WORKING GROUP
2016/2017 OBJECTIVES ACTION PLAN

Planning Objective No. 1
Limit additional large scale pumping in areas that appear to be adversely impacted.

- Continue to measure water level changes throughout the basin and produce a map that can be used as a tool for current and future planning including environmental studies. The map will be posted on the Group’s website along with annual water production information and well hydrographs.

Planning Objective No. 2
Distribute new groundwater extraction within the Valley in a manner that will minimize adverse effects to existing groundwater conditions (levels and quality), and maximize the long-term supply within the Valley.

- Collect baseline data for new pumping areas and continue monitoring for changes.
- The Groundwater Management Group will be available to assist major producers in the location of new wells.
- Pending completion of a Brackish Water Resource Study and formation of the Groundwater Sustainability Agency, Indian Wells Valley Water District and the Navy will consider a proposal to allow the District to drill relatively low capacity wells along the west boundary of NAWS.
- Continue to review existing studies/publications, as needed, to assist in management of groundwater resources.

Planning Objective No. 3
Aggressively pursue the development and implementation of water conservation policy and education programs.

- Continue support of the Cooperative Groundwater Management Group's website.
- Conservation tips and new information pertaining to water resources in the Indian Wells Valley will continue to be part of the Working Group’s website.
- Continue annual support of the Sand Canyon Environmental Education Program (SEEP).
- Encourage the use of drip irrigation systems.
- Publicize and distribute resources including the booklet on xeriscape landscaping, the Working Group's water conservation policy, and the pamphlet on re-use of gray water.
- Provide links to the web sites of major manufacturers of landscape irrigation timers on the Group’s web site to assist individuals with accessing information on how to properly set the timers.
The Indian Wells Valley Water District (Water District) will:
- Enforce the District’s Ordinances 98 and 99 for water efficient landscaping and landscape restrictions for new development.
- Enforce the District’s Ordinance 100, Emergency Water Conservation Mandatory Restrictions, to achieve the conservation target established by the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB).
- Continue the XERIC© Ambassador program for educational outreach and focus effort on expanding the network of ambassadors to compensate for recent turnover.
- Participate in the Annual Petroglyph Festival and the Spring Home and Leisure Show to distribute water saving devices (shower heads, hose nozzles, shower timers and faucet aerators, e.g.) and conservation information.
- Recognize outstanding examples of xeriscape landscapes.
- Provide assistance for water use and leak detection.
- Provide current articles and information on conservation on the District’s website and Facebook page. Include information about rebate programs offered through State agencies and public utilities.
- Comply with urban water conservation mandates issued by the SWRCB in response to statewide drought conditions.

The Navy will:
- Continue to implement their Water Conservation Policy.
- Continue to replace older irrigation systems with SmartSet timers that adjust to local weather conditions.
- Continue to educate the NAWS-China Lake community and residents with water conservation information and newsletters/articles including providing articles to be submitted by the Cooperative Groundwater Management Group for publication in local media.
- Continue to support the Cooperative Groundwater Management Group’s website with water conservation tips and information.
- Continue its leak detection and storage reservoir rehabilitation program.
- Continue the current initiative to xeriscape landscape and reduce turf with low-water use, drought-tolerant plants where practical.
- Support the Indian Wells Valley Water District xeriscape workshops.

Searles Valley Minerals will:
- Support efforts to educate the community regarding water-related issues through outreach such as newspaper articles authored for the Cooperative Groundwater Management Group.
- Publish a weekly water production and use the report to improve accountability for water use within SVM’s operations.

City of Ridgecrest will:
- Install new smart water systems in all city parks as part of the TAB funds projects. These projects are targeted to be complete before the end of the year.
• East Kern Resource Conservation District (EKRCD) will:
  ▪ Provide information and promote the State Water Efficiency and Enhancement Program (SWEEP) grant program for irrigation efficiency for agricultural growers.
  ▪ Support the Sand Canyon Environmental Education Program (SEEP) conservation program for elementary school students.
  ▪ Promote access to soils information.
  ▪ Conduct an annual native plant order sale to promote drought-resistant native landscaping.
  ▪ Research and identify funding for California Irrigation Management Information System (CIMIS) stations to measure local evapotranspiration rates and assist in more efficient landscape irrigation.
  ▪ Collaborate with the City through the city’s public access channel to provide education and outreach on gardening, xeriscape and water conservation.

Planning Objective No. 4
Encourage the use of treated water, reclaimed water, recycled, gray and lower quality water where appropriate and economically feasible.

• In addition to continuing to use water from the treatment facility operated by the City of Ridgecrest for growing alfalfa in the southeast portion of town, the City will be moving forward with a new wastewater treatment facility. As part of the study, consideration will be given to the feasibility of tertiary treatment versus current secondary treatment and explore potential uses for water treated to tertiary standards.
• The Naval Air Weapons Station (NAWS) will continue to use reclaimed water from the wastewater treatment facility to water the golf course while exploring projects to re-use additional water from the facility.
• Develop a Salt Nutrient Management Plan to meet the State Department of Water Resources requirement. The target date for presenting the draft plan is June 2016.
• Promote and educate the public about retrofitting existing residences to allow recycling of gray water.

Planning Objective No. 5
Explore the potential for other types of water management programs that are beneficial to the Valley.

• The Water District will consider exploring opportunities for an aquifer storage and recovery (water banking) project.
• Continue participation in and support of the Inyo-Mono Integrated Regional Water Management Plan.
• The Navy, Searles Valley Minerals and the Water District will partner with Coso Operating Company and the Geothermal Office to fund a Brackish Water Resource Study to define the resource for the purpose of determining the economics of using desalination to provide a supplemental source of water.
• The Cooperative Groundwater Management Group will support the Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Sustainability Agency once it is formed including continued data acquisition, analysis, and technical support to the extent it is needed.

Planning Objective No. 6

Continue cooperative efforts to develop information and data which contributes to further defining and better understanding the groundwater resource in the Indian Wells Valley.

• Work toward standardization of data reporting that will facilitate establishing and maintaining a basin-wide database.
• Continue aquifer data collection to support future upgrades of the Brown & Caldwell groundwater flow model for the basin to assist in running future simulations.
• Continue support, as needed, for the Bureau of Land Management’s Remote Automated Weather Stations (RAWS) to collect weather/climate data.
• Continue to compile annual water production information and post it on the Group’s website.
• Develop a map with well locations to indicate production areas and intensity of pumping.
• Continue to evaluate water quality and level changes throughout the Valley as resources allow.

Planning Objective No. 7
Develop an inter-agency management framework to implement and enforce the objectives of this Plan.

• This objective was achieved with the drafting and acceptance of the Steering Committee Operating Guidelines in January 1997.