

MEETING NOTES

PROJECT: Antelope Valley IRWM Stakeholder call

MEETING DATE: 3/12/2025

LOCATION: MS Teams Conference Call

ISSUED DATE: 6/6/2025

ATTENDEES:

AVEK: Matt Knudsen, Peter Thompson

City of Lancaster: Bruce Katz, Benjamin Stewart

City of Palmdale: Hamed Hashemian, Mike Shahbakhti, Leo Torres, Jonathan Wu

LA County Public Works: Daria Antonova, Olga Cruz, Richard Gomez, Julian Juarez, Sara Samaan, Aracely Jaramillo, Josephine Gutierrez, Lee Alexanderson, Keith Hala, Matthew Frary

AVRCD: Kathleen Burr, Derek Winkel

Woodard & Curran: Leah Makler, Josh Uecker, Brian Dietrick, Brenda Ponton

Other: John Houghton (Rosamond Community Services District), Holly Jones (Los Angeles County Sanitary District), Yvonne Malikowski (Lake Los Angeles), Scott Rogers (Palmdale Water District), Alyn Sun

Stakeholder Meeting Notes

Welcome and Introductions

- Josh introduced everyone and started the meeting.
- There were many LA Public Works employees in attendance for discussion on the AV Water Plan and Stormwater Resources Plan.

Ongoing Regional Funding

- Funding through Prop 1 is ongoing and being administered quarterly.
- Josh gave an update on Proposition 4 and the Governor's proposal for funding disbursement, which will be finalized in July.
 - Some funding may be available late this year.
 - IRWM specific funding may not be available until next year.
 - Buckets of funding will likely be available for water quality, reuse, and storage.
 - More IRWM funding will likely be available in future years (urban stormwater).
- Mike Shahbakhti from the City of Palmdale asked about funding that was received and returned for a recycled water project. He wanted to know if they can reapply for different funding for the same project.

Project Updates

- **P1R1**

- RCSD confirmed that their P1R1 project is complete and going to their Board for approval.
- AVEK SNIP design will be completed by June. AVEK will then seek approval from the Board to start construction.
- AVRCD reported that their demonstration garden project is in progress, and they have given some rebates for lawn removal. They will submit reporting and invoicing for Q1 and Q4 after Q1
- PWD's Littlerock Dam project is complete.

- **Urban Drought Relief**

- PWD's demonstration garden is also in progress.

- **P1R2**

- PWD's E. Ave Q Recycled Water project is almost complete. The pipeline is in the ground, and they are working on repaving the roads and finalizing the extension pipelines to SOAR and the advanced water purification facility.

AV IRWM Memorandum of Understanding Status

- Peter from AVEK reported that the MOU is almost approved. He is waiting on one more Board approval.
- Mike asked Peter if there will be a need to re-draft the MOU in 2026. Peter affirmed that if the IRWM group continues, a new MOU will need to be drafted and approved.

Storm Water Resource Plan Status

- Josh gave a summary of the current plan status, describing funding eligibility, identification of actual projects in addition to project needs. He clarified that an SWRP is required for certain funding opportunities at the state level.
- The SWRP "Task Force" will be lead by LA Public Works. There are still some concerns around cost-sharing within the IRWM group. The larger agencies are interested in being involved and sharing costs, while some of the smaller agencies are apprehensive.
- Josh suggested that a separate SWRP group could be formed. LA Public Works would prefer if they were the same group.
- Brian from Woodard & Curran explained that the local benefits of the SWRP make it hard for some agencies to justify participation and providing funds, though collaboration with the full IRWM group may be important for certain state requirements.
- The group agreed to set up a meeting with interested parties following individualized discussions with all agencies.

AV Water Plan (presented by LACPW)

- Matt Frary from Public Works presented on the AV Water Plan. The AV Water Plan is an extension of the LA County Water Plan. Their goal is to obtain local input from regional leaders and agencies.
- The AV Water Plan aims to address management gaps and enhance sustainable water management in the region, focusing on fine-scale solutions.
- Matt asked the IRWM team to participate in working groups to obtain feedback and interests from the different agencies.

Public Comments/Future Agenda Items/Announcements

- The AV Water Plan slides will be included with the Woodard & Curran meeting slides.
- Josh said that more details on Proposition 4 grant solicitation should be available at the next meeting.

Next meeting: Wednesday, June 11, 2025