

Director Brecht expressed concern as to whether the acreage proposed to be fallowed was sufficient, and Mr. Whalen indicated flexibility. Rebecca Falk brought up an issue of safety for birds, who see the solar panels as water and may injure or kill themselves. Mr. Whalen assured her that US Fish and Game shares the concern, and the County has requirements to address it.

B. Presentation by Trey Driscoll of Dudek Engineering on the Rams Hill drilling program: Mr. Driscoll narrated a slide presentation updating the Board on Dudek's study of the Rams Hill drilling program. This is a long-term cooperative agreement between the District, Dudek and Rams Hill. Mr. Driscoll presented the study area, mainly in ID-1, and explained that the study included four test holes, three new wells, pump testing in five wells and collection of samples. Basin geometry, capacity, water quality and water levels were also addressed.

The study indicates that the water table has not changed since the introduction of Rams Hill's new wells two years ago. The data will be refined upon completion of the USGS study. Peter Quinn of Dudek added the estimated storage capacity is less than anticipated, although the outflow is difficult to measure.

The Board members and engineers agreed that water quality testing is important, although not spelled out in the Rams Hill program. Mr. Driscoll also hoped to do additional water level testing.

Director Brecht suggested that the study area be referred to as the "southern portion of the basin," rather than the "south basin." Some folks at Rams Hill are under the impression they are in a separate basin.

C. Discussion of emergency twenty-five percent (25%) mandatory water use reductions for all users (residential, commercial, recreational, farming) of the Borrego Valley Groundwater Basin (BVGB) amid the California drought: Mr. Rolwing reported that the State Water Resources Control Board had released a framework for the 25 percent mandatory water use reduction, and the comment period ended yesterday. He and David Aladjem had worked together on a response. They pointed out that creation of a new rate tier would require a Proposition 218 process, and that BWD had no control over water use by golf courses. The letter will be included in Mr. Rolwing's next Manager's Report. Mr. Rolwing distributed a chart showing water use over the last two years by the different customer classes, and the reductions that have already taken place. The SWRCB program is scheduled for adoption in early May, with a July effective date. Director Brecht recommended that the Due Diligence Committee work with Mr. Rolwing on this item.

D. Discussion and possible approval of Viking Ranch refinance: Director Brecht recommended accepting the proposal received from BBVA Compass Bank. Mr. Engelke stated that it was acceptable to Lance Lundberg. The decision was deferred to the next meeting.

E. Discussion of potential agenda items for April 22nd board meeting: Agenda items for the next meeting will include consideration of approval of the Ocotillo Wells solar farm request for construction water, further discussion of the 25 percent mandatory water use reduction, a JPIA award presentation, discussion of GSP development financing options, Director Tatusko's presentation on the Proposition 1 funding workshops, and consideration of approval of the Viking Ranch refinancing.

III. CLOSING PROCEDURE

There being no further business, the Board adjourned at 11:00 a.m. The next Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors is scheduled for April 22, 2015 at the Borrego Water District.