

[DRAFT]

MINUTES

IRWMP STAKEHOLDER MEETING

September 14, 2011

The Antelope Valley (AV) Integrated Regional Water Management Planning (IRWMP) Stakeholder Group met at the Chimbole Cultural Center Lilac Room, Palmdale City Hall, 38350 Sierra Highway, Palmdale CA 93550, on the 14th of September 2011. The primary objectives of the meeting were to review the status of the IRWMP projects and to select a replacement for the Business and Industry position on the Advisory Team. The meeting was chaired by Dave Rydman, LA County Waterworks District 40, and was called to order at approximately 9:00 AM.

Dave welcomed the group, noted that it had been awhile since the group had met, and initiated the self-introductions. He said that Jessica Bunker would be coming late, due to other commitments, but would be available to give an update on the Salt Management Plan (SMP) status. He called for any modifications to the agenda, and received none. A copy of the Agenda is provided as an attachment. Attendance was obtained by sign-in sheet and is incorporated by reference.

IRWMP Update Grant

Matt Knudsen provided a summary of the \$500K Prop 84 Grant for updating the IRWMP. He said they were working with the Department of Water Resources (DWR) to finalize the contract. He was anticipating presentation of the contract to the AV State Water Contractors Association (AVSWCA) during October and a contract award in early December. Gordon Phair asked if there was any problem meeting the requirement for local contribution to the effort. Dave responded that there was no problem—they were estimating a \$487K effort, and could show \$360K of local contribution, primarily in-kind labor from agency staff [IRWMP planning grants require a minimum 25% match of total project cost].

Dave reviewed the history of the IRWMP, noting that water planning was a high priority for the State. He said the planning effort began back at the time of Prop 13 and was expanded with Prop 50. Prop 84 expanded the scope and provided funds. Expansion included specifics on the climate change element, including monitoring and evaluation, more on the governance structure, re-invitation of small and disadvantaged communities and the inclusion of an appendix that provides a Salt and Nutrient Plan, developed in coordination with the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB).

WSSP-2 Project

David Rizzo provided a status update of the Prop 84 Implementation Grant for the Water Supply Stabilization Project (WSSP-2). He said a \$5.4 M implementation grant had been received. The project

would provide six extraction wells, two reservoirs and one chlorination station. Engineering studies are nearing completion. They expected to go out for bids for the first phase of three by October 2011 and complete the project by Fall 2013. In their current water banking efforts in this area [independent of the WSSP-2 project] they expected to add 10,000 AF this year and to add another 20,000 AF by the end of next year.

He said the Antelope Valley Water Bank (WS-4 project in the IRWMP), was a fully operational bank, with 90,000 AF stored this year and 141,000 AF projected for next year.

Upper Amargosa Creek Project

Gordon Phair briefed the Amargosa Recharge Project [listed in the IRWMP as the Upper Amargosa Creek Recharge, Flood Control and Riparian Habitat Restoration Project (WS-1)] Prop 1E grant]. This is a \$6 M grant request for a project that would release untreated State Water Project (SWP) water from the aqueduct into the Amargosa Creek bed, allowing 25,000 AFY to be banked. Ground preparation would be between 25th West and 20th West on the North side of the creek, between the creek bed and the adjacent development. He said they plan 25 acres to be prepared as a park, to include displays that would show the process. The project will be integrated with a Palmdale plan to put a bridge over Amargosa Creek at 20th St. West. He said the bridge had been designed and three monitoring wells had been drilled and showed good percolation.

Advisory Team Business and Industry Position

Amy Frost had been suggested as a good candidate to fill the Business and Industry (B&I) position on the Stakeholder Advisory Team when Josh Mann indicated that he was withdrawing. Amy had expressed a willingness to serve in that position, however had been informed by her supervisor that this position was incompatible with her job responsibilities. Three individuals were then nominated at this meeting: Marta Golding-Brown, President of the AV Building Industry Association, Vicki Medina, President of the Antelope Valley Board of Trade and Andrew Werner, who works for the Renewable Resources Group of Western Development and Storage, and is a regular attendee of the IRWMP Stakeholders Group. The candidates (less Andrew, who was not present) were asked to leave the room and a vote was taken. Marta received one vote, Vicki received nine votes and Andrew received four votes, so Vicki was declared the winner. In her initial comments and her comments on returning to the room, Marta graciously offered to continue to support IRWMP and to work with Vicki in her B&I role on the A-Team.

AV Groundwater Adjudication

David Rizzo and John Ukkestad gave an update on the ongoing adjudication process. Although a Water Master was expected to be designated by the Court, the basic allocation of water between interest groups was expected to be predetermined by Judge Komar. The sustainable aquifer pumping level was set by the court to 82,000 AFY. David and John mentioned that a figure of about \$5 M per year has been discussed [but not set] as the cost of supporting the Water Master, which would work out to approximately \$61/ AF. In addition to determining the allocation, the organization to conduct the Water Master function (i.e., individual or committee/Board) has to be determined. David was of the opinion

that this could take another year. The finance method to cover this operation would also need to be determined (e.g., parcel fee, pumping tax, etc.). The adjudication process has been very complex—David noted that they sometimes had 25 attorneys and managers meeting simultaneously in various rooms.

The question was raised on how, after an allocation has been made, a new project, such as the planned gold mine in the Mojave area, with a 4000 AFY water requirement, would be handled. The answer was that this would be covered by the developer's fee, which would be used to buy "new" water.

Project Updates

(a) PWD – AVEK Interconnection

This PWD – AVEK agreement was briefed by Matt Knudsen, who noted the positive aspects for both agencies. State Water Project (SWP) water would be provided to PWD, who would treat it and pump it back to AVEK for distribution to Acton. This would allow AVEK to take the low-performing Acton water treatment plant off line, but would allow them to continue to service the existing Acton customers who need Granular Activated Carbon (GAC)-treated water for summer peaking.

Matt said the EIR document for this project is out for review. The key element is a 20" line along Barrel Springs road, south to the Acton Plant, plus interconnects. AVEK is paying for the line and interconnect for this agreement, which goes to 2035. An overall system reliability gain would be that, in the event of a PWD water treatment plant (WTP) failure, the Acton WTP could act as a backup.

(b) Littlerock Dam Sediment Removal

Matt also briefed this effort and noted it would remove 540,000 cubic yards of sediment in a one-time project, which will then be supported by smaller annual maintenance efforts. He said they had a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Forest Service.

He said the initial capacity of the dam was 3500 AF, but they lost 350 – 400 AF when the dam was upgraded. Due to the sediment, combined with significant rainfall, they were close to having to divert water this last winter. After sediment removal they were anticipating a capacity of 3270 AF at high water. One of the controls they were establishing was a grade control structure to protect the toads. Since the sediment is usable, they were talking to quarries about help in disposal. One of the proposed approaches was to use a slurry pipeline to a quarry, one of which is about a mile away.

(c) Recycled Water Backbone System

Allen Thompson briefed the progress on portion of the Backbone System that is being constructed in the City of Lancaster. This overall project involves laying pipe in Division St. from Lancaster Blvd. to Ave K, in Ave K from Division St. to 10th St. W., in 10th St. W. from Ave K to Lancaster City Park and in Sierra Hwy. from Ave. K to Ave. M. He said they had encountered more utilities [space conflicts] than expected in the Ave. K segment and had to renegotiate their engineering support. They expected to restart in this segment in three weeks.

Dave Rydman briefed that the portion of the Backbone that will be constructed in the City of Palmdale would progress down Sierra Hwy from Ave M to approximately Ave P and on Ave P from approximately Sierra Hwy to 30th St. E. The project is being designed to avoid the intersection of Ave. P and Sierra Hwy. This project will connect to the portion being constructed in Lancaster and provide approximately 3,400 AFY of recycled water to the planned Palmdale Power Plant, the AV Country Club and possibly to Plant 42. The projected schedule was for CEQA to be completed by Apr '12; Design Jun '12; Construction start Nov '12.

Gordon reiterated the \$1B Power Plant was expected to serve 3000 homes. Negotiation was planned with investors regarding ownership of the plant.

(d) Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrades

Lysa Aposhian briefed the Palmdale Wastewater Treatment Plant (WTP). This plant is projected to provide 15 MGD of tertiary treated water with Nitrification/De-Nitrification (NDN). It is located at 30th St E. and Ave P-8, includes two new reservoirs and will feed the treated water to 5000 acres of agricultural land. It was expected to be operational by November 26, 2011.

The Lancaster WTP upgrade would provide an increase from 16 to 18 MGD of tertiary treatment capability with 4 new reservoirs and feeds water to Piute Ponds (at EAFB) and nearby agricultural areas.

Regional Groundwater Monitoring Program

Dave Rydman briefed the Groundwater Monitoring Program, noting that the requirement for this came from Senate Bill SBX7-6, which amended California Water Code sections 10920 – 10935 to require each regional entity to monitor the groundwater level. The Antelope Valley State Water Contractors Authority (AVEK, Littlerock Irrigation District and PWD) volunteered to monitor the groundwater level though their Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) ability to administer a monitoring contract. During the 1980 – 2011 period the US Geological Survey did the monitoring in the AV. There was some question of the State accepting the adequacy of the USGS monitoring.

The lever that the State uses to encourage compliance with this requirement is that any region not doing monitoring does not get grant funding. Local funding of \$100K from the Water Contractors Authority plus \$35K from USGS was planned to cover this monitoring effort.

Salt Management Plan Status

Jessica Bunker then briefed the SMP status. She said that she and Ericka de Hollan had met on the 27th of September to discuss the comments they had received from the Lahontan Regional Board staff. She noted that the AV SMP draft will be presented to the Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board (LRWQCB) at their October meeting (scheduled for October 12 in Victorville). She said the next local SMP meeting was scheduled for October 11th in Palmdale and the discussion would include the additional items requested by Lahontan, our SMP rationale, a format (for the AV water cycle) that can be manipulated and information regarding the upper and lower aquifer identification.

Having no more business, Dave declared the meeting adjourned at about 1045 AM.

Submitted by Bob Large, Acting Secretary.