



Joint Public Workshop & Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) Meeting #41

February 6, 2013

9:00 am – 12:00 pm

San Diego County Water Authority Board Room
4677 Overland Ave., San Diego CA 92123

NOTES

Attendance

RAC Members

Kathleen Flannery, County of San Diego (Chair)
Albert Lau, Padre Dam Municipal Water District (and alternate, Arne Sandvik)
Anne Bamford, Industrial Environmental Association
Bill Hunter, Santa Fe Irrigation District
Bob Kennedy, Otay Water District
Cari Dale, City of Oceanside (and alternate, Mo Lahsaie)
Denise Landstedt, Upper Santa Margarita Watershed IRWM Region (non-voting member)
Dennis Bowling, Floodplain Management Association
Eric Larson, San Diego County Farm Bureau
Jennifer Sabine, Sweetwater Authority
John Simpson, USMC Camp Pendleton (non-voting member)
Katie Levy, San Diego Association of Governments
Kim Thorner, Olivenhain Municipal Water District (and alternate, Joey Randall)
Kimberly O'Connell, UCSD Clean Water Utility
Kirk Ammerman, City of Chula Vista
Lauma Jurkevics, California Department of Water Resources (non-voting member)
Leigh Johnson, University of California Cooperative Extension
Leslie Cleveland, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (non-voting member)
Linda Flournoy, Planning and Engineering for Sustainability
Mark Umphres, Helix Water District
Marsi Steirer, City of San Diego
Mike Thornton, San Elijo Joint Powers Authority
Patrick Crais, California Landscape Contractors Association (and alternate, Lawrence O'Leary)
Rob Hutsel, San Diego River Park Foundation
Robyn Badger, San Diego Zoological Society (and alternate Kelly Craig)
Ronald Wootton, Buena Vista Lagoon Foundation
Toby Roy for Ken Weinberg, San Diego County Water Authority

Travis Pritchard, San Diego CoastKeeper (and alternate, Mallory Watson)

RWMG Staff

Jeff Pasek, City of San Diego
Goldy Thach, City of San Diego
Loisa Burton, San Diego County Water Authority
Mark Stadler, San Diego County Water Authority
Sherilyn Hess, San Diego County Water Authority
Sheri McPherson, County of San Diego

Interested Parties to the RAC

Amy Dorman, City of San Diego
Claudia Tedford, CityPlace Planning
Crystal Mohr, RMC Water and Environment
Dawn Flores, RMC Water and Environment
Don Schumacher, San Diego Country Estates – Water Resources
Jack Bebee, Fallbrook Public Utilities District
Laura Carpenter, Brown and Caldwell
Michael Welch, Consultant
Roselyn Prickett, RMC Water and Environment
Sally Johnson, RMC Water and Environment
Trevor Alsop, Geosyntec consultants

Welcome and Introductions

Ms. Kathleen Flannery (chair), County of San Diego, welcomed everyone to the meeting. Ms. Flannery specifically welcomed new members of the RAC who were in attendance, and thanked everyone for attending. Introductions were made around the room.

RAC Reorganization

Rob Hutsel, San Diego River Park Foundation, provided an overview of the RAC reorganization process that recently took place. He noted that at the previous meeting, the RAC voted to select members at random to continue on the RAC for the next two years. The RAC also voted to convene a workgroup that would evaluate all applications submitted for RAC positions, and select additional members to serve four-year terms. Mr. Hutsel noted that the workgroup did not fill one seat, which is designated for a tribal representative. The RWMG Mr. Hutsel welcomed the new RAC members, and thanked them for the important role that they will play in providing stakeholder input for the San Diego IRWM Program. New RAC members selected by the workgroup include:

Water Supply Caucus:

- Jennifer Sabine, Sweetwater Authority
- Kim Thorner, Olivenhain Municipal Water District

Water Quality Caucus:

- Bob Kennedy, Otay Water District
- Crystal Najera, City of Encinitas
- Leigh Johnson, UC Cooperative Extension

Natural Resources & Watersheds Caucus:

- Albert Lau, Padre Dam Municipal Water District
- Kimberly O'Connell, UCSD Clean Water Utility
- Patrick Crais, California Landscape Contractors Association
- Ronald Wootton, Buena Vista Lagoon Foundation

DAC/EJ Caucus:

- Leslie Reynolds, Groundwork – San Diego Chollas Creek

Other Caucus:

- Eric Larson, San Diego County Farm Bureau
- Katie Levy, San Diego Association of Governments
- Robyn Badger, San Diego Zoological Society

DWR Update

Lauma Jurkevics from the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) provided an update to the RAC. Ms. Jurkevics noted that DWR will be holding workshops pertaining to the strategic planning effort that is being conducted for the IRWM Program, and encouraged SDIRWM stakeholders and interested parties to attend. The workshops will be held on April 30th and May 1st. She also noted that the Proposition 1E Stormwater and Flood grants were due on February 1st. Lastly, Ms. Jurkevics noted that in preparation for the Proposition 84-Round 2 grant cycle, DWR will be holding informational workshops. In Southern California, the workshops will be held in Alhambra on February 12th and February 14th.

Grant Administration

Proposition 84 Planning Grant Status

Ms. Loisa Burton, San Diego County Water Authority (CWA), provided an update on the status of the Proposition 84 Planning Grant, noting that as of December 2012 approximately 22% of grant funding had been spent and the project is progressing as scheduled. Ms. Burton also noted that the grant is currently undergoing a California State Audit, but to date the auditors have been satisfied with the financial

Proposition 84 Implementation Grant Status

Ms. Burton noted that the Proposition 84-Round 1 grant agreement was signed by CWA's General Manager on December 3rd. The agreement will return to DWR for final signatures, and will likely be executed by mid-January 2013. CWA will provide draft agreements to the local project sponsors so that they can begin working internally on efforts to execute their individual grant contracts with CWA.

Proposition 50 Implementation Grant Status

Ms. Burton also provided an overview on the status of the Prop 50 Implementation Grant, noting that three major amendments are currently being processed. Once one of these pending amendments (Amendment No. 5) has been processed, CWA will be able to close out all completed projects. To date, four projects have been completed. In addition, the Zoological Society recently submitted the first post-performance report for the Biological Infiltration and Wetland Creation Program. These reports will be due to DWR every year for the next ten years.

Questions/Comments

- When CWA sends out the draft LPS agreements, will they be ready to sign? In other words, are the agreements ready to be executed?
 - *No. The LPS agreements will not be considered ready for execution until CWA has a fully executed contract with DWR. The draft LPS agreements are being sent so that all LPS organizations can begin discussing the agreements internally, and determining the next steps that they need to complete to finalize execution within their internal organizations.*

Project Completion Report: City of San Diego Infiltration Pit Phase 1 – Memorial Park Project

Andrea Demich from the City of San Diego's Transportation and Storm Water Department provided an overview of the Memorial Park Infiltration Pit Project, which was recently completed and received Proposition 50 Implementation Grant Funding through the San Diego IRWM Program. Ms. Demich noted that the project was the City's very first permanent BMP project, and therefore provided many lessons learned to the City. She noted that specifically, onsite monitoring was very valuable in that without monitoring, the City would not have been able to accurately assess project results.

Questions/Comments

- Did the City consider if compaction from heavy construction equipment was a potential cause of reduced infiltration seen in the Memorial Park Infiltration Pit Project?
 - *Yes, the City has considered this as a potential issue. In addition, the City believes that the soil monitoring that was done prior to project implementation was not adequate. This monitoring only took into consideration the top layers of soil where BMPs would be installed, and did not consider infiltration at lower depths.*

San Diego IRWM Plan Update

Sheri McPherson, San Diego County, provided an overview of the 2013 San Diego IRWM Plan Update. This joint meeting of the RAC and the Public will include a discussion of the IRWM Vision, Mission, Objectives, and Targets, which are being revised as part of the IRWM Plan Update. Ms. McPherson noted that a specific workgroup (the Priorities and Metrics Workgroup) was convened to evaluate these components of the IRWM Plan. Ms. McPherson provided an overview of the IRWM Vision, which was modified by the Priorities and Metrics Workgroup for grammatical purposes, but was not modified from a content point of view.

The updated Vision is as follows:

“An integrated, balanced, and consensus-based approach to ensuring the long-term sustainability of San Diego’s the Region’s water supply, water quality, and natural resources.”

Questions/Comments

- Do we want the IRWM Vision to only focus on water? Suggest that the vision be expanded to consider other aspects of regional planning that are necessary to ensuring sustainability – this would include things like transportation and land use planning, etc.
 - *Those things are assumed to be included within the vision, to the extent that they impact water resources. The focus is water supply, water quality, and natural resources, but it is assumed that all factors that would impact these aspects of water management are also included in the vision.*

Ms. McPherson then provided an overview of the IRWM Mission, which was not modified by the Priorities and Metrics Workgroup. The IRWM Mission is as follows:

“To develop and implement an integrated strategy to guide the San Diego Region toward protecting, managing, and developing reliable and sustainable water resources. Through a stakeholder-driven and adaptive process, the Region can develop solutions to water-related issues and conflicts that are economically and environmentally preferable, and that provide equitable resource protection for the entire Region.”

Questions/Comments

- Again, wouldn’t it be better to expand the mission beyond specific water issues? We need to promote regional sustainability.

The RAC and members of the public discussed the following potential revisions to the IRWM Mission to take into account regional sustainability:

“To develop and implement an integrated strategy to guide the San Diego Region toward protecting, managing, and developing reliable and sustainable water resources. Through a stakeholder-driven and adaptive process, the Region can develop solutions to water-related issues and conflicts that are economically and environmentally preferable, and that provide equitable resource protection for the sustainability of the entire Region.”

Ms. McPherson then provided an overview of the IRWM Goals. There were four goals in the original IRWM Plan, and the Priorities and Metrics Workgroup discussed revising three of the four goals. The revised IRWM Goals are as follows:

1. ~~Optimize water supply~~ Improve the reliability and sustainability of regional water supplies.
2. Protect and enhance water quality.
3. ~~Provide stewardship~~ Protect and enhance of our watersheds and natural resources.
4. ~~Coordinate and integrate~~ Promote and support integrated water resource management.

Next, Ms. McPherson provided an overview of the IRWM Objectives. The Priorities and Metrics Workgroup has suggested many revisions to the IRWM Objectives. Specifically, they suggested the addition of two new objectives (A and K), and revisions to four existing objectives (B, E, G, and H).

Further, the Priorities and Metrics Workgroup has suggested that a new pass/fail rule be implemented, which would require that to be included in the San Diego IRWM Plan, all implementation projects must contribute to the attainment of Objective A, Objective B, and at least one other objective. The revised IRWM Objectives are as follows:

- A. Encourage the development of integrated solutions to address water management issues and conflicts.
- B. Maximize stakeholder/community involvement and stewardship of water resources, emphasizing education and outreach.
- C. Effectively obtain, manage, and assess water resource data and information.
- D. Further scientific and technical foundation of water management.
- E. Develop and maintain a diverse mix of water resources, encouraging their efficient use and development of local water supplies.
- F. Construct, operate, and maintain a reliable infrastructure system.
- G. Enhance natural hydrologic processes to reduce the effects of hydromodification and encourage integrated flood management. ~~Reduce the negative effects on waterways and watershed health caused by hydromodification and flooding.~~
- H. Effectively reduce sources of pollutants and environmental stressors to protect and enhance human health and safety and the environment.
- I. Protect, restore, and maintain habitat and open space.
- J. Optimize water-based recreational opportunities.
- K. Effectively address climate change through adaptation or mitigation in water resource management.

Rosalyn Prickett, RMC Water and Environment (RMC) explained that, in conjunction with the IRWM Objectives, there are a series of Targets and Metrics within the IRWM Plan that essentially are a way to measure the attainment of each objective. Targets are defined as measurable and tangible actions to achieve the objectives. Metrics are defined as measurements that can be used to evaluate the actions – they may be quantitative or qualitative. The IRWM Targets and Metrics were substantially revised by the Priorities and Metrics Workgroup, and were provided to the RAC and members of the public in a handout (refer to the San Diego IRWM website to obtain a copy of the handout: <http://sdirwmp.org/regional-advisory-committee>).

Questions/Comments

- General:
 - Need to better-define Objective A and Objective. What water management issues and conflicts are we referring to?
 - If Objective A and Objective B are mandatory, they need to be very clear. Better defined.
 - The mandatory requirement for Objective A and Objective B is concerning. It seems potentially limiting. On the other hand, if these are broad enough that all projects will meet them, then what is the point?
 - Are we including water conservation as a “water supply”? *Yes.*

- Suggest looking beyond water management issues (Objective A, etc.) and expand to encompass broader sustainability.
- Regarding Objective E:
 - Does this objective only pertain to local water resources? If so, Target #3 pertaining to imported water does not make sense.
 - Need to include within the targets that our water supply (Colorado River) faces substantial potential threat due to Quagga mussels.
 - Target #4 and Target #5 look too similar. Also, one of these needs to clarify that groundwater issues have a lot to do with infiltration. Infiltration should be included in at least one of these targets.
 - Concerned with the wording of Target #5. We do not want to just sustain existing groundwater levels, because some groundwater basins are already overdrafted.
- Regarding Objective F:
 - Add something about soil humidity to Target #3.
 - I think that we should expand Target #2 to include stormwater capture, not just transport.
- Regarding Objective H:
 - The language regarding the public health component is confusing. This needs to be modified for clarity.
 - Target #3: we should consider more than the volume of fertilizer, we need to consider the type as well (organic vs. chemical).
 - Target #3: we should add solid waste – trash is just as much of a concern as pathogens, nutrients, and sediments.
 - Target #4: this target, regarding sanitary sewer overflows, seems beyond the purview of the San Diego IRWM Program.
 - Target #1: the metrics for this target should include trash prevention, not just removal.
 - Regarding the comment above – do not want to lose trash removal. This is very important. Should include both prevention and removal.
 - Target #5 regarding LID should be modified to reflect that we don't want to just implement LID, we want to be innovative and focus on new solutions. *This comment will be incorporated into Objective D.*
- Regarding Objective I:
 - Consider sediment and trash impacts. Add into Target #1: remove, reduce, and control sources of sediment and trash.

- Regarding Objective J:
 - Target #1: what is the difference between an underserved community and a disadvantaged community?
 - *An underserved community is one that does not receive services (in this case, water/wastewater services) a disadvantaged community is one that is economically disadvantaged.*
 - Target #2: need to include trees and urban forests as a metric.
 - Need to include interpretation/signage: not just about the quantity of recreation, but the quality.
 - Need to consider factoring ADA requirements into recreation – consider adding a metric for wheelchair-accessible trails, etc.
- Regarding Objective K:
 - Suggest modifying the objective to include greenhouse gas reduction, mitigation, and adaptation.
 - Target #3: Consider removing language about “neutralizing” GHG emissions, and instead focus on reducing GHG emissions and the embedded energy in water supplies.
 - Target #3: recommend deleting the parentheses.

Prop 84-Round 2 Implementation Grant Opportunity

Travis Pritchard, Chair of the Proposition 84-Round 2 Project Selection Workgroup, provided an overview of activities taken by the workgroup to reach consensus on a list of recommended projects for Prop 84-Round 2 Implementation Grant funding. Mr. Pritchard noted that 36 projects were submitted to the San Diego IRWM Project Database, for a total funding request of approximately \$51 million. The workgroup had to come up with a package of projects that would sum to \$9,991,000, leaving an additional \$309,000 for grant administration (a total of \$10,300,000 is available to the San Diego Region in this round of funding). Mr. Pritchard then explained the RAC members who comprised the Project Selection Workgroup. He also explained that the workgroup was organized into five “caucuses,” including the Regional Water Management Group (RWMG), Water Retailers, Water Quality, Watershed/Natural Resources, and At-Large. The workgroup members contributed a substantial amount of time in November – five total meetings and 24 total hours – to arrive at consensus on the proposed package of projects.

Mr. Pritchard noted that the selection process included six major steps, as follows:

1. Consultant team applied RAC-approved project selection criteria to all projects. Projects were scored then grouped into “Tier 1” and “Tier 2” (top 50% and bottom 50%).
2. Workgroup evaluated Tier 1 and Tier 2 projects, and each workgroup member had the opportunity to nominate one Tier 2 project to Tier 1.
3. Workgroup evaluated Tier 1 projects, directing project-related questions to the consultant team.
4. Workgroup identified a short list of Tier 1 projects (12), which would go through interviews.
5. Workgroup conducted all-day interviews of all 12 short-listed projects.

6. Workgroup used information from the interviews, project database, and any clarifications provided by proponents to make their ultimate funding recommendation.

The workgroup did, ultimately arrive at consensus, recommending the following list of projects for Prop 84-Round 2 Implementation Grant Funding:

No.	Title	Proposed Funding Amount
496	Failsafe Potable Reuse at the Advanced Water Purification Demonstration Facility	\$2,113,000
490	Rural Disadvantaged Community (DAC) Partnership Project-Phase II	\$1,887,000
494	North San Diego County Regional Recycled Water Project (NSDCRRWP) - Phase II	\$3,452,000
513	Sustaining Healthy Tributaries to the Upper San Diego River and Protecting Local Water Supplies	\$521,000
497	Turf Replacement and Agricultural Irrigation Efficiency Program	\$538,000
188	Implementing Nutrient Management in the Santa Margarita River Watershed - Phase II	\$980,000
489	Chollas Creek Integration Project Phase II	\$500,000
Total		\$9,991,000

Rosalyn Prickett added that all projects were recommended for partial funding (i.e. a funding amount less than what was originally requested). The consultant team has checked with all project sponsors, and they will all be able to accept the awards and move forward with reduced funding awards.

Questions/Comments

- Thank you to all SDIRWM stakeholders for submitting projects – there were a lot of great projects!
- I notice that the projects seem light on the flood control aspects. Was this seen as an issue?
 - *The project selection workgroup felt that flood control projects would be better suited to Proposition 1E grants. Please note, however, that the Chollas Creek Integration Project Phase II will have flood control benefits.*
- Were any projects that initially fell into the Tier 2 project list ultimately funded?
 - *Yes. Project 496 and Project 188 were initially included in Tier 2.*

The RAC then voted on the funding package. Prior to the vote, Mark Stadler noted that due to the RAC transition, during which many existing RAC members have decided to no longer participate on the RAC, there was not a quorum. Further, Dennis Bowling abstained from voting due to his participation in the Chollas Creek Integration Project Phase II. The RAC unanimously voted to accept the Project Selection Workgroup’s proposed grant package.

Next Joint Public Workshop & RAC Meeting – April 3, 2013

The next joint public workshop and RAC meeting will be held on Wednesday April 3, 2013 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at San Diego County Water Authority Board Room (4677 Overland Ave., San Diego, CA 92123).

RAC meetings to be held in 2013 are scheduled for the following dates:

- April 3
- June 5
- August 7
- October 2
- December 4

Public Comments

Ms. Kathleen Flannery inquired if there were any public comments. No members of the public had comments.