

MINUTES

County of Inyo WATER COMMISSION

August 29, 2018

The Chairperson called the Water Commission meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. at the Inyo County Water Department conference room, Independence, CA. Commissioners in attendance were Chairperson Mike Prather, Vice Chairperson Teri Red Owl, Mike Carrington, Randy Keller, and Nathaniel Gratz. Present from the Water Department were Bob Harrington, Laura Piper, and Larry Freilich.

1. Pledge of Allegiance

Commissioner Prather led the pledge of allegiance.

2. Public Comment

The Chairperson opened the public comment period and there was no one wishing to address the Commission.

3. Approval of minutes from the February 28, 2018 and May 29, 2018 meeting

Moved by Commissioner Red Owl and seconded by Commissioner Keller to approve the minutes of the February 28, 2018 meeting. Moved by Commissioner Carrington and seconded by Commissioner Red Owl to approve the minutes of the May 29, 2018 meeting. Motion passed.

4. Commissioners' reports

The Chairperson opened the report period and there were no Commissioners with reports at this time.

5. Discussion of Potential New Enhancement/Mitigation Projects

Mr. Freilich provided a summary on the thirteen projects brought forth to the Standing Committee compiled from public requests and ideas received during various public meetings. The Board and staff discussed this in detail and at length.

Sally Manning – Ms. Manning stated the County Farm has a water right. Mr. Steinwand stated it's divided by shares and LADWP is the primary shareholder. She stated all the mitigation projects listed in the 1991 EIR should all have mitigation and monitoring reporting plans.

Earl Wilson – Mr. Wilson stated the water table under Lone Pine needs to be raised.

6. Discussion and Planning of Water Commission Field Trips

The Board discussed a public field trip on the LORP and Owens Lake area in October. Commissioner Red Owl suggesting videotaping field trips for future viewing.

7. Update on Sustainable Groundwater Management Act: Owens Valley Groundwater Authority Groundwater Sustainability Agency status and Groundwater Sustainability Plan

Dr. Harrington provided an update on the OVGA business to include; the OVGA became the permanent GSA; grant funding was transferred to the OVGA; five (5) RFQ's were received for the GSP and are under review; LADWP's letter to DWR stating their land shouldn't be included in the OVGA's sustainability agency boundaries; Starlite's request to be excluded from the groundwater basin and relieve them of the obligation to be involved in SGMA planning; DWR has proposed to reset the Owens Valley groundwater basin priority from medium to high priority; OVGA has filed notice of

intent to file a GSP; Inyo County as OVGA staff submitted the first invoice to the Groundwater Authority for reimbursement; and the Indian Wells Valley is designated as in critical overdraft per DWR. The Board and staff discussed this item in detail.

8. Public Comment

Ms. Manning inquired about the Deputy Water Director position. Dr. Harrington announced his retirement.

9. Schedule next Water Commission meeting

The next Water Commission was tentatively scheduled for November.

10. Adjourn

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 7:57 p.m.