



Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) Workgroup Meeting #6

July 31, 2008

1:00 pm – 4:00 pm

San Diego County Water Authority

Library Conference Room

Attendance

Kirk Ammerman, City of Chula Vista (Water Quality)
Karen Franz, San Diego Coastkeeper (At-Large)
Sheri McPherson, County of San Diego (RWMG)
Shirley Innecken, Southern California Wetlands Recovery (Natural Resources)
Mark Stadler, San Diego County Water Authority (RWMG)
Neal Brown, Padre Dam Municipal Water District (alternate)
Craig Adams, San Dieguito River Valley Conservancy (Natural Resources)
Rob Roy, La Jolla Band of Indians (At-Large)
Marsi Steirer, City of San Diego (RWMG)
Rick Alexander, Sweetwater Authority (Water Supply)
Bill Tippets, San Diego County Water Authority (alternate)
Rosalyn Stewart, RMC Water & Environment

Introductions

Mr. Kirk Ammerman is the Workgroup Chairperson. Mr. Ammerman welcomed everyone to the meeting. Introductions were made around the room.

Report of DWR Contract Kick-Off Meeting

Ms. Rosalyn Stewart provided a brief overview of the DWR Contract Kick-off meeting held on July 21st, with emphasis on three key items:

- Eligible Costs – Work performed after March 20, 2007 can be counted toward the funding match. Work performed after June 18, 2008 is eligible for reimbursement.
- Disbursement – DWR has indicated that the funding match can be spent/invoiced at any time (not restricted to after the match has been met on a per-task basis) and that the final Proposition 50 Implementation Grant Agreement (Agreement) will be revised as such.
- Reallocation of Funds – DWR has indicated that grant funding cannot be reallocated between projects once the Agreement is signed. If a project does not move forward as expected, the money will not be redistributed to the Region. However, for the two watershed coordinator projects that DWR has identified, the Region has the opportunity to revise the scope, budget, and schedule to DWR's satisfaction prior to signing the Agreement.

Changes to Project Information

The primary purpose of the Workgroup meeting was to discuss two projects referred by the RAC for evaluation prior to potential inclusion in the Agreement. DWR staff has indicated that the two watershed coordinator projects (Work Items #17 and 18) are not appropriate for grant funding in their current state, but that DWR would be willing to review and consider revised project descriptions. Ms. Stewart introduced the proposed approach developed by each of the project proponents.

Work Item #17

The San Dieguito River Valley Conservancy proposes to reformulate Work Item #17 as implementation of one key action item in the Watershed Management Plan – development of a conceptual plan for natural treatment wetlands in the Lake Hodges watershed. The revised budget reflects the same final grant request total as in the original proposal. Workgroup comments and suggestions included:

- The original watershed coordinator position was intended to implement specific action items such as the proposed conceptual plan.
- Clarify that the 303(d) constituents to be treated will be further defined in the conceptual plan.
- Clarify that treatment will include nutrients and pathogens from the tributaries draining into Lake Hodges.
- Need to assess wetlands design to achieve both wildlife habitat and water quality improvement.
- Suggestion to consolidate tasks in the draft revised Work Plan for ease in Quarterly Reporting.
- Suggestion to build in a public outreach component for coordination with Lake Hodges watershed landowners.
- Suggestion to revise title to “San Dieguito Watershed Management Plan Implementation: Lake Hodges Natural Treatment System Conceptual Plan”
- Suggestion to emphasize implementation of the Watershed Management Plan.
- Expressed support for the revised work plan – emphasizes the need to design wetlands in an arid environment that balances water quality and habitat enhancement.



The Workgroup voted unanimously to recommend moving forward with the revised work plan for Work Item #17 with several minor additions.

Work Item #18

The San Diego River Park Foundation proposes to delete Work Item #18 from the project list and build stakeholder and disadvantaged communities outreach tasks into Work Item #8. The revised budget for Work Item #8 would be increased to include the grant request amount from the original Work Item #18 proposal. Workgroup comments and suggestions included:

- Suggestion to clarify restoration tasks, including tree planting activities.
- Expressed support for the revised work plan – incorporation of outreach focused on property acquisition.



The Workgroup voted (project proponent abstained) to recommend moving forward with the revised work plan for Work Item #8 and removing Work Item #18 from the Agreement.

The Workgroup then recommended arranging an informal conference call with DWR staff to review and discuss the revised projects to determine if they would be accepted as part of the Agreement. RMC provided the revised work plans for the Work Items #8 and 17 to the Workgroup and DWR on Thursday 7th. A conference call with DWR, the RWMG, and the 2 project proponents will be arranged during the week of August 11th. RMC will then revise the work plans and budgets based on DWR feedback for our August 25th RAC meeting.

Summary of Contract Terms

The Workgroup briefly reviewed and discussed a summary of Agreement terms. Ms. Stewart provided an overview of the terms, noting that the Region will need to establish a termination date for the Agreement. Workgroup comments and suggestions included:

- Project proponents (and ultimately the Region) have an obligation to document their funding match through project completion.
- Suggestion to limit project work tasks to those that can be completed within the 5-7 year contract terms.
- Suggestion to designate the Agreement term through December 31, 2013 and contact all project proponents to provide schedule revisions.



The Workgroup voted unanimously to recommend the Agreement term through December 31, 2013.

The Workgroup further discussed outreach activities associated within the Proposition 50 Agreement. Workgroup comments and suggestions included:

- Encourage all project proponents to issue a press release announcing kick-off of their project and the Agreement. All press releases must be transmitted to DWR 14 days prior to release.
- Suggestion to distribute a straw man press release for all project proponents to use.
- Encourage all project proponents to include a banner/link to the San Diego IRWM website on their agency/project websites.
- Suggestion to plan a Region-wide 'ribbon cutting' event with DWR staff in the Fall.
- If a 'ribbon-cutting' event is planned by any agency/project proponent, an announcement/invitation must be sent to DWR 14 days prior to the event.

Other Items

The Workgroup discussed continuation of the Workgroup and potential future action items, including the following:

- Suggestion for the Workgroup to develop clear regional priorities prior to project submittal for the next round of IRWM funding. The regional priorities would then establish a framework for opening up the project solicitation process.
- Suggestion to identify and reconsider high-ranking projects from the last round (Round 2, Step 2) and support resubmittal.



The Workgroup voted unanimously to recommend continuation of the existing Workgroup structure, as the group has established effective decision-making processes and works well together. The Workgroup indicated that they are ready and willing to continue serving the RAC in project selection moving forward.

Upcoming Milestones and Action Items

The Workgroup makes a formal recommendation to the RAC that the Workgroup meet between August 25th and October 15th to begin defining regional priorities. [If so, each Workgroup member shall bring three priority issues to the meeting that demonstrates ‘pivotal values’ in the Region.] The Workgroup will then present a ‘straw man’ list of regional priorities to the RAC on October 15th.