

# MINUTES

# Owens Valley Groundwater Authority

## Board Members:

INDIAN CREEK-WESTRIDGE CSD	Luis Elias	BIG PINE CSD	BryAnna Vaughan
COUNTY OF MONO	Rhonda Duggan	LONE PINE PAIUTE SHOSHONE TRIBE	Mel Joseph
CITY OF BISHOP	Karen Kong	OWENS VALLEY COMMITTEE	Mary Roper
COUNTY OF INYO	Dan Totheroh		

January 6, 2022

The Owens Valley Groundwater Authority meeting was called to order at 2:01 p.m. via videoconference.

### 1. Pledge of allegiance

Dan Totheroh led the pledge of allegiance.

### 2. Public Comment

The Chairperson opened the public comment period and there was no one wishing to address the Board. Dr. Steinwand stated a screen shot of attendees will be placed on the OVGA web page under the specific meeting per the public's request. Under this software platform, there is not the ability to allow the public to view attendees during the meeting.

### 3. Introductions

The Board introduced themselves with one absence, Big Pine CSD, BryAnna Vaughan.

### 4. Approval of minutes from the December 9, 2021 Board meeting

The Chairperson requested a motion to approve the minutes of the December 9, 2021 meeting. Motion to approve the minutes by Rhonda Duggan, seconded by Luis Elias. The Chairperson requested a roll call vote; Luis Elias – Y, Rhonda Duggan – Y, Karen Kong – Y, Dan Totheroh - Y, BryAnna Vaughan – absent, Mel Joseph - abstain, Mary Roper – Y. Motion passed 5 Yes, 1 absence, 1 abstention.

### 5. Board Member Reports

The Chairperson opened up Board Member reports and there were no reports or updates provided.

### 6. Update on the Final GSP status and submittal

Dr. Steinwand stated the changes discussed at the hearing on December 9, 2021 have been completed; the final GSP and appendices are available on the ovga.us website; he anticipates having all the elements of the GSP uploaded to the DWR website by January 20, 2022. The deadline for submission is January 31, 2022.

### 7. Action item: Request that OVGA adopt finding pursuant to AB 361 that: A) the Board reconsidered the circumstances of the existing State of Emergency issued on March 4, 2020, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic; and B) local officials continue to recommend measures to promote social distancing, and/or the state of emergency continues to directly impact the ability of the members to meet safely in person

Dr. Steinwand stated the state of emergency is still in effect; both Inyo & Mono County Health Officers have recommended social distancing and virtual meetings; the criteria for the Board to adopt the above findings are still in effect.

The Chairperson requested a motion to approve the request that OVGA adopt finding pursuant to AB 361 that: A) the Board reconsidered the circumstances of the existing State of Emergency issued on March 4, 2020, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic; and B) local officials continue to recommend measures to promote social distancing, and/or the state of emergency continues to directly impact the

ability of the members to meet safely in person. Motion to approve by Dan Tothoroh, seconded by Mel Joseph. The Chairperson requested a roll call vote; Luis Elias – Y, Rhonda Duggan – Y, Karen Kong – Y, Dan Tothoroh - Y, BryAnna Vaughan – absent, Mel Joseph – Y, Mary Roper - Y. Motion passed 6 Yes, 1 absence.

**8. Review of timeline for providing notice of withdrawal from OVGA**

Dr. Steinwand stated a memo was distributed to the OVGA Directors in December reminding them of the timeline to submit a notice to withdraw from the OVGA; the deadline is three months before the annual budget is adopted which would fall on January 14, 2022.

**9. Discussion regarding future meeting dates agenda items**

A special meeting was set for January 27, 2022 at 2pm specifically to reconsider the existing State of Emergency circumstances regarding social distancing and virtual meetings.

**10. Adjourn**

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 2:34 pm.



*County of Inyo*

**HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT**

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**Marilyn Mann, Director**  
*mmann@inyocounty.us*

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Date: September 23, 2021

To: Inyo County Local Agency Governing Bodies

From: Dr. James Richardson, Inyo County Public Health Officer

Re: Continued Recommendation Re Social Distancing and Remote Meetings

In order to help minimize the spread of COVID-19, I recommend that physical/social distancing measures continue to be practiced throughout our Inyo County communities, including at public meetings of the Board of Supervisors and other public agencies. Individuals continue to contract COVID-19 and spread the infection throughout our communities. Social distancing, masking, and vaccination are crucial mitigation measures to prevent the disease's spread. Remote public agency meetings allow for the participation of the community, agency staff, presenters, and board members in a safe environment, with no risk of contagion. As such, and since this disease negatively and directly impacts the ability of public agencies to conduct public meetings safely in person, it is my recommendation that local public agencies conduct their public meetings remotely.

This recommendation will remain in place until further notice.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James Richardson MD".

Dr. James A. Richardson  
Inyo County Health Officer



# **MONO COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT**

## **Public Health**

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**To:** Board of Supervisors

**From:** Bryan Wheeler, Director of Public Health

**Re:** Recommendation regarding Social Distancing and Virtual Meetings

Both Mono County "covering" Health Officer Dr. Rick Johnson and I strongly recommend that physical/social distancing measures continue to be practiced throughout our Mono County communities, including at meetings of the Board of Supervisors and other County-related legislative bodies subject to the Brown Act, to minimize the spread of COVID-19.

Whether vaccinated or not, positive individuals are contracting the Delta variant and infecting others in our communities. Social distancing and masking are crucial mitigation measure to prevent the disease's spread. Virtual board meetings allow for the participation of the community, county staff, presenters, and board members in a safe environment, with no risk of contagion. It is recommended that legislative bodies in Mono County implement fully-remote meetings to the extent possible.

If you have any questions regarding this recommendation, please do not hesitate to contact me. We will continue to evaluate this recommendation on an ongoing basis and will communicate when there is no longer such a recommendation with respect to meetings for public bodies.