

## **REGIONAL WATER DATA MANAGEMENT PROJECT**

Project Update Prepared for the Regional Advisory Committee

December 3, 2014

### **BACKGROUND REFRESHER**

The California Department of Water Resources requires inclusion of a data management component in all IRWM plans. This stakeholder-driven, collaborative project is funded by the San Diego IRWM's 2011 Implementation Grant, and has the goal of developing a regional, web-based data management system (DMS). Water-related agencies and organizations in the region prioritized this project because their need for consistent, sharable data, and fewer gaps in data collection and analysis efforts.

More specific goals for the DMS include:

- Provide a snapshot of current data management efforts and priority data needs
- Establish basic design parameters for the future development of a regional, web-based, user-friendly system for sharing, disseminating, and supporting the analysis of water management data and information
- Assist in the assessment and management of watershed health and sustainability (WHS)

### **ADVISORY WORKGROUP**

The project's Advisory Workgroup (AWG) consists of 12 members and four alternates. Members possess both knowledge of water policy and working experience with data management systems. In terms of categories of water data users and interests, Advisory Workgroup members cover:

- Water purveyors
- Wastewater
- Stormwater
- Flood
- Regulatory
- Meteorology
- Community and watershed
- Environmental
- Professional business (e.g., landscape contractors)
- Academia
- Geographic Information Systems

To date, the AWG has had four meetings, and has three additional meetings scheduled in 2015. During this time the AWG has done the following:

- Reviewed and then recommended an approach to the stakeholder needs assessment approach and prioritization of data management efforts

- Helped to develop the structure for the stakeholder workshops and corresponding organization of the stakeholder group (SHG)
- Connected the project to a broad, diverse community of water resource data generators, managers and users, including their contact information
- Participated in the stakeholder workshops during the summer of 2014
- Reviewed a draft outline of the DMS design recommendations report, and provided strategic guidance on associated policy and technical issues

The AWG also recommended that one of the overall goals of the project include advancing the assessment and management of watershed health and sustainability.

### STAKEHOLDER GROUP WORKSHOPS

Based on the participant list developed with the AWG, more than 60 stakeholders participated in two workshops during the summer of 2014 to inform development of recommendations for the DMS. The stakeholders came from a variety of water-related professional backgrounds, agencies and organizations, and geographic areas of the IRWM region. Over the two workshops, stakeholders worked to:

- Verify and discuss the results of a pre-workshop survey that identified major data management efforts and issues
- Identify specific data needs in different parts of the watershed
- Prioritize potential data-related tasks that a DMS could address
- Develop a general definition of “watershed health and sustainability”
- Prioritize potential design features of a DMS, including those that would specifically advance watershed health and sustainability



The detailed SHG workshop summaries can be found on the project’s webpage:

[http://www.projectcleanwater.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=231&Itemid=208](http://www.projectcleanwater.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=231&Itemid=208)

### PUBLIC WORKSHOPS

Public workshops held on February 17, 2015, will educate interested parties about the need and goals for this effort, explain the proposed framework, functionality, and features of the DMS, and provide an opportunity to ask questions and provide feedback on any part of the draft design recommendations.

## CURRENT WORK EFFORTS OF THE PROJECT'S PLANNING TEAM

Based on the stakeholder workshops, the project's Planning Team – including technical experts from the Southern California Coastal Water Research Project – recently prepared a draft-annotated outline of the DMS design recommendations. The AWG reviewed and commented on this at its November meeting. Some of the key design features suggested included:

- A federated data system (meaning that a common system facilitates the direct sharing of data between users, rather than storing all the data)
- Open-source software architecture
- Online data input mechanism
- Standardization of data ontologies and units
- Inclusion of meta data, including historical meta data when available and appropriate

Topics that the AWG is further discussing include:

- Outputs, including those which support communication and education
- Types of data covered, including groundwater, agricultural water quality, and conservation
- Governance of the DMS and data-sharing memoranda of understanding

The AWG will review a draft design recommendations at its February meeting. The public workshops will focus on the same draft. Afterwards the Planning Team will prepare a final draft for review and recommendation by the AWG and provision to the Regional Advisory Committee and Regional Water Management Group.

## PROJECT TIMELINE

Italics indicate remaining meetings.

- RAC Project Briefing: December 4, 2013
- RWMG Project Briefing: March 5, 2014
- AWG Meeting #1: March 7, 2014
- AWG Meeting #2: April 4, 2014
- AWG Meeting #3: May 6, 2014
- SHG Workshop #1: July 31, 2014
- SHG Workshop #2: September 16, 2014
- AWG Meeting #4: November 18, 2014
- RAC Project Update: December 3, 2014
- *AWG Meeting #5: February 4, 2015*
- *Public Workshops: February 17, 2015*
- *AWG Meeting #6: April 22, 2015*
- *AWG Meeting #7: May 13, 2015 (if needed)*
- *Provision of final design recommendations report: May or June 2015*
- *RAC Final Project Update: May or June 2015*
- *RWMG Final Project Update: May or June 2015*