

MEETING NOTES

PROJECT: Antelope Valley IRWM Stakeholder call

MEETING DATE: 6/10/2026

LOCATION: MS Teams Conference Call

ISSUED DATE: 7/8/2026

ATTENDEES:

AVEK: Matt Knudson, Tom Barnes

City of Palmdale: Mike Shahbakhti, Leonardo Torres

LA County Public Works: Sara Samaan, Julian Juarez, Manuel Gonzalez, Josephine Gutierrez, Alynn Sun

Woodard & Curran (W&C): Leah Makler, Josh Uecker

Other: Nicholas Godin (City of Lancaster), Scott Rogers (Palmdale Water District), Brach Smith (Quartz Hill Water District), Holly Jones (Los Angeles County Sanitary District), Yvonne DuVernet (Lake Los Angeles), Todd Lemen (Evergreen Mutual Water Company)

Stakeholder Meeting Notes

Welcome and Introductions

- Josh Uecker (W&C) introduced the meeting and asked for a roll call.

Project Updates

- **P1R1**
 - SNIP Phase II: Matt Knudson (AVEK) said that they have approval from the AVEK Board to open for bid. AVEK also received \$30 million in additional grant funding, for the project, which is expected to cost a total of \$45 million. Matt noted that AVEK is making good progress.
 - AVRCD is still working through their funding for turf replacement and are developing their conservation garden.
 - Josh noted that the other 3 Round 1 projects are complete. He highlighted that AVEK's "new" Drought Resilience Pre-Delivery Water Storage Project was a success.
- **Urban Drought Relief**
 - Palmdale Water District is currently developing their conservation garden.
- **P1R2**
 - AVRCD is still working through Round 1 funding. When Round 1 funding is exhausted, they will begin using the Round 2 funding for their turf-replacement project.

Proposition 4 Programs

- Josh summarized the major Prop 4 funding streams: Sustainable Groundwater, Stormwater, and Watershed Resilience.
 - He noted that the Sustainable Groundwater funding is the largest pool, but is not sure how the funding would apply to adjudicated basins.
 - Stormwater funding will be available through the State Water Board sooner than the others, but AV is not eligible as they do not have a Stormwater Resources Plan.
 - Watershed resilience guidelines and solicitations are coming much later, likely at the beginning and end of next year, respectively.
- Watershed Resilience Program:
 - Leah (W&C) summarized the Watershed Resilience pilot program (late 2024 – early 2026) and specific aspects of the Calaveras River Watershed Resiliency Plan. Leah was on the W&C team which supported Stockton East Water District in the development of the Calaveras Plan.
 - The key aspects of the plan tied existing regional water resources issues to climate change. Adaptation strategies were selected based on their ability to enhance climate resilience.
 - More information on the Calaveras Plan can be found here: [ArcGIS StoryMap](#) and [Summary Booklet](#).
 - Watershed Resilience projects are likely to be tied to HUC8 watersheds. The AV IRWM region fits into the Antelope-Fremont Valleys Watershed. It is unclear at this time how agencies/leads will be organized across the state.
 - Josh discussed the guideline and solicitation timeline. The schedule will likely be tied to the 2028 update to the CA Water Plan.
 - The 2028 update will focus on 5 of the states' 10 hydrologic regions. The other 5 will be addressed in 2033, including the Lahontan Hydrologic Region.
 - Leading up to the 2028 Plan, the state is analyzing the effects of climate change on water supplies and anticipates a 9-million-acre-foot reduction in supplies largely due to a loss in Sierra snowpack and reductions in soil moisture. The Watershed Resilience program will help the state to assess gains/losses of water on a smaller scale than the hydrologic regions.

AV Water Plan Update

- The County and W&C met with regional agencies last week to align regional priorities and actions with the LA County Water Plan objectives.
- There will be a more substantial update next quarter, likely from Sally Johnson (W&C).

Future Agenda Items/Announcements

- Josh announced that the W&C consulting contract will expire at the end of 2027.
- Tom Barnes (AVEK, AVSWCA) announced that the “A-Team” MOU expires in January 2027. AVSCWA will take the lead on amending the MOU.

Next meeting: Wednesday, September 9, 2026