

# INDIAN WELLS VALLEY GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY

Ridgecrest City Hall 100 W California Ave., Ridgecrest, CA 93555 760-499-5002

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### A G E N D A

Wednesday, February 14, 2024

**Closed Session – 10:00 a.m.**

**Open Session – No earlier than 11:00 a.m.**

Pursuant to California Government Code 54953(b)(1) two additional call-in locations have been established for Board Members who will attend this meeting via teleconference at 14955 Dale Evans Parkway Apple Valley, CA. 92307 and at 1360 N Main St Bishop, CA. 93514.

***NOTICE:*** *In accordance with the evolving public health declarations, we will continue to provide live stream video for those wishing to participate virtually. Please see the Public Comment Notice below for detailed instructions on submitting public comment as well as websites for livestream broadcasting.*

*In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you are a disabled person and you need a disability-related modification or accommodation to participate in this meeting, please contact April Keigwin at (805) 764-5452. Requests must be made as early as possible and at least one full business day before the start of the meeting. Documents and material relating to an open session agenda items that are provided to the IWVGA Board of Directors prior to a regular meeting will be available for public inspection and copying at Ridgecrest City Hall, 100 W California Ave, Ridgecrest, CA 93555, or online at <https://iwvga.org/>.*

#### Statements from the Public

*The public will be allowed to address the Board during Public Comments about subjects within the jurisdiction of the IWVGA Board and that are NOT on the agenda. No action may be taken on off-agenda items unless authorized by law. Questions posed to the Board may be answered after the meeting or at future meeting. Dialog or extended discussion between the public and the Board or staff will be limited in accordance with the Brown Act. All Public Comment portions of the meeting shall be limited to three (3) minutes per speaker. Each person is limited to one comment during Public Comments.*

#### 1. CALL TO ORDER

#### 2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

#### 3. PUBLIC COMMENT ON CLOSED SESSION

#### 4. CLOSED SESSION

- CONFERENCE WITH REAL PROPERTY NEGOTIATIONS –  
(Government Code Section 54956.8) - Property: Purchase of Water Rights; Agency Negotiator: Jeff Simonetti; Negotiating Parties: Palmdale Municipal Water District; Under Negotiation: Price and terms of payment.

- CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – EXISTING LITIGATION  
(Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(1)): IWVGA v. Inyokern CSD – Kern County Superior Court BCV-22-100281
  
- CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – EXISTING LITIGATION  
(Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(1) - Name of case: Searles Valley Minerals Inc v. Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority, et. al. - Orange County Superior Court 30-2022-01239487-CU-MC-CJC
  
- CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL- EXISTING LITIGATION  
(Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(1) - Name of case: Mojave Pistachios, LLC, a California limited liability company, et.al. v. Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority, a California Joint Powers Authority, et. al. - Orange County Superior Court 30-2022-0139479-CU-MC-CJC

**5. OPEN SESSION – No earlier than 11:00 a.m.**

- a. Report on Closed Session
- b. Pledge of Allegiance
- c. Roll Call

**6. PUBLIC COMMENT**

This time is reserved for the public to address the Board about matters NOT on the agenda. No action will be taken on non-agenda items unless authorized by law. Comments are limited to three minutes per person.

**7. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

This time is reserved for comments by Board members and/or staff and to identify matters for future Board business.

**8. CONSENT AGENDA**

- a. Approve Minutes of Board Meeting January 10, 2024
- b. Approve Expenditures  
*\*To view itemized invoices please visit <https://iwvga.org/iwvga-meetings>*
  - i. \$122,793.47 – Stetson Engineers
  - ii. \$26,572.50 – Regional Government Services – (Replenishment / Extraction)
  - iii. \$16,387.50 – Capitol Core Group – (Replenishment)
  - iv. \$284,502.09 – Provost & Pritchard – (SGMA IP Grant)
  - v. \$745.00 – TranSystems – (SGMA IP Grant)

**9. RESOLUTION 02-24 AUTHORIZING A REIMBURSEMENT AGREEMENT WITH ANTELOPE VALLEY EAST KERN**

**10. WATER RESOURCES MANAGER REPORT**

- a. Grant Funding
- b. GSP Implementation Projects/Management Action Updates
  - i. Imported Water Project
  - ii. Shallow Well Mitigation Program
  - iii. GSP Update
  - iv. 2023 Annual Report
- c. Miscellaneous Items

- i. Data Collection and Monitoring
- ii. IWVGA Basin Model Configuration Management Plan
- iii. Rose Valley Subflow Update

#### **11. GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT**

- a. Monthly Financial Report
- b. C&E Plan Update
- c. Report on IWVGA's Water Marketer (Capitol Core Group)
- d. Miscellaneous Updates

#### **12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – MARCH 13, 2024**

#### **13. ADJOURN**

### **PUBLIC COMMENT NOTICE**

IWVGA meetings will be open to the public for physical attendance; However, for those who wish to continue using virtual alternatives please follow the directions below for access to live stream video as well as ways to submit public comment.

- **Watch meetings on-line:**

All of our meetings are streamed live at <https://ridgecrest-ca.gov/369/Watch> (4 second streaming delay) or on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/cityofridgecrest/live> (22 second streaming delay) and are also available for playback after the meeting.

- **Call in for public comments:**

If you wish to make verbal comment, *please call (760) 499-5010*. This phone line will allow only one caller at a time, so if the line is busy, please continue to dial. We will be allowing a 20-30 second pause between callers to give time for media delays and callers to dial in. Due to media delays, please mute your streaming device while making public comment. If you wish to comment on multiple items, you will need to call in as each item is presented.

\*Please Note – This process will be a learning curve for all, *please be patient*.

- **Submit written comments:**

We encourage submittal of written comments supporting, opposing, or otherwise commenting on an agenda item, for distribution to the Board prior to the meeting. Send emails to [akeigwin@rgs.ca.gov](mailto:akeigwin@rgs.ca.gov) written correspondence may be sent to April Keigwin, Clerk of the Board, 100 W. California Ave., Ridgecrest, CA 93555. Please specify to which agenda item your comment relates.

- **Large Groups:**

If you are part of a large group that would like to comment on an agenda item, please consider commenting in writing. This will be as impactful to the Board as having a large group in attendance.

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# INDIAN WELLS VALLEY GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY

City of Ridgecrest, Indian Wells Valley Water District, Inyo County, Kern County, San Bernardino County

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES Wednesday, January 10, 2024

**IWVGA Members Present:**

Chairman Phillip Peters, Kern County	Carol Thomas-Keefer, IWVGA General Manager
Scott Hayman, City of Ridgecrest	Keith Lemieux, Legal Counsel
Chuck Griffin, IWVWD	Steve Johnson, Stetson Engineers
John Vallejo, Inyo County	Commander Turner, US Navy, DoD Liaison
Thomas Bickauskas, Bureau of Land Management	April Keigwin, Clerk of the Board

Attending via teleconference is Tim Itnyre, Carol Thomas-Keefer, and Steve Johnson.

Meeting recording, public comment letters submitted, and all board meeting related documents are made available at:  
<https://iwvga.org/iwvga-meetings/>

**1. CALL TO ORDER:**

Chairman Hayman calls the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m.

**2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA:**

Motion made by Scott Hayman and seconded by Chuck Griffin to approve adoption of the agenda. Motion carries by the following roll call vote:

Chairman Peters	Aye
Vice Chair Hayman	Aye
Director Itnyre	Aye
Director Griffin	Aye
Director Vallejo	Absent

**3. PUBLIC COMMENT ON CLOSED SESSION:**

None.

Chairman Hayman calls the meeting into Closed Session at 10:05 a.m.

**4. CLOSED SESSION:**

- CONFERENCE WITH REAL PROPERTY NEGOTIATIONS –  
 (Government Code Section 54956.8) - Property: Purchase of Water Rights; Agency Negotiator: Jeff Simonetti; Negotiating Parties: Palmdale Municipal Water District; Under Negotiation: Price and terms of payment.
- CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – EXISTING LITIGATION  
 (Government Code Section 54956.9(c)): IWVGA v. Inyokern CSD
- CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – EXISTING LITIGATION  
 (Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(1)) - Name of case: Searles Valley Minerals Inc v. Indian Wells

Valley Groundwater Authority, et. al. - Orange County Superior Court 30-2022-01239487-CU-MC-CJC

- CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL- EXISTING LITIGATION  
(Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(1) - Name of case: Mojave Pistachios, LLC, a California limited liability company, et.al. v. Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority, a California Joint Powers Authority, et. al. - Orange County Superior Court 30-2022-0139479-CU-MC-CJC

Closed Session adjourns at 10:30 a.m.

**5. OPEN SESSION – No earlier than 10:30 a.m.**

Meeting reconvenes into Open Session at 10:34 a.m.

- Report on Closed Session – Counsel Lemieux reports no reportable action was taken that would require disclosure under The Brown Act.
- Pledge of Allegiance is led by Chairman Peters
- Roll Call

Chairman Peters	Present
Vice Chair Hayman	Present
Director Griffin	Present
Director Itnyre	Present
Director Vallejo	Absent

**6. PUBLIC COMMENT:**

The Board hears public comment from Judie Decker and Renee Westa-Lusk.

**7. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS:**

None.

**8. CONSENT AGENDA:**

- Approve Minutes of Board Meeting December 13, 2023
- Resolution 01-24 Appointing Emma Lynch as the new PAC Representative for BLM
- Approve Expenditures

*\*To view itemized invoices please visit <https://iwvga.org/iwvga-meetings>*

- \$113,679.26 – Stetson Engineers
- \$24,208.00 – Regional Government Services – (Replenishment / Extraction)
- \$18,037.50 – Capitol Core Group – (Replenishment)
- \$101,521.79 – Provost & Pritchard – (SGMA IP Grant)
- \$2,112.50 – TranSystems – (SGMA IP Grant)

Motion made by Chuck Griffin and seconded by Scott Hayman to approve Minutes of Board Meeting December 13, Resolution 01-24, and the following expenditures in the amount of, \$113,679.26 to Stetson Engineers, \$24,208.00 to Regional Government Services, \$18,037.50 to Capitol Core Group, \$101,521.79 to Provost & Pritchard, and \$2,112.50 to TranSystems.

Motion carries by the following roll call vote:

Chairman Peters	Aye
Vice Chair Hayman	Aye
Director Itnyre	Aye
Director Griffin	Aye
Director Vallejo	Absent

**9. AUTHORIZE RELEASE OF REQUEST FOR BIDS FOR UTILITY POTHOLING SERVICES FOR THE IMPORTED WATER PIPELINE:**

Bianca Cabrera presents staff report and request for bid documents.

Motion made by Scott Hayman and seconded by Phillip Peters to authorize release of request for bids for utility potholing services.

Motion carries by the following roll call vote:

Chairman Peters	Aye
Vice Chair Hayman	Aye
Director Itnyre	Aye
Director Griffin	Nay
Director Vallejo	Absent

**10. OVERVIEW OF NEW DWR GUIDELINES FOR GSP PERIODIC EVALUATIONS AND GSP AMENDMENTS:**

Jeff Helsley provides staff report and presentation.

The Board hears public comment from Dave Janiec.

**11. WATER RESOURCES MANAGER REPORT:**

Steve Johnson provides updates on the following grants/programs:

- a. Grant Funding
- b. GSP Implementation Projects/Management Action Updates
  - i. Imported Water Project
  - ii. Shallow Well Mitigation Program
  - iii. GSP Update
  - iv. 2023 Annual Report
- c. Miscellaneous Items
  - i. Data Collection and Monitoring
  - ii. IWVGA Basin Model Configuration Management Plan
  - iii. Rose Valley Subflow Update
  - iv. Update on LADWP Releases

The Board hears public comment from Judie Decker, Renee Westa-Lusk, Josh Nugent, West Katzenstein, Don Decker.

**12. GENERAL MANAGER’S REPORT:**

Carol Thomas-Keefer provides Monthly Financial Report and C&E update. Michael McKinney of Capitol Core Group presents Technical Memorandum.

**13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – FEBRUARY 14, 2024**

**14. ADJOURN:**

Chairman Hayman adjourns the meeting at 11:50 a.m. on January 10, 2024.

Respectfully submitted,

*April Keigwin*  
Clerk of the Board  
Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority

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**Invoice**

Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority  
 Ms. Carol Thomas-Keefer  
 100 W. California Ave.  
 Ridgecrest, CA 93555

**Invoice Number: 2652-77**  
**Invoice Date: 02/09/24**

Project #: 2652      **Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority**

Professional Services through 12/31/2023

**Water Resources Management 2023**

**01 - Meetings & Prep**

<b>Professional Services</b>	<u>Bill Hours</u>	<u>Bill Rate</u>	<u>Charge</u>
Principal	14.00	\$237.00	\$3,318.00
Supervisor I	10.00	\$206.00	\$2,060.00
Senior Associate	4.00	\$128.00	\$512.00
Associate III	4.75	\$111.00	\$527.25
Assistant I	36.00	\$98.00	\$3,528.00
Assistant II	13.75	\$93.00	\$1,278.75
<i>Professional Services Subtotal:</i>			<u>\$11,224.00</u>
			<u>Charge</u>
<b>Reimbursables</b>			
Reproduction (Color)			\$80.10
Reproduction			\$14.70
<i>Reimbursables Subtotal:</i>			<u>\$94.80</u>
<i>Meetings &amp; Prep Subtotal:</i>			<u>\$11,318.80</u>

**01.01 - LADWP Release Coordination and Meetings**

<b>Professional Services</b>	<u>Bill Hours</u>	<u>Bill Rate</u>	<u>Charge</u>
Special Project Director	3.50	\$237.00	\$829.50
Supervisor II	27.00	\$191.00	\$5,157.00
<i>Professional Services Subtotal:</i>			<u>\$5,986.50</u>
<i>LADWP Release Coordination and Meetings Subtotal:</i>			<u>\$5,986.50</u>

**02 - Prop 1 / Prop 68 Grant Administration**

<b>Professional Services</b>	<u>Bill Hours</u>	<u>Bill Rate</u>	<u>Charge</u>
Senior Associate	1.00	\$128.00	\$128.00
<i>Professional Services Subtotal:</i>			<u>\$128.00</u>
<i>Prop 1 / Prop 68 Grant Administration Subtotal:</i>			<u>\$128.00</u>

**02.01 - SGMA IP Grant Administration**

<b>Professional Services</b>	<u>Bill Hours</u>	<u>Bill Rate</u>	<u>Charge</u>
Senior Associate	6.50	\$128.00	\$832.00
Assistant I	12.25	\$98.00	\$1,200.50
<i>Professional Services Subtotal:</i>			<u>\$2,032.50</u>
<i>SGMA IP Grant Administration Subtotal:</i>			<u>\$2,032.50</u>

**04 - Data Mgmt System Support**

<b>Professional Services</b>	<u>Bill Hours</u>	<u>Bill Rate</u>	<u>Charge</u>
Senior III	9.50	\$134.00	\$1,273.00



**04 - Data Mgmt System Support**

<b>Professional Services</b>	<u>Bill Hours</u>	<u>Bill Rate</u>	<u>Charge</u>
Senior Associate	3.00	\$128.00	\$384.00
Associate III	17.00	\$111.00	\$1,887.00
			<i>Professional Services Subtotal:</i> \$3,544.00
			<i>Data Mgmt System Support Subtotal:</i> \$3,544.00

**05 - General Project Mgmt**

<b>Professional Services</b>	<u>Bill Hours</u>	<u>Bill Rate</u>	<u>Charge</u>
Special Project Director	1.00	\$237.00	\$237.00
Assistant II	6.75	\$93.00	\$627.75
			<i>Professional Services Subtotal:</i> \$864.75
			<i>General Project Mgmt Subtotal:</i> \$864.75

**06 - Model Transfer & Upgrade**

<b>Professional Services</b>	<u>Bill Hours</u>	<u>Bill Rate</u>	<u>Charge</u>
Special Project Director	3.50	\$237.00	\$829.50
Supervisor I	2.50	\$206.00	\$515.00
Supervisor II	36.00	\$191.00	\$6,876.00
GIS Manager	0.50	\$122.00	\$61.00
Assistant II	1.75	\$93.00	\$162.75
			<i>Professional Services Subtotal:</i> \$8,444.25
<b>Sub-Contractors</b>			<u>Charge</u>
Board of Regents			\$17,844.92
			<i>Sub-Contractors Subtotal:</i> \$17,844.92
			<i>Model Transfer &amp; Upgrade Subtotal:</i> \$26,289.17

**07.01 - Imported Water: Planning/Design/Environmental**

<b>Professional Services</b>	<u>Bill Hours</u>	<u>Bill Rate</u>	<u>Charge</u>
Principal	13.00	\$237.00	\$3,081.00
Supervisor I	39.25	\$206.00	\$8,085.50
Assistant I	12.00	\$98.00	\$1,176.00
			<i>Professional Services Subtotal:</i> \$12,342.50
			<i>Imported Water: Planning/Design/Environmental Subtotal:</i> \$12,342.50

**09 - Recycled Water**

<b>Professional Services</b>	<u>Bill Hours</u>	<u>Bill Rate</u>	<u>Charge</u>
Supervisor I	1.00	\$206.00	\$206.00
Assistant II	31.50	\$93.00	\$2,929.50
			<i>Professional Services Subtotal:</i> \$3,135.50
			<i>Recycled Water Subtotal:</i> \$3,135.50

**11 - Data Collection, Monitoring & Data Gaps**

<b>Professional Services</b>	<u>Bill Hours</u>	<u>Bill Rate</u>	<u>Charge</u>
Supervisor II	18.50	\$191.00	\$3,533.50
GIS Manager	1.50	\$122.00	\$183.00
Associate III	31.75	\$111.00	\$3,524.25
			<i>Professional Services Subtotal:</i> \$7,240.75

<b>Reimbursables</b>	<u>Charge</u>
Other Expenses	\$47.00
	<i>Reimbursables Subtotal:</i> \$47.00



*Data Collection, Monitoring & Data Gaps Subtotal: \$7,287.75*

**14 - Production Reporting, Transient Pool & Fee Support**

<b>Professional Services</b>	<u>Bill Hours</u>	<u>Bill Rate</u>	<u>Charge</u>
Senior Associate	1.50	\$128.00	\$192.00
<i>Professional Services Subtotal:</i>			<u>\$192.00</u>

*Production Reporting, Transient Pool & Fee Support Subtotal: \$192.00*

**18 - Navy/Coso Royalty Fund: FY21 Rose Valley MW Permitting, Bid Doc Support & Dr**

<b>Sub-Contractors</b>	<u>Charge</u>
Teya Enterprises, LLC	\$3,500.00
<i>Sub-Contractors Subtotal:</i>	

*Navy/Coso Royalty Fund: FY21 Rose Valley MW Permitting, Bid Doc Support & Dr \$3,500.00*

**18.1 - Navy/Coso Cooperative Agreement**

<b>Professional Services</b>	<u>Bill Hours</u>	<u>Bill Rate</u>	<u>Charge</u>
Special Project Director	0.25	\$237.00	\$59.25
<i>Professional Services Subtotal:</i>			<u>\$59.25</u>

*Navy/Coso Cooperative Agreement Subtotal: \$59.25*

**20 - Shallow Well Mitigation Program: Outreach & Impacts Evaluation**

<b>Professional Services</b>	<u>Bill Hours</u>	<u>Bill Rate</u>	<u>Charge</u>
Principal	8.50	\$237.00	\$2,014.50
Supervisor I	9.00	\$206.00	\$1,854.00
GIS Manager	4.75	\$122.00	\$579.50
GIS Specialist I	3.00	\$101.00	\$303.00
Assistant I	29.00	\$98.00	\$2,842.00
Assistant II	8.75	\$93.00	\$813.75
<i>Professional Services Subtotal:</i>			<u>\$8,406.75</u>

*Shallow Well Mitigation Program: Outreach & Impacts Evaluation Subtotal: \$8,406.75*

**21 - General Engineering**

<b>Professional Services</b>	<u>Bill Hours</u>	<u>Bill Rate</u>	<u>Charge</u>
Principal	7.50	\$237.00	\$1,777.50
Supervisor I	12.75	\$206.00	\$2,626.50
Supervisor I	10.00	\$197.00	\$1,970.00
Supervisor II	4.00	\$191.00	\$764.00
Senior Associate	4.50	\$128.00	\$576.00
Associate I	0.50	\$122.00	\$61.00
Associate III	1.00	\$111.00	\$111.00
Assistant I	7.00	\$98.00	\$686.00
<i>Professional Services Subtotal:</i>			<u>\$8,572.00</u>

*Professional Services Subtotal: \$8,572.00*

*General Engineering Subtotal: \$8,572.00*

**22 - GSP 5-Year Update**

<b>Professional Services</b>	<u>Bill Hours</u>	<u>Bill Rate</u>	<u>Charge</u>
Supervisor I	6.75	\$206.00	\$1,390.50
Supervisor II	57.00	\$191.00	\$10,887.00
Senior Associate	6.50	\$128.00	\$832.00
Assistant II	18.00	\$93.00	\$1,674.00

*Professional Services Subtotal: \$14,783.50*



*GSP 5-Year Update Subtotal:* \$14,783.50

**23 - Annual Report Preparation**

**Professional Services**

	<u>Bill Hours</u>	<u>Bill Rate</u>	<u>Charge</u>
Supervisor I	5.50	\$206.00	\$1,133.00
Supervisor II	1.00	\$191.00	\$191.00
Senior Associate	47.00	\$128.00	\$6,016.00
Associate III	9.00	\$111.00	\$999.00
Assistant I	3.75	\$98.00	\$367.50

*Professional Services Subtotal:* \$8,706.50

*Annual Report Preparation Subtotal:* \$8,706.50

**27 - Litigation Support**

**Professional Services**

	<u>Bill Hours</u>	<u>Bill Rate</u>	<u>Charge</u>
Principal	19.00	\$237.00	\$4,503.00
Supervisor I	5.00	\$206.00	\$1,030.00
Associate III	1.00	\$111.00	\$111.00

*Professional Services Subtotal:* \$5,644.00

*Litigation Support Subtotal:* \$5,644.00

***Water Resources Management 2023 Subtotal:*** **\$122,793.47**

**\*\*\* Invoice Total \*\*\*** **\$122,793.47**



**REIMBURSABLE SUMMARY**

City of Ridgecrest  
 Attn: Carol Thomas-Keefer  
 100 W. California Ave.  
 Ridgecrest, CA 93555

**Invoice Number: 2652-77**  
**Invoice Date: 02/09/24**

Project #: 2652 **Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority**  
 Manager: Stephen Johnson

Professional Services through 12/31/2023

**01 - Meetings & Prep**

**Reimbursables**

**Reimbursables**

<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Units</u>	<u>Unit Rate</u>	<u>Charge</u>	<u>Notes</u>
Reproduction	12/31/2023	98.00	\$0.15	\$14.70	
Reproduction (Color)	12/31/2023	90.00	\$0.89	\$80.10	
				Meetings & Prep Sub-Total:	\$94.80

**06 - Model Transfer & Upgrade**

**Sub-Contractors**

<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Units</u>	<u>Unit Rate</u>	<u>Charge</u>	<u>Notes</u>
Board of Regents	12/31/2023	1.00	\$17,844.92	\$17,844.92	
				Model Transfer & Upgrade Sub-Total:	\$17,844.92

**11 - Data Collection, Monitoring & Data Gaps**

**Reimbursables**

<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Units</u>	<u>Unit Rate</u>	<u>Charge</u>	<u>Notes</u>
Other Expenses	12/01/2023	1.00	\$47.00	\$47.00	Storage fee
				Data Collection, Monitoring & Data Gaps Sub-Total:	\$47.00

**18 - Navy/Coso Royalty Fund: FY21 Rose Valley MW Permitting, Bid Doc Support & Drilling**

**Sub-Contractors**

<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Units</u>	<u>Unit Rate</u>	<u>Charge</u>	<u>Notes</u>
Teya Enterprises, LLC	12/31/2023	1.00	\$3,500.00	\$3,500.00	
				Navy/Coso Royalty Fund: FY21 Rose Valley MW Permitting, Bid Doc Su	\$3,500.00

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PO Box 1350  
Carmel Valley, CA 93924

# Invoice

Date	Invoice #
12/31/2023	16141

**Bill To:**

IWVGA Comm & Eng

P.O. No.	Due Date	Inv Sent
	1/30/2024	1/12/2024

Date	Description	Amount
12/31/2023	Contract Services for December - please see attached	157.50

Electronic Payment Information: Five Star Bank Routing: 121143037 Account: 003528782	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$157.50</b>
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**IWVGA Comm & Eng**

Month: **December, 2023**

<b>Hours and Rates by Pay Period</b>					
	<b>1st -15th</b>		<b>16th - EOM</b>		<b>Monthly</b>
<b>Advisor</b>	<b>Reg Hrs</b>	<b>Bill Rate</b>	<b>Reg Hrs</b>	<b>Bill Rate</b>	<b>Total Billed</b>
AK	0.50	\$ 105.00	1.00	\$ 105.00	\$ 157.50
	0.00	\$ -	0.00	\$ -	\$ -
	0.00	\$ -	0.00	\$ -	\$ -
<b>Totals</b>	<b>0.50</b>		<b>1.00</b>		<b>\$ 157.50</b>



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PO Box 1350  
Carmel Valley, CA 93924

# Invoice

Date	Invoice #
12/31/2023	16243

**Bill To:**

Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority  
100 W California Ave  
Ridgecrest, CA 93555

P.O. No.	Due Date	Inv Sent
	2/16/2024	1/24/2024

Date	Description	Amount
12/31/2023	Reimbursable Expenses for City of Ridgecrest Monthly Rent - please see attached	300.00

Electronic Payment Information: Five Star Bank Routing: 121143037 Account: 003528782	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$300.00</b>
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**AGREEMENT FOR LEASE OF  
100 W. CALIFORNIA AVENUE, RIDGECREST, CA**

**by and between**

**THE CITY OF RIDGECREST AND  
REGIONAL GOVERNMENT SERVICES**

**AGREEMENT:**

**Premises:** For and in consideration of the terms, covenants, and conditions contained in this Agreement, City leases to RGS, and RGS leases from City, an approximate 210 square foot office space located along with the monthly use of the City's conference room located at 100 W. California Avenue., Ridgecrest, County of Kern, State of California, depicted on the floor plan attached as **Exhibit "A"** ("**Premises**").

**Term:** The initial term of this Agreement ("**Term**") shall commence on the Execution Date and terminate one year (12 months) thereafter, unless sooner terminated or extended as provided in this Agreement.

**Option to Extend Term:** Provided RGS is not in default of any of the terms, covenants, or conditions of this Agreement, RGS shall have one option to request an extension of the initial Term for a two-year period ("**Option Term**"). RGS may exercise the option by giving the City's City Manager ("**CM**") written notice of RGS's desire to extend, not less than 60 days prior to expiration of the initial Term. The CM, at the CM's sole discretion, may accept or reject the request to extend.

**4. Right to Terminate:** Either Party may terminate this Agreement for any reason by providing a 60-day prior written notice to the other Party.

**5. Hold Over:** If RGS holds over after the expiration of the Term, with the express or implied consent of City, such holding over shall be a tenancy only from month to month and shall be governed by the terms, covenants, and conditions contained in this Agreement.

**6. Rental Consideration:**

**a. In General:** As consideration for the lease of the Premises during the Term, RGS shall pay to City in lawful money of the United States, to CM at 100 W. CALIFORNIA AVENUE, RIDGECREST, CA, or to such persons and at such places as may be designated from time to time by City. The first rental payment shall be paid within 30 days of the Execution Date, and thereafter for the balance of the Term, shall be paid on or before the first of each month. In the event RGS occupies the Premises for a partial month at any time, RGS shall only be responsible for a prorated portion of the Rent.

**b. Fair Market Rental Value:** The fair market rental rate of the facility is determined to be \$300 per month (\$1.43 per square foot).

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PO Box 1350  
Carmel Valley, CA 93924

# Invoice

Date	Invoice #
12/31/2023	16125

Bill To:
Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority 100 W California Ave Ridgecrest, CA 93555

P.O. No.	Due Date	Inv Sent
	1/30/2024	1/12/2024

Date	Description	Amount
12/31/2023	Contract Services for December - please see attached	24,903.00

Electronic Payment Information:Five Star Bank Routing:121143037 Account:003528782	<b>Total</b> <b>\$24,903.00</b>
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**Indian Wells Valley**

Month: **December, 2023**

Hours and Rates by Pay Period					
	1st -15th		16th - EOM		Monthly
Advisor	Reg Hrs	Bill Rate	Reg Hrs	Bill Rate	Total Billed
CT	30.50	\$ 134.00	15.50	\$ 134.00	\$ 6,164.00
AK	79.80	\$ 105.00	53.00	\$ 105.00	\$ 13,944.00
JK	0.00	\$ -	0.00	\$ -	\$ -
GL	0.00	\$ -	0.00	\$ -	\$ -
AM	0.00	\$ -	0.00	\$ -	\$ -
GS	22.00	\$ 137.00	13.00	\$ 137.00	\$ 4,795.00
EF	0.00	\$ -	0.00	\$ -	\$ -
RM	0.00	\$ -	0.00	\$ -	\$ -
<b>Totals</b>	<b>132.30</b>		<b>81.50</b>		<b>\$ 24,903.00</b>

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PO Box 1350  
Carmel Valley, CA 93924

# Invoice

Date	Invoice #
12/31/2023	16140

Bill To:
IWVGA Web Design

P.O. No.	Due Date	Inv Sent
	1/30/2024	1/12/2024

Date	Description	Amount
12/31/2023	Contract Services for December - please see attached	1,212.00

Electronic Payment Information: Five Star Bank Routing: 121143037 Account: 003528782	<b>Total</b> \$1,212.00
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**IWVGA Web Design**

Month: **December, 2023**

<b>Hours and Rates by Pay Period</b>					
	<b>1st -15th</b>		<b>16th - EOM</b>		<b>Monthly</b>
<b>Advisor</b>	<b>Reg Hrs</b>	<b>Bill Rate</b>	<b>Reg Hrs</b>	<b>Bill Rate</b>	<b>Total Billed</b>
CD	5.75	\$ 150.00	2.33	\$ 150.00	\$ 1,212.00
AM	0.00	\$ -	0.00	\$ -	\$ -
	0.00	\$ -	0.00	\$ -	\$ -
<b>Totals</b>	<b>5.75</b>		<b>2.33</b>		<b>\$ 1,212.00</b>

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**Capitol Core Group, Inc.**  
 205 Cartwheel Bend (Operations Dept.)  
 Austin, TX 78738 US  
 512.568.3084  
 operations@capitolcore.com  
 www.capitolcore.com

**BILL TO**

Indian Wells Valley Groundwater  
 Authority  
 500 West Ridgecrest Blvd.  
 Ridgecrest, California 93555  
 USA

**INVOICE 2024-009**

**DATE** 02/02/2024 **TERMS** Net 45

**DUE DATE** 03/18/2024

**VENDOR ID**

195953

**INVOICE PERIOD**

January 2024

DATE	ACCOUNT SUMMARY	AMOUNT
01/03/2024	Balance Forward	45,150.00
	Other payments and credits after 01/03/2024 through 02/01/2024	-45,150.00
02/02/2024	Other invoices from this date	0.00
	New charges (details below)	16,387.50
	Total Amount Due	16,387.50

ACTIVITY	HOURS	RATE	AMOUNT
<b>Charges</b>			
Project 1: Imported Water Supplies			
P1-A: Complete Existing Negotiations			
<b>Government Relations: Intergovernmental Affairs</b>	3	275.00	825.00
Continuing Negotiations Public Agency Seller #2 {Tatum}			
<b>Government Relations: Intergovernmental Affairs</b>	5	275.00	1,375.00
Continuing Negotiations Public Agency Seller #3 {Tatum}			
<b>Government Relations: Intergovernmental Affairs</b>	1.50	250.00	375.00
Continuing negotiation with public agency seller #3 {Simonetti}			
P1-B: Other Required Agreements			
P1-C: Regulatory Approvals of Water Sale			
P1-D: 2024 Water Marketing			
<b>Government Relations: Intergovernmental Affairs</b>	5	275.00	1,375.00
2024 Water Marketing Calls {Tatum}			
<b>Government Relations: Intergovernmental Affairs</b>	1.25	250.00	312.50
2024 Water Supplies {Simonetti}			
Invoice Total Project 1: \$4,262.50 (15.75 hours)			
Project 2: Interconnection Pipeline Project			
<b>Government Relations: Federal</b>	5	275.00	1,375.00
Congressional: Senate follow-up WRDA-24 request, Senator Padilla, Senate E&PW, House T&I, direct advocacy {McKinney}			

ACTIVITY	HOURS	RATE	AMOUNT
<b>Government Relations:Federal</b> Agency: USACE PAS application, redirection of funding, internal calls and follow-up {McKinney}	2	275.00	550.00
<b>Government Relations:Public Policy</b> Internal discussion and research -- required planning funding options {McKinney}	3	275.00	825.00
<b>Government Relations:Federal</b> Congressional: WRDA Request -- Update follow-up and direct advocacy Rep. Garcia {Simonetti}	2	250.00	500.00
<b>Government Relations:Federal</b> Agency: DOD/USACE -- Materials, Follow-up and call {Simonetti}	2.50	250.00	625.00
<b>Government Relations:Public Policy</b> General Discussion (client call) regarding planning funding options {Simonetti}	3	250.00	750.00
Invoice Total Project 2: \$4,625.00 (17.5 hours)			
Project 3: Other Projects Supporting the GSP			
P3-A: Water Recycling			
P3-B: Wastewater Treatment			
P3-C: Well Mitigation, Consolidation and Repurposing			
P3-D: Government Affairs (other)			
<b>Government Relations:Federal</b> Congressional: FY-2025 E&WD CPFR packet development, strategy, call w/ Rep. Obernolte, and House Appropriations follow-up {McKinney}	4.50	275.00	1,237.50
<b>Government Relations:California</b> Legislative: State Funding Request, Governor's Budget Proposal analysis (split), Asm Fong and internal meetings {McKinney}	3	275.00	825.00
<b>Government Relations:California</b> Legislative: AB 560 and 2024 water legislation, mtg w/ Asm. Bennett, research and client discussions {McKinney}	3	275.00	825.00
<b>Government Relations:California</b> Legislative and Regulatory: January Legislative monitoring and analysis for IWVGA {McKinney}	2.50	275.00	687.50
<b>Government Relations:California</b> Legislative -- Governor's State Budget analysis and discussion {Simonetti}	1.50	250.00	375.00
<b>Government Relations:California</b> Legislative -- Senator Atkins State Budget Request {Simonetti}	1.50	250.00	375.00
<b>Government Relations:Federal</b> Congressional: FY2025-E&WD schedule, Rep. Obernolte Community Project Funding Request {Simonetti}	3.25	250.00	812.50
Invoice Total Project 3: \$5,137.50 (19.25 hours)			
Project 4: Project Administration			
<b>General Business Items:Project Administration</b> Board Meeting: January {McKinney}	2.50	275.00	687.50
<b>General Business Items:Project Administration</b> Board Meeting -- January Board Member {Tatum}	2	275.00	550.00
<b>General Business Items:Project Administration</b> Monthly Materials Preparation {Simonetti}	1.50	250.00	375.00

ACTIVITY	HOURS	RATE	AMOUNT
<b>General Business Items:Project Administration</b>	3	250.00	750.00
Board Meetings: January meeting {Simonetti}			
Invoice Total Project 4: \$2,362.50 (9 hours)			
*****			
Regulatory Compliance Notations:			
-Invoice Total Federal Reporting: \$5,887.50			
-Invoice Total State Reporting: \$3,845.00			
*****			

Thank you for your business. Please make checks payable to  
 Capitol Core Group, Inc.

SUBTOTAL	16,387.50
TAX	0.00
TOTAL	16,387.50
TOTAL OF NEW CHARGES	16,387.50

<b>TOTAL DUE</b>	<b>\$16,387.50</b>
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# PROVOST & PRITCHARD CONSULTING GROUP

455 W Fir Ave • Clovis, CA 93611 • (559) 449-2700  
www.provostandpritchard.com

April Keigwin  
Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority  
100 West California Avenue  
Ridgecrest, CA 93555

February 08, 2024  
Project No: 04101-23-002  
Invoice No: 107181

**Project Name: IWVGA Imported Water Conveyance Design Services**

**Client Project #:**

**See Monthly Progress Report attached to the front of this invoice.**

**Professional Services from January 01, 2004 to January 31, 2024**

Phase: 121P Coordination Meetings

**Labor**

	Hours	Rate	Amount	
Senior Engineer	.70	195.00	136.50	
Assistant Engineer	1.04	126.00	131.04	
Project Administrator	.20	101.00	20.20	
Associate Biologist	6.60	130.00	858.00	
Senior Project Administrator	.50	115.00	57.50	
Totals	9.04		1,203.24	
<b>Total Labor</b>				<b>1,203.24</b>
			<b>Total this Phase:</b>	<b>\$1,203.24</b>

Phase: 132S Stantec General Project Management

**Consultants**

Consultants			654.06	
<b>Total Consultants</b>			<b>654.06</b>	<b>654.06</b>
			<b>Total this Phase:</b>	<b>\$654.06</b>

Phase: 221P Environmental & ROW Consultant Coordination

**Labor**

	Hours	Rate	Amount	
Senior Engineer	1.50	178.00	267.00	
Senior Engineer	2.50	195.00	487.50	
Totals	4.00		754.50	
<b>Total Labor</b>				<b>754.50</b>
			<b>Total this Phase:</b>	<b>\$754.50</b>

Phase: 241P Utility Research/Coordination

**Labor**

	Hours	Rate	Amount	
Senior Engineer	1.00	178.00	178.00	
Assistant Engineer	1.00	126.00	126.00	
Associate Engineer	2.00	156.00	312.00	

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For billing inquiries, please email Billing@ppeng.com.

Project	04101-23-002	IWVGA Imported Water Conveyance Design	Invoice	107181
Project Administrator		.10	94.00	9.40
Totals		4.10		625.40
<b>Total Labor</b>				<b>625.40</b>
<b>Reimbursable Expenses</b>				
Travel & Mileage				22.60
Other Direct Reimb Expenses				16.11
<b>Total Reimbursables</b>				<b>38.71</b>
<b>Total this Phase:</b>				<b>\$664.11</b>

Phase:	251P	P&P Coordination Geotechnical Services		
<b>Labor</b>				
		<b>Hours</b>	<b>Rate</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Associate Biologist		7.30	130.00	949.00
Totals		7.30		949.00
<b>Total Labor</b>				<b>949.00</b>
<b>Total this Phase:</b>				<b>\$949.00</b>

Phase:	271P	BLM Special Use Permit		
<b>Labor</b>				
		<b>Hours</b>	<b>Rate</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Senior Engineer		36.50	195.00	7,117.50
Associate Engineer		.80	133.00	106.40
Assistant Engineer		51.40	126.00	6,476.40
Senior Specialist		.20	165.00	33.00
Principal Engineer		2.00	207.00	414.00
Senior GIS Specialist		7.10	147.00	1,043.70
Associate GIS Specialist		4.00	105.00	420.00
Senior Project Administrator		.90	115.00	103.50
Totals		102.90		15,714.50
<b>Total Labor</b>				<b>15,714.50</b>
<b>Total this Phase:</b>				<b>\$15,714.50</b>

Phase:	272P	CalTrans Encroachment Permit		
<b>Labor</b>				
		<b>Hours</b>	<b>Rate</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Principal Engineer		5.00	207.00	1,035.00
Totals		5.00		1,035.00
<b>Total Labor</b>				<b>1,035.00</b>
<b>Total this Phase:</b>				<b>\$1,035.00</b>

Phase:	273P	City of California City Permit		
<b>Labor</b>				
		<b>Hours</b>	<b>Rate</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Senior Engineer		2.60	178.00	462.80
Totals		2.60		462.80
<b>Total Labor</b>				<b>462.80</b>
<b>Total this Phase:</b>				<b>\$462.80</b>

Phase:	275P	SCE Encroachment Permit (Transmission Line Under Crossing)		
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**Labor**

	Hours	Rate	Amount	
Senior Engineer	1.57	178.00	279.46	
Senior Engineer	.90	195.00	175.50	
Totals	2.47		454.96	
<b>Total Labor</b>				<b>454.96</b>
<b>Total this Phase:</b>				<b>\$454.96</b>

Phase: 285T Bennett Trenchless Prelim Design Report

**Consultants**

Consultants			405.38	
<b>Total Consultants</b>			<b>405.38</b>	<b>405.38</b>
<b>Total this Phase:</b>				<b>\$405.38</b>

Phase: 28T1 Preliminary System Hydraulics TM Stantec

**Labor**

	Hours	Rate	Amount	
Principal Engineer	3.40	227.00	771.80	
Totals	3.40		771.80	
<b>Total Labor</b>				<b>771.80</b>
<b>Total this Phase:</b>				<b>\$771.80</b>

Phase: 313S Stantec 30% Submittal

**Labor**

	Hours	Rate	Amount	
Principal Engineer	.50	227.00	113.50	
Totals	.50		113.50	
<b>Total Labor</b>				<b>113.50</b>

**Consultants**

Consultants			35,133.65	
<b>Total Consultants</b>			<b>35,133.65</b>	<b>35,133.65</b>
<b>Total this Phase:</b>				<b>\$35,247.15</b>

Phase: 31T3 Pipeline Calculations TM Summary 30% Design

**Labor**

	Hours	Rate	Amount	
Assistant Engineer	18.60	112.00	2,083.20	
Principal Engineer	5.10	227.00	1,157.70	
Principal Engineer	.90	238.00	214.20	
Totals	24.60		3,455.10	
<b>Total Labor</b>				<b>3,455.10</b>
<b>Total this Phase:</b>				<b>\$3,455.10</b>

Phase: 31T4 Required Pipeline Facilities TM Summary 30% Design

**Labor**

	Hours	Rate	Amount	
Senior Engineer	7.70	195.00	1,501.50	
Associate Engineer	5.32	140.00	744.80	

Project	04101-23-002	IWVGA Imported Water Conveyance Design	Invoice	107181	
Principal Engineer			10.50	227.00	2,383.50
Totals			23.52		4,629.80
<b>Total Labor</b>					<b>4,629.80</b>
<b>Total this Phase:</b>					<b>\$4,629.80</b>

Phase:	31T5	Blending Tank Design for Ridgecrest 30% Design			
<b>Labor</b>					
			<b>Hours</b>	<b>Rate</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Senior Engineer			3.13	195.00	610.35
Associate Engineer			2.00	156.00	312.00
Principal Engineer			.80	207.00	165.60
Totals			5.93		1,087.95
<b>Total Labor</b>					<b>1,087.95</b>
<b>Total this Phase:</b>					<b>\$1,087.95</b>

Phase:	31T6	Electrical System Requirements TM			
<b>Labor</b>					
			<b>Hours</b>	<b>Rate</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Senior Engineer			5.30	171.00	906.30
Totals			5.30		906.30
<b>Total Labor</b>					<b>906.30</b>
<b>Consultants</b>					
Consultants					2,040.10
<b>Total Consultants</b>					<b>2,040.10</b>
<b>Total this Phase:</b>					<b>\$2,946.40</b>

Phase:	31T7	Instrumentation and Controls TM			
<b>Labor</b>					
			<b>Hours</b>	<b>Rate</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Senior Engineer			2.80	171.00	478.80
Totals			2.80		478.80
<b>Total Labor</b>					<b>478.80</b>
<b>Consultants</b>					
Consultants					31,406.50
<b>Total Consultants</b>					<b>31,406.50</b>
<b>Total this Phase:</b>					<b>\$31,885.30</b>

Phase:	31T9	Preliminary Permitting Requirements TM 30% Design			
<b>Labor</b>					
			<b>Hours</b>	<b>Rate</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Senior Engineer			3.00	164.00	492.00
Senior Engineer			4.00	195.00	780.00
Associate Engineer			2.50	133.00	332.50
Assistant Engineer			8.50	126.00	1,071.00
Principal Engineer			1.00	227.00	227.00
Associate Planner			.30	115.00	34.50
Associate Biologist			1.70	130.00	221.00
Totals			21.00		3,158.00
<b>Total Labor</b>					<b>3,158.00</b>

**Total this Phase: \$3,158.00**

Phase: 321P P&P 60% Submittal

**Labor**

	Hours	Rate	Amount	
Senior Engineer	6.00	186.00	1,116.00	
Senior Engineer	79.00	178.00	14,062.00	
Senior Engineer	.50	171.00	85.50	
Senior Engineer	2.00	164.00	328.00	
Senior Engineer	168.40	195.00	32,838.00	
Associate Engineer	18.30	140.00	2,562.00	
Assistant Engineer	22.60	112.00	2,531.20	
Assistant Engineer	6.40	105.00	672.00	
Senior Technician	14.60	143.00	2,087.80	
Assistant Engineer	62.10	126.00	7,824.60	
Assistant Engineer	26.50	119.00	3,153.50	
Principal Engineer	1.50		0.00	
Principal Engineer	19.10	207.00	3,953.70	
Principal Engineer	38.20	227.00	8,671.40	
Principal Engineer	13.00	238.00	3,094.00	
Principal Engineer	.80	248.00	198.40	
Project Administrator	1.60	94.00	150.40	
Project Administrator	1.20	101.00	121.20	
Senior Technician	6.50	158.00	1,027.00	
Senior Technician	147.11	150.00	22,066.50	
Associate Technician	35.40	119.00	4,212.60	
Intern	.80	65.00	52.00	
Totals	671.61		110,807.80	
<b>Total Labor</b>				<b>110,807.80</b>

**Reimbursable Expenses**

Travel & Mileage			90.92	
<b>Total Reimbursables</b>			<b>90.92</b>	<b>90.92</b>

**Total this Phase: \$110,898.72**

Phase: 421P P&P Water Quality Bench Testing

**Labor**

	Hours	Rate	Amount	
Travel Time	10.00	80.00	800.00	
Senior Engineer	32.50	164.00	5,330.00	
Assistant Engineer	16.80	105.00	1,764.00	
Assistant Engineer	23.40	126.00	2,948.40	
Associate Engineer	11.84	156.00	1,847.04	
Totals	94.54		12,689.44	
<b>Total Labor</b>				<b>12,689.44</b>

**Reimbursable Expenses**

Travel & Mileage			565.54	
Field Supplies			9.21	
<b>Total Reimbursables</b>			<b>574.75</b>	<b>574.75</b>

**Total this Phase: \$13,264.19**

Phase: 422L Water Quality Laboratory Testing

**Consultants**

Consultants			7,026.50	
	<b>Total Consultants</b>		<b>7,026.50</b>	<b>7,026.50</b>
		<b>Total this Phase:</b>		<b>\$7,026.50</b>

**Billing Limits**

	<b>Current</b>	<b>Prior</b>	<b>To-Date</b>	
Total Billings	236,668.46	1,918,292.70	2,154,961.16	
Budget			3,770,969.00	
Budget Remaining			1,616,007.84	
		<b>Total this Invoice</b>		<b><u><u>\$236,668.46</u></u></b>

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# PROVOST & PRITCHARD CONSULTING GROUP

455 W Fir Ave • Clovis, CA 93611 • (559) 449-2700  
www.provostandpritchard.com

April Keigwin  
Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority  
100 West California Avenue  
Ridgecrest, CA 93555

February 08, 2024  
Project No: 04101-23-001  
Invoice No: 107179

**Project Name:** Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority-CEQA/NEPA Documents and Permit Documentation

**Client Project #:**

**TSK 1 Initial Coordination:** Continued Coordination tasks with staff, client, and agencies to keep project schedule on track. Administrative tasks for overall project progression. Weekly coordination meetings and tasks for project progression. Coordination meetings with sub consultants. Internal management meetings for project progression discussions, staff changes, and all related project status updates. Internal staff coordination based on agency feedback and updates from meetings. Follow up on amendments and notice to proceed. Assistance with meeting notes preparations. Process sub consultant invoices, reimbursable expenses and timesheets for approval.

**TSK 2 Geotechnical Studies:** Continued email correspondence with CDFW to discuss boring sites and mitigation measures. Review and discuss boring locations and edits to all prepared maps based on discussions. Submit resumes for qualified staff to BLM for approval. Review mitigation measures for geotechnical work and revise based on meetings with BLM and CDFW. Map updates for geotechnical locations. Meeting with BLM to review POD for geotechnical work and resolved questions/comments on prepared document. Check in with CDFW and email correspondence. Review revegetation plan for geotechnical work.

**TSK 3 Technical Studies:** Biological Resources - Spring surveys prepared for and started. Review original survey report and discuss maps. Updates to biological technical reports based on comments/feedback from BLM and CDFW. Reimbursable Expenses - rental car and lodging for surveys. Cultural Resources - Coordination and check-in meetings with cultural sub consultant for status of survey, necessary permits to perform work, and test pits status. Reviewed Energy Analysis report and provided comment.

**TSK 4 Public Outreach:** Coordination on updates and review of Scoping Report. Email correspondence and communication with BLM regarding comments received.

**TSK 5 Regulatory Compliance and Permitting:** Coordination with BLM on permitting efforts. Coordination on final review of permit packages and coordination on payment of application fees. Submit Permits for geotechnical work to CDFW, RWQCB, and USACE waivers.

**TSK 6 CEQA/NEPA Documentation:** Detailed coordination meetings and review of IS/EIR documents based on comments received and input from senior staff QAQC review. Revisions to each section of the document to provide resource analysis support for project. Updates to maps for environmental document.

**Professional Services from December 01, 2023 to December 31, 2023**

Phase: TSK1 Initial Coordination (Kick Off Meetings)

**Labor**

	<b>Hours</b>	<b>Rate</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Principal Engineer	.90	227.00	204.30
Project Administrator	10.80	108.00	1,166.40

\*\*\* Please make checks payable to Provost & Pritchard Consulting Group \*\*\*  
For billing inquiries, please email Billing@ppeng.com.

Project	04101-23-001	CEQA/NEPA Documents and Permit Documenta	Invoice	107179
Principal Planner		10.40	188.00	1,955.20
Totals		22.10		3,325.90
<b>Total Labor</b>				<b>3,325.90</b>

**Consultants**

Consultants				2,558.75
<b>Total Consultants</b>				<b>2,558.75</b>

**Total this Phase: \$5,884.65**

Phase: TSK2 Geotechnical Studies  
**Labor**

	Hours	Rate	Amount	
Associate Biologist	30.60	130.00	3,978.00	
Principal Biologist	1.80	165.00	297.00	
Totals	32.40		4,275.00	
<b>Total Labor</b>				<b>4,275.00</b>

**Consultants**

Consultants				299.00
<b>Total Consultants</b>				<b>299.00</b>

**Total this Phase: \$4,574.00**

Phase: TSK3 Technical Studies  
**Labor**

	Hours	Rate	Amount	
Senior Specialist	3.90	165.00	643.50	
Project Administrator	.60	94.00	56.40	
Project Administrator	2.50	108.00	270.00	
Senior GIS Specialist	8.10	147.00	1,190.70	
Principal Planner	2.40	188.00	451.20	
Associate Planner	.80	138.00	110.40	
Associate Biologist	16.90	130.00	2,197.00	
Principal Biologist	.30	165.00	49.50	
Totals	35.50		4,968.70	
<b>Total Labor</b>				<b>4,968.70</b>

**Consultants**

Consultants				15,177.56
<b>Total Consultants</b>				<b>15,177.56</b>

**Reimbursable Expenses**

Travel & Mileage				222.15
<b>Total Reimbursables</b>				<b>222.15</b>

**Total this Phase: \$20,368.41**

Phase: TSK4 Public Outreach  
**Labor**

	Hours	Rate	Amount	
Project Administrator	.50	108.00	54.00	
Totals	.50		54.00	
<b>Total Labor</b>				<b>54.00</b>

**Consultants**

Consultants		6,049.00	
<b>Total Consultants</b>		<b>6,049.00</b>	<b>6,049.00</b>
	<b>Total this Phase:</b>		<b>\$6,103.00</b>

Phase: TSK5 Regulatory Compliance and Permitting

**Labor**

	Hours	Rate	Amount
Administrative Assistant	.50	76.00	38.00
Project Administrator	6.30	108.00	680.40
Assistant Envir. Spec.	8.70	120.00	1,044.00
Principal Planner	3.30	188.00	620.40
Associate Biologist	13.90	130.00	1,807.00
Totals	32.70		4,189.80
<b>Total Labor</b>			<b>4,189.80</b>

**Consultants**

Consultants		402.50	
<b>Total Consultants</b>		<b>402.50</b>	<b>402.50</b>

**Reimbursable Expenses**

Postage/Shipping/Delivery		26.77	
<b>Total Reimbursables</b>		<b>26.77</b>	<b>26.77</b>

**Total this Phase: \$4,619.07**

Phase: TSK6 CEQA/NEPA Documentation

**Labor**

	Hours	Rate	Amount
Project Administrator	1.50	108.00	162.00
Associate Planner	14.60	115.00	1,679.00
Assistant Envir. Spec.	.20	112.00	22.40
Assistant Planner	12.40	110.00	1,364.00
Assistant Planner	17.20	90.00	1,548.00
Assistant Planner	.30	96.00	28.80
Principal Planner	3.20	180.00	576.00
Associate GIS Specialist	1.80	105.00	189.00
Associate GIS Specialist	.10	125.00	12.50
Associate Biologist	5.00	130.00	650.00
Associate GIS Specailist	.40	132.00	52.80
Totals	56.70		6,284.50
<b>Total Labor</b>			<b>6,284.50</b>

**Total this Phase: \$6,284.50**

**Total this Invoice: \$47,833.63**



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# Invoice

Please remit payment to:  
P.O. Box 71368  
Chicago, IL 60694-1368

TranSystems Corporation

www.transystems.com

If you have any questions, please call:  
(562) 304-2000

**Client:**

Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authorit  
Attn: April Keigwin - Clerk of the Board  
100 W California Ave.  
Ridgecrest, CA 93555

**Reference:**

Invoice Date: 1/31/2024  
Project No: P601230025  
Invoice No: INV-0004384564

Project Name: IWV-Imported Water Pipeline

For professional services rendered January 1, 2024 through January 31, 2024 for the above referenced project.

Staff Type	Name	Rate	Hours	Amount
<b>Labor</b>				
Project Consultant 3	April C. Harvey	250.00	1.00	\$250.00
	Donald M. Anderson	150.00	3.30	\$495.00
<b>Total Labor</b>			<b>4.30</b>	<b>\$745.00</b>
<b>Invoice Total</b>				<b>\$745.00</b>

TranSystems Corporation

Donald M. Anderson, SRWA  
Senior Project Manager

**TERMS: PAYABLE UPON RECEIPT**

**1 1/2% INTEREST CHARGE PER MONTH WILL BE ADDED TO ALL PAST DUE INVOICES OLDER THAN 45 DAYS IF INDICATED IN THE CONTRACT TERMS**

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# IWVGA ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

*STAFF REPORT*

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**TO:** IWVGA Board Members **DATE:** February 14, 2024

**FROM:** IWVGA Staff

**SUBJECT:** **Agenda Item No. 9 – RESOLUTION 2-24 Authorizing a Reimbursement Agreement with AVEK**

## **BACKGROUND AND DISCUSSION**

A Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) Implementation Grant through the California Department of Water Resources is providing \$7.6 million for planning and design-level activities, including design services, for the Imported Water Pipeline Project, which will bring imported water supplies into the Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Basin through an imported water connection from Antelope Valley – East Kern Water Agency’s (AVEK) California City pipeline to the Indian Wells Valley Water District water system. The Imported Water Project includes approximately 50.3 miles of pipeline, three pump stations, two forebay tanks, and a regulating tank.

As the Imported Water Project’s (Project) alignment and associated booster pump stations are proposed to connect to AVEK’s system to wheel water supplies to IWVGA, the Board adopted Resolution 07-22 in October 2022, to execute a reimbursement agreement with AVEK for data sharing for the IWVGA’s consultant, Provost & Pritchard, to prepare the Project’s Alignment Study, which was completed in April 2023.

Development of the Project continues, including Provost & Pritchard’s recent completion of the 30% design. AVEK has prepared a Reimbursement Agreement (Agreement) for Project Scoping Review, which includes reimbursement of incurred and future expenses, time, and materials by the AVEK staff, consultants, and other reasonably related professional or administrative services while undertaking the Project Scoping Review, including all other matters related to review and discussion of the Project. The Project Scoping Review also includes preparation of the Connection Analysis by Kennedy Jenks Consultants to examine potential tie-in locations on AVEK’s transmission system using AVEK’s transmission system hydraulic model. The Agreement requires an initial deposit of \$75,000.00 to AVEK from IWVGA, which includes Kennedy Jenk’s estimated cost of approximately \$25,000.00 to draft the Connection Analysis. The IWVGA shall advance additional deposits as required by AVEK for the review and discussion of the Project. Any unused funds at the completion of the Project Scoping Review will be refunded to IWVGA and AVEK will provide full accounting of costs incurred to be paid by the deposit to IWVGA.

Resolution 02-24 and the Agreement are attached for your review.

**RECOMMENDED ACTION**

Staff recommends that the Board adopt Resolution 02-24 authorizing staff to execute the attached Reimbursement Agreement with AVEK for the Project Scoping Review for the Imported Water Project.

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# BEFORE THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE INDIAN WELLS VALLEY GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY

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In the matter of:

Resolution No. 2-24

## IMPORTED WATER PIPELINE AVEK REIMBURSEMENT AGREEMENT

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I, \_\_\_\_\_, Clerk of the Board of Directors for the Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority, do certify that the following resolution, on motion of Director \_\_\_\_\_, seconded by Director \_\_\_\_\_, was duly passed and adopted by the Board of Directors at an official meeting this 14<sup>th</sup> of February, 2024, by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk of the Board of Directors  
Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority

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## RESOLUTION

### Section 1. RECITALS

WHEREAS, the Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority (Authority) determined that it was necessary to comply with the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) which requires the Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Basin (Basin) to be sustainably managed by 2040; and

WHEREAS, the Authority is the Lead Agency for preparation of a draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for a proposed imported water pipeline and associated booster pump stations (Project) which is proposed to connect to Antelope Valley-East Kern Water Agency's (AVEK) system to wheel approximately 6,431 acre-feet of water to the Authority by 2070; and

WHEREAS, the project is contingent upon AVEK wheeling Authority water supplies through AVEK infrastructure, which requires a preliminary Project Scoping Review to determine the

feasibility of using AVEK infrastructure for wheeling said water supplies; and

WHEREAS, AVEK will conduct the Project Scoping Review conditioned upon a Reimbursement Agreement to reimburse AVEK for expenses, time, and materials incurred by the AVEK Board of Directors, administration, staff, consultants, lawyers, and other reasonably related professional or administrative services while undertaking the Project Scoping Review; and

**Section 2. THEREFORE IT IS RESOLVED** by the Board of Directors of the Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority, as follows:

1. This Board finds that the recited facts are true and that it has the jurisdiction to consider, approve, and adopt this Resolution.

2. This Board hereby approves of the Reimbursement Agreement with AVEK, attached hereto as Exhibit “A,” and authorizes the General Manager to execute said Agreement.

**Section 3.** This Resolution shall become effective immediately.

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED, by the Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority this \_\_\_th day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2024.

SIGNED:

\_\_\_\_\_  
President of the Board of Directors

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_



# **EXHIBIT A**

**INDIAN WELLS VALLEY GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY IMPORTED WATER PIPELINE PROJECT**  
**REIMBURSEMENT AGREEMENT**

This Reimbursement Agreement (“AGREEMENT”), made and entered into as of \_\_\_\_\_, 2024 (the “Effective Date”) by and between the ANTELOPE VALLEY-EAST KERN WATER AGENCY, established by Chapter 2146 of the 1959 Statutes of the State of California (hereinafter referred to as AVEK or AGENCY), and INDIAN WELLS VALLEY GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY, created July 15, 2016 pursuant to Chapter 5 of Division 7 of Title 1 of the California Government Code, sections 6500 (hereinafter referred to as AUTHORITY) a Joint Exercise of Powers Agreement. AVEK and AUTHORITY are referred to herein collectively as the “Parties” and each individually as a “Party.”

**RECITALS**

WHEREAS, the AUTHORITY determined that it was necessary to comply with the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) which requires the Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Basin (Basin) to be sustainably managed by 2040; and

WHEREAS, the AUTHORITY is the Lead Agency for preparation of a draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for a proposed imported water pipeline and associated booster pump stations (Project) which is proposed to connect to AVEK’s system to wheel approximately 6,431 acre-feet of water to the AUTHORITY by 2070; and

WHEREAS, the PROJECT is contingent upon AVEK wheeling AUTHORITY water supplies through AVEK infrastructure, which requires a preliminary Project Scoping Review to determine the feasibility of using AVEK infrastructure for wheeling said water supplies; and

WHEREAS, AVEK will conduct the Project Scoping Review conditioned upon this Reimbursement Agreement to reimburse AVEK for expenses, time, and materials incurred by the AVEK Board of Directors, administration, staff, consultants, lawyers, and other reasonably related professional or administrative services while undertaking the Project Scoping Review; and

WHEREAS, nothing herein shall be interpreted as a commitment by AVEK to execute a future water service wheeling, extension, and interconnection agreement, or otherwise be involved in the Project unless and until the AVEK Board of Directors has approved a resolution and executed such agreement.

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the foregoing and other good and valuable consideration, the receipt and sufficiency of which are hereby acknowledged, AUTHORITY and AVEK, intending to be legally bound, hereby agree as follows:

**AGREEMENT**

Section 1. Deposit.

- a) AUTHORITY shall deposit with AVEK an initial amount of \$75,000 (seventy-five thousand dollars) within ten (10) business days of the execution of this Agreement. AVEK shall use said funds to fully reimburse AVEK for costs incurred to conduct a Project Scoping Review and for all other matters related to review and discussion of the Project, including expenses, employee time, materials, general and accounting costs incurred by the AVEK Board of Directors, administration, staff, consultants, lawyers, and other reasonably related professional or administrative services.

- b) AUTHORITY shall advance additional deposits as required by AVEK to complete the Project Scoping Review and for all other matters related to review and discussion of the Project.
- c) AVEK has no obligation to continue with the Project Scoping Review or any other analysis or discussions regarding the Project unless and until all future deposits requested by AVEK are made.
- d) AVEK will promptly refund any unused funds to the AUTHORITY upon (1) completion of the Project Scoping Review, (2) written notice of discontinuation of the Project from the AUTHORITY, (3) written notice from the AUTHORITY of a Project change that no longer requires connection to AVEK infrastructure, or (4) mutual agreement on the Project's connection to AVEK infrastructure which requires no additional analysis, whichever comes last.
- e) AVEK will provide the AUTHORITY with a full accounting of costs incurred to be paid from funds deposited by the AUTHORITY.
- f) The deposit of such funds do not require AVEK to complete the Project Scoping Review within a given time period, complete the Project Scoping Review at all, require AVEK to make any determination supporting the Project, issue a positive and supporting Project Scoping Review of the Project feasibility for connection to AVEK infrastructure, or render AVEK liable for any refund of money if the Project Scoping Review determines that it is not feasible for AVEK to provide wheeling services for the Project.

Section 2. Remedy.

- a) All decisions of AVEK are in the sole, exclusive, and final discretion of AVEK. No action in law or equity shall be permitted to force AVEK to be subjected to any court, mediation, arbitration proceeding, or order because of this AGREEMENT, Project Scoping Review, or any other matter related thereto.
- b) AVEK agrees to enter mediation before a mutually agreed JAMS judge for Los Angeles County, California, sitting in Palmdale, California if the balance of any deposit is not refunded promptly, subject to Section 1.d of this AGREEMENT.
- c) AVEK and AUTHORITY may, but shall not be required, to enter into informal discussions by meet and confer to resolve any issues that may arise under this AGREEMENT.
- d) There are no remedies available to AUTHORITY for default by AVEK of this AGREEMENT.

Section 3. Termination. This AGREEMENT can be terminated at any time by the sole and exclusive discretion of AVEK.

Section 4. Term.

- a) The term of this AGREEMENT shall be for 12 months, unless extended with AVEK's consent.
- b) AVEK shall not be required to extend this AGREEMENT by any court, mediation, arbitration proceeding, or order.

Section 5. Documents.

- a) AVEK may retain all documents exchanged between the Parties and/or prepared by each Party in fulfillment of the intent of the AGREEMENT.
- b) AVEK is a public organization subject to full disclosure to their respective citizens, contracting parties, or general public pursuant to law, and thus may be required to disclose such documents.

Section 6. Opinion of Counsel. AUTHORITY shall provide AVEK with an opinion of AUTHORITY counsel confirming the legality of this AGREEMENT under the laws, rules, and regulations of AUTHORITY.

- Section 7. Board Resolution. The AUTHORITY's Board of Directors shall submit to AVEK a resolution authorizing the execution of this AGREEMENT.
- Section 8. Joint Representations and Warranties. Each Party to this AGREEMENT represents and warranties that each person executing this AGREEMENT and all documents submitted hereunder are pursuant to proper authorization.
- Section 9. Good Faith. Each Party shall operate in good faith.
- Section 10. Governing Law. This AGREEMENT and all rights and obligations created hereby, shall be determined and governed by the laws of the State of California.
- Section 11. Waiver. Waiver of any breach is not a waiver of all breaches.
- Section 12. Severability. The provisions of this AGREEMENT are not severable and all provisions shall be interpreted as being an enforceable part of the whole AGREEMENT.
- Section 13. Amendments. Amendments shall be by written mutual agreement of both Parties.
- Section 14. Integration. This AGREEMENT constitutes the entire agreement between the Parties respecting the subject matter hereof. The Recitals set forth above, and all exhibits attached hereto are hereby incorporated and made a part of this AGREEMENT as though fully set forth herein.
- Section 15. Indemnification. All AVEK directors, officers, managers, employees, agents, consultants, and counsel are indemnified from any liability under this AGREEMENT.
- Section 16. Counterparts. This AGREEMENT may be executed in one or more counterparts, each of which will be deemed an original, but all of which together will constitute one and the same instrument. Copies of this Agreement with signatures transmitted electronically (e.g., by facsimile or .pdf) will be deemed to be original signed versions of this AGREEMENT.
- Section 17. Successors. This AGREEMENT is binding upon and inure to the benefit of the Parties, their successors, and assigns.
- Section 18. Further Assurances. Each Party shall in good faith execute, acknowledge, and deliver all further assurances as are reasonably necessary to carry out the intent of this AGREEMENT.
- Section 19. Invalid or Unenforceable Provisions. Should any provision herein be deemed invalid or unenforceable, the Parties shall work in good faith to replace such provision or terminate the AGREEMENT by mutual consent.
- Section 20. Singular Includes Plural.
- Section 21. Notices. Unless otherwise required by law, all notices required to be given hereunder shall be in writing and shall be conveyed by (a) personal delivery (including by any messenger or courier service), (b) the United States Postal Service by certified or registered mail, postage prepaid, with return receipt requested, or (c) electronic mail as follows:

AVEK: Antelope Valley-East Kern Water Agency  
Attention: Matthew Knudson, General Manager  
6500 West Avenue N  
Palmdale, CA 93551

Email: [mknudson@avek.org](mailto:mknudson@avek.org)

AUTHORITY: Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority  
Attention: Carol Thomas-Keefer, General Manager  
100 W. California Ave.  
Ridgecrest, CA 93555  
Email: [cthomaskeefer@rgs.ca.gov](mailto:cthomaskeefer@rgs.ca.gov)

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties have executed and entered into this AGREEMENT as of the Effective Date.

ANTELOPE VALLEY-EAST KERN  
WATER AGENCY

INDIAN WELLS VALLEY  
GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY

By: \_\_\_\_\_

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

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# IWVGA ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

*STAFF REPORT*

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**TO:** IWVGA Board Members **DATE:** February 14, 2024  
**FROM:** IWVGA Water Resources Manager  
**SUBJECT: AGENDA ITEM 10 – WATER RESOURCES MANAGER’S REPORT**

## AGENDA ITEM 10a – GRANT FUNDING UPDATE

### Proposition 1 Update

- Invoice #16a
  - Covers July 2022 through September 2022
  - Total requested payment after retention: \$20,806.59
  - Status: Payment Received
- Invoice #17a:
  - Covers October 2022 through December 2022
  - Total requested payment after retention: \$7,817.63
  - Status: Under DWR review – Payment Received.

### Proposition 1/68 Grant Closeout

- Retention invoices for Proposition 1 and Prop 68 in the amount of \$187,678.87 and \$32,941.39, respectively, were submitted to DWR on February 28, 2023. The Proposition 1 retention invoice was revised and resubmitted on May 18 per DWR’s request.

### SGMA Implementation Round 1 Update

- Invoice #3
  - Covers January 2023 through March 2023
  - Total requested payment: \$435,887.19
  - Comments received from DWR on initial submittal
  - Status: Resubmitting for DWR review
- Invoice #4
  - Covers April 2023 to June 2023
  - Total requested payment: \$1,062,552.46
  - Comments received from DWR on initial submittal
  - Status: Resubmitting for DWR review
- Invoice #5
  - Covers July 2023 to September 2023
  - Total requested payment: \$848,164.75
  - Status: Resubmitting for DWR review

- Invoice # 6
  - Covers October 2023 to December 2023
  - Due: February 29, 2024

### Urban Community Drought Relief Program Update

- The IWVGA has been awarded \$3,345,000 to consolidate shallow well system(s) into a public water system.
- DWR has executed the grant agreement.
- A meeting with the IWVWD is being set to coordinate on potential consolidations
- First Invoice and Progress Report will be due 5/30/24

### 2023 Drinking Water System Infrastructure Resilience and Sustainability Program

Staff submitted an application for federal funding on November 6, 2023 for approximately \$2.8 million to fund planning, design, environmental, and right-of-way tasks for the Imported Water Project. Funding awards are anticipated to be announced in Spring 2024.

## **AGENDA ITEM 10.b – GSP IMPLEMENTATION PROJECTS/MANAGEMENT ACTION UPDATES**

### Imported Water Project

- Imported Water Pipeline Design Services
  - Coordination Meetings:
    - Bi-weekly meetings with BLM
      - BLM reviewing resubmitted SF-299 Application
      - Draft Plan of Design in compliance with the BLM’s Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan being revised
      - Replenished BLM’s Reimbursement Account by \$25,000.00 per GM approval
        - Reimbursement Agreement estimated total cost estimate of funds needed is \$104,298.84
        - Funds currently reimbursed to-date = \$75,000.00
    - Ongoing coordination with State Water Resources Control Board Division of Drinking Water (DDW), Caltrans, United Pacific Rail Road (UPRR), and Southern California Edison (SCE)
      - SCE reviewing Customer/ Project Information Sheet (CPIS) application
      - Submitted California Department of Fish and Wildlife Lake and Streambed Alternation Agreement (LSA) by the January 8, 2024 due date
      - GA staff processing the California State Parks Right of Entry Application to prepare an Encroachment Permit and a check for the initial fee of \$500
        - Future fees include an analysis fee of \$10,000 and a final easement fee of approximately \$25,000
      - UPRR reviewing application for trenchless crossing at Neuralia Road and Cantil Road
      - Preparing response to comments from DDW on the PDR



- Continuing soils borings in California City and Kern County right-of-way
  - Projected to receive soil boring results mid to late February which may be incorporated into the 90% Design Level, rather than the 60% Design Level
  - RWQCB – Permit for borings has been submitted by the January 8, 2024 due date
- Continuing utility research and trenchless crossing identification
  - Working on scour analysis for the Cantil and Redrock Canyon drainage washes, in non-BLM land near Neuralia Rd and Redrock Randsburg Road
- Provided Mechanical, Electrical, and Instrumentation and Controls Pump Station plans for Staff review
- Staff released a Notice Inviting Bids on January 12, 2024 for a Potholing Subcontractor to identify utilities along the alignment
- Next Steps:
  - Start geotechnical borings in BLM land after cultural surveys are completed
  - Finalize the 30% Design Submittal
  - Provide the System Hydraulics and Transient Mitigation Analysis TM, Preliminary Permitting Requirements TM, Electrical Equipment Requirements TM, and Instrumentation and Controls TM
  - Provide 60% Design Submittal
  - Next Milestones
    - Provide 90% Design Submittal by September 2024
- Imported Water Pipeline Environmental Services
  - Coordination Meetings
    - Weekly meetings with BLM
    - Submitted the USACE Permit Package
  - Continuing cultural surveys on BLM land, to be followed by geotechnical surveys
    - Completed walking survey and site recording and began completing 20 test pits
    - Final Draft Cultural Report being prepared
  - Providing BLM NEPA Public Scoping Period Scoping Summary Report for Staff review soon
  - Next Steps:
    - Begin geotechnical and biological monitoring on BLM lands
    - Finalize draft Environmental Impact Report, and BLM Environmental Assessment
    - Next Milestones:
      - Finalize NEPA compliance for geotechnical borings and environmental surveys/ studies within BLM property
      - Conduct technical analyses/ Special Studies within BLM land
- Imported Water Pipeline Right-of-Way Services
  - Obtained 50 Right-of-Entry agreements from property owners for 48 parcels along the alignment to allow performance of biological/technical studies and geotechnical borings
  - Coordinating with California Fish and Wildlife regarding County Right of Way
  - Next Steps:
    - Continue obtaining Rights of Entry from property owners along the pipeline alignment to allow performance of biological/technical studies and geotechnical borings

- Next Milestone:
  - Provide a Right of Way Acquisition Plan by June 2024
- Submittals to DWR
  - Submit final Preliminary Design Report due March 31, 2024
  - Submit Initial Study due September 1, 2024
- US Army Corps of Engineers Planning Assistance to States (PAS) Program
  - Staff has provided final proposed project list to USACE Staff to start the development of an agreement with Army Corps
  - Next Steps:
    - Execute an agreement with Army Corps

Shallow Well Mitigation Program

- Updated Report Form and Fact Sheet
  - An updated Report Form and Facts Sheet incorporating comments from the PAC will be uploaded to the IWVGA website to provide additional information to well owners who may be interested in the Shallow Well Mitigation Program.
  - The updated Form and Facts Sheet were sent to the PAC Chair and PAC members that recently provided comments for review
- Current Applications
  - Byerly Well
    - Received application from Mr. Byerly for the Primary Program.
    - Requesting financial assistance due to reduced water levels.
    - Staff will provide draft staff report to applicant for review.
  - Halpin Well
    - Approved for \$6,000 for emergency assistance.
    - Received application from Mr. Halpin for the Primary Program
    - Received Well Driller's Report in December and working on Staff Report
    - Staff will provide draft staff report to applicant for review.

<b>Impacted Shallow Wells</b>	<b>Evaluation Status</b>
Stark Street	Application approved for partially funding. Completed
Heritage	Application Declined. Completed
Byerly	Staff Report in Progress. Staff will provide draft staff report to applicant for review.
Halpin	Staff Report in Progress. Staff will provide draft staff report to applicant for review.
Rademacher	Water Quality. Directed to the Shallow Well Mitigation Program and Capital Core. Kern County researching funding. Possible use of new DWR Consolidation Grant.

## 2023 Annual Report

### WY 2023 Annual Report

- Comments on the draft WY 2023 Annual Report were due to the WRM by February 2, 2024.
  - Comments were provided by Mohave Pistachio, LLC and Searles Valley Minerals Inc.
- The draft WY 2023 Annual Report is available on the IWVGA website.
- The final WY 2023 Annual Report will be provided at the IWVGA March Board Meeting and is due to DWR on April 1, 2024.

## **AGENDA ITEM 10c – MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS**

### Data Collection and Monitoring

- February 5-9, 2024     Additional groundwater level monitoring and datalogger downloads for wet year conditions (DWR supplemental monitoring).  
GWMP wellhead and telemetry device maintenance.
- March 4-8, 2024     Spring 2024 bi-annual basin-wide groundwater level measurements and datalogger downloads.  
Wellhead survey of a subset of monitoring wells.

### GSP Model Configuration Management Plan (CMP)

- Technical Model Group (TMG)
  - TMG includes the Navy, TAC representatives, DRI, and Stetson
  - Dec 6, 2023, DRI/Stetson working call to review model updates
  - Dec 18, 2023, TMG meeting/call reviewed and finalized structural model components: faults, model boundaries, clay extents, discussed aquifer properties, evapotranspiration, and groundwater pumping
  - Jan 12, 2024, TMG meeting/call discussed mountain front recharge distribution and aquifer connectivity
  - Jan 30, 2024 TMG meeting/call reviewed modeling progress with recharge distribution, hydraulic conductivity zones, and calibration
  - Feb 15, 2024, next TMG working model meeting/call to review modelling progress
- Spring 2024 Schedule
  - Model Calibration, sensitivity analysis, and certainty analysis
  - Development of GSP model scenarios

Subflow from Rose Valley to IWV

- GA Reimbursement is being processed for first monitoring well (April)
- Processing Cooperative Agreement Modification for time extension requested through 2024 to complete permitting and drilling second monitoring well
- Ongoing work with BLM regarding Cultural Survey and Permitting for second monitoring well

**ACTION(S) REQUIRED BY THE BOARD**

There are no actions required by the Board.

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To: Carol Thomas-Keefer, General Manager – Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority

From: Michael W. McKinney, Capitol Core Group

cc: Keith Lemieux, Counsel IWVGA  
Phillip Hall, Counsel, IWVGA  
Steve Johnson, Stetson Engineers  
Jeff Simonetti, Capitol Core Group  
Todd Tatum, Capitol Core Group

Date: February 14, 2024

Subject: January 2024 Project Update

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The following will provide activities and updates for January 2024.

**Task 1: Imported Water Supplies**

For Task 1, Capitol Core staff continued working with two potential water suppliers to provide imported water supplies. In addition, staff assisted the engineering teams at Provost & Pritchard and Stetson on pipeline-related items.

**Task 2: Interconnection Pipeline Project**

**NEW/RECEIVE AND FILE – Significant and Priority Action:** *State Budget Act for Fiscal Year 2024-2025*

In November 2023, the Board approved a \$25 million Budget Request made at the invitation of Senator Grove. Funding is to be utilized for the construction of the interconnection pipeline. Construction on the pipeline is scheduled for the first quarter of 2027. The State’s fiscal deficit and required timing associated with the Budget Request preclude the \$25 million being awarded during the FY2024-2025 cycle. The \$25 million request must be deferred.

To complete planning activities on the interconnection pipeline, \$2.3 million is required. This funding replaces anticipated U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) funding. USACE activities are being re-directed to other tasks (see below *Energy & Water Development Act*). The \$2.3 million is not new funding or an increased funding requirement. To obtain the needed funding, Capitol Core has requested California Senate President Pro Tempore Toni Atkins (D-39<sup>th</sup>, San Diego) and Senator Grove (R-12<sup>th</sup>, Bakersfield) consider a \$2.3 million State Budget Request (“earmark”) in the FY2024-2025 legislation.

Requests are due, and legislation action is expected in March. The attached packet reflects that request.

### **Task 3: Other Projects Supporting the GSP**

#### **NEW/RECEIVE AND FILE – Significant and Priority Action:** *Energy & Water Development Act for Fiscal Year 2025*

In 2022, at the request of then-Representative McCarthy, the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and the House Committee on Appropriations directed the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to coordinate with the Authority and the Naval Station to develop strategies to achieve water resiliency in the Basin. USACE Los Angeles District intended to assist the Authority in planning activities associated with its interconnection water pipeline project, the key element in the Groundwater Sustainability Plan. However, State funding deadlines (from a \$7.6 million State Department of Water Resources grant, which is assisting with the majority of the planning for this project) and project timelines did not allow sufficient time for USACE to mobilize and assist the Authority with the interconnection pipeline project. Funding directed through the *Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2023* has expired. The requirements directed by Congress remain outstanding. The need for USACE assistance remains. Watershed studies, validation of key sustainability elements determined by the U.S. Navy and Authority, and water supply planning for anticipated growth are needed.

In January, Capitol Core requested Representative Jay Obernolte (R-CA 23<sup>rd</sup>) to consider submitting a Community Project Funding Request (“earmark”) in the amount of \$1.6 million under Section 22 (“Planning Assistance”) of the *Water Resources Development Act of 1974*. The annual Energy & Water Development Act would include the earmark as a Fiscal Year 2025 request. If granted, the earmark would fund U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) assistance for watershed management planning (“GSP Updates”), validation of specific studies, including basin percolation and GSP findings validation, and water resource planning. The request replaces the Planning Assistance to States application for USACE assistance for interconnection pipeline planning activities that were not permitted due to SGMA-IP funding timelines required by DWR.

FY2025 requests are due to Members of Congress in March. FY2025 Appropriations are expected to be delayed due to ongoing Congressional activity for FY2024.

#### *Federal Legislative Updates*

**NEW REPORT/Priority Bill:** HR 7065 (Napolitano, D-CA 31<sup>st</sup>): Priority Water Supply and Conservation Act of 2024

Amends the Water Resources Development Act of 1974 to add water supply and conservation to the list of “primary mission” projects of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Civil Engineering Programs.

A legislative monitoring report is attached.

## *State Legislative Updates*

### **NEW REPORT/Priority Bill:** AB 2079 (Bennett): SGMA: Groundwater Basins

Senator Bennett has introduced a placeholder bill regarding Groundwater Basins.

### **UPDATED REPORT/FINAL/Priority Bill:** California Defense Community Infrastructure Program

Due to State budget constraints enactment of the California Defense Community Infrastructure Program (Cal-DCIP) will not be considered in 2024. While Members support the policy of implementing such a program, fiscal constraints in the State (see budget discussion below) do not allow its passage. Efforts for the year on this item are completed.

### **UPDATED REPORT/Priority Bill:** *State Budget Act for Fiscal Year 2024-2025*

In January, the Governor released his Fiscal Year 2024-2025 State Budget Request. The proposed budget addresses an updated shortfall of \$32 billion. The Assembly and Senate Budget Committees are currently considering the request, AB 1812 and SB 917. Highlights of the proposed budget include:

- Overall, ***water programs took an average 53% spending level cut*** from the FY2023-2024 State Budget Act.
- The Governor shifted water spending priorities to flood control, levee repair, and Salton Sea Restoration. The shifted priority to Salton Sea Restoration will leverage funding provided by the late Senator Feinstein that was allocated in the E&WD Act.
- The drought-related programs and SGMA implementation funding will take substantial cuts. \$88.4 million was diverted. \$350 million was eliminated. That leaves \$56 million in funding that was actually allocated in FY2021-2022 to provide for these funds. **As Capitol Core predicted, no new funds are provided for SGMA implementation or drought-related projects.**
- Water recycling projects did not take as large a hit as expected. Diversions and deferrals of spending are favored over cuts to achieve spending reductions.
- Earmarks, in some limited fashion, are likely to remain.

An updated Legislative monitoring report is attached.



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**INDIAN WELLS VALLEY GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY**  
**Legislative Tracking Report**

**118<sup>th</sup> Congressional Session**  
**2023-2024 California State Session**

**Updated to 6 February 2024**



CAPITOL **CORE** GROUP



## PRIORITY BILLS

Legislation of significant impact on operations or interests. Legislation where a public position may be taken with the legislative body. Updates are provided to staff as they occur, potentially requiring action, and reported herein.

### Positions Taken:



Indicating a public position of support for the legislation.



Indicating a public position of opposition for the legislation



Indicating a neutral position on the legislation. Public position or no-public position taken.



Indicating a position of “Amend” and presenting amendments that would change the public position to support.



Indicating a position of oppose unless amended.

### Federal – the 118<sup>th</sup> Congressional Session



**NEW: HR 7065** (Napolitano, D-CA, 31<sup>st</sup>): Priority for Water Supply and Conservation Act of 2024

Introduced 01/22/2024.

Amends the Water Resources Development Act of 1974 to add water supply and conservation to the list of “primary mission” projects of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Civil Engineering Programs.

House Committee on Transportation & Infrastructure

**S. 2166** (Padilla, D-CA) – The Voluntary Land Re-Purposing Act of 2023



A bill to amend the Reclamation States Emergency Drought Relief Act of 1991 and the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 to provide grants to States and Indian Tribes for programs to repurpose agricultural land to reduce consumptive water use voluntarily and for other purposes.

Introduced on 06/22/2023

Referred to the Senate Committee on Energy & Natural Resources, Subcommittee on Water

Current Text

**NEW: Draft Legislation** (Padilla, D-CA) – The Low-Income Household Water Assistance Program Act of 2024



A bill to establish a permanent Low-Income Household Water Assistance Program. Similar to LIHEAP.

Draft

Not referred

Current Text (not available electronically)

**State of California – 2023-2024 California Session**



**AB 560** (Bennett, D-38<sup>th</sup>) – Groundwater Adjudications



Requires parties in an adjudication to seek a nonbinding advisory opinion from the SWRCB in conjunction with DWR on the impacts of a proposed settlement agreement to small farmers and the GSP.

As Amended 06/26/2023

Senate Committee on Appropriations – Held on Suspense File (two-year bill)  
[Current Text](#)

**NEW: AB 2079** (Bennett, D-38<sup>th</sup>): Sustainable Groundwater Management Act: Groundwater Basins

“Spot” bill making non-substantive changes to SGMA. Hold for pending amendments

As Introduced 02/06/2024

Assembly Desk (awaiting referral)



## WATCH BILL LIST

Legislation of interest to the Authority. No public position is taken, or the Authority may adopt a “neutral” position. Updates are provided monthly unless the amendment warrants immediate notification to staff.

### Federal – the 118<sup>th</sup> Congressional Session



#### **HR 186** (McClintock, R-CA, 5<sup>th</sup>) – The Water Supply Permitting Coordination Act of 2023

Authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to coordinate Federal and State permitting processes related to the construction of new surface water storage projects on lands under the jurisdiction of the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture and to designate the Bureau of Reclamation as the lead agency for permit processing.

As Introduced  
House Committee on Natural Resources

#### **HR 215** (Valadao, R-CA 22<sup>nd</sup>) – Water for California Act of 2023

Authorizes several federal (CVP) and State Water Project authorizations. Designates the USBR as the lead agency for federal permitting requirements. To provide long-term water supply and regulatory reliability to drought-stricken California. The introduced version was incorporated into HR 1 and HR 2811.

As Amended in the Nature of a Substitute  
Ordered Reported (passed) House Committee on Natural Resources,  
To the Committee on Rules

#### **HR 1152** (Rouzer, R-NC 7<sup>th</sup>) – Water Quality Certification and Energy Project Improvement Act

This bill revises the water quality certification process under Section 401 of the Clean Water Act (CWA) for any activity that requires a federal license or permit and may result in a discharge of pollutants into the waters of the United States. Activities requiring federal licenses or permits include hydropower, natural gas pipeline, or mining projects.

Under the existing Section 401, an applicant for a federal license or permit to conduct such activities must provide the federal licensing or permitting agency with a certification. The certification must attest that the discharge will comply with enumerated sections of the CWA (i.e., Sections 301, 302, 303, 306, and 307) and with any other appropriate requirement of state law outlined in the certification. The certifying authority—usually the state where the discharge originates, but sometimes an Indian tribe or the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)—may grant with conditions, deny, or waive certification of a proposed federal license or permit.

This bill limits the scope of the certification process by eliminating the requirement that the discharge comply with appropriate state law outlined in the certification. It also requires decisions

to grant or deny a request for certification based only on the enumerated sections of the CWA and provisions of state law that implement water quality criteria under Section 303. In addition, it also limits the certification process to activities that may directly result in a discharge into waters of the United States.

In addition, the bill requires certifying authorities to identify all materials or information necessary to grant or deny the request within 90 days of receiving a request for certification. They must also publish requirements for their water quality certifications.

HR 1152: Ordered Reported House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure  
Incorporated in HR 1  
Incorporated into HR 2811

**HR 1430** (Valadao, R-CA 22<sup>nd</sup>) – NEPA Permit Streamlining Act of 2023

The bill directs the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture to use certain previously completed environmental assessments and environmental impact statements to satisfy the review requirements of NEPA.

As Introduced  
Incorporated into HR 1  
House Committee on Natural Resources

**HR 1556** (Miller, R-IL, 15<sup>th</sup>) and S. 1022 (Braun, R-IN) – The Define the WOTUS Act of 2023

Provides a statutory definition of Waters of the United States.

HR 1556:  
House Floor – To Union Calendar  
House Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment  
S. 1022:  
Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works

**HR 1740** (Bost, R-IL): WIFIA – State and Local Performance Requirements

WIFIA loan holders must provide a performance or payment obligation bond of 50% for the projects.

As Introduced  
House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment

***May move this bill to the priority list if moving through the process.***

**HR 3809** (Davis, D-NC, 1<sup>st</sup>) – The Cybersecurity for Rural Water Systems Act of 2023

To include cybersecurity technical assistance in the national rural water and wastewater circuit rider program of the Department of Agriculture.

As Introduced  
House Committee on Agriculture

***Consider Support if moves.***

**HR 4877** (Lee, D-PA, 12<sup>th</sup>) – Abandoned Well Remediation and Research Act of 2023

Amends the Energy Policy Act of 2005 to direct the Secretary of Energy to carry out a research, development, and demonstration program concerning abandoned wells.

As Amended during markup.  
Reported by the House Science, Space, and Technology Committee (35-0)  
To House Committee on Rules



**S. 660** (Markey, D-MA) – Water System Threat Resiliency and Preparedness Act of 2023

This bill would require the USEPA to develop and implement guidelines for a public water system (anything with a pipe that might become drinking water or wastewater treatment) for cyber and physical threats.

As Introduced  
Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works

**S. 802** (Braun, R-IN and Padilla, D-CA) – The Plant Bio-stimulant Act of 2023

This bill would amend the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act standards to include plant bio-stimulants under the regulations and require soil-health tests to determine the impacts on groundwater. The bill would establish limitations on using plant bio-stimulants based on soil type and impacts on groundwater supplies. The bill would further subject bio-stimulant manufacturers to the certification and labeling requirements under FIFRA at the USEPA.

As Introduced  
Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry.

**S. 806** (Baldwin, D-WI) – The Healthy H2O Act

The bill provides financial assistance to property owners (and non-profits assisting small water systems) for water filtration of contaminant found in groundwater supplies utilized for drinking water purposes. These contaminants include arsenic, nitrates, PFAS/PFOA, VOX and Chrome-6. The program is monitored through the Rural Decentralized Water Systems program at the U.S. Department of Agriculture under the *Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act*. We have added the bill for tracking (“Watch Bill”) as it may have application/benefits to the de-minimus

end-users or small water systems in the IWV Basin. Potential inclusion into the 2023 Farm Bill reauthorization.

As Introduced  
Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry

**S. 2102** (Wyden, D-OR) – Water for Conservation and Farming Act of 2023

A bill to provide for drought preparedness and improved water supply reliability.

As Introduced  
Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

**S. 2162** (Feinstein, D-CA) – The STREAM Act

A bill to support water infrastructure in Reclamation States.

As Introduced  
Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

**S. 2169** (Wyden, D-OR) – The Watershed Results Act of 2023

Authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to carry out watershed pilots.

As Introduced  
Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

**S. 2202** (Feinstein, D-CA) – The RAIN Act

A bill to amend the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 to authorize the modification of transferred works to increase public benefits and other project benefits as part of extraordinary operation and maintenance work.

As Introduced  
Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

**S. 2250 (Bennett, D-CO) and HR 4902 (Caraveo, D-CO 8<sup>th</sup>)** – The Voluntary Groundwater Conservation Act of 2023

To amend the Food Security Act of 1985 to establish a groundwater conservation easement program.

S. 2250:  
As Introduced  
Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry  
HR 4902:  
As Introduced  
House Committee on Agriculture



**NEW: S. 2928** (Kelly, D-AZ): Water Infrastructure Subcontractor and Taxpayer Protection Act of 2024

As Introduced 01/22/2024

Adds performance bonding requirements to WIFIA loan programs. Similar legislation to HR 1740. The issue should be considered if sustainability infrastructure requires a WIFIA loan.

Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works

**NEW: S. 3147** (Ricketts, D-NE): Flood Protection and Infrastructure Resilience Act of 2024

As Introduced 01/22/2024

The bill adds regional conservation programs and infrastructure to eligible projects under the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act.

Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry.

**State of California – 2023-2024 California Session**



**AB 828** (Connolly, D-12<sup>th</sup>): SGMA: Managed Wetlands and CSDs

As Amended 01/11/2024

The bill exempts groundwater uses by managed wetlands and small community water systems serving disadvantaged communities (DAC) from specified authorities of groundwater sustainability agencies (GSA) to regulate groundwater pumping under the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA). The amendments remove the 10% annual increase in allocation and establish a 2028 sunset date. Consistent with SGMA and current Authority practices. No public position, remain as "Watch."

Passed Assembly (47-15)

Senate Committee on Rules (awaiting referral)

**AB 1205** (Bauer-Kahan, D-16<sup>th</sup>): Water Rights Transfers – Study Bill

As Amended 07/13/2023

AB 1205 would require the SWRCB to conduct a three-year study on the potential profiteering in the sale, transfer, or lease of an interest in any water right for profit, on or below agricultural lands. The bill is a two-year bill.

Senate Floor – To Inactive File (two-year bill)

**NEW: AB 1827** (Papin, D-21<sup>st</sup>): Local Government Finance: Water: Higher Consumptive Water Parcels

As Introduced 01/12/2024

This bill would provide that the fees or charges for property-related water service imposed or increased, as specified, may include the incrementally higher costs of water service due to specified factors, including the higher water usage demand of parcels. The bill would provide that the costs associated with higher water usage demands, the maximum potential water use, or a projected peak water usage demand may be allocated using any method that reasonably assesses the water service provider's cost of serving those parcels that are increasing potential water usage demand, maximum potential water use, or project peak water use demand. The bill would declare that these provisions are declaratory of existing law.

Assembly Committee on Local Government



None on File

## CALIFORNIA "SPOT" BILLS BEING WATCHED



Bills introduced as placeholders making technical and non-substantive changes are known as "spot" bills. These bills are typically held under a specific subject matter to allow for germaneness.

**NEW: AB 2000** (Mathis, R-CA 33<sup>rd</sup>): State Water Project: Permits and Licenses Conditions

As Introduced 01/30/2024

Non-substantive modification. Hold for amendments.

Assembly Desk

## FY2024-2025 CALIFORNIA STATE BUDGET



State Budget Act for Fiscal Year 2024-2025

The California State Budget includes several pieces of Legislation ranging from the main State Budget (required by the State Constitution to be passed before midnight 06.30.2024) to several “trailing” pieces of legislation. The details of the California State Budget can be found [here](#).

**NEW AB 1812/SB 917:** State Budget Act of 2024-2025

As Introduced 01/10/2024

Governor’s Budget Proposal – “at the request” legislation. See the summary [here](#).

Assembly Committee and Senate Committee on Budget, respectively.

### UPCOMING CALIFORNIA LEGISLATIVE DEADLINES OF IMPORTANCE

- February 16, 2024 – Introduction deadline for 2024 bills.
- April 26, 2024 – Policy Committee Deadline for 2024 bills.

### FISCAL YEAR 2025 FEDERAL APPROPRIATIONS



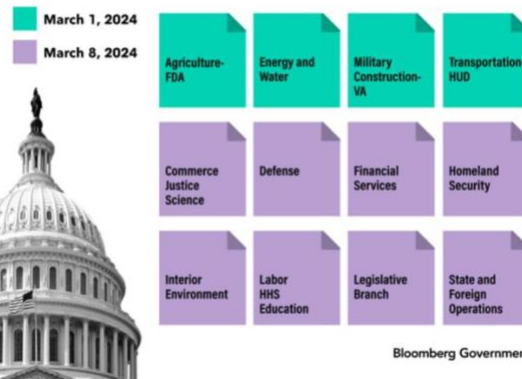
None on File.

### FISCAL YEAR 2024 FEDERAL APPROPRIATIONS



#### Government Funding Deadlines

Congress set two deadlines for 12 appropriations bills



*Continuing Resolutions:*

**NEW HR 6363:** *Further Continuing Resolution for Appropriations and Other Extensions through March 2024 for Fiscal Year 2024*

4<sup>th</sup> Continuing Resolution for Fiscal Year 2024

**Public Law 118-22**

**HR 4394** (Fleischman, R-TN 3<sup>rd</sup>) and **S. 2443** (Feinstein, D-CA) – The Energy & Water Development Act for Fiscal Year 2024

Making appropriations for energy and water projects for Fiscal Year 2024. No provisions of specific interest to the Authority. Monitor for appropriated amounts to WaterSMART, Environmental Infrastructure, and Planning Assistance. No public position.

HR 4393:

Ordered Reported by the Committee on Appropriations  
To House Committee on Rules

S. 2443:

Ordered Reported by the Committee on Appropriations  
To Senate Floor

**FEDERAL REGULATIONS BEING TRACKED**

None at this time.

**STATE REGULATIONS BEING TRACKED**

None at this time.



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## BILLS TO BE REMOVED FROM THE REPORT

### **HELD IN SENATE -- HR 1** (Scalise, R-LA, 1<sup>st</sup>) – The Lower Energy Costs Act of 2023

Title VI of the bill incorporates HR 215. The bill contains several NEPA permitting streamlining provisions for water infrastructure projects. This bill has no chance of moving during the remainder of the 118<sup>th</sup> Session.

As Introduced 03/14/2023

Engrossed in the House; Received in the Senate, awaiting referral (held at the desk)

### **FINAL ACTION – HR 2670** (Rogers, R-AL 3<sup>rd</sup>) – The National Defense Authorization Act of 2023

Makes various modifications to the Defense Community Infrastructure Act.

Public Law 118-21

### **FINAL ACTION -- HR 5860:** *Further Continuing Resolution for Appropriations and Other Extensions through November 2023 for Fiscal Year 2024*

3<sup>rd</sup> Continuing Resolutions for Fiscal Year 2024

Public Law 118-15

### **FINAL ACTION -- HR 5525:** *Further Continuing Resolution Appropriations and Other Extensions through October 2023 and Providing for Border Security.*

Second Continuing Resolution for Fiscal Year 2024 and providing for increasing in Border Security

Pass the House of Representatives (198/32) – Held in the Senate

### **FINAL ACTION -- HR 2872:** *A Continuing Resolutions Providing Appropriations and Other Extensions through October 2023 for Fiscal Year 2024*

First Continuing Resolution for Fiscal Year 2024

Conference Committee Reported and Reconciled.

**# EOR #**

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State Budget Request Fiscal Year 2024-2025  
Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority

February 2024

The Honorable Shannon Grove  
California State Senate  
State Capitol  
Sacramento, California 95814

The Honorable Toni Atkins  
California State Senate  
State Capitol  
Sacramento, California 95814

RE: State Budget Request FY2024-2025

Dear Senators Grove and Atkins:

The Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority (IWVGA), a groundwater sustainability agency, respectfully requests your consideration of a \$2.3 million State Budget Request for Fiscal Year 2024-2025. These monies will be utilized to complete all planning activities for the region's interconnection pipeline project, designed to bring imported water supplies into this critically overdrafted and currently isolated groundwater basin. The interconnection pipeline is the main sustainability element to meet the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) requirements.

The interconnection pipeline is the key element of the State-approved Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) needed to bring water resiliency to the region. In 2021, the State provided \$7.6 million of SGMA-Implementation funding for planning activities. Since then, IWVGA has initiated planning, engineering design, and environmental permitting pursuant to CEQA and NEPA. IWVGA anticipates completion of all planning activities by 2026.

To complete planning activities for the project, IWVGA sought federal assistance through the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. State funding deadlines and required project timelines precluded the ability of the U.S. Army Corps to mobilize and assist in these efforts, thus creating a funding shortfall needed to complete planning activities. We are currently working with our congressional delegation to reauthorize and redirect the proposed U.S. Army Corps of Engineers assistance to other watershed and GSP activities.

Funding associated with this request will finalize the design, engineering, and right-of-way/easement requirements associated with the project. Purchase of real estate/easements will occur in the construction phase. Funding is needed in 2025-2026.

The interconnection pipeline is a 50-mile pipeline between the Antelope Valley - East Kern Water Agency (AVEK) to water storage tanks within our basin which will provide imported water supplies to Indian Wells Valley Water District facilities for distribution. The interconnection pipeline will be owned and operated by IWVGA. The pipeline will provide between 3,000- and 5,000-acre-feet of imported water supplies per year necessary to achieve water sustainability for the region. The pipeline will be oversized to allow for additional imported water supplies that future regional growth, U.S. Navy requirements, or current groundwater users may require in the future. The pipeline's Physical construction is scheduled to begin in the 1st Quarter of 2027. The project is scheduled for completion in 2031.

The Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Basin is located in the northwestern part of the Mojave Desert in Southern California and underlies approximately 382,000 acres or approximately 600 square miles of land area in portions of the Counties of Kern, Inyo, and San Bernardino. It is bordered on the west by the Sierra



Nevada Mountain Range, on the north by the Coso Range, on the east by the Argus Range, and the south by the El Paso Mountains. Surface water flows from the surrounding mountain ranges drains to China Lake, a large dry lake or playa in the basin's central northeast. Beyond the unincorporated areas of San Bernardino, Kern, and Inyo Counties, the region is home to the City of Ridgecrest and the U.S. Naval Air Weapons Station China Lake, a critical weapons research and low-flight operations military installation. The basin is currently reliant solely upon groundwater.

The sustainable yield of the basin is 7,650 acre-feet per year. For purposes of the GSP, the U.S. Navy estimates its on-installation water needs at 2,416 acre-feet per year. The remaining 5,234-acre-feet are provided for all non-federal water uses. More than 80% of U.S. Navy personnel, contractors, and their dependents reside off-installation. Municipal agencies such as the Indian Wells Valley Water District (a separate entity from the Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority) provide these services. Water allocated to these residents comes from non-federal allocations.

Without the interconnection pipeline, the region will be unable to achieve sustainability. The Groundwater Sustainability Plan assumes that one in ten wells in the region will fail by 2030 if the Basin does not curb current pumping and bring in imported water supplies. By 2040, that number will increase to one in three wells failing. The infrastructure necessary to support the implementation of the Groundwater Sustainability Plan is a vital component of the region's long-term water sustainability.

We respectfully request your consideration and support of this State Budget Request. Should you have any questions, please contact Michael McKinney at 714.299.0053.

Sincerely,

Phillip Peters  
Chairman, Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority  
Supervisor County of Kern, District 1

## ISSUE BRIEF

**ISSUE:** \$2.3 million is needed to fully complete planning activities for the Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority (IWVGA) interconnection pipeline project. This proposed 50-mile pipeline will bring imported water supplies to the critically overdrafted groundwater basin to meet compliance requirements for the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA). The project is scheduled for construction (shovel ready) in the first quarter of 2027.

Without funding, the project will be delayed creating further harm to the environmental infrastructure (the aquifer) and cause additional wells in the region to fail.

Requested funding would be utilized in 2025 and 2026.

**SOLUTION:** Provide authorized funding, pursuant to the SGMA-Implementation Program, in the FY2025-2026 State Budget.

**REQUESTING AGENCY:** Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority, a political subdivision of the State of California (Joint-Powers Authority)

### BACKGROUND:

The Department of Water Resources has designated the Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Basin as a “Critically Overdrafted Groundwater Basin (COD)” and has approved the IWVGA’s Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP). The GSP contains six major elements to bring the region into sustainability. The primary sustainability element is a \$211 million water pipeline interconnecting the Antelope Valley East Kern Water Agency (AVEK) to the Indian Wells Valley Water District facilities. The region currently does not interconnect with imported water supplies and relies solely on groundwater. The pipeline will bring a minimum of 3,000 to 5,000 acre-feet of imported water supplies to the region but has been oversized to allow for growth and other water purchases.

The project is currently in the planning stages, nearing 60% engineering/design completion; environmental permitting requirements (NEPA and CEQA) are well underway, federal land permitting is in progress, and county-land permitting is completed. Sufficient funding exists to bring the project to 80% design/engineering and complete environmental permitting. The requested funding will be used to bring the project from 80% to 100% design/engineering and provide preliminary right-of-way activities.

The Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Basin historically overdrafts 25,000 acre-feet per year. The region is home to unincorporated areas of San Bernardino, Inyo, and Kern Counties, the City of Ridgecrest, and the U.S. Naval Air Weapons Station China Lake, a critical weapons research and low-flight operation military facility.

Without the interconnection pipeline, sustainability cannot be achieved in the groundwater basin. One in ten wells in the basin is anticipated to fail by 2030. The number of well failures will increase to one in three wells by 2040. Water resiliency is an encroachment issue on the mission status of Naval Air Weapons Station China Lake.

## **OUTLINE**

### **PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

Final planning activities for a 50-mile water pipeline, including:

- 90%-100% design and engineering (75% of requested amount)
- Final water quality bench testing (5% of requested amount)
- Right-of-way acquisition preparation (does not include physical property acquisition) and preliminary title reports (15% of requested amount)
- Outside engineering project management (5% of requested amount)

### **PROJECT COSTS**

- \$2.3 million

### **CURRENT PROJECT STATUS**

- Approaching 60% project design
- CEQA/NEPA documents are in progress
- County lands right of way permitting is complete
- Federal lands right of way permitting is in progress

### **PROJECT BENEFITS**

- Providing water sustainability to the region in compliance with SGMA
- Relieves aspects of mission encroachment for NAWSC

### **PROJECT SUMMARY**

The Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Basin historically overdrafts 25,000 acre-feet per year. The region is home to unincorporated areas of San Bernardino, Inyo, and Kern Counties as well as the City of Ridgecrest and the U.S. Naval Air Weapons Station China Lake, a critical weapons research and low-flight operation military facility. The basin is isolated and currently completely reliant upon groundwater. Water supply threatens the region and impacts the mission status of the military installation. The interconnection pipeline will connect the currently isolated groundwater basin, allowing for imported water supplies needed to achieve resiliency.

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**COMMUNITY PROJECT FUNDING REQUEST  
Energy & Water Development Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2025**

**Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority**

February 2024

The Honorable Jay Obernolte  
Member of Congress  
United States House of Representatives  
1029 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

RE: Community Project Funding Request, FY2025

Dear Representative Obernolte:

On behalf of the 36,000 residents of the Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Basin, I write to request your assistance in achieving groundwater sustainability, protecting the U.S. Naval Air Weapons Station China Lake, and lowering the economic impact on residents. The Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority (the Authority) requests your consideration of a \$1.6 million Community Project Funding Request for planning for our interconnection project in Fiscal Year 2025.

The Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Basin historically over-drafts 25,000 acre-feet per year beyond its "safe yield" (the amount of groundwater pumped equal to a groundwater basin's average replenishment rate). Through sustainability measures and efficiency measures implemented since 2019, over-drafting of the Basin has been reduced to 17,000 acre-feet per year. In compliance with California's Sustainable Groundwater Management Act, the Authority has developed, and the State has approved, a Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) requiring six major sustainability elements.

In 2022, the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and the House Committee on Appropriations directed the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to coordinate with the Authority and the Naval Station to develop strategies to achieve water resiliency in the Basin. USACE Los Angeles District intended to assist the Authority in planning activities associated with its interconnection water pipeline project, the key element in the Groundwater Sustainability Plan. However, State funding deadlines (from a \$7.6 million State Department of Water Resources grant, which is assisting with the majority of the planning for this project) and project timelines did not allow sufficient time for USACE to mobilize and assist the Authority with the interconnection pipeline project. Funding directed through the *Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2023* has expired.

The need for USACE assistance remains. Watershed studies, validation of key sustainability elements that the U.S. Navy and Authority have determined, and water supply planning for anticipated growth are needed. These efforts will have a critical impact on the sustainability of the region. While previously allocated funding has expired, the requirements included in the *Water Resource Development Act of 2022* remain.

We appreciate your consideration of this request. A full request packet is attached. Should you have any questions, please call Michael McKinney at 714.299.0053.

Best regards,

The Honorable Phillip Peters  
Chairman, Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority  
Supervisor Kern County

cc: The Honorable Paul Cook, Supervisor San Bernardino County

## BRIEFING

### Community Project Funding Request Fiscal Year 2025 Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority

**Background:** The Water Resources Development Act of 2022 (“WRDA-22”) directed the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to “develop a strategy to address water resiliency and over-drafting within the Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Basin. The directive called for USACE to coordinate with the Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority (IWVGA) and the United States Naval Air Weapons Station China Lake. The strategy sought to validate the State-approved Groundwater Sustainability Plan findings and develop a methodology to determine future water growth projections in the region.

Subsequent appropriations (Energy & Water Development) for Fiscal Year 2023 funded the directive language.

USACE responded to the directive by approving a Planning Assistance to States request from IWVGA for planning/environmental permitting (CEQA/NEPA) on its interconnection pipeline project.

Authorization for construction activities, pursuant to Section 219 of WRDA-14 (Environmental Infrastructure), is pending in both the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate for inclusion in the WRDA-24 legislation.

**Issue:** The timing required in the planning/environmental permitting process and duplication between State and federal activities extended discussions between USACE and IWVGA beyond the Fiscal Year 2023. The requirements directed in WRDA-22 were not accomplished.

While planning and environmental permitting activities have progressed, critical elements of the strategy directed in WRDA-22 remain outstanding. Without additional appropriation, the directives contained in WRDA-22 are stranded.

**Request:** Provide \$1.6 million, pursuant to Section 22 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1974 (Planning Assistance to States) to carry out the watershed management requirements established in WRDA-22.

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## SUMMARY:

California’s Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) requires groundwater basins to meet sustainability requirements by 2040. IWVGA is the responsible agency for the development and implementation of the Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP). The Indian Wells Basin, which includes portions of San Bernardino, Kern, and Inyo Counties as well as the U.S. Naval Air Weapons Station China Lake (a critical weapons and low-flight operation installation), historically overdrafted 25,000 acre-feet per year of groundwater. In 2021, the State approved the IWVGA GSP. The plan included the construction of a 50-mile pipeline to interconnect the region to the Antelope Valley East Kern Water Agency in order to provide imported water supplies to the isolated groundwater basin. The plan also included five other sustainability measures.



## THE WRDA-22 LANGUAGE AND WHY IT REMAINS NECESSARY

Within WRDA-22, USACE was directed by the House Committee to “develop a strategy in consultation with the [IWVGA] and the U.S. Naval Air Weapons Station China Lake to resolve water supply needs and eliminate overdraft [in the basin.]” The strategy contained several elements:

- Assisting with planning activities for imported water needs.
- Validation of the GSP elements.
- Determination of a water planning mechanism to address the growth needs of the Navy and the surrounding areas.

The State of California awarded IWVGA \$7.6 million to conduct planning/environmental permitting activities associated with the interconnection pipeline. The State directed that all funding was to be expended by May 2025. This requires IWVGA to diligently and efficiently conduct planning/environmental permitting on the pipeline within the required timeframe to utilize the State funding. USACE was unable to plan, mobilize, and conduct planning activities within the specified time frame allotted by the State.

Critical elements of the direction provided to USACE in WRDA-22 remain. They include watershed management planning, validation of the key elements contained in the GSP, and the water planning mechanism.

**Watershed Management Planning:** Several studies are required to effectuate the planning of sustainability measures and update the GSP (as required every five years). These studies include groundwater-dependent ecosystem and vegetation studies, naturally occurring springs flow surveys/estimates, seismic surveys, domestic/mutual well inventories, and drilling of a monitoring well in Inyo County.

**Validation of GSP Elements:** Two key areas require validation and will significantly impact the groundwater basin.

Validation of the methodology utilized to determine the sustainable yield - At the heart of the GSP is the sustainable yield amount, which determines how much water is annually recharging the groundwater basin. The total utilization less the sustainable yield and the Navy’s on-installation water use determines the total water need for the basin.

Validation of the percolation status of the groundwater basin - There are conflicting studies over whether or not the basin “percs” – meaning whether surface water effectively percolates into the groundwater table. Within the GSP, IWVGA ultimately determined the basin does not percolate, thereby requiring groundwater injection to recharge the basin. Injection requires significant infrastructure and ongoing operations/maintenance costs. By contrast, percolation within the basin would allow for conjunctive use, increasing the ability to store (bank) water and reducing overall costs. Determining that the basin “percs” would modify GSP elements provided for State approval.

**Water Growth Planning:** Water utilization on-installation and increased required Navy personnel to meet its mission are matters of National Security. As on-installation water utilization increases, the available sustainable yield for civilian use is reduced. As additional personnel are required,

the burden of serving those personnel and their dependents becomes the responsibility of the civilian agencies. Purchasing additional imported water supplies to meet the increased need can take years to complete. The need to develop a mechanism to determine potential future water supplies is required, but it must recognize the National Security requirement.

## **WRDA-24 SECTION 219 AUTHORIZATION**

IWVGA has submitted a bicameral and bipartisan request to WRDA-24 seeking authorization for construction activities on the interconnection pipeline. The request authorizes \$150 million under Section 219 – Environmental Infrastructure Projects to be appropriated over a five-year construction period. Senator Padilla, with the support of Senator Butler, and Representative Garcia are sponsoring the request. The request anticipated participation by USACE, as directed in WRDA-22, in the planning process in lieu of the Section 7001 Process. Although the project also qualifies as a Water Resources Project, the process under Section 7001 is unnecessary and would ultimately delay sustainability implementation beyond 2040, creating undue environmental harm to the aquifer and endangering the mission status of the U.S. Naval Air Weapons Station China Lake.

- The Section 7001 process requires reconnaissance and feasibility phases: Reconnaissance on the project and feasibility determinations have been made by the State through development and regulatory approval of the GSP. The State approved the GSP and agreed with the determination that imported water was the single most critical element to achieving sustainability in the region. The route, interconnection, transmission of water (“wheeling”), water supply, and cost-benefit have been studied and approved by the Authority under the watchful eye of the State. The project is feasible and eligible under Section 219/Environmental Infrastructure.
- Section 7001 requires a planning element that is already being accomplished: The State has awarded \$7.6 million to IWVGA to conduct planning and environmental permitting for the interconnection pipeline. CEQA and NEPA are already well underway. Requirements to go through Section 7001 would duplicate these efforts, wasting State taxpayer dollars, creating a delay of up to three years, and undermining the ability to meet SGMA deadlines.
- Delays in the process will create environmental harm: The basin forecast indicates one in ten wells in the region will fail by 2030. That number will increase to one in three wells by 2040. Continued over-drafting in the basin will encroach on the mission of the military installation. Missing the 2040 deadline will subject the region, including all military personnel and their dependents who live off-installation, to enforcement action by the State to meet sustainability requirements. Damage to the aquifer cannot be remediated and will ultimately impact all users (including the U.S. Navy).

## **IMPACTS TO SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY**

- Watershed Management Activities will impact the Trona region.
- Validation, particularly the percolation studies, will significantly impact Trona. Conjunctive use in the basin means a greater ability to store water cost-effectively for any use. Sustainability measures regarding recycled water have changed. Upholding that the basin does not percolate opens the probability of utilizing between 1,400 and 2,000 acre-feet of reclaimed water for non-domestic uses.

## **SUMMARY OVERVIEW**

### **PROPOSED PROJECT**

Watershed Management planning activities to address water resiliency in the Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Basin. Such activities include watershed studies, validating the U.S. Navy and Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority watershed planning measures, and planning for future water growth.

### **PROJECT COSTS**

- \$1.6 million estimated in USACE staff and contractor activities.

### **PROJECT STATUS**

- State-required Groundwater Sustainability Plan Update – due 2025.
- Groundwater sustainability measures – in progress
  - Overdraft of groundwater reduced from 25,000 acre-feet per year to 17,000 acre-feet per year. Basin pumping will be brought into balance by 2040 per the Groundwater Sustainability Plan requirements.

### **PROJECT BENEFITS**

- Completion of key elements of Groundwater Sustainability Plan
- Validation of groundwater sustainability measures
- Validation of groundwater percolation studies (determines conjunctive use of the basin)
- Assists in determining reclamation water reuse
- Provides key environmental studies needed to protect groundwater-dependent ecosystems

### **FEDERAL NEXUS**

Water sustainability is crucial for U.S. Naval Air Weapons Station China Lake to help relieve mission encroachment issues.

### **SUMMARY BACKGROUND**

The Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Basin historically overdrafts 25,000 acre-feet per year. The region is home to unincorporated areas of San Bernardino, Inyo, and Kern Counties as well as the City of Ridgecrest and the U.S. Naval Air Weapons Station China Lake, a critical weapons research and low-flight operation military facility. The basin is isolated and currently completely reliant upon groundwater. Water supply threatens the region and impacts the mission status of the military installation. Watershed planning and implementing groundwater sustainability measures are critical and required by California State law. Planning assistance, in conjunction with the local agencies and the U.S. Navy are needed.

**Proposed Amendment Language**

**ENERGY & WATER DEVELOPMENT AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT,  
2025**

At the appropriate section, insert the following.

SECTION XXXX. Planning Assistance to States.

- (a) New Projects Section 22 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1974 (42 USC 1916d-16) is amended:

(###) \$1,600,000.00 million is designated for the Secretary to carry out the watershed management requirements established in the Water Resources Development Act of 2022 within the Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Basin, California.

## DRAFT DEAR COLLEAGUE LETTER

The Honorable Chuck Fleischmann  
Chairman  
House Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development  
House Committee on Appropriations  
2362 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

RE: Community Project Funding Request, Fiscal Year 2025  
Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Basin Watershed Planning Activities

Dear Chairman Fleischmann:

On behalf of the Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Basin, which includes portions of the 3rd, 23<sup>rd</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>, and 27<sup>th</sup> Congressional Districts, I respectfully request your consideration of a community project funding request in the amount of \$1.6 million to provide watershed planning activities authorized under Section 22 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1974.

The Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Basin is located in the northwestern part of the Mojave Desert in Southern California and underlies approximately 382,000 acres or approximately 600 square miles of land area in portions of the Counties of Kern, Inyo, and San Bernardino. It is bordered on the west by the Sierra Nevada Mountain Range, on the north by the Coso Range, on the east by the Argus Range, and on the south by the El Paso Mountains. Surface water flows from the surrounding mountain ranges drains to China Lake, a large dry lake or playa in the basin's central northeast. It is home to 36,000 residents, which include unincorporated areas of San Bernardino, Kern, and Inyo Counties, as well as the City of Ridgecrest and the U.S. Naval Air Weapons Station China Lake, a critical weapons research and low-flight operation military installation.

The basin historically overdrafts 25,000 acre-feet per year of groundwater, is isolated, and solely reliant on groundwater supplies. In compliance with California law, local agencies, in conjunction with the United States Navy, have implemented a Groundwater Sustainability Plan designed to achieve water resilience by 2040. This plan requires over \$300 million in infrastructure investments to achieve sustainability. The State of California has invested over \$10 million in planning that infrastructure and providing infrastructure funding for critical early components of the plan. Local residents have invested millions of dollars to purchase imported water supplies.

In 2022, the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure directed the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (the Corps) to assist in developing a strategy to address water resiliency and over-drafting within the Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Basin. The Committee on Appropriations provided funding for that direction. Various issues, including State-imposed deadlines, hindered the ability of the Corps to meet the Committee's directive. This Community Project Funding Request restores the ability of the Corps to assist in those planning efforts pursuant to their mission requirements established in Section 22 of the Water Resources Development Act.

The project has multiple watershed, environmental, and water resiliency benefits for the entire region, including the overlying military installation whose mission status is impacted by water resiliency.

I respectfully request your consideration of and support for this Community Project Funding Request.

Sincerely,

Jay Obernolte  
Member of Congress, 23<sup>rd</sup> District of California

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