



Creating Mutual Benefit for the Valley Golf Community and CVWD

- Begun 10 years ago to create a partnership between the Valley golf community and the Water District for the purposes of meeting the conservation goals of the Coachella Valley Water Management Plan and facilitating the substitution of Colorado River water for groundwater.
- Key accomplishments:
 - Creation of a new and **lower** rate for users of canal water (Colorado River) in the East Valley;
 - Use of debt instruments to finance the extension of the mid-valley pipeline to soften the financial impact to golf courses in the West Valley in particular;
 - Creation of three (3) rounds of turf and other rebates, the first such rebates for golf in the Valley;
 - Partnered on a \$9.1 million incentive program grant with the US Bureau of Reclamation;
 - Use of 5-year averaging methodology to establish compliance with conservation goals in lieu of using specific baseline years, the last of which artificially morphed a 10% conservation goal into a de facto 17% goal that put the Valley golf community in the crosshairs of the Desert Sun;
 - Expedition of pipeline hookups to wean courses off pumping;
 - A reversal of media fortune, as golf in the Valley has gone from the sector that put “the aquifer at risk” to the sector that is making a good faith effort to cooperate with all other sectors to bring the aquifer into stasis – a goal that the region did achieve in 2020; and
 - Significant input into the projections and underpinnings of the current Coachella Valley Water Management Plan that CVWD and its fellow water agencies in the Valley (e.g., DWA) has submitted to the state as the region’s formal Groundwater Sustainability Plan under the terms of California’s Groundwater Sustainability Act (2014) – the document that is to guide the region’s water strategy for the next two generations.
 - Literally rewrote the “Salt & Nutrient Plan” mandated by California’s Groundwater Sustainability Act to reflect turf’s accurate Nitrogen assimilation factor (97%) to deflect what was on its way to being fodder for criticism of the sector for polluting the groundwater table.
 - Collaborated on development of a massive mapping project RFP to acquire the data necessary for the water district to make effective state and federal grant applications for golf industry rebates/incentives, and to make fair and accurate budgets under California’s Groundwater Sustainability Act. Three (3) members of the Task Force are to serve on the evaluation panel charged with awarding a contract.
- Overarching benefit – forging of cooperative relationships among the golf community, CVWD Staff, and CVWD elected Board, two of whose members (President John Powell, Division 3 & Anthony Bianco, Division 2) serve on the Task Force.
- Meets bimonthly generally the 4th Wednesday of the month at the Palm Desert Offices of CVWD at 1:00 PM.
 - Attendees
 - Golf facilities / CVWD Board Members (2) / CVWD senior staff / allied associations (e.g., Hi-Lo, SCGA, SCPGA)
 - Technical Subcommittee that meets more often, usually virtually, to work out some of the details between regular bimonthly meeting.

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For more information contact Task Force Chair Craig Kessler at ckessler@scga.org or (310) 941-4803.