“ATTACHMENT TAB”

ATTACHMENT 3

PROJECT JUSTIFICATION
1.0 PROJECT SUMMARY

The Indian Wells Valley groundwater basin is identified by DWR as a critically overdrafted basin of Medium Priority, and as such, the GSA is required to develop a Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) by January 31, 2020, in compliance with SGMA. The extents of the Indian Wells Valley groundwater basin, along with Disadvantaged Communities (DACs), Severely Disadvantaged Communities (SDACs), and Economically Distressed Areas (EDAs) within the GSA boundaries are provided in the figures submitted under Q10 of the “Questions” tab of this application (Figure A, B, C, and D). The Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority (IWVGA), the established local Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA), is submitting this proposal. Funding of this proposal would provide for the development of the GSP for the entire Indian Wells Valley groundwater basin, along with the associated and necessary tasks required to develop the GSP. Individual tasks associated with the planning and developments activities required for completing the GSP are summarized below.

Groundwater Model: Construction of a hydrogeologic conceptual model and numerical groundwater model to provide tools to estimate the groundwater aquifer’s hydrologic water budget, assess groundwater level and quality trends, and evaluate different strategies to provide long-term sustainable groundwater management for the Indian Wells Valley groundwater basin.

Salt and Nutrient Management Plan: Development of a Salt and Nutrient Management Plan to facilitate basin-wide management in a manner that optimizes recycled water use while protecting and sustaining groundwater supplies and beneficial uses.

Data Management System: Establishment of a comprehensive geo-referenced database that stores and reports physical and environmental datasets to allows basin managers to assure measurable objectives and sustainability goals are met.

Identify and Evaluate Data Gaps: Identification and prioritization of basin-wide data gaps in the current monitoring network to help refine the monitoring network, validate the hydrogeologic conceptual model and update the numerical groundwater model.

Monitoring Wells: Installation of four new monitoring wells to fill in lithologic, groundwater level, and groundwater quality data gaps to help reduce uncertainty in model simulations.

Stream Gages: Installation of two new stream gages will be to fill hydrologic data gaps to help reduce uncertainty in model simulations.

Weather Stations: Installation of two new weather stations will be to fill in meteorological data gaps to help reduce uncertainty in model simulations.

Water Quality and Stable Isotope Sampling: Sampling and analysis of surface water and groundwater to fill in water quality and hydrogeologic data gaps to help reduce uncertainty in model simulations.

Aquifer Tests: Performance of aquifer performance tests to fill in hydrogeologic data gaps to help reduce uncertainty in model simulations.

Imported Water Study: Evaluation of water supply data, potential imported water sources, water banking opportunities, and infrastructure requirements to increase water supply reliability.

Recycled Water Study: Identification of existing recycled water supply and demand as wells as location of potential new recycled water users and required infrastructure.

GSP Preparation: Preparation of a basin-wide GSP, in accordance with SGMA regulations, that incorporates the findings of the above-mentioned studies and activities in order to develop long-term sustainable groundwater management strategies with the goal improving groundwater reliability.
2.0 TECHNICAL NEED

The Indian Wells Valley groundwater basin resources are currently not sustainably managed. Overdraft conditions have existed since the 1960s as a result of groundwater pumping exceeding the natural basin yield. DWR identified the Indian Wells Valley groundwater basin as in critical overdraft after conducting a review of available data and reports. Over 30 groundwater level hydrographs and over 20 technical reports were evaluated for chronic decline in groundwater levels, chronic reduction in storage, and water quality degradation. DWR also consulted with local agencies to obtain additional data. The results demonstrated evidence of chronic decline of groundwater levels prior to the base period (defined as 1989-2009), during the base period, and after the base period.

Currently, water producers in the basin have been able to mine the basin to meet water demands; however, this practice is resulting in a chronic decline in groundwater levels and reduction of groundwater in storage and if left unmanaged, will seriously impact groundwater producers’ ability to supply potable water. DACs, SDACs, and EDAs overlying the Indian Wells Valley groundwater basin are particularly susceptible to adverse effects resulting from chronic lowering of groundwater levels because of the large number of shallow domestic wells in the basin; accordingly, mitigating the chronic lowering of groundwater levels through the GSP is an urgent technical need.

Indian Wells Valley groundwater basin is identified by DWR as a critically overdrafted basin of Medium Priority, and as such, the GSA is required to develop a Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) by January 31, 2020, in compliance with SGMA. Funding of this proposal would provide for the development of the Indian Wells Valley groundwater basin GSP, including funding the technical studies and necessary and associated tasks required to support the development of the GSP and future management of the basin, within the guidelines of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act. The purpose of the Indian Wells Valley groundwater basin GSP is to develop a SGMA compliant GSP that provides sustainable management strategies that culminate in the absence of undesirable and unsustainable groundwater conditions, including chronic decline in groundwater levels, within 20 years of GSP implementation in order to provide long-term sustainable groundwater management. Development of the GSP will improve water supply and quality reliability Indian Wells Valley through implementation of measurable sustainability objectives and milestones intended to achieve sustainability. The GSP will characterize the Indian Wells Valley groundwater basin in order to develop sustainability objectives; create a robust monitoring network and platform for tracking sustainability objectives; and study and analyze potential management strategies that could be used to achieve long-term water sustainability in the basin. Accordingly, funding of this proposal would provide for the development of the following GSP tasks: Groundwater Model Development; Salt and Nutrient Management Plan Development; Data Management System Development; Identification and Evaluation of Data Gaps; Monitoring Wells Installation; Stream Gages Installation; Weather Stations Installation; Water Quality and Stable Isotope Sampling; Aquifer Tests; Imported Water Study; Recycled Water Study; and GSP Preparation.
3.0 PROJECT SUPPORT

Pursuant to DWR’s “Groundwater Sustainability Plans and Projects Proposal Solicitation Package”, dated September 2017, the following information is provided below regarding funding for the proposer Category 2 Project (GSP development):

- “If one GSA is established in the basin, describe and provide documentation of any communication with GSA(s) in neighboring basins regarding groundwater sustainability planning and GSP development.”
- “Describe and provide documentation of any communication with beneficial users of groundwater in the basin that may potentially be affected by implementation of the project, including, but not limited to DACs, SDACs, agricultural water users, municipal water users, wildlife refuges, or other stakeholders.”

GSA Coordination

The IWVGA is the sole GSA for the Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Basin. The GSA formation document provided by the IWVGA to DWR is provided in Attachment 2 (“Eligibility Documentation”). GSA formation is a requirement for “high” and “medium” priority basins under the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (the Indian Wells Valley groundwater basin is a medium priority basin).

The groundwater basins in the vicinity of the Indian Wells valley groundwater basin are shown in the figure below. The groundwater basins adjacent to the Indian Wells valley groundwater basin include the Rose Valley groundwater basin (6-056), the Coso Valley groundwater basin (6-055), the Salt Wells Valley groundwater basin (6-053), and the Fremont Valley groundwater basin (6-054). These adjacent basins have been designated as either “low” or “very low” priority basins and do not require GSA formation. As a result, the IWVGA has not coordinated with GSAs in adjacent groundwater basins.
Location of Groundwater Basins in the Vicinity of the Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Basin

(Source: http://sgma.water.ca.gov/webgis/index.jsp?appid=gasmaster&rz=true)

Communication with Beneficial Users of Groundwater

During the formation of the IWVGA, a comprehensive listing of interested parties (including name, email, and phone number) was developed. The listing includes local community residents (including Disadvantaged Communities, Severely Disadvantaged Communities, and Economically Distressed Areas), businesses, large and small-scale agriculture, academic institutions, relevant state and local agencies, federal agencies, non-profit organizations, and community organizations. This listing of over 150 stakeholders includes representatives from all types of water users within the Indian Wells Valley groundwater basin and was used during the 17-month long GSA formation process for notification of
public meetings, notifications, and updates related to discussions on the SGMA. This stakeholders listing will continue to be used during the development of the GSP.

The IWVGA conducts regular Board meetings (on a monthly basis) to support the development of the GSP for the Indian Wells Valley groundwater basin (i.e. proposed Project), present information concerning the GSP, and to receive input from the public attending the meetings. The IWVGA has created a Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) which meets on a monthly basis and will assist in the development of the GSP. In addition, the IWVGA Board has created a Policy Advisory Committee (PAC) which meets on a monthly basis and provides representation to all types of water users in the Indian Wells Valley groundwater basin on policy matters of the Board associated with SGMA (including the GSP). According to Article 5.7 of the “Bylaws of the Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority” (Bylaws), dated May 18, 2017, the voting members of the PAC include water users from the following:

- 2 representatives from Large Agriculture
- 1 representative from Small Agriculture
- 2 representatives from Business Interests
- 2 representatives from Domestic Well Owners
- 2 representatives from residential customers of a public agency water supplier
- 1 representative from Eastern Kern County Resource Conservation District
- 1 representative from Wholesaler and Industrial User

In addition, the Bylaws require at least one of the appointed voting PAC members shall also represent Disadvantaged Communities. A copy of the Bylaws is provided as Attachment 3-1. During an IWVGA Board meeting on July 20, 2017, the Board approved Resolution 08-17 to add the Inyokern Community Services District as a voting member to the PAC as a DAC representative. A copy of the Resolution is provided in Attachment 7 (“Disadvantaged Community”). The Inyokern Community Services District provides water service to the census designated place of Inyokern, which is comprised of DACs. In addition, during a PAC meeting on September 13, 2017, the PAC resolved to request the IWVGA Board to add the community of Trona as second DAC representative voting member to the PAC. A copy of the PAC meeting minutes from September 13, 2017 is also provided in Attachment 7.
The Board, TAC, and PAC meetings are open to members of the public, including representatives of all types of water users. All IWVGA meeting materials (including agendas, minutes, resolutions, ordinances, presentations, and packages) are available to the public at the following IWVGA website:

Letters of support for the proposed Project have been provided by several stakeholders, including DAC representatives from the Inyokern Community Services District and from the Searles Valley. Copies of these support letters from DACs (from the Inyokern Community Services District and from Searles Domestic Water Company) and other stakeholders within the Indian Wells Valley groundwater basin area are provided in Attachment 3-2.

During a PAC meeting on August 3, 2017, representatives from the “Domestic Well Owners” in the Indian Wells Valley groundwater basin provided a presentation regarding objectives and recommendations for groundwater management, including the development of the GSP. A copy of the presentation is provided in Attachment 3-3. The Domestic Well Owners Association distributes a monthly (sometimes more frequent) summary publication titled the “Indian Wells Valley Well Owners and Concerned Citizens Update” which provides Indian Wells Valley citizens, including the Domestic Well Owners, with current information regarding groundwater supply and well issues. The Domestic Well Owners Association’s publication was discussed during the September 13, 2017 PAC meeting and a copy of the presentation is provided in Attachment 3-4.

The IWVGA Board, TAC, and PAC meetings are also regularly attended by members of two Ridgecrest news organizations: the Ridgecrest Daily Independent and the Ridgecrest News Review. News articles regarding key discussions at these public meetings are regularly published and allow for dissemination of Project information to an audience that did not attend the public forums in person. News articles providing examples of IWVGA communication with well owners and DACs, SDACs, and EDAs, at Board, TAC, and PAC meetings are included as Attachment 3-5.

DACs, SDACs, and EDAs are located with the Indian Wells Valley groundwater basin and include portions of the City of Ridgecrest and all or portions of the census designated places of China Lake Acres, Inyokern, and Pearsonville; and the unincorporated community of China Lake. The proposed Project (GSP development) includes outreach and support to DACs, SDACs, and EDAs within the Indian Wells Valley groundwater basin and the vicinity. Basin overdraft and the need to bring the basin into a sustainable balance are critical water supply issues for DACs, SDACs, and EDAs that the proposed Project will address. A further discussion regarding outreach and support to DACs, SDACs, and EDAs are provided in Attachment 7 (“Disadvantaged Community”), Attachment 8 (“Economically Distressed Area”), and Attachment 9 (“Severely Disadvantaged Community”), respectively.
ATTACHMENT 3-1

IWVGA BYLAWS
BYLAWS

of the

INDIAN WELLS VALLEY
GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY

May 18, 2017
TABLE OF CONTENTS

BYLAWS OF THE
INDIAN WELLS VALLEY GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY

ARTICLE 1. THE AUTHORITY
1.1 NAME OF THE AGENCY ................................................................. 1
1.2 SEAL ................................................................................................ 1
1.3 PRINCIPAL OFFICE OF THE AUTHORITY ........................................ 1
1.4 AUTHORITY POWERS ...................................................................... 1

ARTICLE 2. MEETINGS
2.1 OPEN MEETINGS ............................................................................ 1
2.2 REGULAR MEETINGS ...................................................................... 1
2.3 SPECIAL MEETINGS ....................................................................... 1
2.4 EMERGENCY MEETINGS ................................................................. 1
2.5 AGENDA .......................................................................................... 2
2.6 QUORUM .......................................................................................... 2
2.7 OFFICIAL ACT .................................................................................. 2
2.8 VOTING ............................................................................................ 2
2.9 RULES OF ORDER .......................................................................... 2
2.10 MINUTES ......................................................................................... 2

ARTICLE 3. OFFICERS
3.1 OFFICERS OF THE BOARD .............................................................. 3
3.2 APPOINTMENT OF OFFICERS OF THE BOARD ............................... 3
3.3 GENERAL MANAGER ....................................................................... 3
3.4 BOARD SECRETARY ......................................................................... 3
3.5 GENERAL COUNSEL ........................................................................ 3
3.5.1 RETAINER AGREEMENTS ............................................................ 4
3.6 OFFICER COMPENSATION .............................................................. 4
3.7 FISCAL AGENT AND TREASURER .................................................. 4
3.8 WATER RESOURCES MANAGER ..................................................... 5

ARTICLE 4. DIRECTOR COMPENSATION AND EXPENSES
4.1 COMPENSATION .............................................................................. 5
4.2 EXPENSES ...................................................................................... 5
NO DISTRIBUTION IN APPOINTMENTS ......................................................... 13
AUTHORITY ALLEGIANCE AND PROPER CONDUCT ........................................ 14
PENALTIES ........................................................................................................ 14

ARTICLE 10. CLAIMS AGAINST THE AUTHORITY
10.1 [RESERVED] ........................................................................................................ 14

ARTICLE 11. PURCHASING POLICY
11.1 [RESERVED] ........................................................................................................ 14

ARTICLE 12. INVESTMENT POLICY
12.1 [RESERVED] ........................................................................................................ 14

ARTICLE 13. CONFLICT OF INTEREST CODE
13.1 [RESERVED] ........................................................................................................ 14

ARTICLE 14. AMENDMENT
14.1 AMENDMENT .................................................................................................... 14

ARTICLE 15. DEFINITIONS AND CONSTRUCTION
15.1 DEFINITIONS AND CONSTRUCTION ................................................................... 15
PREAMBLE

These Bylaws are adopted pursuant to Section 8.05 of the Joint Exercise of Powers Agreement creating the Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority (the "Agreement").

ARTICLE 1. THE AUTHORITY

1.1 NAME OF THE AGENCY. The name of the Agency created by the Agreement shall be the Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority ("Authority").

1.2 SEAL. The seal of the Authority shall be in the form of a circle and shall bear the name of the Authority and the year 2016, which is the year of its organization.

1.3 PRINCIPAL OFFICE OF THE AUTHORITY. The principal office of the Authority shall be at the offices of the Indian Wells Valley Water District, located at 500 W. Ridgecrest Boulevard, Ridgecrest, California, 93555.

1.4 AUTHORITY POWERS. The powers of the Authority are established in accordance with Article VI of the Agreement and vested in the Authority’s Board of Directors ("Board"). The Board reserves the right to delegate such powers as are appropriate and permissible by law.

ARTICLE 2. MEETINGS

2.1 OPEN MEETINGS. Meetings of the Board and any Authority committees, including those with telephonic participation, shall be held in accordance with the Ralph M. Brown Act (California Government Code sections 54950, et seq.). No action shall be taken by secret ballot at such meetings. Meetings of the Board and Authority committees shall be held within the geographical boundaries of the Basin, except as permitted by the Brown Act.

2.2 REGULAR MEETINGS. The regular meetings of the Authority shall be held at a location within the geographical boundaries of the Basin on a day and time, which the Authority’s Board may from time-to-time designate. In the event a regular meeting would take place on a legal holiday, the meeting may be rescheduled to another date and time as determined by the Board.

2.3 SPECIAL MEETINGS. Special meetings of the Board shall be conducted pursuant to California Government Code section 54956, and they may be called by the Chairperson or by the concurrence of any two Primary Directors.

2.4 EMERGENCY MEETINGS. Emergency meetings of the Board shall be conducted pursuant to California Government Code section 54956.5, and they may be called by the Chairperson or by the concurrence of any two Primary Directors.
2.5 AGENDA. The General Manager, in consultation with IWVGA General Counsel and staff of the Members, shall prepare the draft agenda, which must be reviewed and approved by the General Counsel. In the event there is a disagreement between the General Manager and the General Counsel on any topic, the Board Chairperson will be consulted to provide the necessary direction. The Chairperson or his or her delegate shall then approve the draft agenda before its finalization and posting in accordance with the Ralph M. Brown Act.

2.6 QUORUM. A quorum of the Board shall consist of a majority of the Directors representing the then active General Members. In the absence of a quorum, no business may be transacted beyond the adjournment of a meeting by the remaining Directors. A Director shall be deemed present for the determination of a quorum if the Director is present at the meeting in person or if they participate in the meeting telephonically as provided for by the Ralph M. Brown Act.

2.7 OFFICIAL ACT. Except as otherwise provided by statute, the Authority shall adopt every official act by a vote of the Board in accordance with the applicable provisions of the Agreement.

2.8 VOTING. As set forth in the Agreement, the affirmative vote of a majority of the Board shall be required for the approval of any Board action. In addition, no action may be approved by the Board unless it receives the affirmative vote from no less than two of the then voting Directors representing the County of Kern, the City of Ridgecrest, and/or the Indian Wells Valley Water District.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Board may approve the Regular Monthly Receivables by a simple majority vote so long as the routine costs and bills making up the Regular Monthly Receivables have not been objected to by any Director. While a Director may voice an oral objection at the meeting, a Director’s presence is not required and they may also file an objection in writing prior to the meeting. Likewise, any meeting of the Board may be adjourned by a simple majority vote of the then present Directors.

The voting on all matters of the Board and Committees, including minute orders, resolutions, and ordinances shall be reported on the minutes and accomplished in a manner that readily signifies the action taken and the vote or abstention on that action of each member present for the action.

2.9 RULES OF ORDER. All rules of order not otherwise provided for in these Bylaws shall be determined, to the extent practicable, in accordance with "Robert's Rules of Order;" provided, however, that no action shall be invalidated or its legality otherwise affected by the failure or omission to observe or follow "Robert's Rules of Order."

2.10 MINUTES. The Secretary shall prepare written minutes of the Board meetings, which shall be available for public inspection when approved by the Board. The record shall contain the votes and abstentions on each matter for which a vote is taken.
ARTICLE 3. OFFICERS

3.1 OFFICERS OF THE BOARD. Officers of the Authority’s Board shall consist of a Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson. The Chairperson shall preside at all meetings of the Board, while the Vice-Chairperson shall perform the duties of the Chairperson in the absence or disability of the Chairperson. The Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson shall exercise and perform such other powers and duties as may be assigned by the Board.

3.2 APPOINTMENT OF OFFICERS OF THE BOARD. The Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson shall hold office for a term of one year commencing on January 1 of each and every calendar year. Beginning in 2017, the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson shall rotate annually between the Board members representing the County of Kern, City of Ridgecrest, and the Indian Wells Valley Water District. The Board member representing the County of Kern shall be the first Chairperson followed in order by the City of Ridgecrest and then the Indian Wells Valley Water District. The Board member representing the City of Ridgecrest shall be the first Vice-Chairperson followed in order by the Indian Wells Valley Water District and then the County of Kern. Officers of the Board may be removed and replaced at any time, with or without cause by a vote of the Board. In the event that an Officer of the Board loses their position as a Primary Director, that Officer of the Board position shall become vacant and the Board shall elect a new individual to serve the remaining term.

3.3 GENERAL MANAGER. The General Manager shall have general supervision over the administration of Authority business and affairs, subject to the direction of the Board. The General Manager or designee may execute contracts, deeds, and other documents and instruments as authorized by the Board.

Until an General Manager is appointed, and except for the Authority's General Counsel and Treasurer functions, Authority administration and management will be conducted using a collaborative staffing model in which the professional and technical staff of the member agencies work together to provide staff leadership, management, and administration of the Authority.

3.4 BOARD SECRETARY. The Secretary shall be elected by and serve at the discretion of the Board. The Secretary shall keep the administrative records of the Authority, act as secretary at meetings of the Authority, recording all votes and keep a record of the proceedings of the Authority to be kept for such purpose, and perform all duties incident to the Secretary’s office. The Secretary shall maintain a record of all official proceedings of the Board. The Secretary shall also establish and maintain a list of persons interested in receiving notices regarding plan preparation, meeting announcements, and availability of draft plans, maps, and other relevant documents pursuant to Water Code Section 10723.4.

3.5 GENERAL COUNSEL. The Authority’s General Counsels shall be the attorneys appointed by the County of Kern, the City of Ridgecrest, and the Indian Wells Valley
Water District. The primary responsibility to act as the Authority’s General Counsel during public meetings shall rotate annually and be in coordination with who is the then acting Chairperson. For example, when the Chairperson is Kern County’s representative, Kern County’s attorney will act as the Authority’s General Counsel during public meetings, or as otherwise directed by the Board. General Counsel shall be appointed by the Board, and shall be directly responsible to the Board. The General Counsel shall give advice or written opinions as needed and/or directed by the Board, and shall prepare proposed resolutions, laws, rules, contracts, and other legal documents for the Authority when requested to do so by the Authority. The General Counsel shall attend to all lawsuits and other matters to which the Authority is a part or in which the Authority may be legally interested and do such other things pertaining to the General Counsel’s office as the Authority may request. Authority Counsel will recommend appointment of Special Counsel for matters involving more specialized legal service as required. The Board will set the compensation of Special Counsel.

3.5.1 RETAINER AGREEMENTS. The Board of Directors shall execute a retainer agreement with the Authority’s General Counsels which shall expressly provide that each attorney acting as General Counsel shall be afforded the full and complete opportunity to represent their General Member in any dispute or action regardless of any actual or perceived conflicts with the Authority or any of its other Members. Additionally, the General Counsel shall, when deemed appropriate or called upon, seek the advice and consultation of the legal counsels, and possibly staff, from Members of the Authority on legal issues facing the Authority; in such an instance, the communications shall be confidential and protected to the fullest extent possible in law and said communications shall not in any way preclude staff or legal counsels from fulfilling their duties and obligations to their Member, including representation in any dispute or action.

3.6 OFFICER COMPENSATION. Officers of the Authority which are not Directors shall receive compensation as designated by the Board in written contract. When, and only if, specifically called upon by the Board in advance, non-Director officers may receive reimbursement of their actual and necessary expense at the then current IRS reimbursement rate.

3.7 FISCAL AGENT AND TREASURER. The County of Kern shall serve as the Fiscal Agent and Treasurer for the Authority unless otherwise directed by a vote of the Board. The Fiscal Agent shall be depository for and shall have the responsibility for all money of the Authority from whatever source. All funds of the Authority shall be strictly and separately accounted for and regular reports shall be rendered of all receipts and disbursements during the Fiscal Year as designated by the Board. The books and records of the Authority shall be open to inspection by the General and Associate Members and the Treasurer shall provide strict accountability of said funds in accordance with Government Code sections 6505 and 6505.5 and all other applicable provisions of law, including any amendments thereto.
3.8 WATER RESOURCES MANAGER. The Authority shall hire a consultant or consultants with the appropriate technical background, expertise, and experience to prepare and implement a Groundwater Sustainably Plan (“GSP”). This position shall be named the Water Resources Manager and they shall be responsible for preparing and implementing the GSP as directed by the Board. An engineering, or other technical firm, may perform these duties, but, in the event that they are performed by a firm, an individual shall be appointed to serve as the primary project manager. In preparing the GSP, the Authority’s Water Resources Manager will consult with the Policy Advisory Committee and the Technical Advisory Committee as directed by the Board. The Authority’s Water Resources Manager shall also provide technical information and reports to the Board as needed and/or directed by the Board. Following the adoption of the GSP, the Authority’s Water Resources Manager shall be responsible for all work needed to implement the terms of the GSP as directed by the Board, including, if so directed, the preparation of an annual report.

ARTICLE 4. DIRECTOR COMPENSATION AND EXPENSES

4.1 COMPENSATION. Currently, the Directors are not compensated for their service by the Authority. In the event that changes, the Board will set Director compensation pursuant to a written policy adopted by the Board and included herein.

4.2 EXPENSES. If previously approved by the Board, a Director shall receive actual, reasonable, and necessary reimbursement for travel, meals, lodging, registration, and similar expenses incurred on Authority business. The reimbursement rates for lodging shall not exceed the posted rates for a trade conference, but if lodging at the posted rates is not available, the reimbursement rate shall be comparable to the posted rates. For travel of 250 miles or less, Directors shall be reimbursed at the IRS mileage rate. For travel over 250 miles, Directors shall be reimbursed at a rate determined by the Board. As used herein, “transportation” includes travel to and from terminals. Automobile rental expenses shall be approved in advance. Reimbursement for meals, other than alcoholic beverages, shall be at the rate established by the IRS or actual reasonable cost not to exceed $90 per day. Directors may declare the amount of the meal under penalty of perjury in lieu of receipts if the amount is less than the IRS rate. Claims for expense reimbursement shall be submitted to the Board on forms provided by the Authority within 30-days after the expense has been incurred. The General Manager shall determine whether the claim satisfies the requirements of this section and if the claim is denied, the claimant may appeal to the Board.

ARTICLE 5. STANDING COMMITTEES

5.1 ESTABLISHMENT OF STANDING COMMITTEES. In accordance with Section 7.04 of the Agreement, the Board may from time to time establish standing committees for the purpose of making recommendations to the Board on the various activities of the Authority. The establishment of any standing committee and its general duties shall require a vote of the Board, and the activities of the standing committee shall be subject
to the provisions of the Ralph M. Brown Act (California Government Code sections 54950, et seq.). Standing committees shall exist for the term specified in the action creating the committee and, the Board may dissolve a committee at any time through a vote of the Board.

5.2 CONDUCT OF STANDING COMMITTEES. All standing committee meetings shall be noticed, held, and conducted in accordance with the provisions of the Ralph M. Brown Act (California Government Code sections 54950, et seq.). Except as set forth below, the Board shall appoint the respective committee chairs in consultation with the committee members and the Board may further establish rules of conduct for said standing committees. The Board shall, in consultation with the committee members, establish a time and provide a place for regular meetings of any standing committee. The Board Chairperson may call a special meeting of a standing committee as the need arises. The Standing Committee’s chairperson, vice chairperson, or three members may make the request to the Board for calling a special meeting. Standing committee meeting minutes shall be recorded and upon approval shall be distributed to the Board. Unless determined by General Counsel that a legal conflict, a public records exemption, or other privilege exists, standing committee members shall have access to and may inspect the records of the Authority, including, but not limited to, the accounting books and records and minutes of the proceedings of the Board and other committees of the Board, at any reasonable time. A designated representative of the committee member may make any inspection under this Section and the right of inspection includes the right to copy.

A quorum of a committee shall be a majority of the appointed committee members that hold a vote. As provided in the Brown Act, no meeting of a standing committee shall occur without the attendance of a quorum of its committee members. The affirmative vote of the majority of the members present at a standing committee meeting is necessary for the passage of any motion. The voting on all matters of standing committees, including minute orders, resolutions, and ordinances shall be reported on the minutes and accomplished in a manner that readily signifies the action taken and the vote or abstention on that action of each member present for the action. All rules of order for a standing committee not otherwise provided for in these Bylaws shall be determined, to the extent practical, in accordance with “Robert’s Rules of Order;” provided, however, that no action shall be invalidated or its legality otherwise affected by the failure or omission to observe or follow “Robert’s Rules of Order.” The Authority’s General Counsel shall resolve all questions of compliance with “Robert’s Rules of Order.”

5.3 STANDING COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP. Standing committee appointments and removal shall be made at the Board’s discretion.

5.4 STANDING COMMITTEE DIRECTION. The Board shall assign tasks to its standing committees, the expected duration for completion of a particular task, and a summary of the resources, including staff or consultant support available to the standing committee in performing the task.
5.5 POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE. As authorized by California Water Code Section 10727.8, which provides that a “groundwater sustainability agency may appoint and consult with an advisory committee consisting of interested parties for the purposes of developing and implementing a groundwater sustainability plan,” the Board hereby establishes a standing committee named the Policy Advisory Committee (PAC). The PAC is the primary advisory body to the Board on all policy-related matters of the Board that are appropriate for the PAC input. The Board shall provide tasks to the PAC and the PAC shall report directly to the Board. As set forth Section 5.9, the PAC shall be provided an opportunity to advise the Board on the development of the Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) including all components that, in the aggregate, comprise the GSP, including, but not limited to, substantive components required of a GSP under California Water Code Division 6, Part 2.74, Chapters 6 and 8, and under California Code of Regulations, Title 23, Division 2, Chapter 1.5, Subchapter 2 (“GSP Elements.”), prior to the Board’s approval of each GSP Element. Upon adoption of the GSP, the PAC shall continue to meet regularly as provided by the Board and, where legally appropriate, advise the Board concerning the policy matters pertaining to the implementation of the GSP. In the event that the GSP is subject to modification, such modifications shall be made in accordance with these Bylaws. The PAC shall not discuss or influence any enforcement aspects of GSP implementation, so as to avoid conflicts of interest and other legal limitations. Sections 5.3 through 5.13 shall be subject to annual review by the Board.

5.6 POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MISSION AND OBJECTIVES. As required by California Water Code Section 10723.2, the Authority as a Groundwater Sustainability Agency must consider the interests of all beneficial uses and users of groundwater within the Basin. To assist the Authority with meeting this requirement, the objectives of the PAC are to: (1) provide all water users in the Basin with a meaningful voice and representation on policy matters of the Board associated with SGMA; (2) work collaboratively for the benefit of the Basin as a whole; (3) provide input and recommendations to the Board, in collaboration with the Water Resources Manager, and other committees of the Board, in support of actions that facilitate bringing the Basin into compliance with SGMA; and (4) work in good faith to achieve consensus and make unified recommendations to develop a GSP and for management actions to achieve groundwater sustainability in accordance with the requirements of SGMA.

5.7 POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP. The Board shall appoint voting PAC members to the following constituent groups:

- 2 representatives from Large Agriculture
- 1 representative from Small Agriculture
- 2 representatives from Business Interests
- 2 representatives from Domestic Well Owners
- 2 representatives from residential customers of a public agency water supplier
- 1 representative from Eastern Kern County Resource Conservation District
- 1 representative from Wholesaler and Industrial User
At least one of the appointed voting PAC members shall, in addition to representing one of the above listed constituent groups, shall also represent Disadvantaged Communities as defined by California Public Resources Code Section 75005(g), by residing or conducting business within a Disadvantaged Community or serving water to a Disadvantaged Community.

An individual may qualify as a Domestic Well Owner representative if they own a well used for residential purposes only, if they are part of a well sharing agreement, or if they are a shareholder/member of a mutual water company.

Individuals seeking appointment to a voting position on the PAC must be a citizen of the United States that is at least 18 years of age and either a registered voter, landowner, authorized representative of a landowner, or a person that relies on groundwater from the in Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Basin. Individuals seeking membership to a voting position on the PAC must submit an application which will be reviewed and acted upon by the Board. However, since the Eastern Kern County Resource Conservation District is a public agency, its Board will be allowed to submit a request for the appointment of an individual from their agency.

The Board shall also provide non-voting membership on the PAC for the following:

1 representative from the Indian Wells Valley Water District
1 representative from the Department of the Navy
1 representative from the Bureau of Land Management

Additionally, while not considered official members of the PAC and not holding any voting rights on matters before the PAC, one representative from Kern County Planning and Natural Resources Department shall be appointed to provide land use expertise.

The public entities and Departments set forth above may request the appointment of a PAC member representative that is a member of their Board or organization.

Having already conducted an application process and upon the proper and thorough review of the applications submitted, the Board has chosen the initial PAC membership set forth in Authority Resolution __________. Said Resolution may be amended in the future as the need arises to reflect changes in PAC membership.

5.8 POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON AND VICE-CHAIRPERSON, AND MEMBERSHIP TERMS. The PAC shall appoint a PAC Chairperson and PAC Vice-chairperson in consultation with the Board. The non-voting members of the PAC and the Eastern Kern County Resource Conservation District may change their PAC member representatives without Board approval. All other changes in PAC membership shall require Board approval. Changes in individual PAC members should generally coincide with the annual membership review process. In the event that a PAC member
needs to step down outside of this timeframe, the member should notify the PAC Chair (or, as warranted, the Vice-Chair) in writing of the need for change no less than two weeks prior to the next PAC meeting. If the member desires, they may provide a recommendation to the Board on replacement member to the PAC.

The initial term of PAC member representatives shall be until the GSP is completed and approved by DWR. Subsequent terms shall be two years, culminating at the end of a calendar year.

5.9 POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES. The PAC, in consultation with the Water Resources Manager, shall be tasked by the Board to develop non-binding proposals on policy matters pertaining to each GSP Element (“PAC Proposals”). The PAC shall strive for consensus in all of its decision-making, particularly when crafting PAC Proposals. If the PAC is unable to reach consensus, the range of opinions provided, including areas of agreement and disagreement, will be documented in meeting summaries (“PAC Meeting Summaries”). PAC Proposals and PAC Meeting Summaries shall be submitted to the Water Resources Manager for initial review and comment. After considering all comments provided by the Water Resources Manager, and incorporating such comments to the extent deemed appropriate by the PAC, the PAC shall submit final PAC Proposals and any final PAC Meeting Summaries to the Board for consideration. If the PAC deems it inappropriate to include any comments or concerns of the Water Resources Manager, the PAC will provide the Board with a detailed reasoning to support its determination.

The Board shall consider all PAC Proposals and PAC Meeting Summaries, as well as any technical information and reports provided by the Water Resources Manager that are requested by the Board, and after such consideration, the Board shall make a final approval of each GSP Element and direct the Water Resources Manager to prepare the GSP Element in accordance with the Board’s approval.

5.10 PAC ATTENDANCE. PAC member representatives must regularly attend all meetings of the PAC. PAC member representatives who regularly miss PAC meetings may be removed by the action of the Board. PAC member representatives agree to: (1) arrive at each meeting fully prepared to discuss the issues on the agenda, where such preparation includes reviewing meeting minutes, policy information, and draft documents distributed in advance of each PAC meeting; (2) present and represent the views of their constituent group on the issues being discussed and be willing to engage in respectful, constructive dialogue with other members of the PAC; (3) develop a problem-solving approach in which they consider the interests and viewpoints of all stakeholders in the Basin; (4) keep their constituent group informed about ongoing issues and actively seek their input; and (5) pursue the PAC’s purpose and goals and support GSP development and where legally appropriate implementation. An individual appointed by the Board shall prepare written minutes of all PAC meetings, which shall be available for public inspection once reviewed and approved by the PAC.

5.11 TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE. The Board hereby establishes a standing committee named the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) which will assist the Water
Resources Manager in the preparation of the GSP and will work collaboratively with other committees of the Board.

5.12 TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP. The TAC shall be comprised of individuals representing PAC members, PAC membership categories, and the interests of the Basin landowners and water users. Members of the TAC must have a formal education and experience in a groundwater related field and an understanding of the technical aspects of the Basin or similar groundwater basins in California. Each member of the PAC may nominate one member of the TAC for review and possible approval by the Board. The Board may also appoint members to the TAC that are not affiliated with any PAC members to ensure proper stakeholder representation. The initial TAC membership shall be adopted by Authority Resolution. Said Resolution may be amended in the future as the need arises to reflect changes in appointment of TAC representatives consistent with these Bylaws. The initial term of membership for the TAC shall be until the GSP is completed and approved by DWR. Subsequent terms of membership shall be two years, culminating at the end of a calendar year. The TAC shall appoint a TAC Chairperson and a TAC Vice-Chairperson in consultation with the Water Resources Manager.

5.13 TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ROLES AND RESPONSILITIES. As required by law and as directed by the Board, the Water Resources Manager shall be responsible for the preparation of each technical element of the GSP. The Water Resources Manager shall attend and set the agenda of each TAC meeting so that each technical element of the GSP is presented to the TAC, in draft, to afford the TAC a reasonable opportunity to review and conduct a thorough evaluation prior to finalization of that technical element. In the course of evaluating each draft technical element of the GSP, the TAC shall strive for consensus in preparing written recommendations to the Water Resources Manager (“TAC Proposals”). The TAC shall submit its TAC Proposals to the Water Resources Manager, as well as written summaries of the range of TAC comments reflecting any areas of disagreement for consideration in the final preparation of any GSP Element. If any TAC member disagrees with any proposed GSP element following discussion with the Water Resources manager, that member (or members) may submit a written analysis and objection to the Board no later than 72 hours before that GSP element is considered by the Board. In the event that the GSP is subject to modification, such modifications shall be made in accordance with these Bylaws. The TAC shall not discuss or influence any enforcement aspects of GSP implementation, so as to avoid conflicts of interest and other legal limitations.

ARTICLE 6. BUDGET AND FINANCES

6.1 BUDGET. The Authority shall operate pursuant to an operating budget adopted in accordance with Section 9.07 of the Agreement. The Authority shall endeavor to operate each year pursuant to an annually balanced budget so that projected annual expenses do not exceed projected annual revenues. If the General Manager or Chairperson determines the approved budget is inadequate, he or she shall submit recommended modifications to the Board for consideration and action. The General
Manager shall implement the approved or revised budget, provided all expenditures for
capital improvements shall be approved by the Board before they are undertaken.

6.2 APPROVAL OF WARRANTS AND SIGNATURE OF CHECKS. The Board shall
approve all warrants and authorize issuance of checks in payment thereof. A check
register showing the check number, payee, amount, and the purpose of each check, as
prepared by the Treasurer, will be sent to the Board as required by the Brown Act.
Checks in payment of utility bills, postage, payroll, payroll taxes, credit union
collections, petty cash, emergency repairs, and invoices subject to discount and interfund
transfers may be disbursed prior to Board approval. Such items shall be set forth on the
next regular check register and presented to the Board.

6.3 GENERAL AND SPECIAL BOOKS OF ACCOUNT. The Treasurer shall maintain
books of account in accordance with accepted accounting principles showing the status
of all monies received and disbursed. Such general and special fund accounts shall be
maintained as are necessary to accomplish the purpose of the Authority.

6.4 FUND DEPOSITORIES. Currently the County of Kern is Fiscal Agent and Treasurer
for the Authority and all funds of the Authority are deposited with the County of Kern.
If the Board desires to designate a new depository for Authority funds, the Board shall
do so through a written policy included herein.

ARTICLE 7. DEBTS AND LIABILITIES

7.1 DEBTS AND LIABILITIES. Except as may be specifically provided for in the
Agreement and/or California Government Code Section 895.2 as amended or
supplemented, the debts, liabilities, and obligations of the Authority are not, and will
not be, the debts, liabilities, or obligations of any or all of the Members. However,
nothing in this Article or in the Agreement prevents, or impairs the ability of, a
Member or Members, from agreeing, in a separate agreement, to be jointly and/or
severally liable, in whole or in part, for any debt, obligation, or liability of the
Authority, including, but not limited to, any bond or other debt instrument issued by
the Authority.

ARTICLE 8. RECORDS RETENTION

8.1 RECORDS RETENTION POLICY. The Authority shall adopt a records retention
policy. This policy will provide criteria and procedures for the retention or destruction of
Authority records.

8.2 MAINTENANCE AND INSPECTION OF AGREEMENT AND BYLAWS. The
Authority will keep at its principal executive office the original or copy of the Agreement
and these Bylaws as amended to date, which will be open to inspection by the Authority
or any Member at all reasonable times during office hours.
8.3 INSPECTION RIGHTS OF MEMBERS. Provided that upon the advice of General Counsel no legal conflict exists, any Member may inspect any record of the Authority, including, but not limited to, the accounting books and records and minutes of the proceedings of the Board and committees of the Board, at any reasonable time. A designated representative of the entity may make any inspection and copying under this Section, and the right of inspection includes the right to copy.

8.4 INSPECTION BY DIRECTORS. Provided that upon the advice of General Counsel no legal conflict exists, any Director may inspect any record of the Authority, including but not limited to, the accounting books and records and minutes of the proceedings of the Board and committees of the Board, at any reasonable time. A designated representative of the entity may make any inspection and copying under this Section and the right of inspection includes the right to copy.

8.5 INSPECTION BY THE PUBLIC. As directed and permitted by law, Authority records are open to inspection by the public.

8.6 WEBSITE POLICY. The Authority shall establish a public website where all pertinent documentation, not specifically protected by law, may be openly inspected by the public. Documents shall generally include, but are not limited to: all agendas, minutes, resolutions, and ordinances of the Board and its standing committees; all public written briefings, presentations, and correspondence of the Board and its standing committees; and all public financial and technical reports that are not protected by law.

ARTICLE 9. CODE OF ETHICS

9.1 DECLARATION OF POLICY. The proper operation of democratic government requires that public officials and employees be independent, impartial, and responsible to the people; that government decisions and policy be made in the proper channels of the governmental structure; that public office not be used for personal gain; and the public have confidence in the integrity of its government. In recognition of these goals, there is hereby established a Code of Ethics for all officers and employees, whether elected or appointed, paid or unpaid. This Article establishes ethical standards of conduct for Authority officers and employees by setting forth those acts or actions that are incompatible with the best interests of the Authority and by directing the officers’ disclosure of private financial or other interests in matters affecting the Authority.

9.2 RESPONSIBILITIES OF PUBLIC OFFICE. Public officials and employees are agents of public purpose and hold office for the benefit of the public. They are bound to uphold the United States and State Constitution and to carry out impartially the laws of the nation, State, and the Authority, thus to foster respect for all governments. They are bound to observe, in their official acts, the highest standards of performance and to discharge faithfully the duties of their office, regardless of personal considerations. Recognizing that the public interests must be their primary concern, their conduct in both their official and private affairs should be above reproach.
9.3 DEDICATED SERVICE. Officers and employees owe a duty of loyalty to the political objectives expressed by the electorate and the programs developed by the Board to attain those objectives. Appointive officers and employees should adhere to the rules of work and performance established as the standards for their positions by the appropriate authority. Officers and employees should not exceed their authority or breach the law, or ask others to do so, and owe a duty to cooperate fully with other public officers and employees unless prohibited from so doing by law or by the officially recognized confidentiality of their work.

9.4 FAIR AND EQUAL TREATMENT. The canvassing of members of the Board, directly or indirectly, to obtain preferential consideration in connection with any appointment to the municipal service, shall disqualify the candidate for appointment except with reference to positions filled by appointment by the Board. Officers and employees shall not request or permit the use of Authority-owned vehicles, equipment, materials, or property for personal convenience or profit, except when such services are available to the public generally or are provided for the use of such officer or employee in the conduct of official business. Officers and employees shall not grant special consideration, treatment, or advantage to a member of the public beyond what is available to every other member of the public.

9.5 POLITICAL ACTIVITIES. Officers and employees shall not solicit or participate in soliciting an assessment; subscription of contribution to a political party during working hours on property owned by the Authority and shall conform to Government Code Sections 3202 and 3203. Officers and employees shall not promise appointment to a position with the Authority.

9.6 EX PARTE COMMUNICATIONS. A written communication received by an officer or employee shall be made part of the record of decision. A communication concerning only the status of a pending matter shall not be regarded as an ex parte communication.

9.7 AVOIDANCE OF IMPRESSIONS OF CORRUPTIBILITY. Officers and employees shall conduct their official and private affairs so as not to give a reasonable basis for the impression that they can be improperly influenced in performance of public duties. Officers and employees should maintain public confidence in their performance of the public trust in the Authority. They should not be a source of embarrassment to the Authority and should avoid even the appearance of conflict between their public duties and private interests.

9.8 NO DISCRIMINATION IN APPOINTMENTS. No person shall be appointed to, removed from, or in any way favored or discriminated against with respect to any appointive administrative office because of such person's race, color, age, religion, gender identification, national origin, political opinions, affiliations, or functional limitation as defined by applicable State or Federal laws, if otherwise qualified for the position or office. This provision shall not be construed to impair administrative discretion in determining the requirements of a position or in a job assignment of a person holding such a position, subject to review by the Board.
9.9  AUTHORITY ALLEGIANCE AND PROPER CONDUCT. Officers and employees shall not engage in or accept any private employment, or render services for private interest, when such employment or service is incompatible with proper discharge of official duties or would tend to impair independence or judgment or action in the performance of those duties. Officers and employees shall not disclose confidential information concerning the property, government, or affairs of the Authority, and shall not use confidential information for personal financial gain. Officers and employees shall not accept a gift in excess of limits established by State law. Officers and employees shall not accept any gift contingent upon a specific action by the Board. Officers and employees shall not appear on behalf of business or private interests of another before the Board where such appearance would create a potential of having to abstain from Officers participating on that matter or be incompatible with official duties. Officers and employees shall not represent a private interest of another person or entity in any action or proceeding against the interest of the Authority in any litigation to which the Authority is a party. A Director may appear before the Authority on behalf of constituents in the course of duties as a representative of the electorate or in the performance of public or civic obligations.

9.10  PENALTIES. In addition to any other penalties or remedies provided by law, violation of this Article shall constitute a cause for suspension, removal from office or employment, or other disciplinary action after notice and hearing conducted by the appropriate appointed authority or, in the case of the Board, a majority of such Board.

ARTICLE 10. CLAIMS AGAINST THE AUTHORITY

10.1  [RESERVED]

ARTICLE 11. PURCHASING POLICY

11.1  [RESERVED]

ARTICLE 12. INVESTMENT POLICY

12.1  [RESERVED]

ARTICLE 13. CONFLICT OF INTEREST CODE

13.1  ADOPTION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST CODE. The terms of 2 Cal. Code of Regs. Section 18730 and any amendments to it duly adopted by the Fair Political Practices Commission are hereby incorporated by reference and, along with this Article 13, constitute the conflict of interest code of the Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority.

13.2  DESIGNATED EMPLOYEES. Designated employees and consultants shall file their statements with the Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority, which will make the
13.2.1 **JOB TITLE** | **DISCLOSURE CATEGORY**  
--- | ---  
General Counsel | 1  
Volunteers |  
Consultants |  
Volunteers and Consultants shall be included in the list of designated employees and shall disclose pursuant to the broadest disclosure category in the code subject to the following limitations: The Board of Directors may determine in writing that a particular volunteer or consultant, although a “designated position,” is hired to perform a range of duties that is limited in scope and thus is not required to comply fully with the disclosure requirements described in this section. Such determination shall include a description of the duties and, based upon that description, a statement of the extent of disclosure requirements. The Board’s determination is a public record and shall be retained for public inspection in the same manner and location as this conflict of interest code.

13.2.2 An individual holding one of the above listed positions may contact the Fair Political Practices Commission for assistance or written advice regarding their filing obligations if they believe that their position has been categorized incorrectly. The Fair Political Practices Commission makes the final determination whether a position is covered by section 87200.

13.3 **DISCLOSURE CATEGORIES**

**Category 1:** FULL DISCLOSURE. A designated employee in this category is treated as a mandatory/statutory filer and thus must report all reportable interests in real property within the Authority’s jurisdiction, as well as reportable investments, business positions and sources of income, including gifts, loans and travel payments. For the purposes of these provisions, the term jurisdiction includes: those lands within the Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Basin (Basin); those lands that rely on water from the Basin; those lands that are within two miles of the Basin; and, those lands that are within two miles of land that rely on water from the Basin.

**Category 2:** Full Disclosure (excluding interest in real property). A designated employee in this category must report all reportable investments, business positions and sources of income, including gifts, loans and travel payments.

**Category 3:** Interests in Real Property. A designated employee in this category must report all reportable interests in real property with the Authority’s jurisdiction,
Category 4: General Contracting For Entire Authority. A designated employee in this category must report all reportable investments, business positions and income, including gifts, loans and travel payments, from sources that provide leased facilities, goods, equipment, vehicles, machinery or services, including training or consulting services, of the type utilized by the Authority.

Category 5: General Contracting For Specific Department. All investments, business positions and income, including gifts, loans and travel payments, from sources that provide leased facilities, goods, equipment, vehicles, machinery or services, including training or consulting services, of the type utilized by the employee’s department or area of authority.

*Article 13 Adopted by Resolution 03-17 on July 20, 2017*

**ARTICLE 14. AMENDMENT**

14.1 AMENDMENT. These Bylaws may be amended from time to time by resolution of the Board.

**ARTICLE 15. DEFINITIONS AND CONSTRUCTION**

15.1 DEFINITIONS AND CONSTRUCTION. Unless specifically defined in these Bylaws, all defined terms shall have the same meaning ascribed to them in the Agreement. If any term of these Bylaws conflicts with any term of the Agreement, the Agreement's terms shall prevail, and these Bylaws shall be amended to eliminate such conflict of terms. Unless the context or reference to the Agreement requires otherwise, the general provisions, rules of construction, and definitions in the California Civil Code will govern the interpretation of these Bylaws.
ATTACHMENT 3-2

PROJECT SUPPORT LETTERS

(DACS, SDACS, EDAS, STAKEHOLDERS)
October 12, 2017

Stephen Johnson
Stetson Engineers, Inc.

Re: Proposition 1 Grant Application

The Inyokern Community Services District (ICSD) is concerned about the limits of our shared groundwater resource.

The ICSD wishes to thank the Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority (IWVGA) and the Policy Advisory Committee (PAC) for their outreach efforts at bringing to our attention and increasing our awareness of the importance of the IWVGA sustainability goals and the ongoing process for achieving those goals. The PAC chair Donna Thomas and a representative of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) as well as several other interested community residents have attended ICSD board meetings to discuss water issues and the role of the groundwater authority. They emphasized the importance of participation in the process and encouraged the ICSD to be represented in the PAC.

The ICSD has joined the PAC and supports the IWVGA efforts at developing our sustainable groundwater plan.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Inyokern Community Services District
October 24, 2017

Stephen Johnson
Stetson Engineers, Inc.

Re: Proposition 1 Grant Application

The Searles Domestic Water Company (SDWC) provides potable water services to residents of a number of unincorporated towns in Searles Valley, such as West End, Argus and Trona. SDWC for the Community of Trona and the other communities it serves is concerned about the limits of the shared groundwater resource in Indian Wells Valley.

The SDWC wishes to thank the Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority (IWVGA) and the Policy Advisory Committee (PAC) for their outreach efforts at bringing to our attention and increasing our awareness of the importance of the IWVGA sustainability goals and the ongoing process for achieving those goals. The PAC chair Donna Thomas and a representative of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) have emphasized the importance of participation in the process and encouraged Trona water consumers to be represented in the PAC.

I plan to join the PAC in the near future and support the IWVGA efforts at developing our sustainable groundwater plan.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Audrey Schuyler
Manager
6 November 2017

To: Stephen Johnson  
Stetson Engineers, Inc.

Re: Proposition 1 Grant Application recommendation letter from the IWV Domestic Well Owners Association

Groundwater is the sole water supply for the Indian Wells Valley, California Basin 6-54. This Basin has been declared by DWR to be in Critical Overdraft. This decades-long continuous overdraft has seriously harmed a majority of the wells in the basin, especially shallower domestic and mutual wells. It is crucial that the newly-formed IWV Groundwater Authority quickly and effectively stabilize groundwater levels to protect the supply for all.

For many years, members of the IWV Domestic Well Owners’ Association (DWOA) have actively supported the interests of domestic well owners in publicly-elected positions, appointed positions, public forums, and publication of newsletters which provide the public with status and technical material.

The DWOA is pleased with the progress in forming a Groundwater Agency and the supporting policy and technical advisory committees. The DWOA believes that funding the Proposition 1 Grant Application being submitted for the IWV by Stetson Engineers is essential for the future well-being of the IWV, and, in particular, the IWV domestic well owners.

Sincerely, Administrative Committee of the IWV Domestic Well Owners Association:

Don Decker  Judie Decker  Lyle Fisher  West Katzenstein  Dell Hiedik

[Signatures]
November 3, 2017

Mr. Steve Johnson  
c/o Stetson Engineers, Inc.  
861 S Village Oaks Dr., Suite 100  
Covina, CA 91724

Re: Proposition 1 Grant Application

Dear Mr. Johnson,

I am writing to join other local stakeholders to express the full support of the Board of Directors of the Indian Wells Valley Water District ("District") for the application being made on behalf of the Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority ("Authority") for Proposition 1 grant funding to develop the Groundwater Sustainability Plan for our basin.

Our District represents nearly 30,000 people and is one of five voting members of the Authority Board. We also participate with representatives on both the Policy and Technical advisory committees. The Indian Wells Valley basin has been categorized as a medium priority basin in critical overdraft due to chronically declining groundwater levels. It is imperative that a plan be developed to address this condition and bring the basin into compliance with the requirements of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act. The funding obtained through this grant will provide the Authority with the resources necessary to develop the plan.

We appreciate the outreach efforts Stetson has made to the Policy and Technical committees as well as to the public at large to provide input into the grant application and look forward to continuing to work together to both develop and implement the plan.

Sincerely,

Peter Brown  
Board President
November 3, 2017

Stephen Johnson
Stetson Engineers, Inc.

Re: Proposition 1 Grant Application

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) administers 1.8 million acres of lands within the Ridgecrest Field Office. The BLM is tasked with managing these public lands for multiple-use while preserving natural resources for generations to come.

Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority (IWVGA) is developing a groundwater sustainability plan for the basin and the BLM has participated in this process with a representative on both the IWVGA board of directors and the Policy Advisory Committee (PAC). The BLM fully supports them in this endeavor as it is consistent with the BLM’s overall goal to provide for multiple-use with sustainable yield.

Thank you.

Respectfully,

[Signature]

Carl Symons
Ridgecrest Field Office Manager
6 November 2017

Mr. Stephen Johnson
Stetson Engineers, Inc.
861 Village Oaks Drive, Suite 100
Covina, CA 91724

Dear Mr. Johnson,

Re: Proposition 1 Grant Application

The Indian Wells Valley Economic Development Corporation (EDC) is concerned with the development of commerce and improving the quality of life in the Indian Wells Valley (IWV). Pursuant to these objectives we take great interest in the water issues facing our Valley. We are actively involved in the process to understand our community’s water usage and way to conserve, the dynamics of our local water resource, and ways to ensure future water availability.

We thank the IWV Groundwater Authority (IWVGA) for leading our community in these endeavors; and, we appreciate Stetson Engineers, Inc. involvement bringing your vast experience and knowledge of the hydrological sciences and policies. Finally, we applaud the efforts of the IWVGA in public outreach to ensure our community is aware of the issues, the GA’s sustainability goals, and the processes involved with attaining them. The IWV EDC will continue to support and be actively involved in these processes. The Proposition 1 Grant is a critical potential resource in this endeavor. Without this resource the IWV GA will be seriously hindered in pursuing its goals. Consequently, the IWV EDC strongly supports the Proposition 1 Grant application process. Please let us know how we can help improve our ability to secure this resource.

Thank You.

Very Truly Yours,

Mr. Scott M. O’Neil
IWV EDC Executive Director
November 3, 2017

Mr. Steve Johnson,
Stetson Engineers, Inc.

Re: Proposition 1 Grant Application

I am writing on behalf of the Indian Wells Valley Airport District (I WVAD), to express full support of the Indian Wells Valley Water Districts application being made on behalf of the Indian Wells Valley Ground Water Authority for Proposition 1 grant funding to develop the Groundwater Sustainability Plan for our valley.

The IWVAD is concerned about the limits of the shared groundwater resources in the Valley.

The Airport is also supporting the Skytem aerial survey with an In-Kind donation; see attached.

Sincerely,

Scott A. Seymour
General Manager
Inyokern Airport
In-Kind Airport Donations for Aerial Survey.

1. Private ramp space for geophysical system (North Ramp) 8 days at $5000.00 per day.
2. Office space for SKYTEM Team 8 days $1000.00
3. Staff support load-in and load out $500.00
4. Forklift rental 8 days $800.00
5. Sea Container rental for equipment storage 13 days $150

Total In-kind donation $42,450.00
November 6, 2017

Stetson Engineers, Inc.
Stephen Johnson
861 S. Village Oaks Drive #100
Covina, CA  91724

Re:  Proposition I Grant Application

On behalf of the Ridgecrest Area Association of Realtors we would like to thank the Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority (IWVGA), Policy Advisory Committee, and the Technical Advisory Committee for their commitment to increasing awareness of the water sustainability for the Indian Wells Valley.

The Association and its Board of Directors are pleased to have a Realtor – Carol Wilson serve on the Policy Advisory committee.

The efforts of the IWVGA to develop a sustainable groundwater plan is imperative to homeownership and future development and we support their efforts.

Sincerely,

Kathy Blurton
2017 President
Ridgecrest Area Association of Realtors
ATTACHMENT 3-3

PAC PRESENTATION (AUGUST 3, 2017)
3 August, 2017

To:
Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority
Policy Advisory Committee (PAC)

From:
West E. Katzenstein
C. Lyle Fisher
Domestic Well Owners (DWO) Representatives on PAC

Subject:
DOMESTIC WELL OWNERS OBJECTIVES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Fellow members of the PAC:

As representatives of the IWV domestic well owners (DWO), we would like to share high-level objectives and requirements of domestic well owners regarding management of groundwater in the Indian Wells Valley Basin. Additionally, we offer our recommendations on agenda items and on other topics of recent interest in the proceedings of the PAC.

1. Domestic Well Owners Objectives

Groundwater levels continue to drop in Basin wells including domestic wells, and this decline in water levels has accelerated greatly in areas where pumping has increased. Groundwater is the distribution system for domestic wells. This groundwater distribution system services major areas of the IWV groundwater Basin where no other distribution system exists. It would be a major expense to the GSA to replace the natural groundwater distribution system with man-made infrastructure, in the event that the GSA fails to manage groundwater levels and quality to protect domestic wells.

A description of the DWO objectives is contained in the attached document, titled: 'IWV Domestic Well Owners Association Position Summary'.

The DWO representatives recommend the following URGENT near-term goals:

- Stabilize groundwater levels and quality in areas used for domestic wells, at levels that protect domestic wells.
- Restore groundwater in areas used for domestic wells to levels that existed in 2015, to rectify the low margin that many domestic wells now experience.
- Begin the task to obtain imported water, even before the GSP is completed.
- Begin the task to define and design the infrastructure for storage and distribution of imported water, even before the GSP is completed.
2. **Summary of Groundwater Balance in the Indian Wells Valley**

The attached document, *DWO POINT PAPER #11 – IWV Water Budget Deficit*, summarizes the groundwater situation in the IWV. This document, originally presented by Gus Yates of Todd Engineers on February 12, 2014 at the Inyokern Senior Center, shows the importance of importing water to the future of the IWV. It also shows that wastewater treatment could only be a small contribution to the solution of the IWV water supply shortfall.

Although it has been talked about for years, it is important to realize that the brackish water “reserves” in the vicinity of the China Lake Playa and under Brown Rd to the West are not new water sources. These components of the Basin aquifer are hydraulically connected to the higher quality water we are already utilizing. This water is already accounted for in our water balance. The utilization of treated brackish water is not a useful component of a long-term sustainability plan.

3. **Questions to be Addressed by the PAC**

Documents provided by the DWR provide specific guidance for the preparation of the Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP). These documents include:

- 'Guidance Document for the Sustainable Management of Groundwater - Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) Annotated Outline'
- 'Guidance Document for the Sustainable Management of Groundwater - Preparation Checklist for GSP Submittal'
- 'Sustainable Groundwater Management Program - Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) Emergency Regulations Guide'
- California Code of Regulations; Title 23. Waters; Division 2. Department of Water Resources; Chapter 1.5. Groundwater Management; Subchapter 2. Groundwater Sustainability Plans

Much of the technical foundation required in the GSP has already been developed. However, the 'Sustainable Management Criteria' required in sub-article 3 of article 5 of the California Code of Regulations have yet to be developed, and will be critical drivers for the GSP. The regulations mandate that the 'Sustainable Management Criteria' include:

- Sustainability goals (indicators)
- Criteria to define undesirable results for each sustainability indicator
- Minimum thresholds for each sustainability indicator
- Measurable objectives for each sustainability indicator
  - Milestones at 5, 10, 15, and 20 years

In order to satisfy the 'Sustainable Management Criteria' listed above, the GSA will need to provide definitive guidance for the following key parameters of the GSP:

- Schedule to stabilize groundwater levels
- Minimum thresholds for groundwater levels
- Schedule to provide imported and/or reclaimed water
- Schedule to restore groundwater levels to 2015 levels
- Minimum thresholds for groundwater quality
- Pumping allotments to stabilize wells
- Pumping allotments to restore groundwater levels
- Milestones to evaluate progress and update allotments
- Infrastructure goals for storage and distribution of imported and/or reclaimed water

The PAC should provide alternatives and tradeoffs to the GSA for the above parameters. The final decisions on these parameters must come from the GSA.

The DWO representatives of the PAC recommend that the key parameters listed above be addressed by the proceedings of the PAC. Note that these parameters are closely related to the agenda items proposed by Mr. Panzer.

4. 'PAC SGMA Funding Working Group'.

The concept of a 'PAC SGMA Funding Working Group' was proposed by Mr. Imsand at the PAC meeting of 20 June, 2017. The Domestic Well Owner (DWO) representatives concur that such a working group is urgently needed. However, we do not agree with the proposed PAC membership of this working group. The proposed membership has no DWO representation. All constituents groups should be represented equally. We request that at least one DWO representative be appointed to any working group that is established to address the details of the grant proposals, and that all PAC constituents be represented equally.
IWV Domestic Well Owners Association Position Summary

Preamble
The IWV Domestic Well Owners Association (DWOA) Representatives have read and carefully studied the Todd Report and many of the existing published technical reports concerning the groundwater overdraft in the Indian Wells Valley groundwater Basin 6-54. 1) We find the Todd Report to be an accurate summary of the conditions of the critical groundwater overdraft that exists in this Valley. Since we have no other existing source of supply this shortfall is unsustainable. 2) We further find that the recommendations made in this report provide valuable guidance for the resolution of this economic disaster that is unfolding. 3) We specifically find the Todd conclusion that imported water will be required to maintain existing water uses is accurate. 4) We request the County of Kern provide technical and legal support to the citizens of the IWV to put in place the State mandated Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) as soon as possible. 5) The Agency, in turn, will develop a timely, effective and equitable plan and organization to ensure a future water supply for the IWV. 6) The Todd Report recommendations should be closely followed in most aspects. We cannot afford to wait any longer.

Objectives
1) Ensure the citizens of the IWV with a sustainable water supply and economy.
2) Manage the water supply in the IWV so that all Basin wells, including domestic wells, remain viable both in quantity and quality.
3) In the event that vulnerable shallower domestic wells do fail due to overdraft or water quality deterioration, the necessary infrastructure to supply water to those citizens shall be put in place and the costs borne by all water users in the IWV.

To wit, the positions:
1) Given the Basin critical overdraft and the rapidly deteriorating condition brought about by new groundwater production demands, a moratorium on new well permits in the IWV basin should be executed by the County immediately. This moratorium would exclude repair or redrilling of existing wells that have failed. This moratorium would continue until the overdraft has been stabilized.
2) The IWV Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) must be formed immediately and must provide equitable representation for all water users. The County would provide staff services initially.
3) When the moratorium is lifted, a water supply assessment will be required for all proposed new wells excluding de minimis users.
4) The GSA Board would function as a body independent from any and all existing IWV or County organizations. Citizen advisory committees would include representatives from the mutual water companies, domestic well owners, ag interests, SVM, the Navy, and public water purveyors.
5) A realistic schedule will be developed, maintained, and faithfully followed. All milestones in this Plan would be set using objective criteria coming from best available science. An accurate Basin groundwater model based on the USGS Modflow will provide essential guidance.
6) It would be the specific responsibility of this Agency to manage and regulate the future groundwater supply and in so doing stabilize the existing declining water levels and quality in accord with a publicly developed, State approved Plan. This plan will confirm that the highest priority use of basin groundwater is for health and safety of all residents.
7) The GSA would also specifically be charged with the responsibility and authority to negotiate, and bring imported water into the basin for direct use, recharge or storage. This effort would be directly incorporated into the Plan. This is an urgent need coming from the observed severe Basin overdraft.
8) All IWV water users would benefit by the additional water made available and costs would be shared equitably across all users.
9) Establish minimum thresholds for groundwater status and a hard schedule for imported water delivery. A violation shall lead to restrictions on pumping, such that total pumping equals recharge.
10) The positions offered here are essential to the future well being to all IWV citizens- not just domestic well owners. The urgency of the associated management activities cannot be over emphasized.
ATTACHMENT 3-4

PAC PRESENTATION (SEPTEMBER 13, 2017)
13 September, 2017

To:
Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority
Policy Advisory Committee (PAC)

From:
C. Lyle Fisher
West E. Katzenstein
Domestic Well Owner (DWO) Representatives on the PAC

Subject:
Domestic Well Owners Recommendations For Agenda Item 7 - 'Continued Discussion And Recommendations For A Strategy For Outreach To Public, Tribes And Property Owners'

Fellow members of the PAC:

Documents provided by the California Department of Water Resources and the Community Water Center provide detailed guidance for public outreach in GSA activities (see 'References' below). These documents summarize statutory requirements for engagement with the public and provide specific relevant references to the GSP Regulations and the Water Code.

The Domestic Well Owner Representatives suggest that the PAC make the following recommendations to the GA Board:

1. Strategies for outreach to the public, tribes, and property owners are adequately described in the GSP guidance documents referenced below. No additional action by the PAC is needed.
2. It would be appropriate for the PAC to approve this recommendation and to encourage the GA Board to follow these DWR guidelines.
3. An effective outreach to domestic well owners and other concerned citizens has been provided for many years by the 'Domestic Well Owners and Concerned Citizen Updates'. See the attached document: 'Background of the Domestic Well Owners and Concerned Citizen Updates' for more information. The PAC should make the GA Board aware of this long-standing outreach and the example it presents.

References:

1. 'Guidance Document for Groundwater Sustainability Plan - Stakeholder Communication and Engagement', by the California Department of Water Resources
2. 'Guidance Document for Groundwater Sustainability Plan - Engagement with Tribal Communities', by the California Department of Water Resources
3. 'Collaborating for Success: Stakeholder Engagement for Sustainable Groundwater Management Act Implementation', by Community Water Center
4. 'Guidance Document for the Sustainable Management of Groundwater - Preparation Checklist for GSP Submittal', by the California Department of Water Resources
5. 'Guidance Document for the Sustainable Management of Groundwater - Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) Annotated Outline', by the California Department of Water Resources
The "IWV Well Owners and Concerned Citizens Updates" is a monthly (sometimes more frequent) summary document that was started decades ago to inform rural citizens of the IWV concerning Valley political and technical groundwater supply and well issues. The specific motivation was to alert Valley citizens of our dwindling groundwater supply and the need to address the obvious supply shortfall.

When the IWV Domestic Well Owners Association was formed the Updates became an efficient communication path to our Associates, many of whom were having a hard time keeping up with the myriad meetings involved and the complexities of the issues. The total distribution is not known since the primary distribution is greatly expanded by original recipients forwarding to neighbors, mutual and co-op system officers forwarding to members and by regular posting at rural community bulletin boards. The Updates are certainly reaching a strong majority of the IWV domestic, mutual and co-op well owners.

Through the years, other individuals beyond the original recipients were reading the updates who realized that the information presented was useful to a broader range of "Concerned Citizens", and the distribution has steadily grown. The Concerned Citizen portion of the distribution list has expanded considerably with the broader GSA issues we now face.

The Updates always include summaries and explanations of recent meetings, agendas and dates for upcoming meetings, delivered as a timely, readable package and in a format suitable for smart phone and home computer display. The Updates typically include "hot" web links to pertinent reference documents, and other useful information relating to water. The archived Updates now total over 250 issues.
ATTACHMENT 3-5
NEWS ARTICLES (COMMUNICATION WITH WELL OWNERS)
Groundwater Cooperative discusses GSA workshop, LA aqueduct runoff

By Michael Smit
Staff Writer

Posted Apr 21, 2017 at 10:40 AM

The IWV Cooperative Groundwater Management Group met for their monthly meeting on Thursday afternoon to discuss a number of topics on the state of water management in the local area. Among topics brought up throughout the meeting were the upcoming GSA workshop and the water which continues to run through IWV from the LA aqueduct.

The IWVCGMG website states that the group is a “public water data-sharing group consisting of major water producers, other government agencies, and concerned citizens of the Valley.” They meet monthly to hear updates on local water projects from field experts, and invite outside speakers to give presentations which may be relevant to local water users.

GSA Workshop

One item on this month’s agenda was to hear updates on the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act of 2014, which requires regulation to sustain California’s groundwater and promotes the formation of local agencies to self-regulate.

Predictably, SGMA has become a big deal throughout IWV, an especially dry segment of the Mojave Desert. The IWV Groundwater Authority came together to form the area’s Groundwater Sustainability Agency, which will regulate the IWV groundwater basin.

SGMA set deadlines to ensure that basins are being effectively regulated. The first deadline set was for all high and medium priority basins in critical overdraft to form GSAs by June 30 of this year, which the local GSA managed to do. The next deadline is to form a Groundwater Sustainability Plan by early 2020. That’s
where it gets tricky.

To help meet the GSP deadline, IWVGA hopes to form a Technical Advisory Committee and a Policy Advisory Committee. There seems to be unanimous agreement that these committees are needed, but it’s proven difficult to find consensus when nailing down the structure of the committees into clear language in the IWVGA bylaws.

IWVGA decided to hold a public workshop just to hear out opinions on the committee structure and finish the bylaws, allowing them to move forward with creating a plan for sustainable water. This public workshop will be on Wednesday, April 26 at 5:30 p.m. at the Springhill Suite Hotel. It is open to the public and any parties interested in water are encouraged to attend the workshop to voice their opinion, or simply attend and learn about the local water situation.

“This is important,” IWV Water District board member Chuck Griffin said at the IWVCGMG meeting on Thursday. “We need to make sure we get as much public engagement as we can.”

While still on the topic of the IWVGA, IWVWD general manager Don Zdeba noted that even though the bylaws for the committees are not finalized yet, IWVGA is taking applications for both the TAC and the PAC committees. Those interested in applying can go to [www.co.kern.ca.us/WaterResources.aspx](http://www.co.kern.ca.us/WaterResources.aspx) to find the application.

**LA Aqueduct Runoff**

Toward the end of the meeting, after discussing issues with local water conservation efforts for over an hour, members of the public brought up the water flowing through IWV from the LA Aqueduct.

Los Angeles Department of Water and Power has been releasing water from the aqueduct after a wet winter left an overflow of water in its system. While this may seem like a blessing, local water experts say that it’s unlikely much of this water will seep down into the local groundwater basin before evaporating and local agencies don’t have the infrastructure needed to make use of this water.

Pat Farris, speaking during public comment, questioned if it would be possible to drill holes to allow the water to seep into the basin, but Zdeba noted that they
wouldn't want that because this is untreated water flowing from the aqueduct.

Judy Decker, also speaking during public comment, added to Zdeba’s comment. She stated that this water flowing from the mountains and through the aqueduct is full of much more than water. Soil, sediment, and all sorts of contaminants are still in it.

In order to make use of the water, local agencies had previously thrown around the idea of digging small makeshift reservoir to collect the water, but doubted even if that would be of any use.

Farris recommended that local water authorities continue looking into ways to make use of this water source flowing right through IWV, and a sentiment with which everyone on the IWVCWG seemed to agree with.

Until then, IWV water agencies continue with conservation efforts to sustain IWV’s limited water supply underground while the local geology doesn't allow it to make use of the water flowing freely right on its surface.
IWVGA committee seeks new members and begins hunt for funding

By Michael Smit
Staff Writer

Posted Jul 26, 2017 at 9:37 AM

The Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority’s Policy Advisory Committee held its second meeting on July 20. They approved action to seek two new members to represent disadvantaged communities and action to begin compiling lists of possible funding sources for IWVGA.

IWVGA is a new government agency which is responsible for creating and enforcing a sustainability plan for the IWV groundwater basin, per California state’s Sustainable Groundwater Management Act of 2014. This is a tall order for a desert area like the IWV which relies entirely on its groundwater basin to survive. To help with this task, the IWVGA created the PAC to suggest policy for the IWVGA board of directors to vote on.

The IWV has little surface water and exceptionally low annual rainfall. Those who reside in the IWV typically rely entirely on the IWV groundwater basin for survival. However, modern studies state that the agriculture, municipalities, and various industries in IWV are pumping water out of the basin around three to five times faster than the basin’s natural recharge rate, leading to a continuous drop in its water level by 0.5 to 1.5 feet every year. This is the issue the IWVGA is tasked with fixing; it must create a plan to find water sustainability.

The PAC held its first meeting on June 29, and spent much of the time trying to figure out its own structure and purpose. Many of the PAC members do not have significant public service experience, so they also needed to learn the means they had to achieve that purpose. IWVGA structured the PAC in a way intended to increase community participation, with each member of the PAC representing a major component of the IWV community.

Thus far, the committee has 11 members. The members are board chair Donna
Thomas from Eastern Kern County Resource Conservation District, board vice chair Steve Godard from wholesaler and industrial users, Rodney Stiefvater from large agriculture, Edward Imsand from large agriculture, Patricia Quist from small agriculture, Scott O’Neil from business interests, Carol Wilson from business interests, West Katzenstein from domestic well owners, Lyle Fisher from domestic well owners, Nick Panzer from residential customers of a public water agency, and Renee Westa-Lusk from residential customers of a public water agency.

The PAC also contains three non-voting members: Don Zdeba from IWV Water District, Brian Longbottom from the Department of the Navy, and Ryan Klaush from Bureau of Land Management.

Kern County planning and natural resources director Lorelei Oviatt also attended the July 20 PAC meeting as recording clerk, though she was also able to offer ample procedure advice with her public service experience.

The first major action item the PAC tackled at the meeting was to decide who will represent local disadvantaged communities. On top of believing that it’s important to allow these communities a fair voice in the water conservation conversation, PAC members believe that designating members as representatives of disadvantaged communities may increase their chances of helping IWVGA achieve state funded grants.

SGMA requires communities to form Groundwater Sustainability Agencies to regulate their groundwater basins, but California voters also approved Proposition 1, which provides state funds to help these GSAs. Prop 1 has two categories of funding eligibility, with Category 1 holding $10 million in reserve for GSAs serving severely disadvantaged communities.

At the June 29 PAC meeting, the PAC voted Donna Thomas and EKCRCD as the disadvantaged community representative, however Thomas stated that she would first have to take it to her board of directors. When she did so, the EKCRCD board believed that the Inyokern Community Services District would better represent disadvantaged communities. The idea is that rather than Thomas representing EKCRCD and the disadvantaged communities of IWV, ICSD would appoint their own member to solely represent disadvantaged communities.
In a memo from EKCRCD to the ICSD, the EKCRCD board says, “We believe it is important that groups such as the ICSD that meet the criteria as Disadvantaged Communities participate as stakeholders in the PAC.”

As the PAC began to gain approval for adding ICSD as a voting member of the PAC, Oviatt reminded PAC members that the PAC was originally drafted with 11 members in order to keep an odd number as a way to break tied votes. Adding ICSD would bring their total to 12.

With this in mind, they began to form a new plan, request that the IWVGA board appoint a representative from ICSD to the PAC as a voting member, and then at a future date potentially include a voting representative from Trona to also represent IWV disadvantaged communities after receiving more information from Trona and Searles Valley Minerals. The motion passed unanimously, with PAC members Godard and Katzenstein absent from the meeting and Westa-Lusk not yet appointed to the PAC at the time of the meeting.

Following this decision, the PAC discussed other ways they could help IWVGA secure grant funding. At the June 29 PAC meeting, PAC member Imsand stated that Meadowbrooks would be willing to offer the services of Eddy Teasdale and Kennedy/Jenks Consultants to help the PAC explore potential grant funding for IWVGA.

At the July 20 meeting, PAC chair Thomas asked Imsand if that offer still stands. Imsand said that it does, and it’s an offer that comes free of charge. He also clarified that while they may find other grant opportunities, it’s primarily focused on Prop 1 funding.

Teasdale told the PAC that they’ve already been working on researching Prop 1 grant funding, so it would be no problem to offer the information and further help to the PAC.

Thomas stated that she would just like for the PAC to be able to review the data. She said EKCRCD has also been looking at grant opportunities. She gave the example of grants for rehabilitation of household wells.

Of the PAC members in attendance, the motion to accept Imsand’s offer passed
IWVGA committee seeks new members and begins hunt for funding

with 8 votes, with Panzer abstaining from the vote.

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Groundwater Authority’s Technical Advisory Committee prioritizes studies to import water to IWV

By Michael Smit
Staff Writer

Posted Aug 4, 2017 at 10:39 AM

In its first meeting, the Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority’s (IWVGA) Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) spent most of the meeting discussing which technical projects ought to be at the top of their priorities as IWVGA moves forward with its goal of bringing sustainability to the IWV groundwater basin, which currently has a water level that’s dropping at 0.5 to 1.5 feet per year.

Their consensus: the top priority needs to be a study on the feasibility of importing water to the IWV. They are not yet sure where to import water from, what the system will look like, or how much it will cost. But TAC member consensus was that importing water, so far, appears to be the best option for bringing the IWV to groundwater sustainability.

“I put water importation as the number one priority,” said TAC member Don Decker. He explained that current studies such as the Todd Report state that water is pumped out of the IWV groundwater basin at a rate of three to five times faster than the basin’s natural recharge rate, leading to its water level decline. Decker said that no amount of conservation is likely to close this gap, which is why he prioritizes importing water.

The TAC came out of the meeting with general consensus on a list of four priorities. In order, they are studying water importation feasibility, forming a data management system to easily keep track of the technical data they collect, updating the current model of the IWV groundwater basin, and finding any gaps they have in their collection of data.

Once the priority list was finished, TAC member Adam Bingham spoke on the process of the TAC during its first meeting. “Maybe it’s just my impression of what I think is going on, but it feels like a bunch of [Policy Advisory Committee] things going on here. We have another PAC group that will deal with those things. We are the technical side,” he said.

He explained that he hoped after initial discussions, he hopes the TAC will move into more technical discussions. His sentiment echoed statements made by several members of the public who stated they expected to see the TAC discussing scientific data and technical aspects to help the IWVGA create its Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) for IWV groundwater. However, the TAC spent their first meeting discussing grant funding and community outreach, which some felt would be more appropriate for IWVGA’s PAC.

The IWVGA board of directors had initially tasked its PAC members to begin the process on working towards grant funding. State grants could award IWVGA over a million dollars in order to fund the necessary studies and projects to achieve groundwater sustainability for IWV residents.

The PAC began discussions on grant funding in their first meeting in July, but quickly realized that technical expertise would be helpful. So at the IWVGA July 20 board meeting, the board of directors requested the TAC look into grant funding. Its reasoning was that the state grants look to be awarded based on necessary projects, and those projects have a technical foundation.

With that task at the top of their list, TAC members spent most of their first meeting discussing policy about which projects and which studies should take priority. Once that’s decided, then they can hopefully move progress forward in future meetings, using the technical expertise of their members in order to supply IWVGA and its members with the technical data necessary to draft solid policy that will bring the IWV groundwater basin.
Additionally, meeting facilitator Don Zdebala, IWV Water District general manager, stated that it was expected that IWVGA’s Water Resources Manager (WRM) would be hired by the time the TAC met, but he wasn’t. Once the WRM is hired, that person will facilitate the meetings instead of Zdebala.

The IWVGA is a brand new type of government agency in the valley. It’s a Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA), brought about by California’s passage of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act of 2014. GSAs began forming for groundwater basins around the state, with many of these GSAs taking very different structures and practices as they attempted to learn to walk.

The IWV’s GSA, the IWVGA, created the advisory committees to help it along its process of forming a GSP for the IWV groundwater basin, but each group has struggled to find its feet due to the unprecedented novelty of the undertaking. However, the WRM may be the key to getting the groups together into a solid running stride, as the WRM is expected to be help information flow more easily between IWVGA board, PAC, and TAC.

At the upcoming Aug. 17 IWVGA board meeting, its possible the board may officially hire a WRM. It’s also expected that the board will appoint more members to the TAC.

The TAC currently consists of nine members: Eddie Teasedale from large agriculture, Wade Major from large agriculture, Michael Powell from residential customer of a public water agency, Don Decker from domestic well owners, Earl Wilson from Eastern Kern County Resource Conservation District, and Adam Bingham from wholesaler and industrial users. The TAC also contains the non-voting members of Renee Morquecho from IWV Water District and Stephan Bork from the Department of the Navy.