

San Diego IRWM Program RAC Meeting #111

December 10, 2025

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Agenda

- Meeting Logistics
- Welcome and Land Acknowledgement
- Wildfire and Stormwater Quality Panel
- Program Completion Report
- Federal, State, and SDIRWM Updates
- Grant Administration
- State and Federal Funding Opportunities
- Public Comments
- Summary and Next Steps

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Please enter your full name and organization into the **chat**. Please update your name to include your organization by clicking on **participants**, hover over your name, click **more**, and click **rename**.

For any technical difficulties, contact: Arthella Vallarta, 213-223-9463



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Land Acknowledgement

We acknowledge that this virtual meeting of the San Diego IRWM Program Regional Advisory Committee is taking place in the traditional lands of the Kumeyaay and Luiseño people. As we begin this meeting, we acknowledge and honor the original inhabitants of our region. A land acknowledgement is a critical step towards working with native communities to secure meaningful partnership and inclusion in the stewardship and protection of their cultural resources and homelands. We honor these ancestral grounds where we are collectively gathered and support the resilience and strength that Indigenous people have shown worldwide.

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Wildfire and Stormwater Quality Panel

Erica Ryan, San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board

Alvina Mehinto, Southern California Coastal Water Research Project

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Program Completion Report

Loisa Burton and Gail Patton, San Diego County Water Authority

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State and Federal Updates

Federal Updates

State Updates

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Federal Funding Updates

- Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA) staff has resumed work on applications
- WIFIA Program Director has departed and likely coming to a California water agency

WIFIA
PROGRAM

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State Updates – Proposition 4

- Proposition 4 was passed in November 2024:
 - \$10 billion – State general obligation bonds to reduce climate risks and impacts
 - ❖ 40% - vulnerable populations
 - ❖ 10% - severely disadvantaged communities
 - \$3.78 billion – Safe Drinking Water, Drought, Flood, and Water Resilience
 - \$100 million – integrated regional water management

Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparedness, and Clean Air Bond Act of 2024

Breakdown of Climate Bond Funding

Chapter	Allocation
Ch. 2 Safe Drinking Water, Drought, Flood, and Water Resilience	\$3,771,500,000
Ch. 3 Wildfire and Forest Resilience	\$1,488,750,000
Ch. 4 Coastal Resilience	\$1,191,000,000
Ch. 5 Extreme Heat Mitigation	\$446,625,000
Ch. 6 Protect Biodiversity and Accelerating Nature-Based Climate Solutions	\$1,191,000,000
Ch. 7 Climate Smart, Sustainable, and Resilient Farms, Ranches, and Working Lands	\$297,750,000
Ch. 8 Park Creation and Outdoor Access	\$694,750,000
Ch. 9 Clean Air	\$843,625,000
Ch. 10 Statewide Bond Costs	\$75,000,000
	\$10,000,000,000

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State Updates – Proposition 4

- California Legislature passed the budget bill containing appropriations from Prop 4 and the Governor signed the bill
- Increased amount of funding for drinking water projects through the State Water Board and the acceleration of \$28 million for groundwater projects



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State Updates – Proposition 4

- Most bond measures include language exempting the distribution of funding from the Administrative Procedures Act, which requires an extensive rulemaking process for many state actions
- The budget bill requires funding distribution go through an emergency rulemaking process, which is still a lengthy process



State Updates – Proposition 4

Proposition 4 grant guidelines must go through the Office of Administrative Law, typically taking 6–12 months.

This delay affects project timelines, such as the State Water Board's \$150 million in water recycling grants.

Funding delays may force agencies to award construction contracts before securing grant funds.

State Updates - Proposition 4

- Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) guidelines now anticipated in FY 2027–2028 due to emergency regulation process. To date, only limited Proposition 4 funding has been released.
- Stormwater or dry-weather runoff capture projects funded by voter-approved bonds after January 2014 (e.g., Proposition 4) must be included in an adopted Storm Water Resource Plan per the 2014 Storm Water Management Planning Act.
- Helpful resources:
 - [Climate Bond Prop 4 - CNRA Bond Accountability](#)
 - [Notice of Proposition 4 Appropriations Approved](#)

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State Updates - Proposition 4

State

- Proposition 4 appropriations; matching items on the bill to the bond
- Working on emergency ruling-making process and how it impacts the programs
- Planning for guidelines and outreach
- Watershed Resilience Program Pilot Projects Completion

Regional

- Explore new state and non-state funding opportunities
- Continue to adapt new program priorities

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SDIRWM Updates – RAC Membership

- Water Conservation (NGO) Seat within the Natural Resources and Watersheds Caucus is open
- San Diego Sustainable Living Institute is no longer an eligible organization based on eligibility requirements in the RAC Charter
 - *RAC Member must represent an agency, non-profit organization, tribe or academia.*
- Following the streamlined RAC structure changes implemented this year, the RWMG is requesting the RAC to solicit a new member

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SDIRWM Updates - RAC Membership

- Sending out a follow-up email to the RAC after the meeting to begin the replacement process
- If any RAC members have any recommendations, please respond directly to that email
- RWMG will then review and approve the selection
- For questions about the process, contact:

Arthella Vallarta
MVallarta@woodardcurran.com

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RAC Desired Attributes



- Has knowledge and experience in water resources management.
- Represents an agency, non-profit organization, tribe, or academia.
- Has the ability and desire to objectively articulate the perspective of his/her RAC seat and caucus at a level beyond that within his/her individual organization.
- Can provide recommendations with the best interests of the entire San Diego IRWM region in mind.

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RAC General Duties

1. Attend meetings consistently
2. Come prepared to meetings
3. Be responsive to requests between meetings
4. Act as a point of contact and disseminate information related to the IRWM Program as appropriate
5. Designate an alternate to attend and participate in RAC meetings as needed
6. Recuse from discussion or voting if personal interest or stake in the outcome

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RAC Conflict of Interest Policy

- The following activities are incompatible with membership on the RAC or Workgroup(s) and so are prohibited:
 - Any activity for private gain.
 - Additional employment that would impair the RAC or Workgroup member's independence of judgment. May not advocate for their entity's project during the project selection process.
 - RAC or Workgroup member must disclose his/her personal interest and fully recuses himself/herself from participating in the project selection process for applicable projects.

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Grant Administration

Loisa Burton, San Diego County Water Authority

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Current Funding Opportunities

Project Types	Timing	Website
SWRCB: Prop 1 Technical Assistance Funding Program	Open: rolling	https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/grants_loans/proposition1/tech_asst_funding.html
USBR: Small Storage Program	Feasibility Studies due February 13, 2026 Applications due April 17, 2026	https://www.usbr.gov/smallstorage/index.html
USBR: Small-Scale Water Efficiency Grants	Under development	https://www.grants.gov/search-results-detail/350845
USBR: WaterSMART Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration Program	Under development	https://www.usbr.gov/watersmart/aquatic/index.html
USBR: WaterSMART Environmental Water Resources Program	Under development	https://www.usbr.gov/watersmart/ewrp/index.html
DWR: Proposition 4 - Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparedness, and Clean Air Bond Act of 2024.	TBD	https://water.ca.gov/News/Public-Notices/2025/Jul-25/Prop-4-Grant-Funding-Update?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery

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U.S. Bureau of Reclamation



— BUREAU OF —
RECLAMATION

■ Small Storage Program

- Purpose: Fund small storage projects that seek to enhance water storage opportunities for future generations.
 - ❖ *Note, the project must have a completed feasibility study that meets the requirements of USBR's Directives and Standards submitted to USBR.*
- Funding: \$43.5 million
- Cost share: 75%
- Status: Applications due on April 17, 2026. Feasibility studies must be submitted by February 13, 2026.

For more information please visit:
<https://www.usbr.gov/smallstorage/index.html>

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— BUREAU OF —
RECLAMATION

■ Small-Scale Water Efficiency Projects

- Purpose: Fund small-scale-on-the-ground projects that seek to conserve, better manage, or otherwise make more efficient use of water supplies.
- Funding: \$120 million
 - ❖ \$100,000 per applicant
- Cost share: 50%
- Status: Round 4 due on July 8, 2025 – *Deadline subject to change due to being under development*

For more information please visit: <https://www.grants.gov/search-results-detail/350845>

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— BUREAU OF —
RECLAMATION

■ WaterSMART Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration Program

- Purpose: Improving the health of fisheries, wildlife, and/or aquatic habitat through habitat restoration and/or improved fish passage via the removal of barriers.
- Funding: \$95 million
 - ❖ Task A: Study and Design – \$500,000 to \$2 million per project
 - ❖ Task B: Construction – \$3 million per project
 - ❖ Cost share: 35%
- Status:
 - ❖ Round 2 Due: February 17, 2026 – *Deadline subject to change due to being under development*

For more information please visit:
<https://www.usbr.gov/watersmart/aquatic/index.html>

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— BUREAU OF —
RECLAMATION

- WaterSMART Environmental Water Resources Program
 - Purpose: Provide ecological benefits and/or improve watershed health with a nexus to water resources.
 - Funding: \$95 million
 - ❖ Up to \$3 million per project
 - ❖ Cost share: 25%
 - Status Round 2 due on March 11, 2025 – *Deadline subject to change due to being under development*

For more information please visit:
<https://www.usbr.gov/watersmart/ewrp/index.html>

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Public Comments

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2026 RAC Meeting Schedule

- 2026 Meeting Schedule (*Tentative*):
 - March TBD
 - May 6
 - August 5
 - November 5

RAC meetings will be quarterly, and meetings will alternate between virtual and in-person meetings.

If your agency is interested in hosting a future RAC meeting, please email SDIRWM@woodardcurran.com for more information.

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