

IRWMP STAKEHOLDER MEETING

October 1, 2008

Location: Lancaster City Hall

Present: Wayne Argo, Tom Barnes, John Bodenchak, Richard Caulkins, Patrice Copeland, Brian Dietrick, Gretchen Gutierrez, Dale Johnson, Linda Jones, Frank Kuo, Bob Large, Todd Leman, Yvonne Malikowski, Josh Mann, Thomas Mele, Robert Neal, Grazyna Newton, Jose Ojeda, Jon Pernula, Dr. Powell, Wendy Reed, Chad Reed, David Rizzo, Claud Seal, Alisha Semchuck, Larry Tylene, John Ukkestad, Andrew Werner, Nicole West, Tom West, Randy Williams, Peter Zorba,

Update on IRWMP Project Status

Sanitation Districts No. 14 & 20 – Treatment Plant Upgrades – *Richard Caulkins*

The District 14 (Lancaster) treatment plant project is 85% complete in the construction of the concrete basins. All reinforcing steel is in place. Expect galleries for piping and controls to be completed by end of month. Reservoirs between Sierra Highway and Freeway will be completed in January – will not be able to put in water until completed.

At the District 20 (Palmdale) plant, the tortoise fence is up for reservoirs on east side of Palmdale, 115th-120th Street East - can begin grading there. Construction access road should be done by end of this week. Pipeline connection is completed and will start testing pipeline on Monday - will take 2 ½ weeks. Completion date for Palmdale Plant is July 2011.

Water Conservation Coalition & Efforts Across Region – *Nicole West*

Coalition made significant strides to curb excessive water use since Governor Schwarzenegger declared a statewide drought in June. Three examples of water conservation successes are:

- LA County Waterworks saw 13% decrease in total water use during the first eight months of 2008 compared to same period last year. Waterworks started a new customer rebate program this summer and has received approximately 80 applications. They also received a \$250,000 grant from the State to expand their program. Melinda Barrett and Claudette Roberts from Palmdale Water District have given tips on the radio on how to save water.
- Palmdale City Council recently passed a new landscape standards ordinance. No turf will be allowed in front yards of new construction - applies to only 2,500 sq ft of landscaped area. Palmdale received grant funding from State through the Urban Drought program for disadvantaged communities for a number of projects that will help cut water use in Palmdale.
- The City of Lancaster passed an urgency water wasting ordinance July 22 and is putting together a comprehensive publicity campaign to encourage residents to save water including the posting of water saving tips on the large electronic billboard by the Lancaster Auto Mall. Lancaster has setup a water wasting report hotline and a new URL, lancasterwater.org, which points to details on the ordinance. Lancaster's landscape ordinance will go before Council on October 14 and will limit turf to 30% of overall landscaping area and applies to only new construction and set minimum exemption at 1,000 sq ft of landscaped area. Will call for Water Coalition meeting in next few weeks.

City of Lancaster Recycled Water Banking Project – *Peter Zorba and Randy Williams*

The City of Lancaster currently has an in-house engineering design team with consultant support exploring conceptual basin configurations, designs, and orientations at Avenue F/60th West. Environmental consultant is looking at process for that area – have not started EIR yet. Met with pilot project stakeholders individually in July. Stakeholders identified public outreach as number one concern - will be stepping up outreach for project. If we get permits on annual basis, will only bank 500 acre feet, 300 acre feet from State Water project, 100 acre feet from recycled water, and 100 acre feet from storm water. This project has potential to be expanded and is a regional project - want to reach out to public agencies and stakeholders to step up. Demonstration project will cost \$7 million over period of four years. Construction would cost \$3 ½ to \$4 million and \$1 ½ to \$2 million for operating expenses, data, and monitoring. May be able to recharge 20,000 acre feet of recycled water per year. Need to prepare Boards and Councils to step up and participate financially in next step. In process of preparing proposed MOU's. As Lancaster continues to finalize MOU's, they would be more than willing to come and present the program, its progress, and its benefit to the region before the potential stakeholder Boards and Councils.

City of Palmdale Grants Requested/Awarded – *Gordon Phair*

Received Prop 50 funds from State. Received \$200,000 for demonstration garden on northwest corner of Sierra Highway/Palmdale Blvd and for a weather station. Will put in information kiosk. Will purchase 130 ET based controllers. Will be removing and replacing urinals at Cultural Center and other outlying buildings with waterless urinals – will save 2.2 acre feet per year. Received \$250,000 for replacing living turf with artificial turf – will save 5 acre feet per year. Received approximately \$250,000 to install 250 ET controllers for high water users - will save 3.3 acre feet per year. Have upper Amargosa recharge project that will store 20,000 acre feet. EIR expected to be completed in March 2009.

AVEK's Proposed Banking Efforts – *Tom Barnes*

Project on west side is a regional area for getting water supplies - have water supply stabilization program. WSSP1 is on hold - Calandri property, 1,500 acres between 60th-110th West, Avenue A to Rosamond Blvd. Alternative WSSP2 is 1,500 acres of Godde property, Avenue A-C. Board is reviewing Negative Declaration. Have banking issue with water. Put in request to Department of Water Resources for 20,000 acre feet - will not get that amount. If purchased, will only get 50% of water from Delta. Have received 6,000 acre feet of orders - have huge deficit to make up. Have losses through delta and also regulatory losses.

LA County Waterworks Recycled Water EIR Update – *Dave Rydman*

Had workshop on September 11. This was well attended. Had lots of questions from community. EIR – have two days left to make comments. Have good amount of support and public has good idea on what is going on. Official Public Hearing occurred on September 18. Comments are due on October 3. If you have extenuating circumstances for not turning in your comments by the deadline, need to let Dave know. EIR is available on website.

Update on Funding Propositions 50 & 84 – *Brian Dietrick*

Original proposal of water bill was \$1 billion. Have governor's bill for water bond for \$1 million. There is Senate bill SB X21 to provide \$100 million to address water issues. State is looking at water bond for \$10 billion - bond may be presented at a special election in March. Part should be devoted to IRWMPs. In good shape to apply for funding because of our application for Prop 50 funding. There were some additional requirements under Prop 84 such

as greenhouse gases and IRWMPs' governance structure. They are meeting with other IRWMPs within our region to make sure we don't cross boundaries.

Update on MOU Status

Timeline Status Since January 1 – *Randy Williams*

In May or June 2004, Waterworks approached water agencies to come together to develop IRWMP. Everyone agreed this was necessary. IRWMP group was formed and started meeting once a month. Entire gamut of water equation in the Antelope Valley was addressed. Worked with Kennedy Jenks and also Dr. Ken Kirby. In January 2007, there were 11 signatories affixed to an MOU for what was called the Regional Water Management Group (RWMG). These eleven public agencies agreed to contribute certain amount of money to address issues and to specifically prepare the Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWMP). Each contributed money towards plan. BIA chose not to sign MOU but did contribute. MOU was signed in January 2007. In September or October 2007, when coming to final stages of completing document, a decision was made to identify an amended structure for the RWMG MOU and it was agreed that a more efficient method of making implementation progress for the IRWMP would be to select a small team of representatives of seven interest groups: Water Districts, Municipalities, Private Commerce/Industry, Agriculture, Mutual Water Companies, Rural Non-urbanized areas, and the Environmental Interests. If the RWMG wished to extend its work to implement the IRWMP, some kind of interim "governance structure" would be needed to continue to work cooperatively together. In October of last year, it was decided by this group that Ken Kirby would draft an amendment to the MOU which would incorporate the collective objectives for the RWMG, the larger body of community/regional stakeholders, and for the small team of representatives. The document was first distributed in January 2008 and has been back and forth for several rounds of review comments. The broad consensus of the stakeholders that coming together as group of 50-60 people was not efficient and that appointing a smaller group which was to be called the leadership team has recently come under disagreement by one of the members to the RWMG and has stymied the adoption of an amended MOU. We need to resolve the issues under contention because without the RWMG or some similar assembly of public agency stakeholders our IRWMP may be considered invalid by the State and that would remove us from being able to compete for grant funds for water supply projects. The leadership team has asked that Palmdale share with all of the community/regional stakeholders their concerns.

Presentation by City of Palmdale – *Mike Mischel*

Palmdale presented a revised MOU a couple of weeks ago. Had conference call with attorneys about draft of revised MOU and sent to every signatory attorney. Have not heard back from any of the agencies or their attorneys - suggest that you get in contact with your attorney to see where their comments are. Revised MOU will be sent to signatories.

Comments of Brian Dietrick and Gretchen Gutierrez – Two main changes to MOU are leadership team is gone and no entity named as contracting agency. Money would come from State to that agency then would be distributed to various projects – this is problematic and should be put back into the MOU or amendment that is finally adopted. We are working off of old MOU. Leadership Team is not funded. Everyone that participates on that team has to provide resources from their own agency.

Three weeks from today, October 22, all comments should be posted on the Yahoo site at avirwm@yahoo.com. If you do not have any comments, you need to post that you do not have any. Request was made to have summary available of comments on Yahoo site.

Presentation of General Interest Items

Wendy Reed

Antelope Valley Conservancy preserves natural land. Have watershed assessment plan project. This was one of the top three projects for grant funding. Initially chose a team at UC Santa Barbara to conduct the study but changed direction with their objectives, as they were found to be different from that of the grant to the Conservancy. Watershed TAIC will be contacting you in same manner as Bren School. In initial tour in AV, there was issue with watershed - thought about Piute Ponds area – landing field at Edwards is a primary economic force in the Antelope Valley that relies on runoff. As we trap runoff, sediments are held back. The effluent from the Sanitation Districts plant does not have same particulate characteristics as natural runoff, if dry lake does not get it, clay sediment will cause cracking on landing surface.

Issue with Army Corps of Engineers about watershed resources was resolved.

Josh Mann

On October 28 at the AV Board of Trade meeting, Ron Davis, State Legislative Director of ACWA, will be speaking about responding to the California Water Crisis. This meeting is being held at the Hellenic Center.