



**Regional Advisory Council
Meeting #13 Notes**

October 9, 2007, 9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

San Diego County Water Authority
4677 Overland Avenue, San Diego, CA 92123

Attendance – RAC Members

Craig Adams, San Dieguito River Valley Conservancy
Kirk Ammerman, City of Chula Vista
Meleah Ashford, Consultant
Dennis Bostad, Sweetwater Authority
Neil Brown, Padre Dam Municipal Water District
Kathleen Flannery, County of San Diego
Linda Flournoy, Planning & Engineering for Sustainability
Doug Gibson, San Elijo Lagoon Conservancy
Rob Hustel, San Diego River Park Foundation
Keith Lewinger, Fallbrook Public Utility District
Marsi Steirer, City of San Diego
Mike Thornton, San Elijo Joint Powers Authority
Kevin Wood, on behalf of Shelby Tucker, San Diego Association of Governments
Mark Weston, Helix Water District
Susan Varty, Olivenhain Municipal Water District

Attendance – RWMG Staff

Jon Van Rhyn, County of San Diego
Cathy Pieroni, City of San Diego Water Department
Cecilia Padres, County of San Diego
Dana Frieauf, San Diego County Water Authority
Jeff Pasek, City of San Diego Water Department
Mark Stadler, San Diego County Water Authority
Sheri McPherson, County of San Diego
Toby Roy, San Diego County Water Authority

Attendance – Interested Parties to the RAC

Alyson Watson, RMC Water and Environment
Persephene St. Charles, RMC Water and Environment
Amanda Schmidt, RMC Water and Environment
Greg Kryz, on behalf of Meena Westford, United States Bureau of Reclamation
Rick Alexander, Sweetwater Authority
Mark Umphres, Helix Water District
Robin Badger, San Diego Zoological Society
Michael Welch, Consultant

Attendance – Public

None

Introductions

Ms. Kathleen Flannery (Chairperson) welcomed Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) members to their 13th meeting. Brief introductions were made by all RAC members and consultants.

Institutional Structure

Ms. Persephene St. Charles (RMC Water and Environment) facilitated discussion on three fundamental questions:

- Is this [items included in presentation] everything the Institutional Structure needs to accomplish?
- How should the Institutional Structure be organized?
- How should the Institutional Structure be funded?

Institutional Structure Goals

Multiple ideas regarding appropriate goals for the Institutional Structure were discussed during the meeting and are listed below.

- Clean up watersheds
- Distribute funds throughout California
- Cross “silos” of water management to be more productive, but without duplicate efforts
- Be more than a “grant machine”
- Monitor and track what is happening in “silos”
- Integrate/look for project opportunities; identify good projects
- Teach and spread knowledge about what makes a well-integrated, planned and designed project (for future projects to more easily meet IRWMP goals); have an information base for requests about current projects
- Meet the goals of the IRWM: Water Supply Reliability, Water Quality, Natural Resources, Integrated Water Resources Management
- Be flexible to changing conditions
- To integrate stakeholders and project types to achieve the goals of the IRWM Plan and to achieve maximum benefit

Institutional Roles

One entity will ultimately need to be responsible and therefore make the final decisions. The question is whether this will be a JPA, public administering entity, or some other organization. RAC members posed the following questions related to this topic.

- Will the structure be a grant machine, planning organization, or planning plus construction?
- How long will the timeframe of the structure be: indefinite, 5-10 years, or some other length of time?

Institutional Structure Organization

Three organizational structures were proposed: top-down, bottom-out, inside-out.

Institutional Structure Funding

The following comments regarding potential funding were discussed.

- Those who receive benefits should pay for the structure (agencies, groups, etc.)
- Regional entities should fund the structure
- Metropolitan Water District (MWD) should assist in funding the structure because MWD receives benefits from projects being implemented
- A percentage of grant funding should be dedicated to funding the structure

General RAC Member Comments and Responses

- The main reason for the Institutional Structure is because of the funding opportunities. Generally when the money runs out, the “people dry up”. What is to happen when funding opportunities are not there? *The institutional structure can be developed assuming there will be funds available; as money starts to run out, the structure can be reevaluated or changed.*

Conclusions/Actions

Three “straw man” institutional structure approaches will be developed to facilitate discussion and next RAC meeting.

RAC Workgroup Update

Ms. Kathleen Flannery introduced potential RAC meeting dates in 2008. The group is to review and bring any concerns to the next RAC meeting.

RAC Member Comments and Responses:

- Are letters of support encouraged for the entire grant application package? *Letters of support are recommended for individual projects or the proposal, as long as they specifically describe the benefits that the project(s) or proposal will provide.*
- Letters of support should then be written for all projects, so that none are left out.

Other Updates

Toby Roy provided an update on the draft SWRCB recycled water policy as well as the IRWM updates.

Future Agenda Items

Future RAC meetings are as follows:

- November 13: RAC meeting to further discuss Institutional Structure.

Public Comments

No public comments were received.