

**Watershed Planning & Outreach Workgroup Recommended
Watershed Policy
July 28, 2009
Proposed for Inclusion in the Update of the San Diego IRWMP**

A. Under Section G.2 Formulating a Long-Term Institutional Structure:

1. Eliminate “Alternative 2. Proposed San Diego Integrated Watershed Coalition”
2. Identify in the description of the RWMG and RAC (or their successors) that
A “representative of watershed groups, such as watershed councils or coalitions” shall be included in the list of groups represented on the Regional Advisory Committee (RAC).

B. In the expected rewrite of G.2, include the following changes, appropriately worded for the updated draft:

3. Under “Stakeholder Involvement”:
Identify that “watershed coordination groups, such as watershed council or coalitions:” are an effective means by which to promote community dialogue on water issues and can provide a basis for coordinating IRWM project development and implementation.
4. As a “Core Component” under “Institutional Structure”
Watershed Group Involvement: Watershed coordination groups, such as watershed councils, provide an efficient means by which a variety of stakeholders can coordinate their work on water management within a watershed. Watershed coordination groups can provide a manageable way for geographical coordination, such as in the identification of critical needs, objectives and priorities and the formulation of integrated projects and their coordinated implementation. The recognition of, linkage to, and promotion of Watershed coordination groups will help to advance San Diego’s IRWM planning process.

To assist in the geographic integration of water planning, project development and management:

1. *The IRWM program should encourage the formation of watershed coordination groups where they do not presently exist. The structure of watershed coordination groups should be determined locally, but their area of focus should be of sufficient scale to facilitate major-basin-level coordination;*
2. *For purposes of the IRWMP program, one watershed coordination group shall be identified for each hydrologic unit. If more than one group exists which may be considered a particular hydrologic unit’s coordination group, or multiple groups represent sub-areas of a hydrologic unit, a public process shall be determined to select a single organization or entity for purposes of the IRWMP program. This entity may be a coalition of multiple groups or a committee of representatives of groups. The identified group*

should broadly represent the people of the geographic areas of the hydrologic unit and their interests.

- 3. Watershed coordination groups are encouraged to work with other water management entities in developing well- integrated projects with multiple benefits for IRWM program consideration and to share project priorities to assist other entities in developing projects;*
- 4. Where they exist, identified watershed coordination groups will be given an opportunity to review IRWM proposals relating to their particular watershed and to provide recommendations for project prioritization based upon grant parameters established by the funding entity and San Diego's IRWM Plan objectives;*
- 5. When a coordination group does not exist or is not active in a particular hydrologic unit, the IRWMP program shall solicit input from recognized stakeholders within the watershed;*
- 6. Watershed plans and similar planning documents will be used as inputs in the development of IRWM Plan updates. Watershed coordination groups are encouraged to actively participate in the process to update San Diego's IRWM Plan.*