

MEETING NOTES

PROJECT: Antelope Valley IRWM Stakeholder Meeting

MEETING DATE: 12/19/2018

LOCATION: City of Palmdale – Development Services
Conference Room
38250 Sierra Hwy, Palmdale CA 93550

ISSUED DATE: 12/21/2018

ATTENDEES: Kirk Allen, Evelyn Ballesteros, Erika Bensch, Monisha Brown, Richard L. Campbell, James Chaisson, Brian Dietrick, Vanessa De Anda, Keith Dyas, Greg Even, Chuck Heffernan, Jeff Hogan, Sam Kabar, Bruce Katz, Matt Knudson, Bob Large, Adam Ly, Yvonne Malikowski, Gene Nebeker, Gabe Nevarez, James Riley, Sara Samaan, Mike Shahbakhti, Ryan Smith, Tiffany Steinert, Heather Swan, Mary Wood

Stakeholder Meeting Notes

A. Welcome and Introductions

- The Antelope Valley Integrated Regional Management (AV IRWM) Stakeholder Meeting was opened and led by Mr. Kirk Allen from the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works, Waterworks Division. Mr. Allen announced that he will no longer lead the AV IRWM Stakeholder meetings because he is moving to the County's Measure W Group, though he may still be involved as needed. Future notifications and meetings will be led by new members from the LA County Waterworks Division (Sam Kabar, Evelyn Ballasteros, and Sara Samaan).

B. 2007 MOU Amendments

- MOU status is as follows:
 - AVEK – approved, signed, and executed
 - AV State Water Contractors Association – approved, signed, and executed
 - City of Lancaster – approved by the Council, will be signed in December 2018
 - City of Palmdale – approved, copy already sent to LA County DPW
 - County Sanitation District (Districts 14 and 20) – scheduled for Board approval, will be executed in first quarter of 2019
 - LA County Waterworks District No. 40 – approved, signed, and executed
 - Littlerock Creek Irrigation District – no update
 - Palmdale Water District – approved, copy already sent to LA County DPW
 - Quartz Hill Water District – approved in December (status updated via email)
 - Rosamond CSD – approved, will be executed first board meeting in January 2019
- The MOU will not be executed until the first quarter of 2019. In the meantime, the A-Team will meet on January 16th, 2019 to discuss funding of consultant services for the full IRWM Plan update and development of the Prop. 1 grant proposal.

C. Fremont Basin IRWM Region Boundary Modification

- The Fremont Basin IRWM Region requested to modify its Region boundary to encompass the entirety of the Fremont Valley Groundwater Basin. The Fremont Basin RWMG sent a formal request to the AV RWMG asking the Region to consider 1) revising its boundaries to avoid an overlap between the Regions, or 2) allowing an

overlap between boundaries. The AV IRWM Stakeholder Group agreed to allow for a Region overlap at the Stakeholder Workshop held on 10/17/2018. A formal letter has been sent to DWR to revise the Fremont Basin IRWM Region boundaries. Approval is expected in early 2019.

D. Basic Antelope Valley IRWM Plan Update

- Woodard & Curran finalized the basic update of AV IRWM Plan to be compliant with 2016 IRWM Plan Standards. The full AV IRWM Plan update is pending. Additional updates will include information regarding the Basin adjudication and Watermaster, updated IRWM Plan objectives and targets, updated water supply and demand projections, and project solicitation for grants.

E. Prop. 1 Implementation Grant PSP – Funding and Guidelines

- The Draft PSP for Proposition 1 Implementation Grant Round 1 was released in early October. The Lahontan Funding Area has approximately \$18.8 million remaining for Implementation Round 1 and 2. The Funding Area can decide how to split the funding between the two rounds.
 - The Lahontan Funding Area has not reached consensus on the Round 1/Round 2 funding split and requested input from the AV IRWM Region. The AV IRWM Stakeholder Group recommends that a larger proportion of the funding be made available in Round 1.
- The proposals must meet the following requirements to be eligible for funding:
 - The Region’s proposal must include at least one project that directly responds to climate change by mitigating the potential impacts as well as one or more projects that help improve regional water self-reliance.
 - Each project must address the “most” critical needs of IRWM region, must be consistent with Statewide Priorities, must have an expected useful life of 15 years, and have **CEQA/permits completed within 6 months of funding award or prior to agreement execution**, whichever occurs first.

F. Prop. 1 Implementation Grant PSP – Schedule and Projects



- DWR has requested a 1-day workshop with each Funding Area to provide a platform for interregional coordination and increase the potential for successfully completed projects. The workshop is mandatory and will be led by the IRWM Region representatives. The workshop will include representatives from every IRWM RWMG, applying entities, local project sponsors, DAC, EDAs, and Tribes. DWR will review potential projects and provide feedback. The following must be completed prior to the workshop:

- Workshop Date: The Lahontan Funding Area requested a pre-application workshop with DWR in May 2019.
 - Project Updates: Project sponsors must update and/or submit new projects either online or to Kirk by January 2019.
 - Project Prioritization: The Region must select projects for the grant proposal. A Stakeholder Meeting for project selection is tentatively scheduled for January 23, 2019.
 - IRWM Region Coordination: The Funding Area has periodic calls to prepare for Prop. 1 funding and discuss logistics. The calls are informal and do not have a governing body. The AV IRWM Region has not participated in these calls thus far; but Brian Dietrick has been coordinating with Holly Alpert (Inyo-Mono IRWMP Program Director), who is leading the communication efforts between IRWM Regions in the Lahontan Funding Area.
- Woodard & Curran did a *preliminary* assessment of the existing Implementation Projects to identify projects eligible for Prop. 1 funding (Table 1). Table 1 reflects comments received at the Stakeholder Workshop; these updates have also been incorporated into the AV IRWM project database. Eligibility for grant funding can be improved with updated project information.

Table 1: AV IRWM Project List – Implementation Projects (working draft for discussion)

Sponsor	Project Name	Prop. 1 Eligibility
Palmdale Water District	Palmdale Regional Groundwater Recharge Project	High
Palmdale Water District	Littlerock Dam Sediment Removal - Phase 1 and Phase 2	High
Rosamond CSD	Wastewater Treatment Plant Rehabilitation & Groundwater Protection	High
Willow Springs Water Bank	Antelope Valley Water Bank	High
AVEK	SNIP Phase 2	Medium
AVEK	South Antelope Valley Intertie Project	Medium
AV Resource Conservation District	Antelope Valley Regional Conservation Project	Medium
City of Lancaster	Whit Carter Park Recycled Water Conversion	Medium
City of Palmdale	Phase 2 of PRWA Pipeline	Medium
Palmdale Recycled Water Authority	Palmdale Recycled Water Authority – Phase 2 Distribution System	Medium
Rosamond CSD	Fremont Valley Basin Potable Groundwater Well Treatment Project	Medium Conceptual
City of Palmdale	Recycled Water Pipeline at Power Plant Project	Medium Low
City of Palmdale	Upper Amargosa Creek Recharge and Channelization Project	No – Need SWRP
AVEK	Water Supply Stabilization Project (WSSP) – Westside Expansion	No - Not Shovel Ready
City of Lancaster	Lancaster National Soccer Center Recycled Water Conversion	No - Not Shovel Ready
City of Lancaster	Pierre Bain Park Recycled Water Conversion	No - Not Shovel Ready
City of Lancaster	Division Street and Avenue H-8 Recycled Water Tank	No - Not Shovel Ready
Rosamond CSD	RCSD Arsenic Consolidation Project	No – Not Shovel Ready

- Projects already under construction can apply for additional funding if there is a Phase 2 with distinct project benefits.

G. Public Comments

- Mr. Gene Nebeker is seeking support to petition the Watermaster to file a motion with the Court to remove the 17-year pumping restriction and reevaluate the AV Groundwater Basin’s native yield. Mr. Nebeker is currently working with an international group to use Landsat imagery to measure groundwater volume and availability. Due to these restrictions, Mr. Nebeker argues that 100,000 AF/year are not being used, thereby wasting approximately \$1B of value. Problems with the water restrictions include: decreased property value, increased fugitive dust that cause respiratory problems (PM_{2.5} and PM₁₀) and traffic accidents, and valley fever. He requests that a groundwater study be added to the AV IRWM Plan Project list.
 - Mr. Ryan Smith responded that even if the native yield of the Basin is incorrect, the 17-year restriction cannot be legally changed as it would require all agencies to revisit the adjudication. It is unlikely that all agencies would sign a new groundwater pumping restriction. The 17-year pumping restriction was placed to allow for 2 years of groundwater production, 5 years of pumping ramp-down, and 10 years of implementing the allocated water rights. The Basin is entering year 10 of the 17-year restriction, and the Basin’s native yield will be revisited in 7 years.

H. Action Items

Next A-Team meeting: January 16th, 2019 at 10 a.m. at AVEK

Next Stakeholder Workshop: January 23rd, 2019 at 2 p.m. at the AVEK Headquarters

Next AVSWCA Meeting: January 24th, 2019

Group	Task	Due Date
MOU Signatories	Send signed MOU or Letter of Intent to Kirk Allen	January 16, 2019
AVSWCA	Determine funding for IRWM Plan Update and Prop. 1 Proposal	Meeting scheduled for January 16, 2019
Project Sponsors	Submit and/or update projects either online or email	January 23, 2019
AV IRWM Region	Coordinate with the Lahontan Funding Area to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finalize the pre-application workshop date with DWR • Determine funding available for each Region • Determine Round 1/Round 2 funding split 	As soon as possible
Stakeholders	Enroll in or update E-Notify to receive meeting notifications and announcements	As soon as possible