



Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) Meeting #51

June 4, 2014

9:00 am – 11:00 am

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

NOTES

Attendance

RAC Members

Goldy Herbon for Marsi Steirer, City of San Diego (chair)
Arne Sandvik for Albert Lau, Padre Dam
Anne Bamford, Industrial Environmental Association
Bill Hunter, Santa Fe Irrigation District
Brian Olney for Mark Umphres, Helix Water District
Cari Dale, City of Oceanside
Crystal Najera, City of Encinitas
Dave Harvey, Rural Community Assistance Corporation (and Alternate Natalie Smith)
Denise Landstedt, Rancho California Water District representing the Upper Santa Margarita RWMG
Dennis Bowling, Floodplain Management Association
Eric Larson, San Diego County Farm Bureau
Jack Simes, United States Bureau of Reclamation
Jennifer Sabine, Sweetwater Authority
Joe Kuhn, City of La Mesa
Joey Randall for Kimberly Thorner, Olivenhain Municipal Water District
Katie Levy, SANDAG
Kimberly O'Connell, University of California – San Diego Clean Water
Loretta Bates for Leigh Johnson, University of California Cooperative Extension
Mike Thornton, San Elijo Joint Powers Authority
Patrick Crais, California Landscape Contractors Association
Rob Hutsel, San Diego River Park Foundation
Robyn Badger, San Diego Zoological Society
Ronald Wootton, Buena Vista Lagoon Foundation
Toby Roy for Ken Weinberg, San Diego County Water Authority
Troy Bankston, County of San Diego (and Alternate Nancy Stalnaker)

RWMG Staff

Jeffrey Pasek, City of San Diego
Loisa Burton, San Diego County Water Authority

Mark Stadler, San Diego County Water Authority
Mark Stephens, City of San Diego
Peter Martin, City of San Diego

Interested Parties to the RAC

Bill Luksic, RMC Water and Environment
Crystal Mohr, RMC Water and Environment
David Ahles, City of Carlsbad
Jeremy Barbenal, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
Mehdi Khalili, City of San Diego
Roselyn Prickett, RMC Water and Environment
Sally Johnson, RMC Water and Environment
Soleil Develle, Fallbrook Public Utility District
Terrell Breaux, City of San Diego
Trish Boaz, San Dieguito River Valley Conservancy

Welcome and Introductions

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

IRWM Grant Program

Grant Administration

Ms. Loisa Burton, San Diego County Water Authority, updated the group on grant administration activities. The Proposition 50 grant will end in June 2016. Of the 19 projects in the San Diego Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Region, six have been completed. Four other projects are at least 80% complete. Of the \$25 million award to the region from the Proposition 50 grant, over \$12 million has been billed to-date. \$9.7 million has been received, and \$1.7 million is expected to be delivered to the Water Authority by the end of the month.

Ms. Burton also updated the group on the status of the Prop. 84 Round 1 Implementation Grant. \$7.9 million was awarded to the region, and \$2.1 has been billed to-date, with \$1.16 million already received. Most of the projects are progressing as planned, and two of the projects are more than 80% complete. The Prop. 84 Round 2 Implementation Grant agreement is going for review with the Water Authority's legal team, but is expected to be executed by the end of the summer.

Project Reports

Ms. Herbon informed the group that two projects were complete or near completion and would be presented to the RAC. She introduced Mr. Jeffrey Pasek, City of San Diego, to present the Project Completion Report for the San Vicente Reservoir Source Water Protection Project. Mr. Pasek reminded the group that this was Project 7 of the Proposition 50 grant package. He reviewed a brief history of the San Vicente Reservoir, and explained that when the reservoir was enlarged, there was debate between the Water Authority and the City of San Diego regarding the appropriate environmental buffer side surrounding the new high water line. An agreement was reached between the two agencies that they would seek grant funding to acquire an appropriate buffer around the reservoir, and through the San Vicente Reservoir Source Water Protection Project, the City has been

successful in acquiring the identified target and high value properties around the reservoir. Mr. Pasek also presented lessons learned during the project. The project found that it benefitted from its partnership with a large agency (the Water Authority) that was able to absorb the lengthy delay between expenditures and reimbursement by the Department of Water Resources (DWR).

Ms. Herbon introduced Ms. Trish Boaz, San Dieguito River Valley Conservancy, to present the Project Report on the Hodges Natural Treatment System Project. Ms. Boaz informed the group that the project is almost finished, and that most of the work has been completed. The purpose of the Hodges Natural Treatment System Project was to model the watershed and develop a natural treatment option to address concerns with the watershed. The solution was determined to be construction of wetland upstream from Lake Hodges. The modeling effort focused on areas of urban and agricultural use – those areas where treatment efforts would be the most effective. The modeling found that a centralized natural treatment system would be most effective to handle nutrient loading in Lake Hodges, and further determined that smaller wetlands at three confluences draining urban areas into Lake Hodges is the preferred alternative. Ms. Boaz explained that the project did not extend to the construction of the preferred alternative, but the San Dieguito River Valley Conservancy is looking into potential integration opportunities with Lake Hodges.

Questions/Comments:

- The Buena Vista Lagoon has done some specific water quality testing in urban areas and has been surprised to find that there are not as many pollutants as they expected. The unwanted vegetation that was causing obstruction of flood protection features was filtering them out. So even though the obstructions were unwanted, they were working as natural filters.

Addition of New Non-Voting RAC Members

Mr. Mark Stadler, San Diego County Water Authority, discussed the Regional Water Management Group's (RWMG's) recommendation to add two new non-voting members to the RAC. Mr. Stadler reminded the RAC that there are already non-voting members who provide different viewpoints. He reminded the RAC of the value of a wide variety of perspectives. The two potential new non-voting RAC members are Indian Health Services (IHS) and the U.S. Forest Service (USFS). The IHS would be able to help provide input on reaching rural disadvantaged communities and tribes, and may be especially useful in helping the region successfully reach out to the tribes, which has been challenging for the San Diego IRWM Program in recent years. Mr. Pasek told the group that the USFS would be a good non-voting RAC member because they are in charge of the Cleveland National Forest, which was created to protect municipal water supplies. He explained that the national forests in Southern California were all created to protect water, not trees, and that their boundaries align with watersheds that are the headwaters of important municipal supplies. USFS is also the largest land management agency in the Region.

Questions/Comments:

- The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation supports the addition of the USFS to the RAC, and encourages the region to build a strong alliance with the USFS. USFS has a number of good water management programs, and it's suggested that they be invited to give a presentation to the RAC on these programs.
- Who are the non-voting members of the RAC?

- Current non-voting members are U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, State Coastal Commission, the Tri-County FACC, the State Water Board, and Camp Pendleton.

Ms. Herbon told the group that to invite IHS and USFS to join the RAC as non-voting members, the RAC needs to vote. Mr. Eric Larson, San Diego County Farm Bureau, made a motion to accept the two agencies as non-voting RAC members. The motion was seconded by Ms. Toby Roy, San Diego County Water Authority.

YES: 21

NO: 0

The motion passed and HIS and USFS will be invited to join the RAC as non-voting members.

Project Selection Workgroup Recommendation

Ms. Crystal Mohr, RMC Water and Environment, presented on the Proposition 84 IRWM Drought Grant Solicitation process. She updated the RAC on the final Proposal Solicitation Package, which had recently been released and provides direction on how to apply. The grants will be a statewide competition for \$200 million, but will be capped per Funding Area. For the San Diego Funding Area, up to \$42.3 million will be available. The funds are prioritized for regions with the greatest drought impacts. The grant applications are due July 21, 2014, which is an extension from the previously anticipated July 2, 2014 deadline. Final awards are anticipated to be announced in October 2014. For interested parties, applicant workshops will be held in Bakersfield and Sacramento, with the Sacramento one webcast. The consultant team writing the grant application will attend one of the meetings. Ms. Mohr explained that the funding caps for each Funding Area means that money will be left for the region in a fourth round of Proposition 84 IRWM Implementation Grant, which is anticipated in 2015. Ms. Mohr reviewed the Project Selection Process for the San Diego IRWM Program, and reminded the group that today they would be voting on the recommended package of projects. The Region had 12 projects submitted for consideration and the RAC had recommended a final grant request of \$16.5-\$20 million and inclusion of 6-8 projects. The Project Selection Workgroup met over two weeks to narrow the project list to meet these recommendations and build a strong application package.

Ms. Robyn Badger, San Diego Zoo Global, presented on the Project Selection Workgroup. She explained their purpose and the process they underwent, which included 4 meetings, project review outside of these meetings, and interviews with 10 of the potential project sponsors. Ms. Badger informed the RAC that each meeting met the quorum required by the IRWM Plan, and that all formal votes met all requirements to be valid. The Project Selection Workgroup underwent a three-step process to build a suite of projects for the proposal:

1. Project evaluations – the workgroup reviewed the information submitted by project sponsors to the online project database, and questions were routed through the consultant team.
2. Project interviews – 10 project sponsors were invited to interview, which included a presentation on the project, and an opportunity of questions from the workgroup.
3. Final evaluation and recommendation – the Workgroup discussed considerations for the proposal as a whole and project-level considerations. The Workgroup voted on a proposal package and funding to award each included project.

Ms. Badger then presented the final Workgroup recommendation. Seven projects were selected for a total project cost of over \$60 million, and a grant request of \$15,075,000. Summaries of the selected projects were also provided:

1. Richard A. Reynolds Groundwater Desalination Facility Expansion: expands existing desalination facility, constructs 5 new groundwater wells and associated pipelines, and provides 5,200 AFY of new drought-proof local supply
2. FPUD Plan Nurseries Recycled Waterline: utilizes currently produced but unused recycled water by distributing to nurseries and agricultural customers.
3. 2014 San Diego Regional Drought Response Program: detention facility retrofits, turf rebate program, and WaterSmart landscape efficiency program and workshops.
4. City of San Diego Potable Water Use Reduction & Drought Relief Project: constructs a recycled water filling station and provides pressure regulator rebates to reduce water waste.
5. Conservation on Demand: Advanced Metering Infrastructure-Facilitated Conservation: completes installation of Advanced Metering Infrastructure to Rincon del Diablo MWD's customers and implements WaterSmart software to provide customer access to water use data and district resources.
6. Hodges Reservoir Oxygenation System: improves water quality in Lake Hodges through oxygenation, which will allow water to be moved into the aqueduct and used by the region.
7. Carlsbad MWD Recycled Water Project: expands the Carlsbad Water Recycling Facility capacity and recycled water distribution system, and converts additional users to recycled water.

Questions/Comments:

- What projects were not selected?
 - Projects from UCSD, Padre Dam, and the City of Escondido were interviewed but not selected, and the projects from Rural Community Assistance Corporation (RCAC) and the Zoo did not make it to the interview stage – these project proponents decided to remove their projects from consideration.

Ms. Cari Dale, City of Oceanside, made a motion to recommend the project package presented by the Workgroup. Mr. Mike Thornton, San Elijo Joint Powers Authority, seconded the motion. A vote was taken.

YES: 22

NO: 0

The motion passed and the project suite recommended by the Project Selection Workgroup will move to the Water Authority's Board of Directors for final approval, as required by the IRWM Program and the Memorandum of Understanding between the RWMG agencies.

Questions/Comments:

- Recommend a debrief of the process for people applying in the future. It was unfortunate that one group pulled out of workgroup.
 - A point of clarification: one caucus was not able to attend final day of the Project Selection Workgroup. The Workgroup went back to its charter to confirm that the process they used at the final meeting to select the project package was still within the rules. It was confirmed that the Workgroup operated in accordance with the charter.
- Thanks to the consultant team and all project sponsors for their responsiveness and extra work.
- Thanks to all project sponsors for their submittals. All of them were good projects. The Workgroup asked many questions and clarifications and turnaround was very quick. Everyone responded in the time the Workgroup needed to make their decision. There will be a Workgroup debrief once the application process is over to help make improvements in the process for the next round.
- It was really important for people to be available by phone during the project selection process, because being able to reach the project sponsors to get responses to question can make or break the project in terms of being selected.
- Commenter has been on both sides of the selection process. The region's process really makes us think seriously about projects and the proposal as a whole, which makes it a much stronger application for DWR.
- Thank you to the Workgroup for their hard work.

Summary and Next Steps

Mr. Stadler presented the next steps in the application process. The project package will go the Water Authority's Board of Directors for final approval on June 26, 2014. The RWMG and consultant team will begin work on writing the application immediately. Mr. Stadler reminded the project sponsors that their governing bodies need to adopt the 2013 IRWM Plan by the end of June and send the Board Resolutions to the consultant team. The end of June is the preferred deadline, but it must be done prior to July 21. This is non-negotiable.

Next RAC Meeting:

- August 6, 2014 – 9-11:30am

2014 Meeting Schedule:

- October 1, 2014
- December 3, 2014

Questions/Comments

- Mr. Jack Simes, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation informed the group that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has a Catalog of Federal Funding Sources for Watershed Protection (available: <https://ofmpub.epa.gov/apex/watershedfunding/f?p=fedfund:1>) . The U.S. Department of Agriculture also has a Rural Energy for America Program (information available: http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/bcp_reapreseei.html). These two sources are good resources for potential funding programs.