



**San Juan, Santa Margarita and San Luis Rey
Watershed Workshop
Notes**

September 25, 2012

10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

City of Escondido, Mitchell Room
201 N. Broadway, Escondido, CA 92025

Attendance

Alison Witheridge, City of Oceanside
Bryand Duke, California Department of Fish and Game
Christina Mokhtarzadeh, Bureau of Indian Affairs
Emily Michaelson, Katz & Associates
Emma Sakaguchi, Quantum Ozone, Inc.
Goldy Thach, City of San Diego
Jim Marple, SRWM
Judy Mitchell, Mission Resource Conservation District
Lauma Jurkevics, California Department of Water Resources
Lewis Michaelson, Katz & Associates
Mark Massen, County of San Diego
Mark Stadler, San Diego County Water Authority
Mary Marple, SRWM
Mike Porter, Regional Water Quality Control Board
Mo Lahsaiezadeh, City of Oceanside
Rosalyn Prickett, RMC Water and Environment
Scott Norris, County of San Diego
Scott Smith, City of Oceanside
Sheri McPherson, County of San Diego
Sue Pender, RBF Consulting
Toby Roy, San Diego County Water Authority
Tory Walker, Tory R. Walker Engineering, Inc.

Welcome and Introductions

Mr. Lewis Michaelson, Katz & Associates (facilitator), welcomed everyone to the meeting. Introductions were made around the room. Mr. Michaelson explained the necessity for obtaining qualitative input at the workshop to use in developing the San Diego Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Plan Update. The purpose of the workshop is to characterize the watersheds in the San Diego Region and identify water management issues and priorities for each of the watersheds.

IRWM Overview

Mr. Mark Stadler, San Diego County Water Authority, provided an overview of IRWM planning, the San Diego IRWM Plan Update, the current Proposition 84-Round 2 grant opportunity and project submittal process, and types of project integration. Mr. Stadler explained that IRWM planning is an innovative way to increase reliable water sources, improve water quality, and protect natural resources through cooperation among public agencies with different jurisdictions and nonprofit public interest organizations. IRWM planning is also a mechanism through which the San Diego Region is eligible for substantial grant funding from Proposition 84 and Proposition 1E. The IRWM Plan Update will revise and improve the 2007 IRWM Plan and meet new California Department of Water Resources (DWR) IRWM program requirements. The input received at the watershed workshops will be used to amend the existing IRWM Plan to characterize resources on a watershed-scale.

Mr. Stadler stated that DWR recently announced Round 2 of Proposition 84 implementation grant funding. There is approximately \$10.3 million available for the San Diego Region in Round 2, which is expected to fund five to seven projects. To improve a project's likelihood of being selected to receive IRWM grant funding, a project should integrate multiple benefits and multiple project partners. An integrated project is one that contains at least one of the following components:

- **Partnerships** – Partnerships between different organizations
- **Resource Management** – Employing multiple water management strategies within a single project
- **Beneficial Uses** – Project supports several different beneficial uses
- **Geography** – Implementing watershed- or regional-scale projects
- **Hydrology** – Addressing multiple watershed functions within the hydrologic cycle

Questions/Comments

- Are shovel-ready projects funded?
 - *IRWM prefers construction projects rather than planning projects. The funding process takes time and projects submitted for the Round 2 grant opportunity should be shovel-ready by 2014.*
- The presentation says there is \$56 million remaining for the Region and approximately \$10.3 million is available in Round 2. Does that mean there is still about \$46 million left after that?
 - *Yes.*

San Juan Watershed

Watershed Characterization

Ms. Rosalyn Prickett, RMC Water and Environment, listed the references that are currently being used to characterize the San Juan watershed.

- 2011 Camp Pendleton Water Resource Plan
- DWR Groundwater Bulletin 118

- 2010 Urban Water Management Plans (UWMPs)
- Watershed Urban Runoff Management Plans (WURMPs)
- Multiple Species Conservation Plans (MSCPs)
- Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) Basin Plan and 303(d) List

Ms. Prickett asked for input on additional references to consult, but workshop attendees did not have any additional reference recommendations. Ms. Prickett presented the current characterization of the San Juan watershed to obtain feedback from the workshop attendees. The workshop attendees suggested that the following features be used to characterize the San Juan watershed:

- Possible imported water from San Diego County Water Authority (SDCWA)
- Ask for input on San Juan Watershed at Tri-County Funding Area Coordinating Committee

Water Management Issues in Watershed

Ms. Prickett listed key management issues for the San Juan watershed and asked for input on additional significant management issues the watershed faces. Workshop attendees shared the following management issues:

- Invasive species – aquatic
- High recreation use at “Trestles” beach area
- National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Steelhead Recovery Plan – covers three watersheds

IRWM Priorities for Watershed

Given the types of projects that IRWM is designed to fund, Mr. Michaelson asked the workshop attendees to think about what priorities in the San Juan watershed could be addressed through an IRWM-based project. Workshop attendees did not suggest any priorities for the watershed, but attendees did have the following questions and comments:

Questions/Comments

- What is the role of Resource Conservation Districts and Resource Conservation Plans?
 - *There will be a subchapter in the IRWM Plan Update that characterizes each watershed based on the existing Resource Conservation Plans. There is not a full management planning process for all watersheds.*
- Would IRWM consider using military studies and data collected by resource managers on the Camp Pendleton Marine Corps Base as a reference?
 - *If Camp Pendleton is willing to make this information public, IRWM can use it.*

Santa Margarita Watershed

Watershed Characterization

Ms. Prickett listed the references that are currently being used to characterize the Santa Margarita watershed.

- 2005 Santa Margarita River Watershed Management Plan
- DWR Groundwater Bulletin 118
- 2010 UWMPs
- WURMPs
- MSCPs
- RWQCB Basin Plan and 303(d) List

Ms. Prickett asked for input on additional references to review. Workshop attendees suggested the following references:

- Corman Water Agreement
- Water Master Annual Report
- Camp Pendleton Salt and Nutrient Management Plan
- Upper Santa Margarita IRWM Plan
- Riverside County Flood Control – WURMP
- USBR Diversion Structure
- Fallbrook PUD project funded through Prop 50
- Fallbrook PUD dam permits
- NMFS Steelhead Recovery Plan
- Prop 204 and 205J historical programs and documents

Ms. Prickett presented the current characterization of the Santa Margarita watershed, and the workshop attendees suggested that the following features be used to characterize the Santa Margarita watershed:

- Agriculture contributes to water quality issues – outside Camp Pendleton Marine Base
- Large dams significantly impact water flow and connectivity in watershed
- Rapid urbanization
- Main stem of Santa Margarita River has wild and scenic river status
- High degree of public ownership of land from Riverside to Camp Pendleton Marine Base
- Complex groundwater and surface water interaction

Water Management Issues in Watershed

Ms. Prickett listed key management issues for the Santa Margarita watershed and asked for input on additional significant management issues the watershed faces. Workshop attendees shared the following management issues:

- Estuary is impaired from eutrophication – need upstream management
- Potential impacts from planned Camp Pendleton Marine Corps Base desalination plant
- Need to maintain flow to meet water rights allocation
- Need for Best Management Practices (BMPs) and Low Impact Development in areas with groundwater use (e.g., Anza)
- Salt management associated with recycled water use
- Potential water supply issues as a result of Steelhead Recovery Plan
- 303(d) Listed for excessive bacteria levels

IRWM Priorities for Watershed

Given the types of projects that IRWM is designed to fund, Mr. Michaelson asked the workshop attendees to think about what priorities in the Santa Margarita watershed could be addressed through an IRWM-based project. Workshop attendees suggested the following Santa Margarita watershed priorities:

- Understand nutrient mass balance in watershed to inform how water supply, water quality, and habitat are managed
- Removal of invasive species in channel near Camp Pendleton Marine Corps Base
- Rainbow Creek Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL)

San Luis Rey Watershed

Watershed Characterization

Ms. Prickett listed the references that are currently being used to characterize the San Luis Rey watershed.

- San Luis Rey Watershed Council Priority Issues
- DWR Groundwater Bulletin 118
- 2010 UWMPs
- WURMPs
- MSCPs
- RWQCB Basin Plan and 303(d) List

Ms. Prickett asked for input on additional references to consult, and workshop attendees suggested the following references:

- San Luis Rey Watershed Council Guidelines
- San Luis Rey Bacteria TMDL and Comprehensive Load Reduction Plan (CLRP) – Bacteria Source Tracking Study
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Levee Project
- NMFS Steelhead Recovery Plan
- Caltrans State Route 76 EIR and Interstate 5 EIR
- San Diego County San Luis Rey River Park Master Plan
- San Diego County Water Authority Emergency Storage Plan EIR
- San Luis Rey Weed Management Plan
- Vista Irrigation District – Henshaw studies
- San Diego County Flood Forecast Model

Ms. Prickett presented the current characterization of the San Luis Rey watershed. The workshop attendees suggested that the following features be used to characterize the San Luis Rey watershed:

- Rosemary's Mountain Quarry
- Gregory Canyon Landfill
- Five tribes in watershed
- Agriculture waiver as it relates to addressing water quality issues

- Interaction between surface water and upper groundwater layer – impacts of septic system and agriculture
- Channelized portion is periodically mowed – actively managed for flood control
- Significant groundwater use in Pauma and Vista Irrigation District
- Two surface water reservoirs – Henshaw and Wohlford
- Historical flooding – mudslides following fires in 2007

Water Management Issues in Watershed

Ms. Prickett listed key management issues for the San Luis Rey watershed and asked for input on additional significant management issues the watershed faces. Workshop attendees shared the following management issues:

- Recreational use – water quality impacts and flow management issues
- Erosion and sedimentation at Moosa Canyon and west of Interstate 15
- Wastewater infrastructure improvements
- Increased recycled water use
- Sand replenishment
- Saltwater intrusion

IRWM Priorities for Watershed

Given the types of projects that IRWM is designed to fund, Mr. Michaelson asked the workshop attendees to think about what priorities in the San Luis Rey watershed could be addressed through an IRWM-based project. Workshop attendees suggested the following San Luis Rey watershed priorities:

- Integration between flood management and invasive species removal
- Bacteria TMDL and CLRP and integration between agriculture and sewer/septic systems
- Treatment control BMPs
- Study of surface water and groundwater dynamics

Questions/Comments

- How can funding be obtained for planning and studies that will lead to implementation?
 - *Recommend submitting an integrated project that includes a proportion of funding for research//studies.*
- Is there an online forum?
 - *Yes, there is a discussion forum on the website: www.sdirwmp.org.*

Next Steps

Mr. Michaelson explained that the input provided at the workshop will be used to complete the San Juan, Santa Margarita and San Luis Rey watershed characterizations. The draft characterizations will be distributed to the workshop attendees in March or April for review.