

MEETING NOTES

PROJECT: Antelope Valley IRWM Stakeholder call

MEETING DATE: 12/11/2024

LOCATION: MS Teams Conference Call

ISSUED DATE: 12/18/2024

ATTENDEES:

AVEK: Pam Clark, Matt Knudsen, Peter Thompson

City of Lancaster: Bruce Katz, Benjamin Stewart

City of Palmdale: Hamed Hashemian, Mike Shahbakhti

LA County Public Works: Daria Antonova, Rongchao Bi, Olga Cruz, Richard Gomez, Julian Juarez, Sara Samaan

Woodard & Curran: Leah Makler, Josh Uecker

Other: Ryan Becker (Rosamond Community Services District), James Chaisson (Little Rock Creek Irrigation District), Holly Jones (Los Angeles County Sanitary District), Yvonne Malikowski, Scott Rogers (Palmdale Water District), Brach Smith (Quartz Hill)

Stakeholder Meeting Notes

Welcome and Introductions

- Sara started the meeting, and facilitated introductions.
- Josh facilitated the remainder of the meeting.

Ongoing Regional Funding

- Josh summarized the IRWM Prop 1 projects.
 - 2 projects are ongoing in Round 1.
 - 1 project is ongoing with Round 2 funding, RCD will begin using Round 2 funding when they have exhausted their Round 1 funding.

Project Updates

- Matt (AVEK) gave an update on the SNIP project.
 - The project is in the final design phase.
 - There were several delays due to power issues and pump station design.
 - AVEK is pursuing additional funding from DWR.
- Josh updated the group on AVRCD's project.
 - AVRCD has a new director, and they are just starting to get back into the project.
- James (LRCID) shared that Little Rock's project is complete.
 - They still need to do some reporting to the State.

- The project is operational, and has already provided benefit to the District

Proposition 4

- Josh shared that Prop 4 passed in the November 2024 election cycle.
 - Prop 4 opens up new funding for environmental, water, and wildfire projects.
 - Josh described the various “pots” of available funding, especially those that will be relevant to the AV region.
 - The timeline is not finalized, but it is likely that applications will begin next summer, and funding will start to be allocated in late 2025.
 - Stormwater and groundwater funding may be available earlier than the other categories.

AV IRWM Memorandum of Understanding Status

- Peter Thompson gave a status update on the new MOU.
 - Most members have approved and signed the MOU. They are waiting on one more agency to sign, and this is expected to happen soon.
 - AVSWCA is already using the updated MOU to apply for funding.

Storm Water Resource Plan Status

- Sara gave an update on decision-making for SWRP.
 - Since the September meeting, group members from LA County and Palmdale have agreed that it would be a good idea to have a stormwater plan in place.
 - There are two options for drafting a plan:
 - Including SWRP in the AV Water Plan (a different group of stakeholders) or
 - Developing an SWRP as a separate plan with the IRWM stakeholders.
 - The Palmdale/LA County team will meet early next year to discuss.

Public Comments/Future Agenda Items/Announcements

- Bruce Katz asked whether the lists of IRWM chair members should be updated.
 - Josh said it would be a good idea, as the list hasn’t been updated since 2019.
 - This list could be updated with an updated project list early next year.
 - There should be more movement on new projects and funding by the next meeting (March).

Next meeting: Wednesday, March 12, 2025