



Regional Advisory Council
Meeting Notes and Follow-up Action Items
December 11, 2006, 9:00 a.m. – 11:30 am
San Diego County Water Authority
4677 Overland Avenue, San Diego, CA 92123

Attendance – RAC Members

Craig Adams, San Dieguito River Valley Conservancy
Kirk Ammerman, City of Chula Vista
Meleah Ashford, Consultant
Michael Bardin, Santa Fe Irrigation District
Chris Basilevac, The Nature Conservancy
Dennis Bostad, Sweetwater Authority
Neal Brown, Padre Dam Municipal Water District
Michael Connolly, Campo Kumeyaay Nation
Kathleen Flannery, County of San Diego
Linda Flournoy, Sustainability Consultant
Doug Gibson, San Elijo Lagoon Conservancy
Rob Hutsel, San Diego River Park Foundation
Megan Johnson, Southern California Wetlands Recovery Network
Keith Lewinger, Fallbrook Public Utility District
Judy Mitchell, Mission Resources Conservation District
Rich Pyle, CH2M Hill
Marsi Steirer, City of San Diego's Water Department
Shelby Tucker, San Diego Association of Governments
Mark Weston, Helix Water District
Ken Weinberg, San Diego County Water Authority
Terressa Whitaker (for Dr. Richard Wright, San Diego State University)
Susan Varty, Olivenhain Municipal Water District
Karen Franz, San Diego Coast Keeper

Attendance – RWMG Staff

Dana Frieauf, San Diego County Water Authority
Maria Mariscal, San Diego County Water Authority
Sheri McPherson, County of San Diego
Cecilia Padres, County of San Diego
Jeff Pasek, City of San Diego's Water Department
Cathy Pieroni, City of San Diego's Water Department
Toby Roy, San Diego County Water Authority
Jeff Stephenson, San Diego County Water Authority
Jon Van Rhyn, County of San Diego

Attendance – Public

Rick Alexander, Sweetwater Authority
Larry Johnson, Campo / Lake Morena Planning Group
Jyo Purohit, Private Consultant, Sparkers, Inc.

1) Introductions/Background

a) Introductions – Kathy Flannery, County of San Diego

- Ms. Flannery welcomed the group and extended her appreciation for their willingness to advise members of the Regional Water Management Group on matters vital to the long-term viability of San Diego's Integrated Regional Water Management Plan.
- Attendees introduced themselves.

b) IRWM Plan Background – Jeff Pasek, City of San Diego's Water Department and Dana Frieauf, San Diego County Water Authority

- Mr. Pasek gave a brief presentation related to the genesis of regional water management planning. California's Department of Water Resources authored this initiative with the goal of ensuring sustainable long-term water supply reliability. Propositions 50 and 84 provide funding for regions with adopted IRWM Plans.
- Ms. Frieauf gave a brief update on preparation of the IRWM Plan, Plan content, and tentative schedule for completion. Ms. Frieauf also highlighted the sections requiring the most input from the RAC.

c) Roles, Purpose, and Participation – Toby Roy, San Diego County Water Authority

- Ms. Roy reviewed the anticipated role of the Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) as printed and included in the RAC's binders.
- It was noted the absence of the Farm Bureau and Environmental Health Coalition on the RAC and suggested representatives from their agencies be added to the RAC.

2) Facilitated Discussion

a) Ground Rules – Peggy Hanley, The Centre for Organization Effectiveness

Ms. Hanley suggested the following ground rules for the RAC:

- Turn off cell phones or put to vibrate
- Limit side conversations
- Wear a regional hat or tell us if you can't
- Put your stake in the ground and be willing to move it

- Encourage even participation
- No monologues

It was suggested adding “attendance” as a ground rule as well. The group agreed and the rule was added.

b) Questions/Discussion – Peggy Hanley

Ms. Hanley opened up the meeting to the group for discussion regarding the topics presented in the presentations.

- The term “governance” was questioned. Staff noted that the State uses the term “institutional structure”. Consideration will be given to a preferred term to reference this concept.
- The appropriateness of the current consortium of RWMG members was questioned. It was suggested that the three RWMG partners have an unfair advantage soliciting funding for their projects in the IRWM Plan by virtue of their oversight responsibilities. It was suggested that a fairer approach for the San Diego region would be a watershed-based consortium of decision-makers developing the prioritization of projects for grant funding applications by watershed.
- It was noted that the deadlines associated with Proposition 50 are very tight. RWMG members and others from the RAC are skeptical that there is time to complete the IRWM Plan and establish watershed councils prioritizing projects for Proposition 50 grant applications.
- It was suggested that the RWMG maintain its current oversight of the preparation of the IRWM Plan and lead the RAC in the development of prioritization criteria and selection projects for Proposition 50 as the interim institutional structure solution. However, a statement regarding the role of the RAC should be added to the MOU among the RWMG members stating that the RWMG will accept and implement the RAC’s recommendations in the IRWM Plan and grant application process.
- RWMG agencies stated they would consider adding RAC roles to the MOU and that further questions on this topic should be held over to next week, as many of the topics being brought up are on the next meeting’s agenda.
- The RWMG will bring to the next meeting proposed language for inclusion in the MOU to address the role of the RAC.

c) IRWM Plan Mission – Jon Van Rhyn, County of San Diego

Mr. Van Rhyn noted during previous outreach efforts to the public a need was expressed to bring more clarity to the action taking the IRWM Plan process forward. A mission

statement can help accomplish this. Mr. Van Rhyn noted that several of the successful Cycle 1 applicants for Proposition 50 funding had incorporated mission statements in their IRWM Plans.

Staff will e-mail to the RAC four examples of mission statements that might work for the San Diego region and include links to other IRWM Plan efforts for reference. Mr. Van Rhyn requested that RAC members review these draft mission statements prior to the next meeting and provide feedback as to the elements of the drafts that the RAC believes to work well for our region.

- It was questioned whether or not other regulatory agencies should be apart of the planning process such as the Regional Water Quality Control Board.

d) Public Comments – Peggy Hanley

Mr. Larry Johnson addressed the RAC stating that it seemed to him that representation from planning groups from East County was lacking in this group. Mr. Johnson stated that in Campo, they too have been working on sustainable water supply planning and have worked with the County of San Diego on groundwater development and other water supply planning efforts. Mr. Johnson's main concern is that the IRWM Plan have a long-term vision around which existing plans can coalesce.

Members of the RAC added additional comments. Several members requested a review of the successful Proposition 50 applications to date to learn how San Diego's submittal might be competitive.

It was suggested that Tracey Billington and Charla Varga from the Department of Water Resources could be invited to address the RAC and give feedback as to how the region is doing. Staff agreed to invite them to a future meeting.

3) Closing Remarks – Kathy Flannery

Ms. Flannery closed the meeting recognizing that the region needs an inclusive process through which we capture all elements of the region's issues. She applauded the leadership among the RAC members. Ms. Flannery assured the group that the RWMG truly did not presuppose the answers to the questions being asked through this process. She stated that the RWMG will take the time to address the issues raised today and seek solutions. Once again, Ms. Flannery thanked the RAC members for their participation.