



April 26, 2024

Tim Moore
Owens Valley Groundwater Authority
P.O. Box 337
135 Jackson Street
Independence, CA 93526

Re: Comments on Draft Owens Valley Groundwater Authority (OVGA) Annual Report for Water Year (WY) 2022

Dear Mr. Moore,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit these comments about the Owens Valley and Fish Slough Subbasins GSP Annual Report for Water Year 2022. Friends of the Inyo (FOI) is a grassroots non-profit organization based in the Owens Valley that represents over 1,000 members. Our mission is to protect and care for the land and water of the Eastern Sierra. Over our 38-year history, we have cared for this valley that suffers the effects of water extraction by the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP). We applaud the work of the Owens Valley Groundwater Authority (OVGA) in putting together this Annual Report. **Moving forward, we hope to encourage the OVGA to improve public accessibility for these reports.**

First, we want to acknowledge the significant work that the Inyo County Water Department (ICWD) has dedicated to putting together this report. This report helps us to quantify and better understand the valley's groundwater and its movements over WY 2022. **We appreciate the time investment and expertise of the ICWD in creating this study.**

This study walks the reader through extensive data about the groundwater basins of our area. However, **we ask that the OVGA make this report more accessible for the regular citizens of**

Owens Valley. First, this report is quite dense with information, which makes it challenging to read as a layperson. We request that the OVGA add further context to each section and perhaps highlight the main ideas, so that any member of the public could understand this report. Second, the report lacks a clear statement of significance about the data that it presents. Why do these findings matter? How do they fit into the broader ecosystem goals that the OVGA tracks? These sorts of statements would make a notable difference in public engagement in the OVGA.

Also, we understand that the ICWD has a lot on its plate, and that the GSP is not necessary for the low-priority basins that the OVGA oversees. However, we urge the ICWD to prioritize completing these reports on time. The deadline for the 2023 report may have already passed. Regardless, we believe that the voluntary work of the OVGA will only be effective and educational for the people of Owens Valley if these reports and data are actually generated in a timely manner. **Going forward, we hope to see the ICWD complete these reports by the agreed-upon deadline in order to facilitate meaningful public engagement.**

Thank you for considering these comments. We look forward to working together as the OVGA continues its work. Please contact Lauren Kelly at lauren@friendsoftheinyo.org with any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Wendy Schneider". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Wendy Schneider
Executive Director