



Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) Meeting #58 and Scoring Workshop

August 5, 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)
Ann Van Leer, Escondido Creek Conservancy
Bill Hunter, Santa Fe Irrigation District
Brian Olney, Helix Water District
Chris Helmer, City of Imperial Beach
Crystal Najera, City of Encinitas (and Alternate Ligeia Heagy)
Emily Fudge for Gloria Silva, U.S. Forest Service
Greg Thomas, Rincon del Diablo Municipal Water District
Jack Simes, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
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
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
S. Wayne Rosenbaum for Michael McSweeney, Building Industry Association
Steven Beppler for Bob Kennedy, Otay Water District
Toby Roy, San Diego County Water Authority (and Alternate Mark Stadler)
Travis Pritchard, San Diego CoastKeeper

RWMG Staff and Consultants

Alexis Brand, RMC Water and Environment
Goldy Herbon, City of San Diego
Loisa Burton, San Diego County Water Authority

Maria Mariscal, San Diego County Water Authority
Mark Stephens, City of San Diego
Roselyn Prickett, RMC Water and Environment
Vicki Kalkirtz, City of San Diego

Interested Parties to the RAC

Anne Bamford, Industrial Environmental Association
Antonia Estevet-Olea, LWA
Carlos Michelin, San Diego County Water Authority
Catherine Rom, City of San Diego
Christina Agustin, City of Encinitas
Deanna Spehn, Assembly Member Toni Atkins
Dustin Harris, SDRC
John Bolthouse, Water Conservation Garden
Ryane Moss, San Diego River Park Foundation
Rob Roy, La Jolla Band of Indians
Sandra Jacobson, California Trout
Sheri McPherson, County of San Diego
Steven Beppler, Otay Water District
Terrell Breaux, City of San Diego
Travis Whitney, 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.

Southern California Flow Ecology Analysis

Mr. Eric Stein, Southern California Coastal Water Research Project, presented the Southern California Flow Ecology Analysis to the group. The presentation gave an overview of the project and the goals of the watershed demonstration. The objective of the project is to develop an approach for establishing instream environmental flow requirements necessary to meet ecological benchmarks including: 1) How should streams in California be grouped or classified for the purposes of establishing environmental flow requirements? 2) What are the key hydrologic variables that should be used for environmental flow targets? 3) What are the key biological response variables that should be used when establishing environmental flow targets? and 4) What is the appropriate framework/approach for setting actual flow targets for specific stream types?

The ultimate goal of the project is to provide a convenient model system which can be applied to a “novel” site without requiring the time and money to develop custom models for each individual site. The pilot project will test the regional tool to see if the model works for a local area. And to test and validate metrics.

Questions/Comments:

- Does the model consider land use?
 - Considers pervious versus impervious surfaces only.

- Is the model calibrated to “novel” watershed?
 - Yes, combined criteria from 2-3 models and calibrated with perviousness data. The goal is a relatively quick process versus building a new model to determine stream flow data along ungagged reaches.
- How does it address watersheds with reservoirs (dams)?
 - The model does consider reservoir storage, but only gross levels. The model does not include stormwater-groundwater interaction.
- What if this winter is an El Nino? Data would not be reliable.
 - No new data would be collected to validate model metrics. Would only use existing and historical data to determine validity, which would be based on knowledge of the watershed by stakeholders. The model uses data from 1990 to 2013 to capture variability between years.
- How is this related to stormwater discussions of reducing flows to reduce non-point source pollution?
 - Trying to better understand effects of low impact development (LID) on biological integrity. Want to offer data for informed decisions.
- Biological organisms have differing tolerance to flow.
 - The project focuses on using benthic invertebrates as indicator species. More finely tuned criteria, such as temperature sensitivity are “trait statistics”.
- Is there any partnership with San Diego State University (SDSU) Watershed Science Institute?
 - We are beginning to collaborate. This meeting is one way to collaborate. As a next step, interested parties should contact Eric Stein (erics@sccwrp.org).

Watershed Management in Cleveland National Forest

Ms. Emily Fudge, U.S. Forest Service – Cleveland National Forest, presented on Watershed Management in the Cleveland National Forest (CNF). Discussed in this presentation were land management objectives, issues and direction, IRWM projects in the CNF, and other CNF projects. The land management objectives are to find a balance between different resources and to provide opportunities for use while protecting natural resources. The CNF is unique compared to other National Forests in that it is not a continuous park, there are numerous inholdings, the park is located adjacent to high population densities, no timber activities take place on the CNF, the close proximity to high density populations results in high recreational and special uses, and the headwaters to many municipal water systems are located on the CNF. The CNF is also susceptible to fires due to the proximity to high density populations, fire adapted vegetation, Santa Ana winds, and warm temperatures. The Land Management Plan (LMP) directs fuel efforts to focus on wildland-urban interface (WUI) treatments and fuel reduction. Land management issues that affect water quality and supply include invasive weeds such as arundo and tamarisk, and soils vulnerable to erosion.

A Watershed Condition Assessment identified Cedar Creek and Kitchen Creek-Cottonwood Creek as priority watersheds, and Watershed Restoration Action Plans (WRAP) were developed. The Cedar Creek Priority Watershed WRAP led to one of the CNF’s IRWM projects, which includes invasive weed treatment, trail and road decommissioning and the removal of feral pigs.

Questions/Comments:

- Does the Forest Land Management Plan include the San Luis Rey watershed?
 - The San Luis Rey watershed is included in the ranking. The Land Management Plan includes objectives for the watershed.
- The MS4 permit's hydrologic modification requires coarse sediment supply to rivers. Does the CNF participate in the MS4 permit?
 - CNF is trying to restore natural sediment processes. We are working on a project to remove dams at Trabuco Canyon, which retain sediment.
- How is CNF "managing" feral pigs?
 - USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) traps pigs, then dispatches them.
- Have you considered a partnership with Oceanside on a grant for basin management?

IRWM Grant Program

Ms. Loisa Burton presented an update on Proposition 50 and 84 Grants. Proposition 50 Grant terminates in June 2016 and the projects are progressing as planned. An update on Proposition 84, Round 1 Grants was given. These projects are continuing as planned and are set to end in May 2017. Most of the Proposition 84, Round 2 Grant projects have commenced work. The Proposition 84, Drought Round is still waiting for the final grant agreements.

Project Completion Report: Carlsbad Desalination Project Local Conveyance

Mr. Jeremy Crutchfield, SDCWA, presented on the Carlsbad Desalination Project Local Conveyance, Project Completion Report. SDCWA's goal is to increase San Diego Region's water supply reliability through supply diversification. The Carlsbad Desalination Local Conveyance Project will improve regional water supply reliability by increasing local water supplies by 7%. The project included 10 miles of new 54-inch steel pipe to connect the Carlsbad Desalination Plant to the Pipeline Interconnection in San Marcos, 5 miles of Pipeline 3 (aqueduct) relining, and Twin Oaks Valley Water Treatment Plant improvements. The Carlsbad Desalination Plant will produce 50 MGD of seawater desalination, making it one of the largest desalination plants in the Western Hemisphere. Remaining tasks for the project include Phase II Commissioning (, to be complete in September 2015, Site Visit, to be complete on October 6th or 7th, and the Final Report, to be complete December 2015.

Questions/Comments:

- How much lift from plant to plant?
 - 1,100 ft. PS @ Desalination Plant (8 pumps)
- What will the water quality of blended supply be? Will there be any adverse effects?
 - Lots of modeling has been done and no adverse effects are anticipated. Chemical additions prior to blending will make the water quality similar to current water quality.

Proposition 84, Final Round and Proposition 1

Ms. Goldy Herbon, City of San Diego, presented on the Final Round of Proposition 84 funding and Mr. Mark Stadler, SDCWA, presented on Proposition 1. The Proposition 84 Final Round Grant is wrapping up. The RWMG and consultant team are performing final QA/QC and the Proposal will be submitted to DWR on August 7th. Under Proposition 1, DWR has included a second definition for disadvantaged communities (DAC) – economically distressed areas (EDA). The definition change is as follows: “Economically distressed area (EDA) is a municipality with <20,000 population with an annual median household income (MHI) <85% Statewide MHI and with one or more of the following conditions: 1) Financial hardship; 2) Unemployment rate >2% higher than Statewide average; and 3) Low population density. Under Proposition 1, DWR anticipates \$35 million for planning efforts that directly address EDA/DAC needs in 2016, \$35 million for construction of projects that directly address EDA/DAC needs in 2017, and the first round of typical IRWM Grant solicitation in 2018.

Questions/Comments:

- What is a “municipality”?
 - A municipality as a definable geography. If it is in an urban area, you need to defend it as separate from the larger area.
- For the “financial hardship” definition, there is a need to consider cost of living differences within the State.
- Is the \$70 million for DAC/EDA a separate pot of funding, or part of the \$510 million total available from this chapter of Proposition 1.
 - Any EDA that is awarded to the San Diego Region comes from the Region’s \$38 million pot.

Summary and Next Steps

Next RAC Meeting:

- October 7, 2015 – 9-11:30am

2015 Meeting Schedule:

- December 2, 2015