

Meeting Minutes
25th AV IRWMP Stakeholder Meeting
March 18, 2009

Participants: Brian Dietrick (LACSD), Vickie Nelson (ARTC), Wayne Argo (ARTC), Iwen Tseng (LACWWD40), Jessica Bunker (LACWWD40), David Rydman (LACWWD40), David Rizzo (AVEK/Farm Bureau), Steve Dassler (Lancaster), Robert Neal (Lancaster), Gordon Phair (Palmdale), Claudette Roberts (PWD), Tom Barnes (AVEK), Larry Tyler (LLTC), Bob Large (Lakes TC), Wendy Reed (AV Conservancy), Laura Blank (Farm Bureau), Cathie Campbell (RCSD), Chad Reed (QHWD), Nicole Parson (R&D), Anthony Langin (Calif. City), Pete Zorba (Lancaster), Tom Mele (EAFB), Brad Bones (LCID), Travis Berglund (LCID), Jan Zimmerman (Lahontan Reg. Board).

9:00 AM – Welcome/Call to Order (Rydman): Distribution of Meeting Agenda, Minutes from 1/21/09 Stakeholder Meeting, and hard copies of (1) contract with Kennedy Jenks for Region Acceptance Process (RAP) and (2) A-Team comment letter on draft RAP Guidelines.

9:05 AM - Introductions (Rydman)

9:10 AM – Use of IRWMP for 2010 Urban Water Management Plans (UWMP)

(Rydman): The idea was put forth to update the IRWMP to meet the requirements of a regional UWMP for water purveyors in the AV, particularly for the next update in 2010. Rydman to convene IRWMP subcommittee to continue discussing water supply issues. The subcommittee will take up this idea of using the IRWMP for 2010 regional UWMPs.

9:20 AM – State Budget/Prop 84 Update (Dietrick):

- (1) Grant funds – The Governor signed 32 bills on Feb. 20 to pass FY 08-09 state budget and close \$42B gap. Six ballot measures must be approved by the voters in May for the budget to be complete. Grant funding freeze is expected to begin “thaw” at end of March, depending on the credit rating of the state.
- (2) Prop 84 schedule – Draft guidelines will be posted by DWR in late April (around the same time RAP submittals are due). Comments will be accepted all summer and Final guidelines will be issued in August.
- (3) Project prioritization – Tech committee selected two projects for Prop 84 “expedited round”: (1) Comprehensive conservation and (2) Phase 2 of Backbone System. A meeting was held on 3/3/09 with the proponents of the conservation projects to discuss progress. At this point, the main concerns are finding ways to quantify the water supply benefits. More progress can be made after the Draft guidelines are issued in April.
- (4) Clean Water State Revolving Fund (SRF) (“Stimulus Bill”) – Clean Water SRF funds are likely to consist of a combination of loans and grants available for “shovel-ready” water infrastructure projects. This federal package is not directly related to Prop 84, 1e, or IRWMP; but some of the projects are likely to be the same. LA County Waterworks, Lancaster, AVEK, RCSD, and QHWD are all seeking Stimulus Bill money through the SRF program.

9:30 AM – Agreement on the Implementation of the IRWMP (Agreement) (Dietrick):

A final version of the Agreement was approved by all eleven original signatories and counsel. The County of LA intends to become a twelfth signatory. As of today, the final version has been signed by the boards of all RWMG members except LA County

Waterworks and the County of LA. The Board of Supervisors plans to sign on behalf of both of those entities by April 7. The fully-signed Agreement is needed before we sit for the "interview process" for the RAP, which will occur in June 2009.

9:40 AM – Salinity/Nutrient Management Plan update (Dietrick): Salinity/Nutrient Management Plans (SMP) are required as part of the new State Recycled Water policy, effective February 2009. SMPs will be required for approval of recycled water permits from the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RB). LA County Sanitation Districts has agreed to meet with the RB to initiate the process, and will be requesting assistance from other stakeholders in the AV (AVEK, water purveyors, municipalities, Farm Bureau).

9:50 AM – Region Acceptance Process (Dietrick): This is the first step to be eligible for state grant funds. "Regions" must receive formal approval from DWR based on appropriate hydrologic boundaries, governance structure, and stakeholder involvement.

- (1) A-Team comment letter – DWR approved one of two main recommendations. Extra time for submittal of written materials was granted, but they did not approve a "two-tier" application system. Copies available.
- (2) Final Guidelines and schedule – Final guidelines available on website. Written application materials will be due at the end of April; interviews in June; Final RAP list published in September. This 2009 RAP schedule is designed to end just before the application deadline for the "expedited round" of Prop 84 (Fall 2009).
- (3) Use of Kennedy Jenks (KJ) – Kennedy Jenks was recommended for RAP consulting work by the A-Team. The A-Team made this recommendation because of KJ's familiarity with the AV IRWMP and because there is not enough time for a bid process before written materials are due. The scope of work includes defined tasks that the A-Team will perform to save on costs (IRWMP history, Agreement, Lahontan Area meetings). The cost estimate for the RAP is approximately \$20,000, which is consistent with the estimate received by the Greater LA IRWMP (\$22,000). The AV State Water Contractor's Association (AVSWCA) currently has approximately \$55,000 in funds available for use (note: approximately \$120,000 in additional funds are still held by LA County Waterworks pending final signatures on the Agreement). Written approval to hire KJ was obtained from each of the eleven RWMG members. A contract between the AVSWCA and KJ is scheduled to be signed by the end of this week. Work on the RAP should begin next week. Copies of contract are available.
- (4) South Lahontan Area discussions – Dietrick has been meeting regularly with the other IRWMPs in South Lahontan: Tahoe, Mojave, and South Sierra. A map of the South Lahontan IRWMPs was displayed. The southern and western boundaries are well-defined because they use the hydrologic boundaries established by DWR, which require no defense. There is a small overlap with the Kern IRWMP in the Tulare Lake Funding Area that will need to be reconciled. On the east, there are overlaps with Mojave. Dietrick and Mike Limbaugh (Mojave Water Agency) have discussed using the adjudication boundaries for IRWMP Region definition. Jan Zimmerman (RB) suggested reviewing the Lahontan Basin Plan for information about hydrologic boundaries. The northern boundary contains a "gap" (not covered by any IRWMP) that needs to be explained by both the Antelope Valley Region and the South Sierra Region (see below). The area east of Mojave is owned and managed by the Federal Government (Ft. Irwin/China Lake).

(5) Fremont Valley/California City – Fremont Valley is located north of the AV and south of South Sierra. According to DWR Bulletin 118, AV and Fremont have separate groundwater basins. This is supported by information from the adjudication efforts that separate the two valleys along the Willow Springs Fault. However, according to the USGS (18090206), the two valleys share one watershed with respect to surface water. The amount of surface water contributed to the AV groundwater basin from Fremont Valley is estimated to be “negligible” by the hydro-geologists working on adjudication. The AV IRWMP group must be able to defend either (1) including Fremont Valley or (2) not including Fremont Valley. A discussion of the inter-relatedness of water issues ensued. The surface water nexus appears to be minimal, groundwater is unconnected, and the amount of water supplied by AVEK to Fremont Valley may be small. Further investigation is needed. Tony Langin (attending on behalf of Mike Bevins of California City) was invited to the Stakeholder Meeting to participate in the discussion. He reported that California City has initiated an IRWMP, but had no strong opinion on whether the two Regions should join. Dietrick will convene a meeting between the A-Team, California City, AVEK, and other interested parties to resolve the issue before the deadline in late April.

10:15 AM – Open Discussion/General Items of Interest (Stakeholder Group):

- AV Conservancy’s STREAMs Project is applying for an EPA grant and is seeking letters of support. Contact Wendy Reed for more information.
- The City of Lancaster is planning to hold the grand opening of the Division Street Corridor Recycled Water pipeline in mid-April.

10:20 AM – Adjournment