

San Diego IRWM Program RAC Meeting #108

February 5, 2025

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Agenda

- Meeting Logistics
- Welcome, Land Acknowledgement, and Introductions
- Water Resilience Portfolio
- Administration Changes: Potential Effects
- Project Completion Report
- State and IRWM Updates
- Grant Administration
- State and Federal Funding Opportunities
- Public Comments
- Summary and Next Steps

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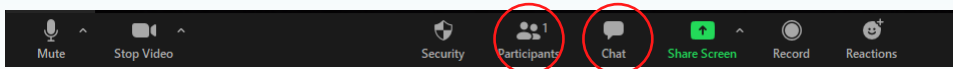
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February 5, 2024

Virtual attendees: Please enter your full name and organization into the **chat**. Please update your name to include your organization by clicking on **participants**, hover over your name, click **more**, and click **rename**.

For any technical difficulties, contact: Arthella Vallarta, 213-223-9463



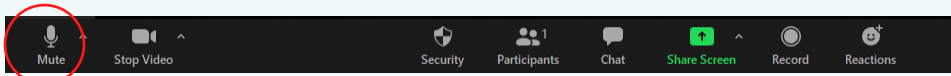
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Virtual Meeting Process

- Please remain on mute until called on – do not put meeting on hold
- Use the chat feature to ask questions or notify moderator if you want to speak



- To unmute when called on, click on the microphone icon



- To unmute if you're on the phone, press *6
- If you can't find the chat feature, email questions or comments to sdirwm@woodardcurran.com

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Land Acknowledgement

We acknowledge that this virtual meeting of the San Diego IRWM Program Regional Advisory Committee is taking place in the traditional lands of the Kumeyaay and Luiseño people. As we begin this meeting, we acknowledge and honor the original inhabitants of our region. A land acknowledgement is a critical step towards working with native communities to secure meaningful partnership and inclusion in the stewardship and protection of their cultural resources and homelands. We honor these ancestral grounds where we are collectively gathered and support the resilience and strength that Indigenous people have shown worldwide.

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Water Resilience Portfolio

Nancy Vogel, Department of Water Resources

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Administration Changes: Potential Effects

Caleb Raspler, Association of California Water Agencies

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San Diego River Healthy Headwaters Restoration Project Completion Report

*Ann Baldrige, Resource Conservation District of Greater San
Diego County*

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State and IRWM Updates

Proposition 4
Updates

Future of San
Diego IRWM

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State Budget



Governor's draft budget would appropriate ~**\$1.07 billion** for water related programs on FY 25-26.



Proposed budget is roughly balanced but still relies on reserves.



California State Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee have begun hearings to discuss the budget proposal.

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State Budget and Proposition 4



IRWM is allotted **\$100 million** under Prop 4. However, **DWR is expected to seek clarifying language** to emphasize if this funding is for watershed resilience efforts.



Due to wildfires in Los Angeles, wildfire funding from Prop 4 could be increased and accelerated, potentially decreasing other areas of funding.



In addition to the Prop 4 proposed appropriations, the budget would also cut \$51 million in recycled water funds.



With budget approval in summer, the earliest any program solicitations from Proposition 4 could be issued is Fall 2025.

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Federal Updates - Funding



New Administration has yet to fully staff agencies and lay out specific plans for policy and funding.



Key agency confirmations are underway and will help to determine policy.



Executive Orders being monitored for direction on grant funding, particularly from the Inflation Reduction Act and Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act.



Uncertainty around awarded, but not yet contracted, grants. California dynamic will result in much uncertainty around funding.

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Reminder - San Diego IRWM Strategic Roadmap

- RWMG has developed focus areas and proposed actions for future of SDIRWM
 - Reflect regional priorities
 - Emphasize areas of greatest value in SDIRWM
 - Determined to be feasible
- Need to understand where RAC wants to allocate resources

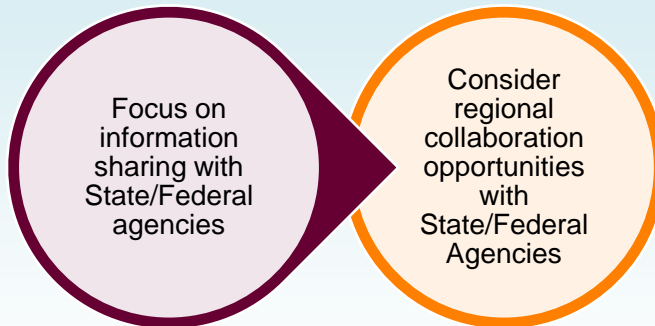


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Collaboration, Information Sharing & Advocacy – State/Federal Agencies Collaboration



Example would be inviting the California Water Board to present and on the Triennial Review and asking for feedback or input.

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Collaboration, Information Sharing & Advocacy – RAC Collaboration

Current Structure

Hosting quarterly RAC meetings and alternating between virtual and in-person meetings

Proposed Options

Option 1: Rotating RAC meeting locations

- Goal – Improve access, create opportunities for RAC members

Option 2: Pre-meeting activities

- Goal – Strengthen network, pre-meeting engagement

Option 3: Post-meeting activities

- Goal – Offer training/support, deeper conversations

If we were to implement one or more of these options, which activities would you be most interested in participating in?

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Underrepresented Communities Support



Option 1 (Current Practice)

Advocate for URC funding



Option 2

Provide guidance documents and resources



Option 3

Increase technical assistance services and develop an outreach plan

Where do you see the most value among the available options?

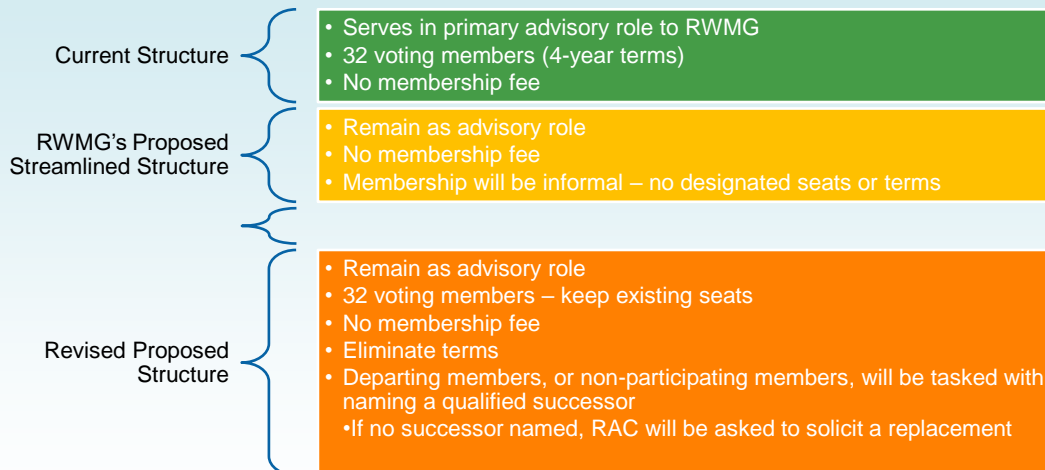
Which aspects of these options would you be willing to volunteer time or resources to implement?

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RAC Membership Structure



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Cost Sharing for Grant Applications

No longer realistic for the RWMG to fund the entire grant writing process for IRWM related grants. The RWMG is moving towards a cost share model for preparing grant applications.



RWMG has paid approximately **\$1.4 million** for the preparation of **7 applications**, securing **\$132M in grant funds**



7 IRWM related grant applications included **84 projects**



It is believed that **no other IRWM** region pays for the entire grant application preparation

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Cost Sharing for Grant Applications



- RWMG has identified 2 common types of applications expected to be pursued by the Region:
 - Traditional IRWM Application – single application with multiple projects, each project with its own project sponsor
 - Single project with multiple components – each components managed as its own project, with its own project sponsor

Do you see other types of applications that SDIRWM region might prepare that the RWMG should establish cost sharing process for?

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Application Scenario 1 Traditional IRWM - Multiple Projects and Multiple Project Sponsors

Option 1	Option 2	Option 3
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Divide cost evenly for all project sponsors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Each project sponsor pays a baseline amount up to 50% of cost of application Remaining 50% of application cost split proportionally to each project's grant request 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project sponsors pay an amount proportional to their grant request

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Application Scenario 1 Example



Assume \$1.5 M in grant request, and application costs \$50K to prepare

Project Sponsor	Project Grant Ask	% of Total Grant	Option 1 (even split)	Option 2 (base fee + proportional to grant)	Option 3 (proportional to grant)
Sponsor A	\$375,000	25%	\$10,000	\$11,250 (\$5,000+\$6,250)	\$12,500
Sponsor B	\$150,000	10%	\$10,000	\$7,500 (\$5,000+\$2,500)	\$5,000
Sponsor C	\$450,000	30%	\$10,000	\$12,500 (\$5,000+\$7,500)	\$15,000
Sponsor D	\$375,000	25%	\$10,000	\$11,250 (\$5,000+\$6,250)	\$12,500
Sponsor E	\$150,000	10%	\$10,000	\$7,500 (\$5,000+\$2,500)	\$5,000

Are there other cost sharing approaches that the RWMG should consider?

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Application Scenario 2 One Project with Multiple Components and Multiple Project Sponsors



Application Scenario 2

- Lead project sponsor reimburses RWMG for application cost
- Lead project sponsor passes costs to project partners
- Project partners responsible for establishing how they will split costs

Are there other cost sharing approaches that the RWMG should consider?

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Grant Administration

Loisa Burton, San Diego County Water Authority

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Current Funding Opportunities

Project Types	Timing	Website
CalEPA: Environmental Justice Action Grants Program	Second round due: February 28, 2025	https://calepa.ca.gov/ejactiongrants/
USBR: Small-Scale Water Efficiency Grants	Fourth round due: July 8, 2025	https://www.grants.gov/search-results-detail/350845
USBR: Small Storage Program	Second round due: July 15, 2025	https://www.usbr.gov/smallstorage/index.html
USBR: WaterSMART Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration Program	First round due: April 15, 2025 Second round due: February 17, 2026	https://www.usbr.gov/watersmart/aquatic/index.html
USBR: WaterSMART Environmental Water Resources Program	Second round due: March 11, 2025	https://www.usbr.gov/watersmart/ewrp/index.html
SWRCB: Prop 1 Technical Assistance Funding Program	Open: rolling	https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/grants_loans/proposition1/tech_asst_funding.html

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water management

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California Environmental Protection Agency



- Environmental Justice Action Grants Program
 - Purpose: Support tribes and/or community-based organizations pursuing an environmental justice project that achieves one of the following:
 - ❖ Supports emergency preparedness
 - ❖ Protects public health
 - ❖ Enhances environmental and climate decision-making
 - ❖ Strengthens enforcement
 - Funding: \$300,000 per project or \$500,000 per applicant per fiscal year
 - Status: Round 2 due on February 28, 2025

For more information please visit: <https://calepa.ca.gov/ejactiongrants/>

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U.S. Bureau of Reclamation



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RECLAMATION

■ Small-Scale Water Efficiency Projects

- Purpose: Fund small-scale-on-the-ground projects that seek to conserve, better manage, or otherwise make more efficient use of water supplies.
- Funding: \$120 million
 - ❖ \$100,000 per applicant
- Cost share: 50%
- Status: Round 4 due on July 8, 2025

For more information please visit: <https://www.grants.gov/search-results-detail/350845>

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U.S. Bureau of Reclamation



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RECLAMATION

■ Small Storage Program

- Purpose: Fund small storage projects that seek to enhance water storage opportunities for future generations.
- Funding: \$43.5 million
- Cost share: 25%
- Status: Round 3 due on July 15, 2025

For more information please visit:
<https://www.usbr.gov/smallstorage/index.html>

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U.S. Bureau of Reclamation



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RECLAMATION

- WaterSMART Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration Program
 - Purpose: Improving the health of fisheries, wildlife, and/or aquatic habitat through habitat restoration and/or improved fish passage via the removal of barriers.
 - Funding: \$95 million
 - ❖ Task A: Study and Design – \$500,000 to \$2 million per project
 - ❖ Task B: Construction – \$3 million per project
 - ❖ Cost share: 35%
 - Status:
 - ❖ Round 1 Due: April 15, 2025
 - ❖ Round 2 Due: February 17, 2026

For more information please visit:
<https://www.usbr.gov/watersmart/aquatic/index.html>

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SAN DIEGO
Integrated Regional
Water Management

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U.S. Bureau of Reclamation



— BUREAU OF —
RECLAMATION

- WaterSMART Environmental Water Resources Program
 - Purpose: Provide ecological benefits and/or improve watershed health with a nexus to water resources.
 - Funding: \$95 million
 - ❖ Up to \$3 million per project
 - ❖ Cost share: 25%
 - Status Round 2 due on March 11, 2025

For more information please visit:
<https://www.usbr.gov/watersmart/ewrp/index.html>

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SAN DIEGO
Integrated Regional
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Public Comments

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2025 RAC Meeting Schedule

- 2025 Meeting Schedule:
 - February 5 (Virtual)
 - May 7 (In-Person)
 - August 6 (Virtual)
 - November 5 (In-Person)

RAC meetings will be quarterly, and meetings will alternate between virtual and in-person meetings.

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