



## **Regional Advisory Committee**

### **Meeting #23 Notes**

August 19, 2009, 9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

San Diego County Water Authority

4677 Overland Avenue, San Diego, CA 92123

#### **Attendance**

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##### **RAC Members**

Kathleen Flannery, County of San Diego (chair)  
Anne Bamford, Industrial Environmental Association  
Craig Adams, San Dieguito River Valley Conservancy  
Dave Harvey, Rural Communities Assistance Corporation  
Doug Gibson, San Elijo Lagoon Conservancy  
Dr. Richard Wright, San Diego State University  
Joseph Randall for Susan Varty, Olivenhain Municipal Water District  
Judy Mitchell, Mission Resources Conservation District  
Kathy Viatella, The Nature Conservancy  
Keith Lewinger, Fallbrook Public Utility District  
Kirk Ammerman, City of Chula Vista  
Linda Flournoy, Planning and Engineering for Sustainability  
Lisa Gover, Campo Kumeyaay Nation  
Livia Borak for Karen Franz, San Diego CoastKeeper  
Mark Stadler for Ken Weinberg, San Diego County Water Authority  
Mark Umphres for Mark Weston, Helix Water District  
Marsi Steirer, City of San Diego  
Megan Johnson, California Coastal Conservancy  
Michael Bardin, Santa Fe Irrigation District  
Mike Thornton, San Elijo Joint Powers Authority  
Neal Brown, Padre Dam Municipal Water District  
Rick Alexander, Sweetwater Authority  
Rob Hutsel, San Diego River Park Foundation

##### **Non-Voting Member**

Jack Simes, United States Bureau of Reclamation

##### **RWVG Staff**

Cathy Pieroni, City of San Diego  
Jeffery Pasek, City of San Diego  
John Van Rhyn, County of San Diego  
Mark Stadler, San Diego County Water Authority  
Sheri McPherson, County of San Diego

**Interested Parties to the RAC**

Anna Aljabiry, California Department of Water Resources  
Bethany Principe, Mission Resources Conservation District  
Christina Mokhtarzadeh, unknown  
Heather Parkison, RMC Water and Environment  
Iovanka Todt, Floodplain Management Association  
Kelly Craig, San Diego Zoological Society  
Lori Swanson, San Diego County Water Authority  
Michael Connolly, Campo Kumeyaay Nation  
Leslie Cleveland, United States Bureau of Reclamation  
Rob Roy, La Jolla Indian Reservation  
Rosalyn Stewart, RMC Water and Environment

**Introductions**

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Ms. Kathleen Flannery (chair), County of San Diego, welcomed everyone to the meeting. Introductions were made around the room.

Ms. Marsi Steirer, City of San Diego, informed the group that Ms. Susan Varty, Olivenhain Municipal Water District, was nearing the end of a three-year battle with cancer. Sue valued her role advocating for a watershed perspective in the IRWM program and enjoyed attending meetings with this group. Ms. Steirer expressed sympathy for Sue's family and gratitude for the time and effort she dedicated to the RAC and Workgroups. Sue brought so much energy and spirit to the group and she will be missed. The RAC held a moment of silence for Sue.

**San Diego IRWM Updates**

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**DWR Update**

Ms. Anna Aljabiry, Department of Water Resources (DWR), announced that DWR received 46 Region Acceptance Process applications. Results will be announced on the 28th or 31st of August. Summaries of DWR's review criteria will be posted on the website. There will be a two-week public review period and DWR will hold workshops on September 8th in Sacramento, September 9th in Los Angeles, and September 10th in Fresno. These workshops will be held for the purpose of accepting comments from the public.

Ms. Aljabiry informed the RAC that the San Diego IRWM Prop 50 Grant is one of 152 exempt projects and should therefore benefit from the State's recent bond sale which garnered \$185 million. While the San Diego IRWM is slated to receive \$25 million, the region's share of the latest bond sale should be around \$1.75 million. Ms. Aljabiry also mentioned that the State has another bond sale scheduled for late October or early November, which will likely result in additional funds appropriated to the region. In the meantime, DWR encourages agencies to continue work on projects eligible for funding. The RAC was reminded that invoices for Prop 50 projects can now be sent in per the SDCWA's contract.

The Local Groundwater Assistance Proposal Solicitation Package (PSP) should be released by the end of September. There will likely be a \$500,000 cap per project. Project sponsors are reminded that if a project has already received funding under the previous cycle, that project is not eligible for funding during this cycle.

The Prop 84 Expedited Grant PSP will be delayed until late November. Grant applications will most likely be due in mid-January 2010. The IRWM Planning Grant PSP will be delayed until after the Expedited Grant round. This will occur sometime in 2010.

#### RAC Comments and Questions

- How will the \$1.75 million be allocated?
  - *Since the announcement was just made, the RWMG has not yet made plans on how to spend this portion of funding.*
  - *Suggestion that some agencies are better able to carry over cash flow and this should be considered during funding distribution.*
  - *The group was reminded that the 10% local cost share (based on total project costs) needs to be spent before grant invoicing takes place.*

#### **Proposition 50 Contract Administration**

Mr. Mark Stadler, San Diego County Water Authority (SDCWA), informed the group that the Regional Water Management Group (RWMG) has improved the approach used to administer Prop 50 grant monies. In the revised approach, SDCWA will contract directly with each local project sponsor. A grant administrator is being hired to manage invoicing and quarterly reporting, tasks which will eventually be handled using web-based software. A kick-off workshop will be held from 1:00-4:00pm today, August 19th, 2009, with local project sponsors to discuss local contract provisions.

#### **Watershed Planning and Outreach Workgroup**

Mr. Rob Hutsel, San Diego River Park Foundation, presented a policy proposal on the role of watershed groups in IRWM planning. The policy encourages watershed coordination group formation, outlines what should be done if no group or several overlapping groups exist, recognizes and values the work that has been put into watershed management plans, and allows watershed groups to coordinate and review project proposals relating to their watersheds.

#### RAC Comments and Questions

- The RAC was reminded that the Watershed Planning and Outreach Workgroup includes members of the public, as well as RAC members. It serves as another outlet for participation in the IRWM program.
- Members expressed support for watershed coordination groups since they serve a positive purpose and encourage public participation.
- How are watershed coordination groups defined geographically?
  - *Policy proposal includes a strict definition of one watershed group per hydrologic unit. If more than one, those groups will have to work together to define one coalition to represent them in the IRWM program.*
- Does the recommendation include a coalition of watershed groups on the RAC?
  - *No, the RAC is unchanged by the policy proposal.*
- Does the recommendation require a watershed management plan to have been prepared in order to participate?
  - *No, each hydrologic unit defines its group/coalition based on local needs/availability.*

- Reminder that the point of watershed group review is to encourage and coordinate collaboration before projects are finalized.
- The Workgroup is compiling a list of agencies and organizations involved in water resources management by hydrologic unit and a link to the draft matrix will be sent to the RAC email distribution list.
- MOTION CARRIED: Approve the Workgroup's policy proposal.

### **RAC Membership Workgroup**

Mr. Rick Alexander, Sweetwater Authority, introduced the Affirmation Statement in which each member is required to acknowledge the importance of his or her attendance at the RAC meetings. In the case of changes in the RAC meeting date or time, all absences will be considered excused.

Mr. Rick Alexander also welcomed four new members to the RAC and announced one resignation from the RAC.

- Ms. Lisa Gover (Campo-Kumeyaay Nation) will replace Mr. Michael Connolly as the At-Large tribal representative.
- Ms. Laurie Walsh will replace Mr. Dave Gibson as the Regional Water Quality Control Board's non-voting member.
- Mr. Dave Harvey (Rural Communities Assistance Corporation) will serve as the Rural/DACs representative.
- Ms. Anne Bamford (Industrial Environmental Association) will replace Ms. Kathy Weldon as the Water Quality-Stormwater representative.
- Mr. Keith Lewinger will be stepping down from his position on the RAC and will be replaced by another SDCWA member agency representative (to be determined).

Mr. Alexander also announced that a new position has been created for a flood control representative, but the position has not yet been filled.

### **AB1420 Compliance**

Ms. Laurie Swanson, SDCWA, discussed the requirement that loans and grants made to urban water suppliers by DWR, the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB), or the California Bay-Delta Authority be conditioned on implementation of water conservation best management practices (BMPs). There are five BMP categories outlined by the California Urban Water Conservation Council (CUWCC): Utilities Operations Programs, Education Programs, Residential BMPs, Commercial/Industrial/Institutional BMPs, and Landscape BMPs. If an agency is in compliance with the BMPs, it can self-certify now using Table 1. If an agency is not in compliance, it should self-certify with Table 2 that BMPs will be implemented soon. These tables, or checklists, can be found at <http://www.owue.water.ca.gov/finance/index.cfm>. There is also a Flex Track method which allows for certification using alternative conservation methods that achieve an 18% reduction in gallons per capita per day by the year 2018.

### **RAC Comments and Questions:**

- What year is the baseline established for BMPs compliance?
  - *It depends on how you achieve your conservation goal. For instance, industry baseline is 2008, landscape does not have a baseline year, and residential can use as*

*far back as 1997 as the baseline, if that is when the agency signed up with the CUWCC.*

### **IRWM Online Project Database**

Ms. Rosalyn Stewart, RMC Water & Environment, discussed the proposed structure of the online database which will be used to facilitate the upcoming Prop 84 grant cycle. The online database will be used to rank projects using automated sorting by designated fields, determined by the Prop 84 Expedited Grant PSP. The proposed interface would include five forms that the user could begin filling out, save, and return to finish at a later date. The five proposed forms are: Project Description, Regional Objectives & Impacts, Water Management Strategies, Stakeholder Outreach & Project Feasibility, and IRWM Plan Metrics. In an effort to facilitate increased project collaboration, each proposed project in the database will be linked to a Google Earth map. Using this map, project proponents will be able to view adjacent projects, and ideally integrate with compatible neighboring projects where feasible.

### **RAC Comments and Questions**

- Suggest allowing use of geospatial coordinates (GIS NAD 87) vs longitude/latitude to locate projects.
- Suggest informational hyperlinks be included in form fields to avoid extraneous research for project proponents when filling out forms. Example: link to AB32 information.
- Suggestion to include a field for project elevation.
- Will old projects developed for Prop 50 be included in the database?
  - *Yes, the web developer has indicated that he can 'slurp' all of the old Prop 50 projects into the new database so that project proponents do not have to re-enter their data.*
- Why are the water management strategies in redline/strikeout?
  - *The water management strategies were originally from the 2007 IRWM Plan (a combination of 2005 California Water Plan and IRWM Prop 50 Guidelines). The redline/strikeout shows proposed changes in accordance with the 2009 California Water Plan Update that need review by the RWMG.*
  - *Additional changes might be made to the project database once DWR releases the Prop 84 Expedited Grant PSP and associated selection criteria.*
- Will agencies be able to view the project prioritization/ranking?
  - *Yes, we'd like to make the ranking publicly available.*
- Why is some language so specific regarding IRWM Plan targets?
  - *The targets were clipped directly from the IRWM Plan and thus changes to this language would need to occur in the IRWM Plan Update.*
- Suggestion to include a comment section soliciting form feedback at the end of the forms to allow immediate feedback.
- Concerns about formatting were discussed.
- Beta testing will likely be available for volunteers to test the database in October 2009. An announcement will be made at the October 14<sup>th</sup> RAC meeting.
- Suggestion to include a field for Basin Plan beneficial uses.

### **San Diego's Water Resources and Tribes**

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Mr. Michael Connolly, Campo-Kumeyaay Nation, gave a thorough overview of the water issues faced by the 18 reservations in San Diego County. Beginning with a historical perspective, Mr. Connolly touched on the effects of early engineering near the reservations, the Mission flume, and the effectiveness of rock drop structures. Mr. Connolly also discussed land allocation, relocations, and dismal tribal involvement in infrastructure related programs such as the County dam system and conveyance. Other efforts such as wetlands draining, cattle grazing, and the promotion of agriculture also took a toll on tribal water resources. The assertion of State authority on reservations, including a taxation encroachment on sales, income, and property taxes left tribal governments ill equipped to provide public services. Mr. Connolly pointed out that while substantial rainfalls recharge the basins, there are many actors depleting the supply. Agriculture, grazing, water companies, and residential wells draw from the same basins as casinos and often do so with far less regulation. Further, groundwater depletion concentrates adverse water quality constituents (such as radio-nucleotides). Long-term land use planning has done little to include the tribes, and includes many neighboring programs which could heavily impact adjacent reservations.

Mr. Connelly posed several potential solutions to the lack of tribal involvement in water resource planning, ongoing water rights issues for reservations, and the ongoing conflicts in community priorities. For instance, he suggested a program for reasonable tribal access to conveyance systems, suggested recognition of future needs of additional trust lands to offset ESA restrictions, proposed a requirement for the incorporation of Reservation build-out projections in County planning, and urged development of a financial incentive program to increase water storage.

### **RAC Comments and Questions**

- Barona Reservation has done a good job with their water recycling efforts. Do other tribes incorporate water recycling?
  - *Yes, most reservations with casinos do engage in water recycling.*
- USBR is encouraging tribes to use recycled water technologies through various assistance programs.
- Can forums to discuss solutions to tribal water resources issues be held?
  - *An incentive structure would be more effective, as now there are only incentives to denude property, overwater, and over pump the aquifer.*
- Does IRWM address the needs/issues of the tribes?
  - *The San Diego IRWM program includes a tribal representative on the RAC (Lisa Gover) and addresses tribes in the IRWM Plan (Section B).*
  - *Mr. Dave Harvey pointed out that the Rural Communities Assistance Corporation works with tribes as well.*
- In the water balance chart, are losses due to subsidence addressed? (No answer)
- While DWR requests agencies to involve tribes, the Props 50/84 PSPs do not include any specific language or guidelines for including tribes.

**Other Announcements**

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Ms. Kathy Flannery expressed immense gratitude for the time and effort Mr. Keith Lewinger dedicated to the RAC since its formation in 2005 and thanked him for his commitment and service.

**Next RAC Meeting**

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The next RAC meeting will be held on Wednesday October 14, 2009 from 9:00am to 11:30am at SDCWA's Board Room.

**Public Comments**

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Ms. Iovanka Todt, Floodplain Management Association, noted that the 2009 California Water Plan includes a tribal concentration council for which a two-day statewide water summit is being held for all tribes. IRWM programs will be discussed and forums in line with this summit will be encouraged at the regional level.