

*Part III, IWVGWA Meeting With the General Public  
Of Indian Wells Valley  
July 10, 2018!*

By Lorry Wagner, July 11, 2018

I attended the above meeting last evening that was held at the KerrMcGee Center in Ridgecrest. Oh, my! I believe I'm still in shock! This meeting started around 6:00 p.m. and adjourned about 8:00 p.m.

The first hour was filled with the IWVGWA's members, attorneys and the attending representative of their contracted employee, Stetson Engineering, giving their input about how to fill out their well-registration forms, dates of implementation and projected fees, accounting of the \$'s spent to date, their attorneys' input (and later answers to audience questions) regarding evasive dancing around "this is our mandate and these are our limitations imposed by the SGMA from Sacramento, etc., etc.,"!!

Also addressed was the "pumping fee" planned to be imposed. The spin there was something else. This fee is supposed to be limited to only 18 months until IWVGWA raises the \$900,000.00 plus amount they need to pay their bills (a separate issue of discussion which should never happen). But when questions arise from those attending the attorney's tried to "let it slide" that the retirement of this fee has no bearing on future fees that will be imposed. Good try, attorneys, but your spin and left-out-truth wasn't unnoticed!

Also included was the showing of a map outlining the outer boundaries of our aquifer which, we were told, is the outside boundary line of the area of "responsibility" by IWVGWA that limits their jurisdiction with any authority to address the "issues." The attorney input was "priceless" and sooooo revealing! Stetson Engineering was so "open to discuss" that, too, was quite revealing to me!

The remainder of the evening, approximately 1 hour, was opened to "questions" from the attendees! By this time I was "digesting" the input just handed down to us and my thoughts were starting to put together a very horrifying picture. After listening to the first hour's "look how hard we are working for you people," "we have to make you pay by SGMA mandate from California which is LAW or California State will step in and force their will on you folks" (blackmail???) and then listening to the questions posed by members of those folks attending and some of the unbelievable responses from IWVGWA members and their lawyers and contract employees, I could no longer sit there and just listen. I got in line and said my piece...no questions, just reiteration of a few facts!

One obvious requirement of each of we people who live here is that we all must organize and move toward getting rid of this mandate (not sure we have the time to actually stop it right now, but can move forward to get rid of it asap) and address the real and actual cause of our aquifer not receiving the annual replacement water as Nature intends.

It will not be quick, easy or inexpensive. We do not have access to meeting places that can hold

our numbers but we do have the internet and word-of-mouth communication which is better than nothing; i.e., talk to your neighbors, friends, and parties that have interest in solving this mess. I have set up meeting on same for clubs in the past. I would ask for input, information and help in pulling us all together into a cohesive and very strong citizen entity. I will volunteer to be the “collector,” if-you-will, keep all informed of input and organizing same as we move toward creating the necessary “brick wall and slap down” to government’s ridiculous interference and open the doors to actually resolving the issue.

WOW! How can one describe last night’s utter disdain that was obviously designed to confuse and mislead...no wonder this mandate dropped on our heads will never work! Following is an overview of my personal research and experience plus takeaway from last night (some is reiteration from the last newsletter, but we have to move, folks!)

1. The real cause and where the solution lies is outside of the boundaries of our local aquifer; i.e., head waters, LA Aqueduct diverting natural flow of water, Coso Geothermal diverting natural flow of water plus the time-to-time imposition of drought by Mother Nature which come and go is the root cause.
2. The only area which this IWVGWA could even “logically” approach would be to clean up the debris, silt, buildup of water-flow-blocking entities that have been deposited over the years, much of which has been caused by the interruption of natural flow of water since 1913 before which we have had flowing into and through this valley over the past millions of years by upstream, man-made diversions. And, even then, the in-flow must be replaced first by stopping the up-stream diversions.
3. This SGMA apparently disallows the IWVGWA to address the root cause of any aquifer shrinking, thus this whole mess is not only an act in futility, but it will cause huge waste of millions of dollars and huge interference with private property and our water rights. My question here is “why does not IWVGWA simply disclose their limitations instead of spending a fortune to move forward in a direction that can never be achieved.

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