

# MEETING NOTES

PROJECT: Antelope Valley IRWM Stakeholder call

MEETING DATE: 6/11/2025

LOCATION: MS Teams Conference Call

ISSUED DATE: 6/12/2025

ATTENDEES:

**AVEK:** Matt Knudsen, Kyle Wright

**City of Lancaster:** Nicholas Godin, Bruce Katz

**City of Palmdale:** Timothy Carney, Mike Shahbakhti, Leo Torres, Joyce Workman, Jonathan Wu

**LA County Public Works:** Daria Antonova, Rongchao Bi, Richard Gomez, Josephine Gutierrez, Keith Hala, Aracely Jaramillo, Julian Juarez, Sara Samaan

**Palmdale Water District:** Shadi Bader, Mariksa Marin

**Woodard & Curran:** Sally Johnson, Leah Makler, Josh Uecker, Arthella Vallarta

**Other:** Charles Bostwick (LA County Board of Supervisors), James Chaisson (Littlerock Creek Irrigation District), Ronald Hawkins (AV Air Quality Management District), Holly Jones (Los Angeles County Sanitary District), Yvonne Malikowski (Lake Los Angeles), Brach Smith (Quartz Hill Water District), Mary Wood (Antelope Valley United Water Purveyors)

## Stakeholder Meeting Notes

### Welcome and Introductions

- Josh Uecker (Woodard & Curran) introduced the meeting and asked for a roll call.

### Ongoing Regional Funding

- Josh explained that future IRWM funding is not anticipated in the near future. He provided an update on Proposition 4 funding.
- Josh gave an update on the Stormwater Resources Plan, explaining that the project needs a lead agency in order to move forward. There is likely funding available through Prop 4. LA County is not able to take a lead on the SWRP, so Lancaster and Palmdale should probably lead the Task Force. The smaller agencies are also interested in providing input.
  - Mike Shabakhti (City of Palmdale) asked about project lists and project identification. Josh explained that project identification is one of the biggest parts of drafting SWRPs, based on the State Water Board requirements.
  - Josh requested that the Cities discuss one-on-one with Woodard & Curran to make a game plan. He explained that funding is available in the long-term, but a plan needs to be finalized to access it. It takes about a year to develop and finalize an SWRP.

- Mike asked if LA County will be supporting the effort or if they are completely out. LA County responded that they would like to be involved, but cannot take a leadership role, as the SWRP is no longer part of the AV Water Plan. Julian from the Flood Control division can help develop the plan as a partner when the planning process begins
- *Action item:* Josh will follow up with the 3 agencies who have projects and the other agencies that have expressed interests in SWRP development.

## **Project Updates**

- **P1R1**

- Matthew Knudsen (AVEK) gave a brief update on the SNIP Phase II Project. He explained that the project is getting closer to going out for bid. AVEK is working with other agencies for additional funding. Josh noted that he is working with DWR to get a funding extension.

- **Urban Drought Relief**

- Mariksa Marin (PWD) described progress on the Conservation and Education Garden.

- **P1R2**

- AVRCD will use Round 2 funding after Round 1 project funding is exhausted.

## **AV WATER PLAN UPDATE**

- Keith Hala (LA County) discussed the County Water Plan summit which will be held at the LA County Public Works headquarters in Alhambra. He described the panelists and discussion sessions, highlighting a focus on small water systems.
- Sally Johnson (Woodard & Curran) presented updates on the AV Water Plan process. She summarized the overlaps between AV IRWM, LA County Water Plan, and the AV Water Plan.
  - The AV Water Plan is focused on the portion of AV within LA County and will provide regional planning support and collaboration for areas not covered by the previous two plans. It is a complementary document to the LA County Water Plan.
- Sally updated the group on the development of Focal Areas. Focal Areas are the key priorities of the Plan, tailored to the needs of the region. She summarized the 4 main Focal Areas: Strengthening County Coordination, Economic Growth, Small Water Systems, Groundwater Basin Water Quality.
  - Josephine Gutierrez (LA County) asked where private well users would be considered in the planning process. Sally explained that they would be considered under SWS and Groundwater Basin WQ. She asked about how these people will be reached. Sally described that the group is shifting strategies and will piggy-back on existing regional groups, and develop workshops for specific topics. Planning is underway for an upcoming workshop.

- Keith acknowledged the underrepresentation of those on private domestic wells, and asked if there are any known groups to reach out to. Josephine answered that the Association of Rural Town Councils is a good place to start. Ronald Hawkins suggested that the County integrate messaging with the Watermaster Advisory Committee. He mentioned that the committee has an open seat for a small pumper representative.
- Yvonne Malikowski shared that the next Rural Town Council meeting is on June 25 at 7 pm. She asked that Charles Bostwick share the contact information and event details for the group.
- Sally asked the group if any of the Focal Areas should be discussed at the next quarterly meeting. Charles emphasized the need to represent small water systems and private well users. Ronald agreed that small pumpers often get overlooked. Ronald would also like to participate in further discussion on groundwater quality. He noted that the “goal posts” for groundwater quality keep moving. He thinks the community needs to have a better understanding of the regulations and risks.
- Sally wrapped up her presentation and noted that anyone in the group can reach out to [AVWaterPlan@dpw.lacounty.gov](mailto:AVWaterPlan@dpw.lacounty.gov) to ask any follow-up questions.

#### **Public Comments**

- None.

#### **Future Agenda Items/Announcements**

- None.

**Next meeting: Wednesday, September 10, 2025**