



Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) Meeting #57 and Scoring Workshop

June 3, 2015

9:00 am – 11:30 am

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

NOTES

Attendance

RAC Members

Lan Wiborg, City of San Diego (chair)
Arne Sandvik for Albert Lau, Padre Dam
Ann Van Leer, Escondido Creek Conservancy
Bob Kennedy, Otay Water District
Brian Olney, Helix Water District
Chris Helmer, City of Imperial Beach
Crystal Najera, City of Encinitas (and Alternate Ligeia Heagy)
Eric Larson, Farm Bureau San Diego County
Gloria Silva, U.S. Forest Service (and Alternate Emily Fudge)
Greg Thomas, Rincon del Diablo Municipal Water District (and Alternate Julia Escamilla)
Jack Simes, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (and Alternate Leslie Cleveland)
Jennifer Hazard, Alter Terra
Jennifer Sabine, Sweetwater Authority
John Flores, San Pasqual Band of Mission Indians
Joni Johnson, Rural Community Assistance Corporation
Joseph Randall for Kimberly Thorner, Olivenhain Municipal Water District
Kimberly O'Connell, University of California – San Diego Clean Water
Leigh Johnson, University of California Cooperative Extension (and Alternate Loretta Bates)
Mark Seits, Floodplain Management Association
Mark Stadler for Toby Roy, San Diego County Water Authority
Michael Bardin for Bill Hunter, Santa Fe Irrigation District
Mike Thornton, San Elijo Joint Powers Authority
Phil Pryde, San Diego River Park Foundation
Ramin Abidi, County of San Diego (and Alternate Stephanie Gaines)
Robyn Badger, Zoological Society of San Diego (and Alternate Kelly Craig)
Travis Pritchard, San Diego CoastKeeper

RWMG Staff and Consultants

Goldy Herbon, City of San Diego
Mark Stephens, City of San Diego
Vicki Kalkirtz, City of San Diego

Crystal Benham, RMC Water and Environment
Rosalyn Prickett, RMC Water and Environment
Sally Johnson, RMC Water and Environment

Interested Parties to the RAC

Anne Bamford, Industrial Environmental Association
Carlos Michelin, San Diego County Water Authority
Janice DuVall, San Diego County Office of Education
Michele Shumate, San Diego County Water Authority
Sandra Jacobson, California Trout
Terrell Breaux, City of San Diego

Welcome and Introductions

Ms. Lan Wiborg, City of San Diego, welcomed everyone to the meeting. Introductions were made around the room.

San Diego IRWM – Project Selection Workgroup

Ms. Goldy Herbon, City of San Diego, reminded the group that the San Diego IRWM Region has \$31 million in Proposition 84 IRWM funds available. Approximately \$30 million of these funds will go to projects, with the remaining \$1 million to help cover the costs of grant administration. The grant application is due August 7, 2015, and final awards are expected to be announced at the end of the calendar year. Ms. Herbon noted that representatives from the region's grant writing team would be attending the workshops DWR were going to hold on the grants (June 22 and June 23, 2015).

Ms. Herbon then reminded the group about the Region's Project Selection and Review Process, and stated that today was the last step – RAC approval of the suite of projects and funding amounts to include in the application. She noted that 31 projects had been submitted for consideration, with a total grant request of \$102.5 million. The RAC had recommended a total grant award of \$30.2 million to fund 15-20 projects.

Mr. Travis Pritchard, San Diego CoastKeeper, chaired the Project Selection Workgroup that had been appointed by the RAC at the April 1, 2015 meeting. Mr. Pritchard explained that the workgroup met six times, for a total of 37 hours, including two days of project interviews. He then explained the process the Workgroup undertook to select the projects:

1. Project Evaluations: the Workgroup discussed each project and their scores, and identified any questions or red flags. The workgroup was looking for multiple benefits and a comprehensive suite of projects. The consultant team followed up with individual project sponsors to get answers to any questions from the Workgroup.
2. Project Interviews: the Workgroup invited 17 projects to interview. Each interview was 45 minutes, and included a question and answer session. The Workgroup discussed the merits of each project after their individual interviews.
3. Final Evaluation and Recommendation: The Workgroup considered projects on an individual level and at the proposal level. A vote was held on the final suite of projects and was unanimously approved.

The Workgroup selected 13 projects: four urban water use efficiency projects, one potable water treatment and distribution project, one water quality protection and improvement project, five recycled municipal wastewater projects, and two environmental and habitat protection and improvement projects.

Mr. Pritchard then presented a brief overview of each of the thirteen selected projects:

1. Rural DAC Partnership Project – Phase III (Rural Community Assistance Corporation): \$3,000,000 recommended grant
 - Funds eleven DAC projects (including Tribal DACs) to improve water quality and water supply
2. San Diego River Healthy Headwaters Restoration Project (USDA Forest Service): \$2,116,000 recommended grant
 - Habitat restoration to improve water quality and supply above El Capitan Reservoir
 - Invasive removals to increase water supply
3. Conserving Water, Creating Energy in the Chollas Creek Watershed (Groundwork San Diego): \$542,000 recommended grant
 - Multiple retrofits of 50 low-income homes in Chollas Creek Watershed (a DAC) and stakeholder outreach to conserve water. Changes include turf removal, installation of greywater systems to support installation of fruit trees, and training to maintain systems and landscaping
4. City of San Diego Water Conservation Enhancement Partnership Project (City of San Diego): \$866,000 recommended grant
 - Project includes multiple conservation components:
 - Turf replacement and graywater system rebates
 - Expanding educational programs
 - Classes through San Diego Sustainable Living Institute
5. UC San Diego Water Conservation and Watershed Protection Project (UC San Diego): \$1,435,000 recommended grant
 - Includes multiple components to install green infrastructure at UC San Diego, including recycled water expansion, HVAC condensation collection and reuse, Water conservation outreach efforts, non-point source pollution reduction installations, and turf removal
6. Padre Dam Water Recycling Facility, Phase 1 Expansion (Padre Dam Municipal Water District): \$6,000,000 recommended grant
 - Project upgrades Ray Stoyer WRF to advanced treated water for current non-potable and future potable reuse
7. 2015 Regional Drought Response Program (SDCWA): \$3,800,000 recommended grant
 - Conserves water through correction facility retrofit, turf replacement, agricultural water use efficiency, and WaterSmart program

8. Safari Park Drought Response and Outreach Project (Zoological Society of San Diego): \$2,900,000
 - Increase on-site recycled water production and use through turf replacement, water conservation outreach and education, and upgraded wastewater treatment and groundwater recharge
9. Sweetwater Reservoir Wetlands Habitat Recovery Project (Sweetwater Authority): \$1,500,000 recommended grant
 - Project restores habitat and allows Sweetwater Reservoir to operate under normal conditions, and fully utilize its capacity
10. City of Escondido's MFRO Facility for Agriculture (City of Escondido): \$2,000,000 recommended grant
 - Project would produce advanced-treated recycled water suitable for agricultural uses and future non-potable reuse system expansion
11. Hodges Reservoir Natural Treatment System (City of San Diego): \$2,886,472
 - Project will improve water quality in Hodges Reservoir using a natural treatment system wetland
12. Conservation 101 (San Elijo Joint Powers Authority): \$2,500,000 recommended grant
 - Expands recycled water production and distribution and improves water quality through low impact design, improve streetscapes SW and water quality benefits.
13. Ms. Smarty-Plants Grows Waterwise Schools (Water Conservation Garden): \$652,000 recommended grant
 - Education program for local schools that encourages and enables schools to convert to waterwise landscaping

Questions and Comments:

- Thank you to the project selection committee. Can you clarify which projects were originally in Tier 1 and Tier 2?
 - Refer to the provided handout for the list of Tier 1 and Tier 2 projects
 - The Workgroup has always elevated projects that had merit from Tier 2 to Tier 1. If the Workgroup did this, the person nominating the project could not do it for their agency's project, and any project required a "yes" vote from 6 of the 8 people on the Workgroup.
- What does it mean during Project Evaluations when the workgroup "discussed" RAC-approved scoring criteria?
 - The RAC-approved criteria were reviewed prior to discussion of projects
- How were the scoring criteria weighed?
 - Once the Tier 1 project list was set, the Workgroup looked at project benefits and other factors

- Were the RAC scoring criteria used beyond sorting projects into Tier 1 and Tier 2?
 - Scoring criteria were primarily used to narrow the list of projects
 - Once the Tier 1 and Tier 2 project lists were completed, the numerical scores set aside, but categories of criteria was considered
- What feedback can non-funded people get to improve?
 - Any proponent that wants feedback can meet with Mark Stadler, Rosalyn Prickett, and Crystal Benham to discuss their projects
 - If Mark approves, RMC can reach out to all Local Project Sponsors
 - All of the projects submitted were good projections, but some were more IRWM oriented than others. There are limited funds to award, and the Workgroup was glad they were able to select projects that were more than just water supply projects this round.
- Was choosing only 13 projects an easy line to draw?
 - No, it was still difficult. There were many great projects left on the table, and a fourteenth project was eliminated in the last 20 minutes
- Wanted to extend an acknowledge the alternates who also provided input to the workgroup
- If a project drops out, DWR asks that funds are redistributed to existing projects because those projects have been vetted. Generally funding remains within the existing package.

RAC Vote on Project List

A motion was made to approve the list of projects by Greg Thomas, and seconded by Robyn Badger. The RAC voted unanimously to approve the project list.

IRWM Grant Program

Grant Administration

Mr. Mark Stadler, SDCWA, presented an overview of the current status of grant administration on behalf of Ms. Loisa Burton, SDCWA. Mr. Stadler reminded the group that the San Diego Region has received funding from one Prop 50 grant and four Prop 48 grants (three implementation and one planning), to fund a total of 44 projects, 14 of which were completed or near completion.

Proposition 50

The Prop 50 grant closes in June 2016, but had another milestone in April 2015 with the Grand opening Ceremony of the Advanced Water Purification Demonstration Plant. There was a final action of the project audit for the San Diego Regional Pollution Prevention Program and the outstanding funding retention has been received and the project closed. To date, \$19.6 million of the \$25 million grant award has been billed, and \$2.5 million in reimbursements are outstanding

Proposition 84 Implementation, Round 1

The projects under Prop 83 Round 1 are continuing as planned. In March 2015, a groundbreaking Ceremony for the Chollas Creek Integration Project Phase I was held. February 2015 saw LPS

coordination meetings and site visits with DWR to three projects. To-date, \$3.8 million had been billed of the \$7.9 million awarded, with \$688,000 in outstanding reimbursements.

Proposition 84 Implementation, Round 2

Most of the projects funded under Prop 84 Round 2 are ongoing. Three projects hit significant milestones, including the Failsafe Potable Reuse at Advanced Water Treatment facility, which completed potable reuse criteria reports, the Rural Disadvantage Community Phase II, which held a groundbreaking for the San Pasqual Reclaimed Water Project, and the Chollas Creek Integration Phase II, which submitted all of its environmental documents. To-date, \$666,000 had been billed of the \$10.5 million awarded, with \$633,000 in outstanding reimbursement.

Proposition 84 Implementation, Drought Solicitation

The Prop 84 Round 3 (Drought Solicitation or Drought Round) is still in the process of executing its contract. All of the grant agreement execution conditions were submitted to DWR in December 2014, and SDCWA received a draft contract in January 2015. Comments were sent to DWR in February 2015, and a final draft contract was received at the end of May 2015. SDCWA anticipates an executed contract at the end of July 2015.

IRWM Conference

The Integrated Regional Water Management 2.0: The Next Generation conference (IRWM Conference) was held May 21-22 in San Diego. There were a series of presentations, focused on drought, increasing participation, governmental alignment, sustainable investments, the intrinsic value of IRWM, and IRWM and the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act. Conference attendees included IRWM practitioners, DWR, and agencies, and provided an opportunity to discuss IRWM and where the program is going. From the San Diego IRWM Region, John Flores, Eric Larson, and Rob Hutsel all sat on panels. Maureen Stapleton presented on sustainable partnerships within the San Diego Funding Area, including the Tri-county FACC, the funding split MOU between the three regions, and cross-jurisdictional projects.

Questions and Comments:

- The State has yet to take full advantage of the IRWM Structure and its regional organization
- What would it take to accomplish use of IRWM's regional structure? Legislation? Some sort of formal structure?
 - People need to get used to IRWM and the IRWM process. There is some perception that IRWM is not worth the trouble – it is hard to fund, hard to get reimbursed (especially for non-profits, DACs, and small agencies). SB208 was sponsored by SDCWA to allow a percentage of funding be provided up-front for small non-profits and DACs. The DWR strategic plan has some good content, including provisions for providing upfront funding and how invoices are processed to make the process easier.
 - There is acknowledgment of the need for legislation, outreach, technical support, and funding to improve management of IRWM.

- Presentations from the IRWM Conference are available here:
<http://www.watereducation.org/foundation-event/integrated-regional-water-management-20-next-generation>

Update on IRWM Plan Action Items

The RAC was updated on current progress on the Action Items identified in the IRWM Plan. These action items are intended to implement some of the recommendations of the planning studies completed in support of the IRWM Plan update. A variety of agencies and RAC member organizations volunteered to lead implementation of these actions. Four action items had previously been reported as completed, and four were previously reported as underway. An additional four action items are currently underway, including:

- Preparation of a model stormwater management ordinance
- Engagement of watershed stakeholders to bring together regulators and floodplain managers to discuss competing watershed issues
- Provision of a regional working forum of floodplain managers that allows increased collaboration
- Promotion of communication across jurisdictional boundaries and within watersheds

Summary and Next Steps

Development of the Prop 84 Final Round grant application will move forward. The first step will be to contact all Local Project Sponsors to ensure they can accept the proposed grant award and still move forward with their projects. If necessary, the Project Selection Workgroup will reconvene (e.g., if a project drops out). The SDCWA Board of Directors will vote on recommended Prop 84 Final Round package at their June 25th Board Meeting. The RWMG and consulting team will develop the application and submit a complete application to DWR by August 7, 2015.

Questions and Comments:

- Is there a date missing under Next Steps? Will the Consultant need something from the project sponsor in the interim?
 - Yes, project sponsors will be invited to a kickoff and data request meeting on June 8, 2015 (12:30-2:00).
- There will be a U.S. Bureau of Reclamation drought grant for contingency planning infrastructure. Leslie Cleveland is the drought coordinator for Southern California
- How does Proposition 1 address IRWM?
 - Funds will be available for next year (FY16). \$32 million are anticipated for DAC capacity building and project development
 - An additional \$32 million for DAC projects are anticipated the following year (FY17)
 - It is anticipated that the Proposition 1 Implementation Grant Program's first round will occur in FY18
- Why is there such a long break between Prop 84 and Prop 1?
 - We think DWR has limited staff, and they are still working on processing the outstanding grant funds.

- The governor or state legislature may push these programs out sooner, these dates are tentative.
- The Floodplain Management Association (FMA) annual conference will be held at Rancho Mirage (refer to their website, <http://www.floodplain.org/>). The FMA would like to invite people to present at their lunches.
- Thank you to the Project Selection Workgroup.

Next RAC Meeting:

- August 5, 2015 – 9-11:30am

2015 Meeting Schedule:

- October 7, 2015
- December 2, 2015