COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES GROUP (CRG) APPROACH FOR NID’S RAW WATER MASTER PLAN UPDATE

Introduction
The Nevada Irrigation District (NID) has initiated a process to update the District’s Raw Water Master Plan (RWMP) to ensure prudent management of water resources for the next 50 years. The breadth and variability of the watershed under the District’s jurisdiction is among the most complex in the nation. Therefore, the stewardship of this system, and the communities it serves, is a responsibility NID and its Board regard as a significant honor and duty. Proactive planning and a cohesive vision are essential to this role, which is why NID is employing a community collaboration method to support the RWMP Update.

Described herein is a process approach for the RWMP Update that ensures meaningful, balanced, and organized community collaboration. It encourages open, innovative and practical contributions to the RWMP Update. The process envisions a Community Representatives Group (CRG) that will help develop strategic options, or pathways, for analysis and consideration. In the end, the NID Board would review all the CRG developed pathways and select the strategic vision to use as a basis to update the RWMP.

Process Objectives
The CRG process is the governing framework that holds transparency and integrity as the tenets of the process. Working together as a community is based on the following objectives for the RWMP Update.

› Identify different perspectives and inputs to the community’s future.
› Understand what is really important to the community and why.
› Assess our water situation together.
› Allow for open and balanced discussions of all community voices.
› Develop a deeper understanding of potential pathways and subsequent impacts to community interests and the community’s future.
› Provide a forum for community members to discuss and develop pathways as opposed to a closed process consisting only of technical experts. Focus on overarching strategic policies and not on specific projects.
› Create a 50-year strategic plan using the best information available at this time.
› Develop a Community Collaboration process that can be used for future projects and community issues.
› Pursue community solutions within NID’s legal responsibilities to its customers and landowners within its service area.

Defining Two Key Terms

1. **Plan for Water** is the community collaboration effort to support the NID RWMP Update.
2. **Pathways** are strategic policy options to guide future water resource management efforts.
**Guidance**

The CRG process is facilitated by a neutral, unbiased professional facilitator to maximize efficiency, productivity and transparency throughout. This is a step-by-step process with the flexibility to change and adapt to new information as it progresses. There are opportunities for creative problem solving, brainstorming, and developing strategic options. The process begins with sessions designed to understand the community needs and water issues in depth, then progress to analysis of the issues, and the design of multiple pathway solutions.

**Promise to the Public**

A successful community collaboration process to update the RWMP is the top priority of NID. The Board commits to collaborate with the public throughout the process to ensure community involvement, participation, and ownership of the proposed pathways. The framework will allow all ideas and considerations to be brought to the table for possible inclusion in the pathways. Feedback and active communication will be embedded at each step so that community members can see how their input and contributions are reflected in the process and included in the proposed pathways.

**CRG Process Steps**

The CRG process puts community input at the front of a six-step Raw Water Master Plan Update process. As shown in the figure below, the CRG will help steer the first for four steps to support the RWMP Update and then NID will steer the implementation steps.

*Figure 1: Raw Water Master Plan Update Process*
THE CRG APPROACH WORKING GROUPS

The CRG concept is comprised of four working groups to support the RWMP Update.

Community Representatives Group

The Community Representatives Group (CRG) will represent multiple community identities and inputs throughout the process. The CRG will meet with the other project working groups in a facilitated meeting process through each step. These workshops will step through the process, ultimately producing multiple pathways designed to achieve a balance between community identities and respective water supply needs. Different than other advisory group processes, this CRG is not expected to select or recommend a chosen pathway. The NID Board of Directors will ultimately select the chosen pathway(s). However, the process is designed to allow all community identities multiple ways and opportunities to discuss options together, provide input, develop practical strategies, and present their vision to the Board. Additional information about the CRG process is presented in the CRG Charter document.

NID Board of Directors

The NID Board of Directors is ultimately responsible for selecting the pathway for moving forward. The Board will receive regular process updates, as well as opportunities to hear directly from their constituents through the outreach process. When the pathways are developed and ready for discussion, the Board will conduct workshops to listen and learn about each pathway, community impacts, water resource impacts, and other issues in order to make an informed decision. The Board will select a pathway to finalize the RWMP Update and instruct NID staff to develop the implementation plan and subsequent projects to fulfill the selected pathway.
NID Technical Group

The NID Technical Group supports the demand and supply analysis and pathway development. NID staff and consultants will conduct technical analysis in collaboration with the other working groups. The CRG and comments from the community outreach efforts will identify elements, issues, and potential pathways for the Technical Group to analyze, flesh out, and provide analysis details for discussion.

Facilitation Group

The Facilitation Group guides the team through the CRG process. The success of this project relies on applying established, credible principles of facilitation to technical analysis in public engagements. We will utilize facilitation throughout this process to maintain our goals of respectful and focused discussion in the development of the pathways.

Facilitator Responsibilities

› Define the goals and metrics relevant to each event.
› Measure progress toward defined goals.
› Assist in coordination of meeting times, places, and participation.
› Communicate frequently before and after events.
› Define risks to project success and mitigate those risks whenever possible.
› Value and foster respect for each person, each perspective.
› Prioritize actions.

Facilitation Methods

The facilitation methods utilize the use of Technology of Participation (ToP®). ToP® is a powerful set of tools for leading meaningful conversations and for decision-making. Two foundational values undergird ToP® methodology. Inclusive participation insures that every voice is heard, every insight is given an opportunity and no perspectives are allowed to dominate. Profound respect makes inclusive participation possible, by honoring all individuals equally and trusting that both individuals and groups are capable of doing the work set before them.

Working Group members will be invited to learn at least two of the basic methods—the ToP® Focused Conversation and the ToP® Consensus Workshop—to enable all members to be more prepared for working together in discussing issues and making critical decisions.

1. **ToP® Focused Conversation:** This method creates a setting for meaningful conversation. It will be used to facilitate group discussion of the CPT and the public in community meetings. The method allows the participants to share diverse perspectives in a non-confrontational manner. Using this method will help people share insights and creative ideas on approaches to water issues and needs. It creates an opportunity for people to broaden their perspectives and can reveal the existing level of consensus within the team.
2. **ToP® Consensus Workshop:** This method leads to consensus-based team decisions that respect diverse perspectives, create joint resolve, and inspire individual and group action. Individual participation is honored by focusing on the insight within each idea. Consensus is built step by step by helping people see new relationships among the data and acknowledging the level of group agreement at any given moment.

**CRG Process Tasks**

The process includes the first four steps illustrated previously in Figure 1. Each step includes multiple tasks. The tables that follow illustrate the main tasks and goals of each task to help describe the process in more detail. These tasks are not exhaustive and may be expanded upon or reduced according to the needs of the process.

### STEP 1—Recruit & Launch the CRG

Convene as a community, identify representatives, and identify goals.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Task</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>› Develop program plan for entire process.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>› Create a public outreach strategy.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>› Design program website and other media.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>› Develop outreach materials.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>› Establish CRG formation and requirements, rules, and scope.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>› Confirm CRG process.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>› Conduct public facilitated introductory workshops on program overview and process. Gather input from community participants.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>› Implement CRG formation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>› Confirm participation of selected CRG members.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>› Convene the CRG in a kickoff meeting to establish process.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>› Update charter to include code of conduct and procedural elements.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>› Participate in orientation and facilitation training.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>› Present RWMP Update program for review.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>› Onboard technical consultants.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>› Establish schedule and reporting protocol.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### STEP 2—Understand Our Water Needs

Share knowledge and establish our community’s water priorities.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Task</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>› Review NID’s water resource planning responsibilities, limitations, and legal requirements.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>› Identify demand planning parameters for discussion in CRG.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Develop tools to forecast demands under different parameter ranges.
Synthesize wide range of demand assumptions into ranges (i.e. status quo, elastic demand, reduced demand, increased demand).
Finalize demand forecasts as selected by CRG.
Review and discuss Hydraulics & Hydrology (H&H) modeling parameters, gain understanding of water delivery systems, operational rules, constraints, and regulations.
Identify H&H modeling parameters for discussion in CRG.
Review and discuss supply forecast methodology. Synthesize supply forecasts and climate models into selected ranges.
Develop tools to forecast supply availability under different parameter ranges.
Finalize supply forecasts as selected by CRG.
Develop demand and supply forecasts into problem statements in coordination with CR.
Present problem statements to Board and public with CRG participation.
Communicate with the community to inform about the process, progress and to gather ideas and input.
Present planning analysis results and problem statements to Board and public with NID Technical Group participation. Update information on media platforms as developed.
Provide presentations with CRG members assistance to public and receive input to bring back to CR.
Support CRG member community outreach efforts.
Design and conduct facilitated meetings on problem statement results.

### STEP 3—Create and Refine Solutions
Explore, analyze, and form pathway options.

Develop a vision for a secure water future.
Identify and develop universe of pathway options to reach the vision.
Coordinate with CRG and support technical questions during CRG development of initial universe of pathways.
Receive synthesized pathways from CRG and conduct technical analysis of each pathway to include: pathway description, planning and other assumptions, cost impacts, community impacts, and results.
Present and refine pathway analysis.
Discuss and identify community impacts of each pathway.
Review and discuss pathway analysis and provide feedback to NID Technical Group.
Community Collaboration Process to Support the Raw Water Master Plan Update

PlanforWater.org

---

Review and discuss updated pathway analysis for finalization.

Update information on media platforms as developed.

Provide presentations with CRG members assistance to public and receive input to bring back to CRG.

Conduct facilitated meetings and obtain input for pathway development and results.

Summarize pathways and present to Board and public.

---

**STEP 4—Support Pathway Selection**

Present pathways to Board for final decision-making.

---

Conduct at least two Board workshops to present and discuss pathways.

Update/clarify pathways in collaboration with CRG as requested by Board from pathways Board presentation.

Support Board workshop process as necessary.

Reach out to constituents and community as necessary to receive additional input and feedback on pathways.

Be available to discuss process description and outputs to community as requested.

Update Pathways as requested by Board.

Update information on media platforms as developed.

Facilitation support for community outreach as needed.

Select a pathway and direct NID staff to commence implementation.

Finalize RWMP Update based on Board direction.

---

**Public Information and Communication**

The public information hub and online resource for community input, questions and comments is the website PlanforWater.org. The site includes a newsletter sign-up to receive regular updates on meetings, activities, and milestones.