



Indian Wells Valley Stakeholder Assessment Results

October 4, 2022





**FOR MORE INFORMATION ON
THE BASIN ADJUDICATION
VISIT IWWWD.COM**



Agenda


- 1. Welcome and Introductions**
- 2. Facilitation Support Services Review**
- 3. Stakeholder Assessment Purpose and Process**
- 4. Assessment Findings**
- 5. Breakout Group Discussion**
- 6. Options Moving Forward**



DWR Facilitation Support Services Program

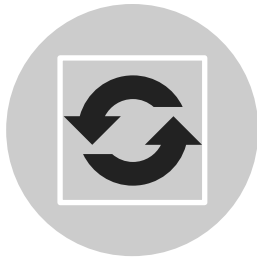
Services Offered through DWR-funded Professional Facilitators:

- Stakeholder assessments
- Governance development
- Public outreach
- Tribal government engagement
- Meeting facilitation
- Intra-basin and inter-basin coordination support
- Interest-based negotiation/consensus building
- Stakeholder communication and engagement planning
- Targeted outreach to underrepresented groundwater users
- Identification and engagement of interested parties



The screenshot shows a web application interface for the Department of Water Resources (DWR) Facilitation Support Services (FSS) Application. The header features the CA.GOV logo and the text "Department of Water Resources Facilitation Support Services Application". Below the header, there is a paragraph of text explaining the purpose of the FSS: "The Department of Water Resources (DWR) is offering Facilitation Support Services (FSS) to help GSAs and local water management groups foster discussions among diverse water management interests and jurisdictions in support of Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) implementation." This is followed by contact information for Heather Shannon. The form is divided into sections, with the current section being "I. Applicant Background (Questions 1-6 of 17)". A dropdown menu is visible with the instruction "1) Select the groundwater basin/subbasin that is requesting FSS:" and a "select" option.

Work Plan Overview: Key Tasks



PROCESS
INITIATION



STAKEHOLDER
ASSESSMENT



PUBLIC
MEETINGS

Apr 2022


Dec 2022

The Planning Committee

The purpose of the Planning Committee is to support development of Work Plan that will assist the subbasin stakeholders in discussing challenges related to the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA), the Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP), and multiple related, filed lawsuits, and to help educate the public regarding the issues and concerns.

Participants

- Indian Wells Valley Water District
- United States Navy
- Searles Minerals Valley, Inc.
- Mojave Pistachio
- Meadowbrook Dairy



Indian Wells Valley (6-054)
Groundwater Sustainability Collaboration
PLANNING COMMITTEE WORKPLAN
April 6, 2022

1. Planning Committee Purpose

The purpose of the Planning Committee is to support development of Work Plan that will assist the subbasin stakeholders in discussing challenges related to the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA), the Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP), and multiple related, filed lawsuits, and to help educate the public regarding the issues and concerns.

2. Background

The California Department of Water Resources is committed to supporting local agencies and communities in successfully implementing SGMA. As part of that, at the request of local agencies, they are able to provide neutral facilitators able to offer Stakeholder Assessments, Public and Stakeholder Outreach, Meeting Facilitation, Intra-Basin and Inter-Basin Coordination Support, Interest-Based Negotiation, and more.

At the request of the Indian Wells Valley Water District (IWWVD), services are being provided to the Indian Wells Valley Subbasin to assist the subbasin stakeholders in discussing challenges related to SGMA, the Indian Wells Valley GSP, and multiple related, filed lawsuits, and to help educate the public regarding the issues and concerns.

The facilitation effort is guided by this Work Plan, which outlines the activities to be undertaken, schedules and deliverables.



Stakeholder Assessment Purpose and Process

What – Stakeholder Assessment

- Evaluate the needs and conditions of your project /initiative as they relate to the stakeholders and community to minimize risk.
- Conduct an internal and external environmental scan:
 - Evaluate conditions for collaboration
 - Clarify non-technical risks
 - Determine the best engagement techniques for the circumstances

Interview Quick Facts

Timeframe

- June – Sept. 2022

Method

- List developed with Planning Committee input
- Conducted virtually and in-person in the basin (Trona, Ridgecrest, InyoKern)

Outreach

- Contacted: 65
- Participated: 48

Stakeholder Assessment Interviews

Trona Community Members

Federal Government (US Navy, Department of Justice, Bureau of Land Management)

Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority

Industry Representatives

Large-Scale Agricultural Representatives

Water District and Water Utility Representatives

Environmental Representatives

Domestic Well Owners and Users

Business Community Representatives

Small Agriculture Representatives

Inyokern Community Services District

Mutual Water Company Representatives

State Agencies

Survey Quick Facts

Timeframe

- August 9 – August 19

Method

- Adapted from interview questionnaire
- Open to all who live, work, or have an interest in the IWV

Outreach

- Responses: 137
- Emails from IWVWD and Trona community
- Posted on IWVWD and Trona Facebook pages
- Word-of-mouth from interview participants



Stakeholder Assessment Findings

Diverse Backgrounds - Shared Views

- **Interviews** tended to engage individuals who were more involved in GA and GSP activities
- **Survey** reached those who were less involved in GSP development
 - 84%** identified as an **interested community member**
 - 43%** reported **not being involved in GSP development** at all
 - 50%** said they were **familiar with SGMA**
 - Other half of respondents had either heard mention of SGMA or were entirely unfamiliar





Knowledge

- Some believe SGMA has raised critical concerns and many others find it useful to collectively address local groundwater issues
- GSP is the legal guiding document; but implementation of the plan is open to the public process

Key Themes



Communications



Transparency



Equity issues – Trona & InyoKern CSD



Best available science



Addressing the needs of small mutuals



Other projects and management actions on the table for community discussion

Communications

- **General**

- Understanding of information
- Clear outreach and education
- Desire for regional and statewide conversations
- Navy's long-term plans for the region

- **Technical**

- Public process to discuss technical information
- Public involvement in groundwater monitoring/data gaps



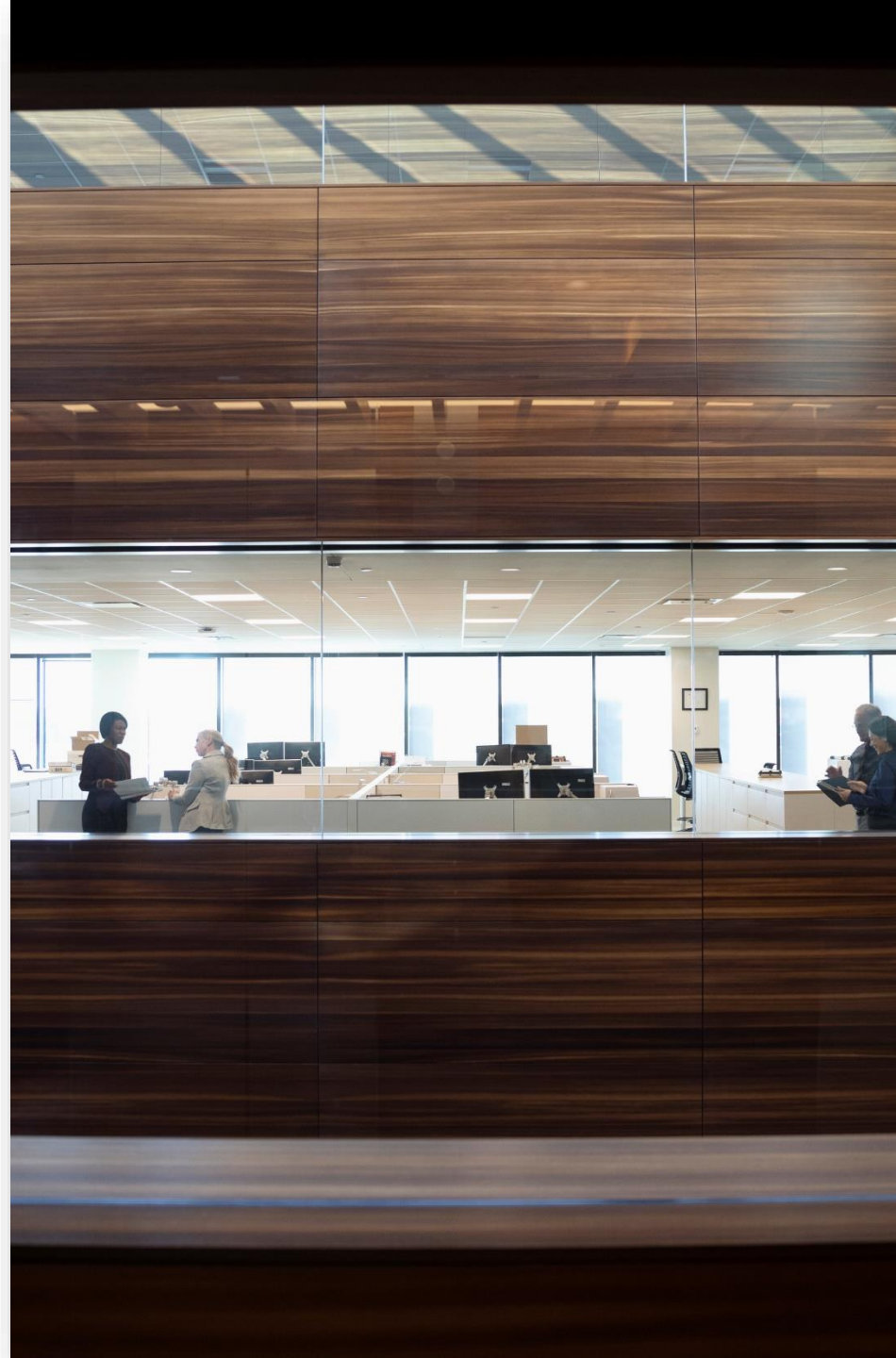
Transparency

- **Information**

- Information not adequately reaching those that need it
- GSP financing and implementation schedule, costs, reporting

- **Governance**

- Desire to understand how/why decisions are being made and by who
- Structural issues: meeting times/locations, records & tracking
- Establishment of management areas



Equity Issues



Trona

Searles Valley Minerals (SVM) and domestic water

Impacts on local employment and economy

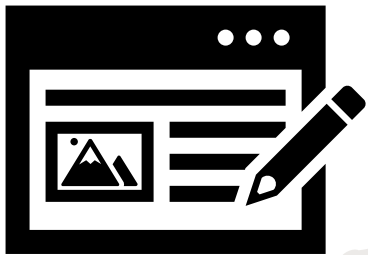


InyoKern CSD

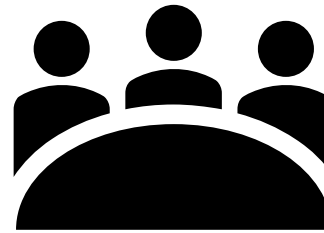
Financing

Long-term supply

Best Available Science



Dueling science
on aquifer
characterization



Providing a
public
platform for
data sharing



Clarity about
projected water
use and future
demand



Expansion of
well
monitoring
network



Addressing the needs of Small Mutuals



Other projects
on the table/
community input
on priorities

- Imported water
- Recycled water
- Conservation
- Ramp down of agricultural use
- Shallow well mitigation
- Groundwater-dependent ecosystems
- Desalination



Small Group Discussion

Breakout Group Guide

Facilitator/Leader: Ensures that the group stays with the task and that everyone has an opportunity to share ideas.

Notetaker: One or more people will jot down notes to help with later reports and the eventual meeting notes.

Reporter: One person will report on behalf of the full group.

Ground Rules

Conversational and
electronics courtesy

No requirement to agree with,
defend or promote ideas

Listen to understand all the
points of view

Keep track of time

Humor is welcome, just not a
someone else's expense





- To what extent were you surprised about what the assessment found?
- What, if anything, would you add, subtract, or change on this list?



- Introductions
- Discuss what a potential community conversation about this topic would look like.
 - What sub-topics or priorities would need to be addressed?
 - Who would need to be involved?
- Describe what types of things would be happening if things related to this topic were working well. How would you measure success?
- Summarize Full Group Discussion
- Identify a group reporter to share the 4-5 key take aways from the breakout group discussion.

Defining Success



- Shared understanding of the problem
- Transparency
- Consensus on solution(s) moving forward
- Addressing community issues and comments



Options for Collaboration

- Topic-specific discussions
- Portfolio approaches
- Open, public meetings
- Expanded outreach and engagement



Next Steps

- Presentation of Stakeholder Assessment Findings to the Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority Policy Advisory Committee Meeting on October 27th at 5:00 PM