank Farm portion findings. Check in meetings and email correspondence with agency cultural staff and sub consultant. Reimbursable expenses from technical surveys. Wildlife Survey Invoice.

Phase TSK3 CEQA/NEPA Documentation: Continued Email correspondence regarding cumulative impacts for projects in area. Incorporate updates of survey findings in EA/EIR for Mojave Tank Farm surveys. Internal QAQC review of environmental documents.

Professional Services from September 01, 2024 to September 30, 2024

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

	Hours	Rate	Amount	
Senior Project Administrator	11.20	122.00	1,366.40	
Totals	11.20		1,366.40	
Total Labor				1,366.40
Total this Phase:				\$1,366.40

Phase: TSK2 IWVGA Mojave Tank Farm Analysis Technical Studies
Labor

	Hours	Rate	Amount	
Associate Biologist	13.90	143.00	1,987.70	
Senior Specialist	3.20	157.00	502.40	
Totals	17.10		2,490.10	
Total Labor				2,490.10

Consultants

Consultants			1,906.13	
Total Consultants			1,906.13	1,906.13

Reimbursable Expenses

Per Diem - Lodging			169.44	
Total Reimbursables			169.44	169.44
Total this Phase:				\$4,565.67

Phase: TSK3 IWVGA Mojave Tank Farm Analysis CEQA_NEPA Compliance
Labor

	Hours	Rate	Amount	
Associate Specialist	2.20	142.00	312.40	
Senior Specialist	10.50	157.00	1,648.50	

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Project	04101-24-002	IWVGA Imported Pipeline Mojave Tank Farm		Invoice	114250
Associate Planner		41.20	131.00	5,397.20	
Assistant Planner		4.60	110.00	506.00	
Principal Planner		5.40	198.00	1,069.20	
	Totals	63.90		8,933.30	
	Total Labor				8,933.30
			Total this Phase:		\$8,933.30
			Total this Invoice		<u>\$14,865.37</u>

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REPAYMENT SCHEDULE FOR CITY OF RIDGECREST OBLIGATION

PAYMENT FOR DECEMBER 2024

250,000

PAYMENT SCHEDULE

EST PMT DATE	PAYMENT	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER	TOTAL
November 2024	Payment 1	250,000	-	250,000
December 2024	Payment 2	-	250,000	250,000
	SUBTOTAL	250,000	250,000	500,000

REMAINING PAYMENTS

EST PMT DATE	PAYMENT	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER	TOTAL
N/A	N/A	-	-	-
	SUBTOTAL	-	-	-

ADOPTED 2024 OBLIGATION REPAYMENTS

	City of Ridgecrest	Augmentation Fund	Total
In-Kind Services			
Attorney Services/IT/Council Chambers	500,000	-	500,000
Repayment in FY2024 for Current Year	317,500	-	317,500
Advance Agreements			
Advance of Funds	-	-	-
Financing			
Water Purchase related Financing	-	-	-
	<u>817,500</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>817,500</u>

Upon repayment of Obligations, an inter-fund loan will be created between the Extraction Fund and Augmentation Fund for amount not funded by the Extraction Fund.

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REPAYMENT SCHEDULE FOR CITY OF RIDGECREST OBLIGATION

PAYMENT FOR NOVEMBER 2024

250,000

PAYMENT SCHEDULE				
EST PMT DATE	PAYMENT	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER	TOTAL
November 2024	Payment 1	250,000	-	250,000
December 2024	Payment 2	-	250,000	250,000
	SUBTOTAL	250,000	250,000	500,000

REMAINING PAYMENTS				
EST PMT DATE	PAYMENT	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER	TOTAL
December 2024	Payment 2	-	250,000	250,000
	SUBTOTAL	-	250,000	250,000

ADOPTED 2024 OBLIGATION REPAYMENTS

	City of Ridgecrest	Augmentation Fund	Total
In-Kind Services			
Attorney Services/IT/Council Chambers	500,000	-	500,000
Repayment in FY2024 for Current Year	317,500	-	317,500
Advance Agreements			
Advance of Funds	-	-	-
Financing			
Water Purchase related Financing	-	-	-
	<u>817,500</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>817,500</u>

Upon repayment of Obligations, an inter-fund loan will be created between the Extraction Fund and Augmentation Fund for amount not funded by the Extraction Fund.

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DAILY INDEPENDENT
619 W RIDGECREST BLVD #D
PO BOX 7
RIDGECREST CA 93556

INVOICE/
STATEMENT
AS OF
10/31/24

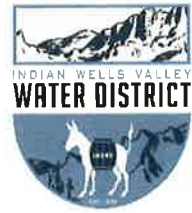
159443-10
INDIAN WELLS VALLEY GROUND
CAROL THOMAS-KEEFER, GM
100 W. CALIFORNIA AVE.
RIDGECREST CA 93555

DATE	DESCRIPTION	PAPER	UNITS	RATE	CHG/CR	BALANCE
	PREVIOUS BALANCE					.00
10/18/24	ROP DISPLAY	DI	126.00	I	918.00	
10/18/24	COLOR	DI			90.00	
10/18/24	AD EN OTHER	DI			30.00	
	NEW BALANCE					1038.00

CURRENT	30 DAYS	60 DAYS	90 DAYS	120 DAYS	TOTAL
1038.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	1038.00

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



INVOICE DATE **DUE DATE**
11/20/2024 12/20/2024

INVOICE NUMBER
1266

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

Rademacher Way Pipeline Project

Krieger & Stewart Costs	\$ 13,431.50
Kern County - Notice of Exemption	\$ 50.00

Total Due \$ 13,481.50

**Please make checks payable to Indian Wells Valley Water District and include the invoice number.
For questions concerning this invoice, contact Renee Morquecho at (760) 384-5520.**

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IWVGA ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

STAFF REPORT

TO: IWVGA Board Members

DATE: December 11, 2024

FROM: IWVGA Staff

SUBJECT: AGENDA ITEM 10 – 2024 Board Rotation

BACKGROUND

The Joint Powers agreement for the Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority (IWVGA) provides that officers of the board shall be elected annually and that these positions may be removed at any time without cause. The Bylaws state in section 3.2, Appointment of Officers of the Board, the IWVGA Chair and Vice Chair are to rotate annually between the board member representing County of Kern, City of Ridgecrest and the Indian Wells Valley Water District (District).

3.2) Beginning in 2017, the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson shall rotate annually between the Board members representing the County of Kern, City of Ridgecrest, and the Indian Wells Valley Water District...Officers of the Board may be removed and replaced at any time, with or without cause by a vote of the Board. In the event that an Officer of the Board loses their position as a Primary Director, that Officer of the Board position shall become vacant and the Board shall elect a new individual to serve the remaining term.

DESCRIPTION

The past couple years, under advice of counsel, the Indian Wells Valley Water District has recused itself from participating in certain topics before the board. Given current court proceedings, full participation of the Chair and Vice Chair is important for the constituents of this basin. Staff has provided the attached resolution, which sets the City of Ridgecrest as the Chairperson, and the County of Kern as the Vice Chair for 2025.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that your Board approve adopt the attached resolution setting the City of Ridgecrest as the Chairperson and the County of Kern as the Vice Chair beginning January 1, 2025.

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**BEFORE THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE
INDIAN WELLS VALLEY GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY**

In the matter of:

Resolution No. 03-24

**SETTING THE CITY OF RIDGECREST AS THE CHAIRPERSON AND THE COUNTY
OF KERN AS THE VICE CHAIR FOR 2025**

**I, _____, Clerk of the Board of Directors for the Indian Wells Valley
Groundwater Authority, do certify that the following resolution, on motion of Director
_____, seconded by Director _____, was duly passed and adopted by the Board of
Directors at an official meeting this 11th day of December, 2024, by the following vote:**

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

Clerk of the Board of Directors
Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS section 6.04 of the Joint Exercise Of Powers Agreement Creating The Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority (Authority) provides that the board of directors shall annually appoint a chairperson to preside at all meetings.

WHEREAS section 6.04 of the Joint Exercise Of Powers Agreement also provides that officers of the board including the chairperson may be removed and replaced at any time with or without cause by a board vote.

WHEREAS Section 3.2 of the Bylaws of The Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority provides that the chairperson and vice chairperson shall rotate annually between the board members representing the County of Kern, the City of Ridgecrest, and the Indian Wells Valley Water District.

WHEREAS the Indian Wells Valley Water District has indicated that there is a current and ongoing conflict of interest between the duties of the representative of the Water District to the Water District itself and the Authority based on pending litigation and other related concerns and that based on this conflict of interest the representative of the Water District has not participated fully in any meeting since 2021.

WHEREAS, the Indian Wells Valley Water District legal counsel has stated in court that the Water District filed suit against every landowner in the basin for the express purpose of challenging the Authority, the Groundwater Sustainability Plan adopted by the Authority, and the implementation projects adopted by the Authority including the interconnection pipeline that connects the Basin to the California State Water Project which serves water to 27 million Californians.

WHEREAS, the Indian Wells Valley Water District has expressly stated its opposition to the interconnection pipeline and the funding for said connection.

WHEREAS, the Indian Wells Valley Water District has knowingly and intentionally withheld information that it claims to have that should be reviewed for inclusion in Groundwater Sustainability Plan, including the information it based its litigation strategy on, for the express purpose of benefiting its litigation.

THEREFORE, IT IS RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF INDIAN WELLS VALLEY GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY:

Section 1. The City of Ridgecrest shall be the Chairperson and the County of Kern shall be the Vice Chair effective January 1, 2025.

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED, by the Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority this 11th day of December, 2024.

SIGNED:

President of the Board of Directors

ATTEST:

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IWVGA ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

STAFF REPORT

TO: IWVGA Board of Directors

DATE: December 11, 2024

FROM: Carol Thomas-Keefer, General Manager

SUBJECT: **Proposed 2025 Budget**

In accordance with Section 9.07 of the Groundwater Authority's enabling Joint Exercise of Powers Agreement, staff has developed for Board consideration a draft budget for the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2025.

Key Budget Points and Assumptions:

- The total proposed budget, including projected expenditures from all funds, is approximately \$8.86 million. Total revenues are projected at \$8.57 million, with the deficient funded through the prior year balance reserve. The budget reflects an increase in proposed expenditures of \$2.6 million from the 2024 budget due largely to grant work; anticipated revenue and expense of \$5.0 million associated with grant activity (SGMA IP grant, Urban Community Drought Relief Grant Program and EPA Resilience Grant) is reflected in 2025, as is a projected increase in basin management, lobbying, legal and administration expenses anticipated to accommodate IWVGA's increased activities associated with project implementation, funding and outreach.
- Extraction revenue is projected to be \$900,000 (compared to an estimated \$1.2 million in from prior years) and excludes payments from Mojave Pistachios. Extraction fee expenses total \$1.77 million, requiring an inter-fund transfer of approximately \$588,701 and use of \$283,409 in prior year funds balance to balance the budget.
- Legal fees relating to pending litigation and outside of general counsel services are again budgeted as expenses to the Augmentation portion of the Replenishment fund. Litigation-related fees are currently estimated at \$500,000 for the year; however, if legal activities associated with the groundwater adjudication become necessary in 2025, the legal fees budget will need to increase to **\$2 million**, plus an additional \$500,000 for engineering support. The prior year funds balance would provide the additional funds.
- Administration costs are split equally between Extraction and Replenishment fees, consistent with previous approved budgets.
- Annual consultant contract fees (RGS and Capitol Core Group) represent a placeholder only, subject to approval or revision when these contracts are presented for renewal in December 2024. Final budget figures will be adjusted to reflect board approvals.

- Repayment to the City of Ridgecrest continues in FY 2025 toward in-kind services provided since 2016.

ACTION(S) REQUIRED BY THE BOARD

The Board should review and consider approval of the proposed 2025 draft budget as presented or with revisions as directed by the Board.

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PROPOSED ANNUAL BUDGET BY REVENUE ALLOCATION

	BY REVENUE ALLOCATION					TOTAL PROPOSED BUDGET
	Restricted	Restricted	Restricted	Restricted	Restricted	
	Extraction	Augmentation	Shallow Well Mitigation	Grants	Navy/COSO Royalty	
REVENUE						
Extraction Fee	900,000	-	-	-	-	900,000
Augmentation Fee	-	2,180,781	-	-	-	2,180,781
Shallow Well Mitigation	-	-	115,000	-	-	115,000
Grants	-	-	-	5,036,004	-	5,036,004
Navy/COSO Royalty Fund	-	-	-	-	345,000	345,000
TOTAL REVENUES	900,000	2,180,781	115,000	5,036,004	345,000	8,576,785
EXPENSES						
Administration	324,380	407,280	-	-	-	731,660
Non-Departmental ¹	490,715	726,050	-	-	-	1,216,765
Community & Engagement	50,315	-	-	-	-	50,315
Shallow Well Mitigation Programs	-	-	65,000	-	-	65,000
Navy/COSO Program	25,000	-	-	-	345,000	370,000
Basin Management Administration	140,000	175,000	-	-	-	315,000
Basin Management	666,700	85,000	-	-	-	751,700
Grant Management	75,000	-	-	-	-	75,000
IP Grant Program	-	37,630	-	731,870	-	769,500
Urban Comm. Drought Relief Grant	-	-	50,000	1,625,700	-	1,675,700
EPA Resilience Grant	-	161,120	-	2,678,434	-	2,839,554
TOTAL EXPENSES	1,772,110	1,592,080	115,000	5,036,004	345,000	8,860,194
Surplus (Deficit)	(872,110)	588,701	-	-	-	(283,409)

¹ Budget includes proposed \$500,000 Repayment to City of Ridgecrest

NOTE: Litigation-related legal fees are currently estimated at \$500,000 for 2025; however, if legal activity related to the adjudication becomes necessary, this budget will be increased to **\$2 million** for legal plus \$500,000 for engineering support, with funds borrowed from prior year replenishment balance."

BEGINNING & ENDING BALANCES

	Beginning Balances	Revenue	Transfer In **	Transfer Out**	Expenses	Ending Balances
Extraction Fund	-	900,000	872,110	-	1,772,110	-
Augmentation Fund	-	2,180,781	-	588,701	1,592,080	-
Shallow Well Mitigation Fund	-	115,000	-	-	115,000	-
Grants	-	5,036,004	-	-	5,036,004	-
Navy/COSO Royalty Fund	-	345,000	-	-	345,000	-
TOTAL	-	8,576,785	872,110	588,701	8,860,194	-

The Extraction Fund Budget will be balanced through a loan from the Augmentation Fund and the use of Balances from Prior Year

IWVGA
PROPOSED 2025 BUDGET
PROPOSED REVENUES

	Actual PY's FY 18 thru FY20	Actual 2021	Actual 2022	Actual 2023	Estimated 2024	Proposed 2025	\$ Diff
Extraction Fee	1,476,181	1,319,924	1,263,960	1,265,274	900,000	900,000	-
Augmentation Fee	-	4,076,498	3,754,530	3,765,622	2,187,735	2,180,781	(6,954)
Shallow Well Mitigation Fee	-	125,776	133,395	131,275	117,000	115,000	(2,000)
TOTAL	<u><u>1,476,181</u></u>	<u><u>5,522,199</u></u>	<u><u>5,151,885</u></u>	<u><u>5,162,171</u></u>	<u><u>3,204,735</u></u>	<u><u>3,195,781</u></u>	<u><u>(8,954)</u></u>

Assumptions:

Prior Year Actuals based on audited revenues. Projections conservatively based on prior year actuals.

Augmentation FY2025 forecast based on 2024 production data for a portion of the year and 2023 production data for the remainder of the year.

The Augmentation projection will be updated in early 2025.

All SWM Fees associated with Augmentation/Replenishment is included in the Shallow Well Mitigation Fee revenue.

Notes:

Additional revenue is pending from Searles Valley Minerals and Mojave Pistachios

Augmentation Fee has also been referred to as Replenishment Fee or Basin Replenishment Fee

Shallow Well Mitigation Fee has also been referred to as Transient Pool Fee.

OUTSTANDING OBLIGATIONS

	City of Ridgecrest	Augmentation Fund	Total
In-Kind Services ¹			
Attorney Svcs./IT/Chambers -FY25 - Estimated	317,500	-	317,500
Attorney Svcs./IT/Chambers -FY24 - Estimated	353,000	-	353,000
Attorney Svcs./IT/Chambers -FY23 -Actual	255,605	-	255,605
Attorney Svcs./IT/Chambers -FY22	241,204	-	241,204
Attorney Svcs./IT/Chambers -FY 21	325,235	-	325,235
Attorney Svcs./IT/Chambers -FY's16-20	366,982	-	366,982
Repayment in FY2024 for Prior Years	(500,000)	-	(500,000)
Repayment in FY2023 for Prior Years	(500,000)	-	(500,000)
Inter-Fund Loans			
2025 Loan to Extraction Fund-Estimated ²		588,701	588,701
2024 Loan to Extraction Fund-Estimated ²	-	722,090	722,090
2023 Loan to Extraction Fund-Estimated ²	-	500,000	500,000
2021 Repayment of Adv. Of Funds ³	-	500,000	500,000
Advance of Funds	-	-	-
Financing	-	-	-
Postponed Invoice Payments	-	-	-
Total	859,526	2,310,791	3,170,317

¹ City of Ridgecrest In-Kind Services includes services associated with Extraction and Augmentation expenses.

² Estimated loans to Extraction; to be finalized at year-end and final determination of ineligible grant costs.

³ IWVWD used restricted Augmentation Revenue to repay the Advance Agreement of \$500,000
Repayment of the IWVWD Advance requires a transfer from the Extraction Fund to the Augmentation Fund.

ADOPTED 2025 OBLIGATION REPAYMENTS

	City of Ridgecrest	Augmentation Fund	Total
In-Kind Services			
Attorney Services/IT/Council Chambers	500,000	-	500,000
Repayment in FY2024 for Current Year	317,500		317,500
Advance Agreements			
Advance of Funds	-	-	-
Financing			
Water Purchase related Financing	-	-	-
	817,500	-	817,500

Upon repayment of Obligations, an inter-fund loan will be created between the Extraction Fund and Augmentation Fund for amount not funded by the Extraction Fund.

PROPOSED ANNUAL BUDGET-ALL FUNDS -BALANCED BUDGET

ACTUALS BY REVENUE ALLOCATION								
		Restricted	Restricted	Restricted	Restricted	Restricted	TOTAL	
		Extraction	Augmentation	Shallow Well Mitigation	Grants	Navy/COSO Rolyat Fund	YEAR-END BUDGET	
1	REVENUE							1
2	Extraction Fee	900,000	-	-	-	-	900,000	2
3	Transfer In/Loan from Augmentation Fund TO BALANCE	588,701	-	-	-	-	588,701	3
4	Prior Year Fund Balance	283,409	-	-	-	-	283,409	4
5	Augmentation Fee	-	2,180,781	-	-	-	2,180,781	5
6	Transfer In/Loan Repayment from Extraction Fund	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
7	Shallow Well Mitigation Fee	-	-	115,000	-	-	115,000	7
8	Department of Water Resources (DWR) Grants-IP Grant	-	-	-	731,870	-	731,870	8
9	Urban Community Drought Relief Grant	-	-	-	1,625,700	-	1,625,700	9
10	EPA Resilience Grant	-	-	-	2,678,434	-	2,678,434	10
11	Navy/COSO Royalty Fund	-	-	-	-	345,000	345,000	11
12	TOTAL REVENUES	1,772,110	2,180,781	115,000	5,036,004	345,000	9,448,895	12
13	EXPENSES							13
14	Administration							14
15	Administration (RGS)	170,000	170,000	-	-	-	340,000	15
16	Office Rent	1,800	1,800	-	-	-	3,600	16
17	Office Supplies	500	500	-	-	-	1,000	17
18	Postage and Delivery	180	180	-	-	-	360	18
19	External Audit (Nigro&Nigro) - FY 2023 & 2024 -\$18,500 each	18,500	18,500	-	-	-	37,000	19
20	Council Chambers/IT Services (City of Ridgecrest)	8,500	-	-	-	-	8,500	20
21	General Counsel (Aleshire & Wynder/City of Ridgecrest)	92,700	216,300	-	-	-	309,000	21
22	Additional Legal Services (Aleshire & Wynder)	10,000	-	-	-	-	10,000	22
23	Insurance Premium (Insurica)	20,000	-	-	-	-	20,000	23
24	Legal Notices (Daily Independent)	2,000	-	-	-	-	2,000	24
25	Memberships (Cal. Assoc.Mutual Water Co)	100	-	-	-	-	100	25
26	Bank Service Charges	100	-	-	-	-	100	26
27								27

PROPOSED ANNUAL BUDGET-ALL FUNDS -BALANCED BUDGET

ACTUALS BY REVENUE ALLOCATION

Restricted	Restricted	Restricted	Restricted	Restricted	TOTAL
Extraction	Augmentation	Shallow Well Mitigation	Grants	Navy/COSO Royalty Fund	YEAR-END BUDGET

28	EXPENSES (Cont'd)						28
29	Non-Departmental						29
30	Other Legal Services (RWG Law) - (See NOTE Below)	-	500,000	-	-	500,000	30
31	Lobbying Services (Capitol Core)	100,575	116,050	-	-	216,625	31
32	California State Lands Commission	140	-	-	-	140	32
33	Repayment of City of Ridgecrest In-Kind Services	390,000	110,000	-	-	500,000	33
34	Transfer Out/Loan to Extraction Fund	-	588,701	-	-	588,701	34
35							35
36	Community & Engagement						36
37	Outreach Materials	25,000	-	-	-	25,000	37
38	Printing and Reproduction	10,000	-	-	-	10,000	38
39	Website Services	15,000	-	-	-	15,000	39
40	Website (IWVWD)	315	-	-	-	315	40
41							41
42	Shallow Well Mitigation Programs						42
43	Shallow Well Mitigation Emergency Assistance Program	-	-	50,000	-	50,000	43
44	Outreach and Impacts Eval.(Stetson)	-	-	15,000	-	15,000	44
45							45
46	NAVY/COSO Program						46
47	Rose Valley MW Permitting, Bid, Drilling (Stetson)	-	-	-	45,000	45,000	47
48	Rose Valley Construction	-	-	-	300,000	300,000	48
49	Navy/Coso Cooperative Agreement (Stetson)	10,000	-	-	-	10,000	49
50	Navy/Coso Royalty Fund: Develop Projects & Secure Funding (Stetson)	15,000	-	-	-	15,000	50
51							51
52	Basin Management Administration						52
53	Production Reporting, Transient Pool, and Fee Support (Stetson)	35,000	-	-	-	35,000	53
54	Meetings and Prep (Stetson)	85,000	85,000	-	-	170,000	54
55	Budget Support (Stetson)	15,000	-	-	-	15,000	55
56	Stakeholder Coordination (Stetson)	5,000	-	-	-	5,000	56
57	Litigation Support (Stetson)-(See NOTE below)	-	90,000	-	-	90,000	57

PROPOSED ANNUAL BUDGET-ALL FUNDS -BALANCED BUDGET

ACTUALS BY REVENUE ALLOCATION								
		Restricted	Restricted	Restricted	Restricted	Restricted		
		Extraction	Augmentation	Shallow Well Mitigation	Grants	Navy/COSO Rolaty Fund	TOTAL YEAR-END BUDGET	
58								58
59	EXPENSES (Cont'd)							59
60	Basin Management							60
61	General Engineering (Stetson)	50,000	-	-	-	-	50,000	61
62	TSS: General Coordination/Application Support (Stetson)	10,000	-	-	-	-	10,000	62
63	GSP 5-Year Update (Stetson)	100,000					100,000	63
64	Annual Report Preparation (Stetson)	75,000	-	-	-	-	75,000	64
65	Data Management System Support - (Stetson)	40,000	-	-	-	-	40,000	65
66	Allocation Plan and Rules & Regs on Pumping/Restrictions (Stetson)	10,000	-	-	-	-	10,000	66
67	General Project Management (Stetson)	40,000	-	-	-	-	40,000	67
68	Configuration Management Plan (Stetson)	100,000	-	-	-	-	100,000	68
69	Data Collection, Monitoring, and Data Gaps (Stetson)	225,000	-	-	-	-	225,000	69
70	Imported Water: Negotiations and Coordination(Stetson)	-	10,000	-	-	-	10,000	70
71	Recycled Water (Stetson)	-	25,000	-	-	-	25,000	71
72	Planning Assistance to States: Army Corps Support (Stetson)		50,000	-	-	-	50,000	72
73	Review of Outside Studies and Coordination (Stetson)	15,000					15,000	73
74	Well Monitoring Services (WellIntel Inc.)	1,700	-	-	-	-	1,700	74
75							-	75
76	Grant Management						-	76
77	Grant Review and Application Preparation (Stetson)	75,000	-	-	-	-	75,000	77
78								78
79	IP Grant							79
80	IP Grant Administration	-	-	-	11,265	-	11,265	80
81	Imported Water: Planning/Design/Environmental (Stetson)	-	-	-	50,000	-	50,000	81
82	Imported Water: Planning/Design/Environmental -- (Provost& Pritchard)	-	-	-	520,605	-	520,605	82
83	Imported Water: Planning/Design/Environmental -- (Transystems)	-	-	-	150,000	-	150,000	83
84	Imported Water: Planning/Design/Env - (Not Grant Reimburseable)	-	37,630	-	-	-	37,630	84
85							-	85

PROPOSED ANNUAL BUDGET-ALL FUNDS -BALANCED BUDGET

NOTE: Litigation-related legal fees are currently estimated at \$500,000 for 2025; however, if legal activity related to the adjudication becomes necessary, this budget will be increased to \$2 million for legal plus \$500,000 for engineering support, with funds borrowed from prior year replenishment balance.

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IWVGA ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

STAFF REPORT

TO: IWVGA Board of Directors

DATE: December 11 2024

FROM: Carol Thomas-Keefer, General Manager

SUBJECT: Agenda Item No. 12 – 2025 IWVGA Legislative Agenda, 2025 Capitol Core Group Work Plan and Capitol Core Group Contract Amendment

Background

In November 2023, the Authority approved a three-year Legislative Agenda and established a 2024 Work Plan to include goals, objectives, and directives. The Legislative Agenda will be updated annually to reflect changes in the three-year plan and establish directives for the following year. In December 2023, the Authority extended the Consulting Agreement with Capitol Core Group through December 31, 2024. The Consulting Agreement provides a not-to-exceed amount for the fiscal year (January-December) that may only be modified by Board action through a contract amendment.

The attached “2025 Legislative Agenda” updates ongoing objectives and establishes directives through 2027. It also provides a status of 2024 directives. Finally, it includes the 2025 Work Plan for Capitol Core Group, which includes three main project areas (Imported Water Supplies/Water Marketing, Interconnection Pipeline Project, and Other Projects Supporting the Groundwater Sustainability Plan). Based on the projected workload, it requests a not-to-exceed \$220,050.00 budget for FY2025.

Amendment #9 to the Capitol Core Group Consulting Agreement, extending the term through December 31, 2025, is also attached.

ACTION(S) REQUIRED BY THE BOARD

The Board should review and consider the adoption of 1) the 2025 Legislative Agenda, 2) the 2025 Capitol Core Group Work Plan, and 3) Amendment Number 9 to the Capitol Core Group Consulting Agreement.

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AMENDMENT NO. 9 TO INDIAN WELLS VALLEY GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY
AGREEMENT 01-19

CONSULTING SERVICES AGREEMENT WATER SUPPLY PROCUREMENT AND
GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

WHEREAS, the **INDIAN WELLS VALLEY GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY** (“Authority”) and **CAPITOL CORE GROUP, INC.** (“CCG”) entered into an agreement on March 21, 2019 (“Agreement”), whereby CCG would provide water procurement and governmental affairs services to support the Authority’s goal of completing the requirements of Groundwater Sustainability Plan for the Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Basin (“Basin”); and,

WHEREAS, the Agreement’s term expired on 21 March 2020; and,

WHEREAS, the Authority subsequently approved Amendments 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8, to continue these professional services through 31 December 2024; and

WHEREAS, CCG has provided a 2025 Scope of Work and budget to continue these services in 2024;

WHEREAS, the Authority has approved the 2025 Scope of Work and budget; and,

NOW THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY AGREED by and between the Authority and CCG as follows:

1. “Section III. TERM PERIOD” is amended in whole to read as follows:

Unless terminated as provided herein, the Agreement shall continue in effect through the effective date of this Agreement until 31 December 2025. The parties reserve the right to extend this Agreement upon mutually agreeable terms.

2. The approved “2025 Proposed Scope of Work” and is attached herein as “Exhibit A.”

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have executed this agreement as of the date last written below.

CCG:
Capitol Core Group, Inc.

AUTHORITY:
Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority

By: Michael W. McKinney
It’s President
Capitol Core Group

By: Phillip Peters
Board Chairperson
Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority

Dated:

Dated:

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2025 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

INDIAN WELLS VALLEY GROUNDWATER
AUTHORITY

119th Congressional Session
2025-2026 California Legislative Session
With Forecast 2027 Actions



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BACKGROUND, GOALS AND DIRECTIVES



BACKGROUND:

The Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority's (IWVGA or the Authority) Legislative Agenda underscores the urgent priority of achieving groundwater basin sustainability before 2040. This goal is to be pursued through efficient and cost-effective means that promote the continued prosperity and resilience of the Indian Wells Valley.

The IWVGA Legislative Agenda is a collaborative effort that necessitates the active involvement of multiple local/regional, state, and federal entities. The IWVGA has set specific objectives and empowered its senior staff and professional government affairs team to actively seek funding for the development of groundwater resiliency infrastructure. The Authority has also tasked its senior staff and government relations team with safeguarding interests crucial to water resiliency, in line with the established goals.

Since 2019, IWVGA's Legislative Agenda has been approved within the annual scope of work and direction provided to the Authority's professional government affairs team. As the groundwater sustainability plan (GSP) implementation continues and in the interest of additional transparency to the residents of the groundwater basin, the Authority has adopted this revision to its three-year Legislative Agenda.

A Legislative Agenda provides a program to engage the government and provides direction to influence public policy. The government relations team for IWVGA is primarily tasked with procuring permanent right water supplies from outside agencies (known as "Table A") and engaging the government to support the requirements of the GSP. A Legislative Agenda is a living document requiring annual updates but providing a long-term outlook to achieve the goals of the Authority. The senior staff and professional government affairs team will provide regular updates to the Board of Directors and request the ability to take specific public actions as required.

The 2025 update provides new objectives and directives for established goals. These updates are based on the accomplishment of directives during 2024, the State's financial condition, and changes in the Authority's priorities.

IWVGA GOALS:

1: Identify and Secure Funding for groundwater sustainability measures included in the GSP.

Reduce or minimize financial impacts to ratepayers/taxpayers associated with Sustainable Groundwater Management Act compliance.

2: Achieve necessary approvals to effectuate imported water supplies and complete imported water infrastructure

Assist Authority staff in obtaining needed permits, approvals, and regulatory requirements associated with water transfers/conveyance, water storage, and needed infrastructure development.

IWVGA GOALS (continued):

3: Preserve and protect the Indian Wells Valley's current and future water resources.

Support legislation and regulation that assist the Authority in achieving the requirements within the GSP. Support State/federal legislation/regulation that promotes groundwater sustainability measures, drought protection, and water infrastructure development.

4: Defeat public policies that endanger groundwater sustainability or risk ratepayer/taxpayer investment in groundwater resilience.

Oppose legislation and regulation that substantively risks ratepayer/taxpayer investment in groundwater sustainability measures. Oppose legislation and regulations that would impede the implementation of the GSP.

STATUS OF 2024 DIRECTIVES:



Seek and obtain passage of a \$200 million Congressional Authorization for construction-related costs associated with the Interconnection Pipeline Project within the Water Resources Development Act of 2024 pursuant to Section 219 (Environmental Infrastructure Projects).

Congress has included the Interconnection Pipeline Project authorization with the Water Resources Development Act of 2024 under Section 219/Environmental Infrastructure. Passage is expected in December 2024. The Project is authorized for an initial appropriation of \$5 million to \$50 million. Appropriation will be required in future fiscal years.



Seek and obtain a \$25 million line item in the Fiscal Year 2024-2025 State Budget Act for construction activities related to the Interconnection Pipeline Project.

The financial condition of the State of California did not allow for legislatively directed spending requests for FY2024-2025. This situation will likely remain the same during the upcoming legislative year. This directive will be reconsidered as the financial condition of the State changes.



Assist the City of Ridgecrest in obtaining a \$5 million DCIP-Grant

This directive was canceled at the request of the City of Ridgecrest due to project timing and funding requirements.



Identify and seek funding for other GSP-related projects.

Environmental mitigation credit funding was identified in 2024 and is actively being sought.

STATUS OF 2024 DIRECTIVES (continued):



Seek all necessary local government and local agency approvals to support the construction of the Interconnection Pipeline Project.



Seek pertinent State regulatory approvals to support the construction of the Interconnection Pipeline Project.



2024 Legislative Goals (support and opposition)





LEGISLATIVE AGENDA



YEARS INCLUDED WITHIN THE AGENDA:

This Legislative Agenda will include goals, objectives, and specific tasks for the 119th Congressional Session, the 2025-2026 California Legislative Session, and projected items into 2027.

IWVGA DIRECTIVES:

1: Identify and Secure Funding for groundwater sustainability measures included in the GSP.

Objective: Reduce or minimize financial impacts to ratepayers/taxpayers associated with Sustainable Groundwater Management Act compliance.

- In 2025, actively advocate and pass a Congressionally directed spending request of \$5 million through the *Energy and Water Development Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2026* to cover the initial construction-related costs of the Interconnection Pipeline Project.

According to the current project schedule, the interconnection pipeline project will be ready for construction-related activities beginning in mid-2026. The transition of construction to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will be completed in 2025, and initial appropriated amounts (against the initial Congressional authorization) will be required.

- In 2025, determine financial requirements and assess Congressionally authorized amounts within the *Water Resources Development Act of 2026*. Work with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to determine appropriated amounts needed for the first full year of Interconnection Pipeline Project construction.

The Congressionally Authorized amounts included in the Water Resources Development Act of 2024 will determine the required legislative actions for the WRDA-26 legislation. Further, a transition of the Interconnection Pipeline Project will require financial needs to be assessed in 2025 for 2027 activities in order to meet the congressional schedule.

- In 2025, continue to seek environmental mitigation credit funding for 2026 activities.
- Seek additional well mitigation and land repurposing funding.
- Support legislation that provides financial assistance for high-priority security, resilience, and sustainability-related water, reclamation, and wastewater projects and maintaining water, reclamation, and wastewater infrastructure.
- Support legislation that funds increased resilience of communities in the face of climate, economic, and/or social shocks and stressors.

IWVGA DIRECTIVES (CONTINUED):

Since 2019, the Authority has sought State and federal funding opportunities to offset the financial impact of State-required sustainability measures contained within the GSP. The Authority's focus has been to seek funding for required infrastructure while establishing a volumetric charge to cover the purchase of required imported water supplies. The Board has prioritized the "Interconnection Pipeline Project" while looking for potential funding sources for the other GSP-related infrastructure projects.

Project and Phase	Project Budget	Congressional Authorized	Funding Received	Funding Requested
Interconnection Pipeline Project				
Planning	\$11,000,000.00		\$10,390,000.00	
Construction	\$200,000,000.00	\$50,000,000.00*		\$5,000,000.00
City Wastewater Treatment Plant	\$100,000,000.00		\$2,500,000.00	\$14,000,000.00
				\$40,000,000.00
Water Recycling Plant	\$140,000,000.00	\$35,000,000.00		
Well Mitigation Funding			\$3,000,000.00	
GSP Updates				\$800,000.00

2: Achieve necessary approvals to effectuate imported water supplies and complete imported water infrastructure

Objective: Assist Authority staff in obtaining needed permits, approvals, and regulatory requirements associated with water transfers/conveyance, water storage, and needed infrastructure development.

- Seek pertinent approvals from local government and local agencies in support of the construction of the Interconnection Pipeline Project.
- Seek pertinent State regulatory approvals in support of the construction of the Interconnection Pipeline Project.

3: Preserve and protect the Indian Wells Valley's current and future water resources.

Objective: Support legislation and regulation that assist the Authority in achieving the requirements within the GSP. Support State/federal legislation/regulation that promotes groundwater sustainability measures, drought protection, and water infrastructure development.

IWVGA DIRECTIVES (CONTINUED):

3: Preserve and protect the Indian Wells Valley's current and future water resources (continued).

- Support legislation and regulation that assist the Authority in achieving the GSP.

The State of California's authority to regulate groundwater sustainability, according to the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) requirements, is impeded by pumpers through groundwater adjudication actions. Considerable taxpayer funds have been spent to implement SGMA requirements and to defend against legal challenges to the State-approved Indian Wells Valley GSP.

Significant policy questions exist, including the ability of opponents to challenge the State-approved groundwater sustainability measures through both validation and groundwater adjudication proceedings. The net impact is a de novo review of a State-approved GSP years into its implementation. The Authority is proactively working with State policymakers to address these questions and minimize further financial impacts.

- Identify and advocate the position of Authority on any legislation or regulation that impacts SGMA or water sustainability requirements.
- Support legislation that promotes comprehensive water policy in California.

4: Defeat public policies that endanger groundwater sustainability or risk ratepayer/taxpayer investment in groundwater resilience.

Objective: Oppose legislation and regulation that substantively risks ratepayer/taxpayer investment in groundwater sustainability measures. Oppose legislation and regulations that would impede the implementation of the GSP.

- Oppose legislation that burdens Indian Wells Valley ratepayers/taxpayers for further State mandates.
- Oppose legislation restricting or inhibiting the Authority from purchasing imported water supplies.



2025 SCOPE OF WORK



CAPITOL CORE GROUP



SUMMARY

2024 provided significant achievements in delivering the required infrastructure funding to achieve the sustainability measures included in the Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP). Capitol Core Group's goals focused on authorizing the interconnection pipeline project through the Water Resources Development Act, which received bicameral and bipartisan support.

In 2025, the Authority's goals now focus on completing water negotiations and obtaining the necessary funding to begin the interconnection pipeline's construction. Significant legislative focus in support of the GSP is also planned.

PROJECTS, MILESTONES AND TASKS

1: Identify, secure, and achieve needed approvals to bring imported water supplies into the Indian Wells Valley

In support of IWVGA Goal #2, identify and secure 3,000 acre-feet of Table A water supplies for

- Complete negotiations with existing identified sellers.
- Obtain needed regulatory approvals for water purchases.
- Negotiate needed agreements, including storage, conveyance (wheeling), and other agreements.
- Complete interconnection agreement.
- Identify new potential water supplies for sale and assist GA in negotiations if applicable.

TASK A: Complete negotiations with existing identified water sellers (ONGOING)

The IWVGA is negotiating with two potential water suppliers to provide the IWVGA with needed water supplies. Under this task, Capitol Core seeks to further negotiations with each provider and determine potential pathways forward for water supplies and agreements in 2025..

TASK B: Regulatory Approvals of Water Purchases (ONGOING)

As with all water purchases, approvals are not limited to contractual arrangements and may require both local and state agency approval. This subtask focuses on the regulatory affairs needed to obtain approval for the water purchase transaction and subsequent transfer. Regulatory approvals depend upon the parties transacting the water sale/purchase and may include, but are not limited to, local water agencies, DWR, and SWRCB.

TASK C: Other Required Agreements (ONGOING)

Water purchases are not limited to sales agreements alone. The ability to transfer/convey, store, and/or lease water supplies is anticipated. In this subtask, Capitol Core may, as appropriate, provide strategic counsel, develop terms, and assist the IWVGA in negotiating other agreements needed for purchased water supplies.

PROJECTS, MILESTONES AND TASKS (CONTINUED):

1: CONTINUED

TASK D: 2025 Water Supplies (ONGOING)

While Capitol Core has identified both private and agency sellers of Table A water, it may be necessary to continue the search for permanent water supplies. Capitol Core will continue to look for new permanent water supplies during 2025. Should further water supplies be necessary, and if the IWVGA has funding sources available to purchase further water, we will provide recommendations to IWVGA on the availability of permanent water for sale.

2: INTERCONNECTION PIPELINE

In support of IWVGA Goal #1, identify and secure federal and State funding for the interconnection pipeline project

- Obtain the first Appropriation for construction activities.
- Identify and secure federal/State funding for environmental mitigation credits
- Support completion of planning activities

TASK A: Congressionally Directed Spending Request: E&WD FY2026 (NEW)

WRDA-24 authorized the Authority to seek federal funding through the appropriations process for ten years. FY2026 will be the first year the Authority will seek construction-related funding for the interconnection pipeline project pursuant to the requirements of WRDA-24 authorization. According to estimates provided by Stetson Engineers, Capitol Core will seek a \$5 million Congressionally directed spending request through the Energy & Water Development Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2026.

TASK B: Environmental Mitigation Credits (ONGOING)

WRDA-24 authorized the Authority to seek federal funding through the appropriations process for ten years. FY2026 will be the first year the Authority will seek construction-related funding for the interconnection pipeline project pursuant to the requirements of WRDA-24 authorization. According to estimates provided by Stetson Engineers, Capitol Core will seek a \$5 million Congressionally directed spending request through the Energy & Water Development Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2026.

TASK C: Regulatory Support Activities (ONGOING)

The interconnection project will require environmental mitigation to address endangered species anticipated along the proposed route. Capitol Core has identified potential programs that may be able to assist with funding for environmental mitigation credits. Capitol Core will pursue these options and provide recommendations to the IWVGA for their potential use in this task.

TASK D: Project Transition Support (NEW)

The passage of WRDA-24 is a significant milestone for the Interconnection Pipeline Project. In 2025, the project will transition from "planning activities" to "construction activities." In addition, the project will transition from Provost and Pritchard to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers control. Capitol Core expects significant effort during this transition process. In this task, Capitol Core will assist the Authority's legal team, Stetson Engineers, and Provost & Pritchard in the progression of the Interconnection Pipeline Project to the construction phase

PROJECTS, MILESTONES AND TASKS (CONTINUED):

3: OTHER PROJECTS SUPPORTING THE GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY PLAN

In support of NWCA Goal #1, identify and secure federal/state funding to meet GSP objectives.

- identify and secure funding for well mitigation and system consolidation.
- identify and secure funding for land repurposing.
- support Agency needs regarding water recycling and repurposing.

TASK A: Well Mitigation and System Consolidation Programs (ONGOING)

In 2020, the Agency received \$5 million from DWR in Urban Community Drought Management grant funding for well failure mitigation/system consolidation. Several well failures occurred in 2023, and the potential consolidation of small systems was identified. These failures and consolidations may exceed the grant funding provided by DWR, and additional funds may be required. In this task, Capitol Core will identify potential funding sources for such activities and provide them to the Board for consideration.

TASK B: Land Repurposing (ONGOING)

As SGMA is implemented, repurposing land is an option for well owners to allow for groundwater savings and avoid the cost of purchasing needed imported water supplies. This repurposing sometimes facilitates the sale of groundwater rights, which may be in excess of sustainability requirements. In 2023, California and Congress passed bills providing financial assistance in land repurposing situations. In this task, Capitol Core will seek the passage of policies that facilitate appropriate repurposing of agricultural and other lands to support groundwater savings.

TASK C: Water Recycling (STANDING BY)

Capitol Core will support NWCA staff on modifications to the use of water recycling and support water recycling efforts to be included in the GSP update.

In support of NWCA Goal #3 and #4, support legislative and regulatory efforts to meet GSP requirements, support legislative efforts to clarify SGMA, and oppose unfunded mandates, legislation that would prevent imported water supplies, or that would substantially undermine the SGMA process.

TASK D: Groundwater Adjudication Legislation (NEW)

Seek passage of clarifying legislation concerning groundwater adjudications.

PROJECTS, MILESTONES AND TASKS (CONTINUED):

3: Continued

TASK E: Government Affairs and Lobbying Services (general) (ONGOING)

Throughout the Congressional and California Legislative Sessions, there are key pieces of legislation of interest to IWVGA. These range from annual budget/appropriations bills to other infrastructure spending and water policy legislation. In this task, Capitol Core will identify, monitor, and advise the Authority on federal/state legislative, budgetary, and intergovernmental matters that could have a significant impact on fiscal, operational, and environmental health for the region. Most importantly, Capitol Core will serve as IWVGA's advocate and liaison, helping foster and maintain strong bipartisan working relationships between the Authority and its representatives in the United States Congress, State Legislature, various Committees of jurisdiction, and Executive branches of government.

TASK F: State Water Strategy (STANDING BY)

In 2022, the Governor released a comprehensive State Water Strategy designed to increase water storage, conveyance, and water recycling activities. The State's FY 2023 situation necessitated the deferral of many of the goals and objectives contained in the State Water Strategy. These included programmatic Agency priorities to achieve water resilience in the State. Those programs may benefit storage, conveyance, the interconnection pipeline project, the water recycling plant, and other aspects of the GSP. In this task, Capitol Core will support legislative activities that seek to enact a comprehensive State Water Strategy that supports GSP requirements and assists in sustainability.





2025 BUDGET SUMMARY



2025 Budget Request



CAPITOL **CORE** GROUP

1: Water Supplies	\$60,225.00	
2: Interconnection Pipeline	\$58,125.00	
3: Other Projects Supporting GSP	\$76,050.00	
Project Administration	\$27,650.00	
Total Request	\$222,050.00	8.3% (increase over 2024 Budget)

*Budget Request is not to exceed

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IWVGA ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

STAFF REPORT

TO: IWVGA Board Members

DATE: December 11, 2024

FROM: IWVGA Staff

AGENDA ITEM 13 – BOARD REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF COMMUNICATIONS AGREEMENT WITH WESTBOUND COMMUNICATIONS

BACKGROUND

As your Board is well aware, members of the community and the Policy Advisory Committee have specifically asked the Authority to develop an enhanced communications strategy. The following professional services agreement with Westbound Communications is for that very purpose. In particular, the agreement is an “as needed and directed” public relations consultation and services agreement. Staff is unable to provide a specific task-based agreement because communication needs occur in a manner that is often unpredictable and this is especially true for responses to mis- or dis- information.

For example, your Board was recently accused publicly of ignoring brackish water in the Sustainability Plan, when in fact Brackish Water was properly considered and dismissed by the Authority due to infeasibility. This particular accusation was highly unpredictable because not only was it untrue but it failed to address the fact that the Water District and its litigation partners were awarded nearly a million dollars in grant money to study brackish water over 6 years ago and they have yet to release a final report. This accusation is even more troubling when you consider that the individual making the accusation is well aware that nearly 3 years ago the Water District’s General Manager stated in a public meeting that brackish water had been determined to be infeasible. In yet another example, the Water District Board President recently made public comments that could reasonably lead someone to believe that the Authority received and rejected plans by the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power that would cure the Basin’s overdraft problems at no cost to the Basin. In fact, the Authority has never heard of such a plan because it does not exist. While both of these examples are more recent, they are reflective of an ongoing history and pattern. Perhaps, the most outlandish was the accusation that the Authority developed the Replenishment Fee’s allocation chart overnight in a secretive process controlled by Authority staff and the District only had a few hours to consider the chart before it was voted on and adopt it. Of course, this is completely false and yet it was stated over and over by District board members even though the easily reviewable public record quite clearly shows that the allocation chart was provided to both the District and Authority’s Committee for comment many months before it was adopted in the Replenishment Fee. Of course, the most telling aspect to this accusation is nearly 5 years later the District’s board members still have not developed their own allocation chart. In fact, at this point the omission seems to be tacit admission that the Replenishment Fee’s allocation chart is as fair and beneficial to the Water District as possible.

And while someone would think that dis-information would be discouraged by public embarrassment history has shown otherwise. As example, Searles Valley Mineral's representative on the Policy Advisory Committee repeatedly asserted that the Authority had failed to provide the community of Trona with any water free of Replenishment Fee when in fact the allocation chart clearly shows otherwise and when publicly challenged on such a simple and easily checked point there was no retraction at all.

Setting aside the unpredictable portions of the Agreements Goals and Objectives, the path and strategy to meet the predictable portions, such as the education and targeting strategies, are best developed in consultation with the communications professionals once they have been onboarded to the Authority. This strategy will also provide the Board with the greatest flexibility in dealing with developments over the life of the agreement such as the anticipated award of federal construction dollars for the pipeline and the settlement.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that your Board approve the attached agreement and immediately begin working with Westbound Communications to develop education and targeting strategies and actively address the mis- and dis- information that has been spread in the community.

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December 11, 2024

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

RE – Engagement of Public Relations Consultation Services

Dear Carol:

This letter ("Agreement") serves to summarize the Agreement between Westbound Communications Inc. (hereinafter "WC") and Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority (hereinafter "Client"), whereby Client retains WC to provide public relations consultation and services as needed and directed.

1. This Agreement becomes effective upon execution by both parties and remains open-ended for as long as client seeks to engage WC. Client agrees to pay WC professional fees based on hourly billings at a combined agency rate of \$240 for services generally outlined in subsequent Attachments (Scope of Work) that require work from senior-level professionals. Professional services and expenses will be invoiced on a monthly basis for specific project elements. All invoices are due and payable upon receipt unless otherwise specified in writing by WC.
2. As a public relations and marketing services vendor, WC will implement activities designed to achieve mutually agreed upon activities in support of Client's communications objectives. WC will assign professionals, as it deems necessary, to competently complete the responsibilities envisioned by this Agreement.
3. While it is understood that WC will take all prudent care possible in the development of material to be issued, WC cannot undertake to verify facts supplied to it by Client. Client, therefore, indemnifies WC for any damages, costs, liabilities or expenses, including reasonable fees and attorney fees, arising out of WC's use of such information, provided such information has, in fact, been provided to WC by Client and/or that Client has approved such information for use by WC. WC agrees to indemnify Client and hold Client harmless from any damages, costs or expense, including reasonable attorney fees, which Client may sustain by virtue of WC's failure to perform as required by this agreement, WC disseminating false or unauthorized information released by WC (including any copyright, trademark or patent infringement claims) or breaching any confidential disclosure agreements. The provisions of this paragraph (3) shall survive any termination of this Agreement.
4. Each party shall indemnify and hold the other harmless from any claims, damages, costs or expenses or liability incurred under unemployment compensation or worker's compensation laws or social security laws in connection with their respective employees, including any benefits payable under any merit plan, reserve account or otherwise pursuant to any law.
5. WC shall not for any reason nor at any time during or after the term of this Agreement use or disclose to any person (except where the proper furnishing of WC's consulting services may require such use or disclosure) any secret or confidential information relating to the business, marketing practices and services of Client. WC's obligations of confidentiality and non-use shall not apply to confidential information that WC can show was published prior to its disclosure to WC by Client, or that is published thereafter other than through a breach of WC's obligations under this Agreement. The provisions of this paragraph five (5) shall survive any termination of this Agreement.

6. Any notice or other communication under this Agreement shall be in writing and shall be considered delivered when received via email or USPS mail, return receipt acknowledgment requested to the respective addresses set forth below (or at such other address as either party may specify by notice to the other).

Client: Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority
Carol Thomas-Keefer
General Manager
[Regional Government Services](mailto:cthomaskeefer@rgs.ca.gov)
cthomaskeefer@rgs.ca.gov

Agency: Westbound Communications Inc.
Christopher Perez
3649 Mission Inn Avenue
Riverside, CA 92501
cperez@westboundcommunications.com

7. WC, as an independent contractor and not an employee of Client, shall not have (nor represent that it has) authority to bind or commit Client unless expressly authorized to do so in writing by Client.

8. During the term of this Agreement, WC shall maintain in full force and effect the policies of insurance and Workers Compensation as currently held at the time of hire.

9. This Agreement contains, and is intended as, a complete statement of all the terms of the arrangements between the parties with respect to its subject matter, supersedes all previous agreements and understandings with respect to those matters, and cannot be changed or terminated except by an agreement in writing signed by the parties.

10. Client and WC agree that this Agreement shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of California. In addition, Client and WC agree to be subject to the jurisdiction of the state and federal courts of the State of California and that Riverside County, State of California will be the venue for any action.

11. The failure of a party to insist upon strict adherence to any term of this Agreement on any occasion shall not be considered a waiver or deprive that party of the right thereafter to insist upon strict adherence to that term or any other term of this Agreement. Any waiver must be in writing.

12. Client shall have the right to terminate this Agreement by providing WC ten (10) days prior written notice. Client shall only be responsible for payment of services and expenses actually performed.

Please sign and date below to indicate your acceptance and return the original signed copy to Westbound Communications Inc.

By: _____

By: _____

Title: _____

Title: _____

Date: _____

Date: _____

Westbound Communications Inc.

for Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority

Addendum A – Project Scope of Work

PROJECT BACKGROUND AND UNDERSTANDING

The Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (“SGMA”) of 2014 requires Groundwater Sustainability Agencies to be formed by the local public agencies with land use and/or water supply authority in a groundwater basin. Accordingly, the Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority (Authority) was formed as the GSA for the Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Basin (Basin) by the City of Ridgecrest (City), the Indian Wells Valley Water District (District), and the Counties of Inyo, Kern, and San Bernadino.

Once formed, GSAs were required by January of 2020 to comply with a compressive set of rules and laws to develop a Groundwater Sustainability Plan (Plan) that will benefit all users and bring groundwater sustainability to the Basin. If the local agencies fail to form a GSA, or if they fail to adopt a Plan that the State believes will achieve sustainability, the State of California will take over local basin management and the State will take the steps it feels are necessary.

SGMA was adopted because it had been determined that the court adjudication process has inherit limitations that prevent courts from successfully managing groundwater. In simple terms, while courts may be able to limit pumping, they do not have the ability and wherewithal to study, develop, operate, finance, and seek grants for needed long term sustainability projects. Accordingly, in 2015, the State had determined that 20 basins, including the Indian Wells Valley Basin, were in a state of “critical overdraft”.

In simple terms, overdraft is the situation where the average annual groundwater extraction exceeds long term natural recharge of a basin. This overdraft condition, and the declining groundwater levels associated with it, will lead to costly impacts, including increased pumping costs, diminished water quality, excessive water treatment, well losses, and land subsidence. Land subsidence in this Basin is of particular concern because of its impacts on the Supersonic Naval Ordinance Research Track (SNORT).

In the mid 90’s, the District was well aware that the overdraft situation was dire through a USGS study and a Dendy Report which it commissioned. At the time, the District considered filing an adjudication but ultimately it decided against such an action and instead it formed a cooperative group that did not take sufficient actions in the following two decades to prevent the basin from falling into a state of critical overdraft. More recently, the District has adopted two water supply enhancement reports which concluded that the District needs to import water to meet its demands.

Critical overdraft is when the continuation of present water management practices would “probably result” in significant adverse impacts. The Indian Wells Valley Basin earned its critical

overdraft designation because it has been overdrafted for over 6 decades and there had been very little effort to solve the issue prior to the Authority's Plan.

After concluding that the District needed to import water, the District used a very substantial sum of ratepayer money to purchase farms in Inyo County for that specific purpose. That effort has shown itself to be woefully ill-informed and misguided however, as the District did not, and still more than a decade later does not, have any legal or physical means to actually move that water to the Basin. To date, the District has not divested itself of those lands so the proceeds could be used for a viable project, or to lower water rates. When questioned, District board members have been unable and/or unwilling to address why the District still holds those lands or why it purchased them to begin with.

In 2009, the District commissioned Brown and Caldwell to provide a basin analysis for the District. The groundwater model resulting from that analysis concluded that the Basin's safe yield was less than 8,000 acre feet per year, which meant that basin pumping was approaching 4 times what the Basin could tolerate through natural recharge and the needs of the Navy and the District alone consumed all of the safe yield.

The District's current hydrologist led the cooperative group for nearly a decade and yet there was still no measurable action taken by the group to address the overdraft or the dropping groundwater levels. As a result of this inaction, the California Department of Water Resources found that continued inaction will "probably result" in significant adverse impacts and the Basin was declared to be in a state of critical overdraft.

The effects of this significant and long-term overdraft are readily apparent. In fact, the world-renowned research institute hired by the United States Navy to study the Basin concluded that without drastic changes 1 in 3 wells would be impacted by 2040 and the entirety of the Basin would be affected by 2065. Initially, this world-renowned research institute, which is part of the University of Nevada, was hired by the Navy to develop a Basin groundwater model so the Navy could assess readiness and mission impacts from the continued overdraft and the lack of local water management. The groundwater model was created with no preconceived notions and there were no litigation choices that needed to be justified. Additionally, the model is quite detailed and it includes information that has national security protections which other groundwater models cannot access and the Navy has retained the model for future readiness and presumably BRAC purposes.

As required by SGMA, the Authority developed the Plan in a years long collaborative and comprehensive process using the highly detailed groundwater model created for the Navy. The District was an active participant in, and proponent of, the decision to use the Navy groundwater model for the development of the Plan. The Plan was adopted in January of 2020 and it was subsequently approved by the State in January of 2022 after a two year long open review process required by SGMA. During that State review process, users could comment on the Plan to the State and the State would, and did, consider those comments when it approved the Plan.

The Plan has two keystones. The first of which is a pipeline interconnection project that will largely use grant funding to connect the Basin to the 700 plus miles of State Water Project which uses canals, pipelines, reservoirs, and hydroelectric power to affordably deliver water to 27 million Californians, 750,000 acres of farmland, and businesses throughout the State.

The second provides a pool of water to agricultural users so they can prepare for and eventually cease pumping groundwater from the Basin. This pool was effectively the same amount of overdraft water that will be pumped by long term users that will ultimately receive some water from the State Water Project.

To date, the Plan's development has been supported with over \$15 million in grant funds and the initial Federal construction funding authorization for the pipeline project has been approved by both the House and Senate. The final construction design and environmental review have been almost entirely covered by grant funds and the project could be ready for construction in the coming year. The final construction is on course to receive federal grant funding of at least 75% and the construction will be completed by the United States Army Corps of Engineers. The Authority will seek and is confident in obtaining more grant funding for construction in the coming years.

The Indian Wells Valley Water District (District) is a voting member of the Authority and it was a deciding vote in favor of the Plan's adoption in 2020. Moreover, the District also voted for the Authority's Sustainable Yield Report which clearly established the amount of the Sustainable Yield and the need for an interconnection to the State Water Project. Importantly, the District's General Manager and its legal counsel served as the legal counsel and General Manager for the Authority during the development of the Plan and the District's hydrological consultant actively contributed to the development of the Plan from beginning to adoption.

Despite its active assistance in developing and its vote to adopt the Plan and the Sustainable Yield Report, the District has launched a multimillion-dollar lawsuit against every landowner in the Basin, including shallow well owners that cannot afford to defend their own water rights. At a Board meeting in July of 2020, it was made clear that the District board members felt the private shallow wells and the City parks were provided too much water in the Plan. The June meeting was even more enlightening but the District has removed that meeting from its website and we understand that copies of that meeting have been destroyed by the District.

The District's board members readily acknowledge that the property owners and homeowners with wells must participate in the lawsuit to assert and protect any water rights they may have. The District's board members are also well aware that the costs of participating in the litigation are prohibitively high for well owning homeowners and small mutuals. The Authority has sought to bridge this gap through the appointment of class counsel. District board members have been repeatedly asked to support the appointment of class counsel for homeowners with wells but the Board members have steadfastly refused to provide such support and the District's legal counsel

has strenuously and repeatedly objected to such appointment at every turn. In court, the District has expressly taken the position that it can, and will, seek default judgements against any, and all, homeowners and property owners that do not take part in the litigation. This means the District, who has water rights claims that are adverse to these homeowners, will seek, and will be granted, a judgement by the court that will negatively impact the rights of well owning homeowners because they simply cannot afford to participate in the litigation. Recently when asked how much water these homeowners would be provided in the District's litigation plan, the District's board members refused to answer the question and the legal counsel refused to take further questions on the matter. In contrast, the Authority's Plan clearly provides for, quantifies, and protects the water rights of these homeowners.

Importantly, the District's board members voted to engage in this litigation even though they did not possess any new scientific information to justify their actions. To be clear, the District's board members began this legal process which will cost the community many millions of dollars in attorney and hydrogeologists fees without any new information supporting the decision. It is readily apparent that the District's board members engaged in this litigation path based on nothing more than the word of District's hydrogeologist; a person who receives a very substantial financial gain from the very litigation he supports. It is also worth noting that the District's hydrogeologist has a less than amicable relationship with the Authority in part because he applied to be the Authority's Water Resource Manager but he was passed over because of conflict concerns and because he was unable to complete the needed Plan work without assistance from others. The District's hydrogeologist has a similar issue with the County of Kern which employed him for sometime but ultimately did not renew his contract.

To date, the District's hydrogeologist has spent more than five years and well over a million dollars trying to justify the litigation decision of the District's board members, and yet, the District's hydrogeologist still does not have a working groundwater model and he is now significantly overbudget. Which means even today, five years later, the District's board members do not have any reliable scientific analysis to base their decisions on and recently the District's General Manager asserted that the District's groundwater model would not be ready for upwards of a year, or more. Moreover, the District does not, and cannot, have any plan for what future pumping in the Basin would look like because it does not have the required scientific information.

District board members have been repeatedly asked about the costs of the litigation on ratepayers but they have steadfastly refused to discuss the matter or provided their litigation budget for public review. However, it is well known that such litigation efforts cost many millions of dollars and the Authority alone will spend several million in defending the Plan. Recently, one board member publicly described the District's finances as being in a state crisis and the District is raising water rates a second time in less than 3 years because of its crisis. The District recently admitted to using budgetary tricks to ensure that District payroll was being paid for by funds that were collected and reserved for capital expenses of the District. In other words, District board members are openly robbing the District's financial future by using the funds set aside for future system improvements and repairs to fund its litigation. Astonishingly, the District is doing this just

3 years after admitting that it had more than \$100 million in unfunded deferred maintenance costs that needed attention. Even more astonishingly, shortly after that admission the District suffered a \$16 million line failure that was not listed in the deferred maintenance costs.

Realizing its litigation strategy is destined for failure because its hydrologists cannot produce a working groundwater model, the District's board members have increasingly turned to a public and private disinformation campaign. This strategy is becoming more and more pronounced as the opposition to the District mounts and its litigation partners discuss settlement with the Authority. Presently, the District is facing opposition from the United States Navy, the City of Ridgecrest, the Counties of Inyo, Kern, and San Bernardino, the State through both the State Water Resources Control Board and the Department of Water Resources. Additionally, the State Legislature that has passed SGMA bills in the face of direct opposition from the District and the United States House of Representatives and the Senate have authorized significant funds for the construction phase of the interconnection pipeline.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

- 1) Educate the public on the Plan and its importance to the Community and the Navy mission.
- 2) Educate the public on the independent high-quality science used to develop the Plan.
- 3) Provide consistent messaging, transparency, and targeted outreach strategies to better inform the public.
- 4) Debunk all mis- or dis-information that has been spread by self-interested parties.
- 5) Actively respond to and debunk any false narratives presented by the District and its remaining litigation partners.
- 6) As necessary, support the Authority's communication, legislation and legal strategy.

TARGET AUDIENCES

- The citizens and businesses within Indian Wells Valley, with particular focus on the ratepayers of the District.
- Military contractors, their dependents, and residents associated with the Naval Air Weapons Station China Lake.
- Elected officials, policy makers and staff associated with water issues of the IWW.

STRATEGIES AND TACTICS:

The Westbound Team will work closely with the Authority staff to advise and prepare work product on an as needed and directed basis.

WESTBOUND TEAM

The Authority and its partners will be supported by three senior professionals with substantial experience in public outreach. Partner **Christopher Perez** will be joined by Vice President **Robert Chevez** and Senior Writer/Strategist **Todd Cooley**.

Contact Information

Legal name of firm: Westbound Communications, Inc.

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

Firm point of contact: Chris Perez, Partner, Riverside Office; Office – (951) 462-1106;

Cell – (951) 532-5321; Email – cperez@westboundcommunications.com

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IWVGA ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

STAFF REPORT

TO: IWVGA Board of Directors **DATE:** December 11, 2024

FROM: Carol Thomas-Keefer, General Manager

SUBJECT: AMENDMENT NO. 1 TO AGREEMENT FOR PROFESSIONAL LEGAL SERVICES WITH RICHARDS, WATSON & GERSHON.

Attached is a proposed Amendment No. 1 to the Authority's professional services agreement with the Richard, Watson & Gershon. This is the first and only rate adjustment request made by Richard, Watson & Gershon since the relationship began on July 20, 2017.

The adjustment generally corresponds with the CPI index for Los Angeles/Anaheim area for the period of time in which the contract has been in effect. The index has increased 30.2 percent during that 7 plus year period.

The Amendment also includes an annual CPI increase in fees based upon the same index.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends the Board consider and approve the Amendment No 1.

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AMENDMENT NO. 1 TO AGREEMENT FOR PROFESSIONAL LEGAL
SERVICES AGREEMENT SPECIAL COUNSEL

This Amendment No. 1 is made and entered into and will be effective on January 1, 2025, by and between Richards, Watson & Gershon, a Professional Corporation (hereinafter referred to as "RWG") and Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority (hereinafter referred to as "Authority").

A. Recitals.

(i) RWG and Authority entered into the above-referenced Agreement ("the Agreement" hereinafter) on July 20, 2017, thereby providing for RWG delivering legal services to the Authority concerning the generation and implementation of a groundwater sustainability plan for the Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Basin.

(ii) The parties seek to hereby adjust the amount of the fees chargeable for services provided pursuant to the Agreement.

B. Amendment No. 1.

1. Effective January 1, 2025, Exhibit "A" to this Amendment No. 1 shall replace and supersede Exhibit "A" attached to the Agreement.

2. Other than as amended hereby, the Agreement and each term and provision contained therein shall remain in full force and effect.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have caused this Amendment No. 1 to be duly executed on the respective dates opposite each of their signatures.

Dated: _____

INDIAN WELLS VALLEY GROUNDWATER
AUTHORITY

By: _____
President, Board of Directors

Dated: _____

RICHARDS, WATSON & GERSHON
A Professional Corporation

By: _____
James L. Markman
Vice President

EXHIBIT "A"

**Compensation and Reimbursement Rate Schedule for
Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority**

1) Legal Services

Legal Services shall be billed to, and compensated by, the AUTHORITY, at the following rates for RWG:

- At the rate of \$425 per hour for services performed by James L. Markman;
- At the rate of \$400 per hour for services performed by Kyle Brochard;
- At the rate of \$375 per hour for the services of other RWG Shareholders and Senior Counsel;
- At the rate of \$350 per hour for the services of RWG associate attorneys;
- At the rate of \$295 per hour for the services of RWG clerks; and
- At the rate of \$250 per hour for the services of RWG paralegals.

Only one-half of the time expended in driving to or from AUTHORITY's office in Ridgecrest, California shall be charged.

Each of the hourly rates stated above shall be adjusted annually based on the amount of change in the cost of living measured by comparing rates in November of the current year and the year to which the next adjustment will apply, utilizing the Los Angeles-Anaheim Index.

2) Reimbursable and/or Other Costs

Expenses for non-local travel will be charged at our actual costs. RWG bills mileage at the standard rate established by the IRS for calculating the operating expenses of an automobile used for business purposes, but will not bill mileage incurred by an RWG employee or agent driving to or from AUTHORITY's office in Ridgecrest, California. Copying costs will be charged at 5 cents per page. All other costs, such as long distance telephone charges, messenger and delivery services will be charged only at the Firm's actual out-of-pocket expenses. The Firm will not charge for legal research, word processing and similar clerical tasks.

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