



**Regional Advisory Council
Meeting #2**

Notes and Follow-up Action Items

December 18, 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
Steve Aceti (alternate for Megan Johnson), Southern California Wetlands Recovery Network
Keith Lewinger, Fallbrook Public Utility District
Jason Giessow (alternate for 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 & Mark Umphres, alternate
Ken Weinberg, San Diego County Water Authority
Dr. Richard Wright, San Diego State University
Susan Varty, Olivenhain Municipal Water District
Karen Franz, San Diego Coast Keeper
Eric Larson, Farm Bureau of San Diego County

Attendance – RWMG Staff

Dana Frieauf, San Diego County Water Authority
Sheri McPherson, County of San Diego
Cecilia Padres, County of San Diego
Jeff Pasek, City of San Diego Water Department
Cathy Pieroni, City of San Diego 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

Larry Johnson, Campo / Lake Morena Planning Group
Jyo Purohit, Private Consultant, Sparkers, Inc.
Meena Westford, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
Hector Bordas, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Mark Umphres, Helix Water District
Zach Principe, The Nature Conservancy

1) Introductions

Ms. Kathy Flannery welcomed RAC members to their second meeting. Attendees introduced themselves.

2) Debrief from RAC Meeting #1 (December 1, 2006)

Ms. Flannery noted the following items as completed action items from the previous meeting:

- Mr. Eric Larson of the Farm Bureau has been added as a member of the Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) and joined the group for this meeting.
- Dr. Richard Wright represents the San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board as he serves on that agency's Board.
- Ms. Karen Franz represents both the San Diego Coastkeeper and Baykeeper; and as the representative of these organizations Ms. Franz also represents the Environmental Health Coalition, which is dedicated to achieving environmental and social justice.

Mr. Jon Van Rhyn reviewed draft language that would be added to the IRWM Plan MOU between the County of San Diego, the City of San Diego and the San Diego County Water Authority. The draft language is aimed at addressing the role of the RAC and Stakeholder Involvement.

The draft text was generally well received with the following comments:

- A better understanding of the term "consensus" is needed.
- After the 2nd sentence, consider adding, "The staff of the Parties will recommend approval of the RAC's consensus recommendations to each of the RWMG's governing bodies."
- Concern was expressed regarding NGOs being too closely tied the RWMG governing bodies; they want to maintain their autonomy.

Clarification regarding the approval process of the IRWM Plan by the governing bodies of the three RWMG agencies was given. Each of the three RWMG agencies will take a final draft IRWM Plan forward to their governing bodies for approval. Should one of the agencies' governing bodies reject the Plan or request changes, it would need to go back to the other two agencies for consideration. An identical IRWM Plan must be approved by all three agencies.

Given the interest from the RAC in a more substantive role in the IRWM Plan design and development than had been originally planned, it is clear that more meetings will be required. Mr.

Van Rhyn reviewed potential schedule modifications to accommodate the wishes of the RAC. The schedule modifications were accepted by the group.

- Mr. Van Rhyn asked the group to look at the annotated outline and consider where the time of the RAC would be best-spent reviewing topics. It is possible that the RAC will break into sub-groups in order to accommodate the review schedule.

3) Institutional Structure for IRWM Long-Term Planning Effort

Ms. Dana Friehauf gave a presentation regarding the potential long-term structure of the IRWM Plan. The goal for this meeting is not to come up with a detailed structure but for the RWMG to get input on key issues so that the RWMG can bring back something for the RAC's later consideration. Comments and questions from the RAC included:

- San Diego's regional boundaries dissect the following watersheds: the San Juan, Santa Margarita and Tijuana watersheds. We must fully understand and address this boundary definition in the IRWM Plan. We should also work closely with DWR staff on this issue as we go along.
- The long-term IRWM Plan management structure should disburse grant funds to project proponents and include an accountability role to ensure that grant funds are spent properly and within expected timeframes.
- Long-term structure should include "cooperation" along with "collaboration, coordination and communication".
- Are we talking about another level of government? This is open for discussion.
- Should include a mechanism for including jurisdictions that are not subject to the Plan such as SANDAG, military and federal lands, Native American reservations and Mexico, although they should probably be non-voting members/participants.
- Suggest changing "regulatory agencies" to "resource agencies".
- Los Angeles is still working on a permanent institutional structure. The interim structure is based on five regions, each of which has a Steering Committee and roles up into a Leadership Committee that is comprised of eleven individuals, one for each sub-region and water management interest area.
- It was noted that the SD IRWM Plan could just identify the interim management structure and state that the long-term structure will be worked out upon plan adoption....etc.

Funding of the long-term institutional structure:

- need to think long-term; we need a permanent plan to fund the IRWM planning effort.
- Need to consider legalities: what can or can not be done legally.
- Some felt that a general tax, regional assessment, or perhaps a fixed fee would be preferable since all members of the San Diego region would benefit. However, it was also felt that perhaps this question would be easier to answer after the group better understands the role and responsibilities of the long-term institutional structure.
- Need to consider those who may not be able to pay; those with greatest need are often the ones least able to pay.

- If a fee is pursued, we need to carefully develop a well thought out public presentation of this topic – it is a big marketing issue.
- Seek legislation for ongoing funding.

Ms. Friehauf continued her presentation with an outline of minimum elements associated with a long-term institutional structure. The group accepted these elements. Questions regarding the potential structure of this institution ensued as follows:

- SANDAG model of governance should be reviewed.
- Consider referring to Watershed Management Plans for examples.
- It was suggested that the Regional Stormwater Copermitee's Fee Structure could be used as reference.
- While watersheds have a role, we need to be careful not to be limited by their boundaries as this should be a Regional effort, with issues that move beyond watershed boundaries.

Ms. Friehauf will follow up with DWR for input on the institutional structure and timing for the cycle two application process; Once she receives a response from DWR, she will provide this information to the RAC.

4) Mission Statement for the SD IRWM Planning effort

Mr. Van Rhyn noted that a mission statement is designed to answer the question, "why are we here." Brevity is preferred but it must address all elements of your venture.

Five potential mission statements were presented to the group for their consideration (see handout). All members commented.

The majority of the RAC preferred the fifth proposed mission statement, with some minor edits/changes. A few others suggested using or incorporating the first sentence of the third mission statement and incorporating the term watershed stewardship.

Meena Westford of the US Bureau of Reclamation suggested the following:

"To use a stakeholder driven process to facilitate the planning and implementation of an integrated strategy that will guide the San Diego region toward protecting, managing, and developing cost-effective, reliable, and sustainable water resources for all beneficial uses."

RWMG staff will take the input received and present a final version of the mission statement to the RAC at their next meeting.

5) Next Meeting and Closing Remarks

The next meeting of the RAC will be January 10, 2007 at the Water Authority. Ms. Flannery thanked the members of the RAC for their participation. She noted that the group seemed to be making real progress on the issues and their insights are very valuable.