



2022 Indio Subbasin Alternative Plan Update

Tribal Workgroup #2

SUMMARY

August 27, 2020 at 10:00 am – 12:00 pm

Virtual Meeting

<p>Tribal Workgroup and Supporting Members</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chuck Jachens, Bureau of Indian Affairs • Brian Moniez, Department of Water Resources (DWR) • David Limón Saldivar, Augustine Band of Cahuilla Indians • Gabi Lewis, Torres-Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians (TMDCI) • Jennifer Wong, DWR • John Covington, Morongo Band of Mission Indians • Jose Mora, Twenty-Nine Palms Band of Mission Indians • Joseph Mirelez, TMDCI • Levi Anderson, Twenty-Nine Palms Band of Mission Indians • Pakiza Chatha, DWR • Thomas Torte Jr., TMDCI 	<p>Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adekunle Ojo, Indio Water Authority (IWA) • Ashley Metzger, Desert Water Agency (DWA) • Mark Krause, DWA • Melanie Garcia, Coachella Valley Water District (CVWD) • Mike Nusser, CVWD • Reymundo Trejo, IWA • Ryan Molhoek, DWA • Steve Bigley, CVWD • Trish Rhay, IWA • Zoe Rodriguez del Rey, CVWD <p>Consultant Team</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Edwin Lin, Todd Groundwater • Iris Priestaf, Todd Groundwater • Nicole Poletto, Woodard & Curran • Rosalyn Prickett, Woodard & Curran
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Welcome and Introductions

Ms. Rosalyn Prickett, Woodard & Curran, welcomed everyone to the meeting and introductions were made as participants joined the call. Ms. Prickett briefed everyone on how to use the virtual GoToMeeting platform and then presented the meeting objectives and agenda. She reintroduced the project team working on the Indio Subbasin Alternative Plan Update, including the Indio Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) and Consultant team. Ms. Prickett provided an overview of the Workgroup timeline over the two-year planning period. This included the quarterly meeting schedule for both Public Workshops and Tribal Workgroup meetings.

One question by the tribal members on the schedule included:

- Is there a progress calendar that identifies the proposed completion dates?
 - We have a general schedule on when we intend to proceed with different components of the Alternative Plan Update. We can circulate this to the SGMA Tribal Workgroup.

Alternative Plan Status

Ms. Prickett presented an overview of the Alternative Plan Update tasks. The first two tasks, assess the existing plan and process available datasets, have been completed. Data analysis for 2010 to 2019 is underway. Task 3, which documents groundwater conditions and basin characterization, is also underway. The demand forecast that is currently under development will be discussed later in this meeting (Tasks 4 and 5). Projections for municipal, golf, and agriculture future demands are underway and projected future supplies and potential supply projects and management actions are being defined. This includes the amount of recycled water delivered to irrigation customers in the Valley and future recycled water plans.

Groundwater model inputs from 2010 to 2019 are being updated and calibrated under Task 6. The next steps are to incorporate the projected demand forecast and supply mix into the groundwater model. Tasks 7 and 8 haven't been started yet. Establishing the sustainability goal and criteria are all coordinated with the Plan implementation tasks.

The final task is stakeholder engagement and tribal outreach that will run throughout the Alternative Plan Update process. Tribal outreach is consistent with DWR's 2017 *SGMA Guidance for Engagement with Tribal Governments* and communications are sent out via the tribal email list. There are 5 semi-annual Tribal Workgroup presentations and a data request was circulated in early May 2020 with a follow-up letter sent mid-May. The GSA is looking to collect any data related to land use, population and housing projections, water demands, or water conservation data or programs on tribal lands.

Discussion by the tribal members on Plan status included:

- Is there a Technical Advisory Committee or Stakeholder Advisory Committee that has been formed by the Indio GSA?
 - The GSA members have coordination meetings to manage the consultant team, but there is no Technical Advisory Committee or Stakeholder Advisory Committee. All of the Alternative Plan Update analysis and deliverables are presented at the scheduled Public Workshops.
- How can beneficial users and public users engage with the Alternative Plan and the Bridge Document, other than outreach conference calls?
 - The intent of the Public Workshops is to engage anyone that may be interested in participating in the planning process. Anyone who may want to provide technical input or input on the materials being developed may participate in these workshops. Rather than selecting a few individuals to an advisory committee, we opted to cast a wide net and invite everyone to participate.
- Has the Communication Plan been developed? What does it look like?
 - The Communication Plan has been developed and is available on the website on the "[Get Involved](#)" page. The document outlines how we intend to engage stakeholders during the planning process. It includes topics such as establishing a preliminary list of stakeholders, outlining Public Workshops, and discussing SGMA Tribal Workgroup meetings.
- Several comments submitted with the Bridge Document in 2017 talked about the presence of five federally recognized tribes within the Subbasin. Is it the intent of the GSA to prepare a tribal consultation policy drafted by the GSA to engage the tribes?
 - When the GSAs began working on SGMA compliance, each GSA met individually with the tribes in their service areas. At these consultations, we discussed the best way to engage the tribes and whether we should focus on formal government-to-government

consultation or to work with staff during the planning process. It was concluded that staff-to-staff coordination was appropriate, and we established the SGMA Tribal Workgroup. This may need to change in the future, but that was the approach we agreed upon at that time. We are also following the *SGMA Guidance for Engagement with Tribal Governments*.

Demand Forecast

Ms. Prickett discussed the municipal demand forecast process which takes Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) 2020 growth projections for households, population, and employment and allocates growth to land use categories. 5-year (2015-2019) averages from customer billing data were then used to develop unit demand factors for residential and non-residential land uses, which are also adjusted by conservation factors.

Maps of the Subbasin have been prepared to demonstrate anticipated population growth per SCAG projections, along with anticipated land uses. The SCAG projections may need to be refined based on planned tribal development. The GSAs are requesting information on any future plans or projects that are forecasted on tribal lands through 2045. There was general acceptance to use the presented population projections as the basis of our demand forecast.


Discussion by the tribal members on the demand forecast included:

- What type of tribal data was used?
 - The SCAG projections are based on tribal data shared with local municipalities and reflected in their General Plans.
 - The Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians confirmed that their tribal land use projections are included in local municipal General Plans.
 - The Morongo Band of Mission Indians confirmed that their tribal lands are included in the San Gorgonio GSP. They offered to share information if deemed helpful to the *Indio Subbasin Alternative Plan Update*.
- Torres-Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians has larger conceptual projects such as casinos and hotels that may be implemented in the future. Where can we submit that information?
 - If you have any data or information on large-scale projects, please contact indiosubbasinsgma@woodardcurran.com or rprickett@woodardcurran.com. We would like to include this information in the demand forecast.
 - The Consultant team will follow up directly with the Torres-Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians tribal chair to gather this information.

Next Steps

Ms. Prickett announced to workshop participants that the next SGMA Tribal Workgroup meeting will be held on November 19, 2020 from 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM and will be held virtually via GoToMeeting. There will be a Public Workshop following the Tribal Workgroup meeting from 2:00 PM – 4:00 PM on the same day.

She reminded participants to make sure to visit our website for more information. For additional information, please contact Rosalyn Prickett at: IndioSubbsinSGMA@woodardcurran.com or (858) 875-7420.



Other Planning Efforts

Ms. Zoe Rodriguez del Rey, CVWD provided updates on the Salt and Nutrient Management Plan (SNMP), a separate but concurrent update process with the *Indio Subbasin Alternative Plan Update*. The Regional Board sent a letter on February 19, 2020 and an SNMP Workplan and Monitoring Plan will be completed by December 31, 2020 to address their concerns.

Ms. Ashley Metzger, DWA announced the 2020 Urban Water Management Plan (UWMP) update is underway. UWMPs must be submitted every five years. The 2020 plans are due July 1, 2021. For this update, all of the water purveyors in the Valley are collaborating to ensure consistency among local agencies, especially when related to water shortage contingency planning. The team is waiting for DWR to release the 2020 Guidebook that incorporates new legislative changes to complete the update.