

MINUTES

Owens Valley Groundwater Authority

Board Members:

SIERRA HIGHLANDS EASTERN SIERRA CSD INDIAN CREEK-WESTRIDGE CSD WHEELER CREST CSD TRI VALLEY GWMD	John Camphouse Ron Stone Luis Elias Glenn Inouye Dave Doonan	COUNTY OF MONO CITY OF BISHOP COUNTY OF INYO BIG PINE CSD KEELER CSD	Fred Stump Chris Costello Dan Totheroh BryAnna Vaughan
---	--	---	---

June 13, 2019

The Owens Valley Groundwater Authority meeting was called to order at 2:01 p.m. at the Bishop Fire Training Center, Bishop, CA.

1. Pledge of allegiance

Wendy Sugimura led the pledge of allegiance.

2. Public Comment

Philip Anaya stated he wrote a letter to DWR requesting an extension of the public comment period on the groundwater basin priority change. Dan Totheroh stated the public utilities are putting forth a “public safety shutdown”, that may be days and possibly a week without power.

3. Introductions

The Board introduced themselves with two absent, Sierra Highlands CSD and Keeler CSD.

4. Approval of minutes from the April 18, 2019 OVGA Board meeting

The Chairperson requested a motion to approve the minutes of the April 18, 2019 meeting. Motion to approve the corrected minutes by Dave Doonan, second by Chris Costello. Motion passed 7 yes (32 votes) 1 abstention (4 votes), 2 absent (4 votes).

5. Board Member Reports

Glenn Inouye stated his Board sent a letter in favor of DWR’s groundwater basin priority change and also a letter to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission in opposition of the application from Premiere Energy.

6. OVGA staff reports

- a. Financial Report
- b. Status of advance payment on Proposition 1 grant
- c. Report on Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority activities

Laura Piper presented the financial reports and stated the OVGA’s cash balance is \$141,655.95. She stated recent transaction to the account since last meeting were interest, copy charges, and consultant fees. Dr. Steinwand stated the Proposition 1 grant funding advance has been received. Philip Anaya stated there is an opportunity for additional grant funding under Proposition 68. John Vallejo stated the Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority has challenges such as being underfunded, a critical overdraft situation, and discussing ways to acquire water. The Board and staff discussed item c in detail. Dr. Steinwand announced that Dr. Harrington stated he will not be moving forward with the contract to provide hydrogeological services to the OVGA Board.

7. Discussion of Implications of DWR Reprioritization of the Owens Valley Groundwater Basin

Dr. Steinwand stated DWR released the reprioritization in April which changed the Owens Valley Groundwater Basin to low priority. He provided an overview of the process and how this change came about. He stated the final decision is expected in late June. He provided a staff report with information and options dependent on the final basin priority rating. He stated the submitted comments on the basin priority change are on the DWR website. The Board and staff discussed the several options available to them and pended this item until DWR makes the final decision on the Owens Valley Groundwater Basin.

The Chairperson called a break at 2:48 pm and reconvened the meeting at 2:55 pm.

8. Presentation by Daniel B Stephens and Associates on Preparation of Groundwater Sustainability Plan and Stakeholder Engagement

Tony Morgan of DBS&A introduced the upcoming PowerPoint presentations as well as the staff. Mr. Dave Ceppos provided the presentation regarding the roles and responsibilities with regard to SGMA and stakeholder engagement. Tony Morgan and Tim Moore provided an update on the Groundwater Sustainability Plan, groundwater modeling, water budget, the data requested and the compilation of data necessary to complete the plan, and groundwater dependent ecosystems among various other topics. The Board, staff, and consultants discussed this in detail and at length.

9. Discussion and possible determination of Board Seats for Associate and Interested Parties

The Chairperson stated the staff recommendation for this item was to defer until the final basin rating was made by DWR and the Board concurred.

10. Discussion regarding future agenda items

The Chairperson stated per Boards discussion the following items should be included on the next agenda; Indian Wells Valley update, the contract for Dr. Harrington/amendment to staff services contract, Associate & Interested Parties, and an update on Keeler CSD.

11. Set next meeting

The next OVGA meeting was tentatively scheduled for July 11, 2019.

12. Adjourn

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 5:09 pm.