



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
NAVAL AIR WEAPONS STATION
1 ADMINISTRATION CIRCLE
CHINA LAKE CA 93555-6100

IN REPLY REFER TO:
11000
Ser PR2/119
18 Mar 21

Board of Directors
Indian Wells Valley Ground Water Authority
Ridgecrest, California 93555

Dear Members of the Board:

**SUBJECT: RESPONSE TO LETTER DATED MARCH 3, 2021 REGARDING REPORT OF
GROUNDWATER PUMPING FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2020**

This letter acknowledges receipt of the Indian Wells Valley Ground Water Authority's (IWVGA) letter dated March 3, 2021 to Commander Peter Benson, Public Works Officer, Naval Air Weapons Station China Lake (NAWSCL) that requests NAWSCL's groundwater pumping data for calendar year (CY) 2020.

As an Ex-Officio non-voting member of the IWVGA board, the Navy has appreciated the opportunity to participate in the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) process since the standup of the IWVGA via the Joint Powers Agreement. Through this engagement, the Board and the Board's SGMA Plan recognize the unique role the federal government plays in this jurisdiction and the limits on SGMA regulatory authority state-wide.

Despite the legal limitations, as a matter of comity, the Navy has engaged in consistent, proactive, and cooperative advocacy to provide pumping data in order to assist the IWVGA efforts to study the sole source aquifer and prepare a plan to bring the aquifer into sustainable yield over the next 20 years. Consistent with past practices, the Navy submits 1,436 acre-feet as the groundwater pumping data for NAWSCL during CY 2020. This information provided to the IWVGA is for planning purposes only and does not constitute the Navy's Federal Reserve Water Right (FRWR). As you know, the Navy has not provided the IWVGA Board with Navy's FRWR as that would likely be established through litigation.

In summary, the Navy appreciates and values the excellent relationship between the IWVGA and NAWSCL and hopes to continue this partnership going forward.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. T. VAUGHAN", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

J. T. VAUGHAN
Captain, U.S. Navy
Commanding Officer