



## **Regional Advisory Committee**

### **Meeting #25 Notes**

February 3, 2010, 9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

San Diego County Water Authority

4677 Overland Avenue, San Diego, CA 92123

## **Attendance**

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### **RAC Members**

Kathleen Flannery, County of San Diego (chair)  
Barry Lindgren, San Elijo Lagoon Conservancy  
Bill Hunter, Santa Fe Irrigation District  
Charlotte Pienkos, The Nature Conservancy  
Craig Adams, San Dieguito River Valley Conservancy  
Dave Harvey, Rural Communities Assistance Corporation  
Eric Larson, Farm Bureau San Diego County  
Gabriel Solmer, San Diego CoastKeeper  
George Loveland, San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board  
Iovanka Todt, Floodplain Management Association  
Jeremy Jungreis, United States Marine Corps  
Jim Smyth, Sweetwater Authority  
Judy Mitchell, Mission Resources Conservation District  
Ken Weinberg, San Diego County Water Authority  
Kirk Ammerman, City of Chula Vista  
Linda Flournoy, Planning and Engineering for Sustainability  
Linden Burzell, Yuima Municipal Water District  
Lisa Gover, Campo Kumeyaay Nation  
Lisa Skutecki, Industrial Environmental Association  
Lori Vereker, City of Escondido  
Mark Weston, Helix Water District  
Marsi Steirer, City of San Diego  
Mike Thornton, San Elijo Joint Powers Authority  
Neal Brown, Padre Dam Municipal Water District  
Rob Hutsel, San Diego River Park Foundation

### **Non-Voting Members**

Jack Simes, United States Bureau of Reclamation  
Laurie Walsh, San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board  
Marilyn Thoms, Tri-County FACC – South Orange County IRWM  
Perry Louck, Tri-County FACC – Upper Santa Margarita IRWM

### **RWMG Staff**

Cathy Pieroni, City of San Diego  
Jeffery Pasek, City of San Diego  
John Van Rhyn, County of San Diego

Mark Stadler, San Diego County Water Authority  
Sheri McPherson, County of San Diego  
Toby Roy, San Diego County Water Authority

**Interested Parties to the RAC**

Anna Aljabiry, California Department of Water Resources  
Brian Moniz, California Department of Water Resources  
Candis Compton, County of San Diego  
Dana Chapin, City of San Diego  
Daniel Cozad, IPM  
David Wren  
Don Thomson, Sweetwater Authority  
Eduardo Pech, California Department of Water Resources  
Elisa Marrone, City of Escondido  
Fabiola Amarillas, City of San Diego  
Heather Parkison, RMC Water and Environment  
Jane Davies, Sweetwater Authority  
Jennifer Kovecses  
Kelly Craig, Zoological Society of San Diego  
Laura Carpenter, Brown & Caldwell  
Maria Mariscal, San Diego County Water Authority  
Marty Leavitt, RCD of Greater San Diego County  
Peter Fogec  
Richard Walker, City of Escondido  
Robert Pierce, San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board  
Robyn Badger, Zoological Society of San Diego  
Rosalyn Stewart, RMC Water and Environment  
Tom West, RMC Water and Environment  
Wally Grabbe, Valley Center Municipal Water District  
Warren Bacon, County of San Diego AWM

**Introductions**

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Ms. Kathleen Flannery (chair), County of San Diego, welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced the RAC's newest member, Gabriel Solmer of San Diego CoastKeeper. Introductions were made around the room.

**San Diego IRWM Updates**

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**DWR Update**

Anna Aljabiry, California Department of Water Resources (DWR), explained that due to the State's cash flow issues, DWR is considering separating the Proposition 1E and Proposition 84 Proposal Solicitation Packages (PSPs) in order to release one sooner. Ms Aljabiry explained that the Local Groundwater Assistance PSP is currently under revision internally. DWR estimates release of the draft Proposition 84 Planning and Implementation PSP on February 18th. DWR has also developed an IRWM brief regarding the Regional Acceptance and Prop 84 processes.

### **Proposition 50 Update**

Mr. Mark Stadler, San Diego County Water Authority (SDCWA), announced that the Local Project Sponsors (LPS) must finalize contracts with SDCWA before invoices can be submitted for Proposition 50 grant funds, and all contracts but one have been distributed for signatures. Mr. Stadler also explained that a workshop for contracting and invoicing questions was held on January 5th, to facilitate the first round of invoicing and reporting due on January 19th. The San Diego IRWM grant contract is now 3% complete.

Ms. Rosalyn Stewart, RMC Water and Environment, discussed the Project Assessment and Evaluation Plans (PAEPs) that are due at the initiation of all grant-funded projects. The goal of the PAEPs is to measure each project's success in achieving IRWM Plan goals and grant requirements. Ms. Stewart explained that a PAEP template has been developed for LPS use.

### **Proposition 84 Update**

Ms. Rosalyn Stewart explained DWR's current schedule regarding Proposition 84. The Draft Guidelines/PSP should be released in February 2010, followed by a 30 day public review period. After the review period, there will be 45-60 days for DWR revisions, followed by release of the Final Guidelines/PSP in mid to late May 2010. Upon this release, there will be a 45-60 day application period, which are due in late July 2010.

### **San Diego Regional Board's Vision – Dave Gibson, Executive Officer**

Mr. Dave Gibson, Executive Officer of the San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Board), explained that the goal of the Regional Board is "attainment and protection of beneficial uses in local waters." Mr. Gibson went on to outline his goals as Executive Officer:

1. Understand and improve local water quality.
2. Improve local biological integrity.
3. Engage stakeholders in Regional Board decisions.
4. Create a performance-based management system.

In discussing these items, Mr. Gibson identified several actions he plans to take, as well as some areas of concern. His presentation included the following actions:

- Create a Monitoring Assessment and Research Unit to develop decision data. The Regional Board needs to have monitoring data available for reference when making permit decisions and implementing Basin Plan actions.
- Update the Basin Plan, noting that it has not been effectively updated since 1997 and needs to be updated in consideration of *Arcadia 2* decision.
- Institute a stakeholder working body called the Triennial Review Advisory Panel (TRAP) to help Regional Board staff review and prioritize Basin Plan issues. The TRAP will work with stakeholders to implement these actions.
- Develop measures and assessment tools for biological responses to water quality. Mr. Gibson noted that the State Water Resource Control Board plans to pursue the development of biological objectives as part of the Basin Plan updates. He noted the Region needs to update the Basin Plan's WARM and COLD objectives. The development of the biological objectives can build on the 10 years of bioassessment index of biological integrity data and work that SCCWRP (Southern California Coastal

Water Research Project) will be conducting on the development of periphyton index of biological integrity.

- Create a performance-based management system (Tier 4 measures) organized around water quality objectives, using the Monitoring Assessment and Research Unit to regularly assess stream conditions. (Regions 3 and 5 are using a similar approach)
- Revise the Basin Plan water quality objectives for drinking water reservoirs which store imported water, namely from the Colorado River. He suggested several ways to accomplish this:
  - Amendments to the Basin Plan objectives
  - Policy direction to Regional Board staff on how to interpret Basin Plan objectives for drinking water reservoirs
- Declare his and the Regional Board's support for recycled water/ indirect potable reuse. "We would rather recycle our water locally than import recycled water!"
- Encourage MS4 agencies to share in the prioritization of the 303(d) list for the development and implementation of TMDLs (Total Maximum Daily Loads) through the WURMPs (Watershed Urban Runoff Management Plans). He supports engaging the Co-Permittees, using a progressive approach so all stakeholders know what's being implemented. Mr. Gibson is willing to consider "off-ramps" to TMDLs if other solutions are equally effective.
- Review the criteria for 303(d) de-listing which is far more burdensome than the listing criteria. Mr. Gibson acknowledged that some old listings are based on "bad" science, and would like to engage the Monitoring Assessment and Research Unit so "good" science can take precedence before the Regional Board embarks on developing TMDLs where no impairment exist.
- Future NPDES (National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System) permits should expect to see a performance-based approach. The Riverside and San Diego permit updates should reflect new regulations in the Orange County MS4 permit. Revising/aligning the permit language will allow for efficiency.
- Commitment to bringing the Shipyards Sediment Cleanup & Abatement Order to the Regional Board Members as soon as possible, following CEQA (California Environmental Quality Act).
- Continue encouraging the collaborative approach to restoration of the Tijuana River Valley. Board staff are currently developing TMDLs for sediment and trash. These TMDLs will assign the Load Allocations to the U.S. Federal government. The Federal Government is currently proceeding with the implementation of BMPs (Best Management Practices) for both sediment and trash.
- Near-term goal to effectively regulate Phase 2 facilities, such as university campuses, naval bases, and other large users, none of which are currently under permit.
- Pursue development of a water quality data and information system as an information tool for Regional Board. Mr. Gibson recognized that DWR and SWRCB have several databases. However, the Regional Board is currently supporting San Diego River Park Foundation (SDRPF) in development of an EcoLayers database. He would like to use EcoLayers for dissemination of the San Diego region's water quality data.

- Emphasize the need for working together offering the suggestions of collaboration on monitoring and assessment, joint communication/outreach, and addressing the science behind water quality objectives such as the nitrogen/phosphorus objectives.

### **Questions and Answers**

- Mr. Jeff Pasek, City of San Diego, agreed that water quality objectives need to be updated for drinking water reservoirs. He noted that the biological context must be considered and modeled for decision making.
- Mr. Mark Weston, Helix Water District, voiced that water agencies want to work with the Regional Board on water quality improvement. He stressed that he supports the Regional Board's position in favor of recycled water/ indirect potable reuse.
- Mr. Weston expressed frustration that water quality objectives are locked in concrete, without regard to existing or imported water quality. He encouraged Mr. Gibson to be strong in review/update of the Basin Plan.
  - Mr. Gibson stated that he is considering tiering water quality objectives based on location/reach. For instance, "tiered aquatic life objectives" will consider that there are different species located in headwaters vs. alluvial floodplains.
- Mr. Kirk Ammerman, City of Chula Vista, expressed frustration that the Regional Board staff does not seem responsive.
  - Mr. Gibson announced that he and his staff can all be contacted for progress updates or with concerns.
- Mr. Jeremy Jungreis, United States Marine Corps, asked how the Regional Board will prioritize development of Salt/Nutrient Management Plans in the region? What outcomes or objectives are expected of the Salt/Nutrient Management Plans? What will be required of stakeholders?
  - Mr. Gibson responded that he is open to stakeholder input on these questions, but the plan is to start with large groundwater basins used for municipal supply. He suggested starting with the Santa Margarita River groundwater basin.
  - Mr. Gibson also mentioned that funding for the Salt/Nutrient Management Plans will be limited, so the Regional Board will need to collaborate with agencies on their development.
- Ms. Linda Flournoy, Planning and Engineering for Sustainability, voiced her support for biological integrity and performance-based measurements. She also hopes that the Regional Board will focus on non-point source management, and that the Regional Board will place a sustainability representative on the TRAP.
- Mr. Rob Hutsel, San Diego River Park Foundation, asked how the Regional Board will address a mitigation policy to 'right the wrongs' caused by re-engineering of waterways. Is there a strategic plan?
  - Mr. Gibson answered that at a minimum, the 'no net loss of wetlands' policy will be in effect (at least 1:1 mitigation). However, the Regional Board has found that some mitigation sites are not successful and there is a great need to implement projects that achieve functional benefits.

- Mr. Gibson would like to establish performance measures using the CRAM evaluation for streams as part of the requirements in Clean Water Act Section 401 certifications. Mr. Gibson declared that he can foresee no circumstance in which he will sign a 401 certification for concrete in streams, and furthermore stated that rip rap should support vegetation.
- Mr. Mark Weston, Helix Water District, asked about the letters being distributed to General Managers of drinking water reservoirs – what will the data be used for?
  - Mr. Gibson responded that he is requesting water quality data on reservoirs in order to understand existing conditions, and then revise the water quality objectives addressing imported storage reservoirs. He is not issuing an Investigative Order 13267; this is a request to improve the Regional Board’s understanding of the situation. He is considering a workshop at SDCWA to facilitate this data collection.
- Ms. Maria Mariscal, San Diego County Water Authority, thanked Mr. Gibson for offering his staff collaboration regarding Salt/Nutrient Management Planning.

### **Breakout Sessions**

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The RAC members and interested parties were divided into three breakout groups and invited to engage in small group discussions. Those discussions were focused on how the IRWM program and the Regional Board can potentially collaborate in the future.

The following is a summarized and compiled list of the three breakout sessions. For the individual recorded notes from each group, please see Attachment A.

*A. What are the topics of mutual interest that the Regional Board and IRWM program may collaborate on?*

- Basin Planning –
  - Water Quality Objectives – IRWMP can inform and fortify, build in flexibility for changing objectives (process), balanced prioritization, address competing uses and discrepancies. Specifically address TDS (total dissolved solids) in recycled water, salt/nutrient management efforts.
    - Tiered Aquatic Life Objectives – How can we support/prioritize, especially with regard to projects? Transparency in efforts/coordinate integrated nature of impacts.
    - Performance-Based Standards – Risk becoming just “new standards” if not supported by other parts of process/policy.
  - 303(d) Listing – Including prioritization and development of TMDLs.
  - IRWMP Participation – Should be included in Basin Plan dialogue through RAC, as well as IRWMP representation on the TRAP.
- Monitoring and Assessment –
  - Data Sharing – Better coordination and use of monitoring data (e.g., SDRPF, Regional Board, UCSD project: SD Bay). Develop a consistent and standardized approach to data collection.
    - Great opportunity to work with Tri-County FACC.
  - Realistic Data Needs/Reporting – IRWMP to weigh in on region’s data needs.

- Regional Data Link/Portal – Potential regional project, pooling of monitoring resources.
- Cost Sharing of Regional Costs – Monitoring and compliance. For example: a grower next to large homeowner who landscapes.
- IPR (Indirect Potable Reuse) – Increases local water supplies, has water quality benefits.
  - Conflicting regulations (CDPH and RWQCB) create costly hurdles to system expansion.
- Recycled Water – Including new salt/nutrient management initiative.
- Funding – IRWMP has grant funding, some of it may be applied to projects in line with the Regional Board's goals.
- Mitigation/MSCP (Multiple Species Conservation Program) Coordination – Need to streamline regulatory/ permitting processes, conflicting mandates.
- Prioritizing Regional Board's Strategic Plan – Focus on coastal to date, then expand to watershed/ region.
- Joint Stakeholder Outreach – Topics: indirect potable reuse, water quality improvement, academic and research funding.
- Land Use Planning – Neither IRWMP nor Regional Board have jurisdiction, up front integration of water issues, coordination with SANDAG and land use planners.
- Interface Between Water Supply and Water Quality – Large projects, water quality and water rights, especially with regard to stormwater.
- Landscapes and LID (Low Impact Development) – Coordinate with agencies and NGO's to get water into the ground, integrated nature.
- CALTRANS transportation corridors as a method of transporting/using recycled water.
- Cost-Benefit of Multi-Disciplinary Projects – Impact on project decision-making.



*B. What is the role of the IRWM program in the implementation of the Regional Board's priorities/recommendations?*

- IRWMP should be actively engaged in providing comments/input to Regional Board.
  - Improve/maximize inter-group interaction – networking, information sharing, and funding. Transparency! Include sharing across Region into more rural areas of San Diego County.

- Educate Regional Board – On impacts on end users (cost/benefit, including qualitative integrated impacts). Share information with Regional Board on water supply planning as opposed to project by project.
- Representation on TRAP and other Regional Board advisory panels.
- IRWMP is good at stakeholder outreach and Regional Board could leverage that asset.
- Integrate Regional Board goals into IRWMP goals and objectives, including funding for monitoring. Demonstrate how IRWMP outcomes contribute to tangible increases in water quality.
- Provide tools for Regional Board to prepare permits, including shared data and maps.

### **Legislative Initiative**

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Ms. Cathy Pieroni, City of San Diego, explained that the City of San Diego and the Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA) are sponsoring a bill that will establish factors for man-made drinking source water reservoirs in SWRCB's 303(d) Listing Policy and RWQCB's Water Quality Objectives. The bill will also mandate a White Paper prepared by the San Diego RWQCB and IRWM program to identify ways in which IRWM programs can inform and fortify Basin Planning efforts. The study, to be completed by June of 2012, should be considered for Statewide application.

### **Questions and Answers**

- Mr. Rob Hutsel, San Diego River Park Foundation, suggested there be a minimum size requirement (acre-feet or connections) for impounded water bodies, aside from the stipulation that it be used for municipal water supply. This is intended to prevent rural property-owners from avoiding surface water quality protections on small ponds.

### **Next RAC Meeting**

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Our next RAC meeting will be held on Wednesday April 7, 2010 from 9:00am to 11:30am at SDCWA's Board Room.

## ATTACHMENT A

### **Recorded Notes from Breakout Sessions**

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A. *What are the topics of mutual interest that the Regional Board and IRWM program may collaborate on?*

1. Group One (Cathy Pieroni)

- IPR – Increases local water supplies, has water quality benefits too.
- Data Coordination – SD River Park Foundation, Regional Board, consistent and standardized approach to data collection, UCSD project: SD Bay, great opportunity to work with Tri-County FACC.
- Funding – SD IRWM has money, maybe some of it can be applied to projects in line with the Regional Board's goals.
- Mitigation/MSCP Coordination – Stormwater looked at streamlining regulatory/permitting processes, conflicting mandates.
- Prioritizing Regional Board's Strategic Plan – Focus on coastal to date, then expand to watershed/ region.
- Stakeholder Outreach – Academic, research funding, land-use.
- Basin Plan Objectives – Inform and fortify, build in flexibility for changing objectives (process), 303(d) listing (process), balanced prioritization.
- Land Use Planning – Neither IRWMP nor Regional Board have jurisdiction, up front integration of water issues, coordination with SANDAG.

2. Group Two (Jon VanRhyn)

- Water Quality – Engage in dialogue on the hurdles, especially in regards to recycled water.
- CALTRANS as Corridors – example for Purple Pipe extension.
- Data Sets – Better coordination and use.
- Interface Water Supply and Water Quality – Large projects, water quality and water rights, especially with regard to stormwater.
- Landscapes and LID – Coordinate with agencies and NGO's to get water into the ground, integrated nature.
- Cost-Benefit of Multi-Disciplinary Projects – Impact on project decision making to allow for cost effective project implementation.
- 303(d) – Prioritization and development of TMDLs, including processes and policies.
- Outcome/Performance-Based – Risk becoming just “new standards” if not supported by other parts of process/policy.
- Standards and Competing Uses and Discrepancies – For example region or watershed.
- Use Attainability Analyses – How can we support/prioritize, especially with regard to projects?
  - Transparency in efforts/coordinate integrated nature of impacts.

- Era of Restricted Resources – Therefore more interactive. What are priorities we can help with on an ongoing basis?
3. Group Three (Mark Stadler)
- Basin Plan Amendments
    - Objectives: TDS – recycled water, salt/nutrient management, IRWMP project list link/Plan goals.
    - Be included in Basin Plan dialogue through RAC.
  - Monitoring and Assessment
    - Data Sharing – existing, monitoring
    - Public Participation
    - Realistic Data Needs/Reporting
    - Region Data Link/Portal
    - Pooling of monitoring resources, cohesive program, BITE program
  - Joint Communications Outreach – For example: Indirect Potable Reuse, public outreach on water quality.
  - Recycled Water
  - Cost Sharing of Regional Costs – Monitoring and compliance; everyone in county. For example: a grower next to large homeowner who landscapes.
- B. *What is the role of the IRWM Program in the implementation of the Regional Board's priorities/recommendations?*
1. Group One (Cathy Pieroni)
- IRWMP is actively engaged in providing comments/input to Regional Board.
    - Work together upfront
    - Integrate Regional Board goals into IRWMP goals and objectives, including funding for monitoring/standardize.
    - IRWM program is good at stakeholder outreach and the Regional Board could leverage that asset.
2. Group Two (Jon VanRhyn)
- Cost/Benefit – Including qualitative integrated impacts.
  - DWR, State Water Quality Control Board, and others – Increase regulatory interaction, more groups, more stakeholders. Improve/maximize inter-group function – networking, information sharing, funding. Transparency!
  - IRWMP outcomes and their measures – To get real, short term, tangible improvements in water quality.
3. Group Three (Mark Stadler)
- Educate Regional Board – On impacts on end users, resistance, share information with Regional Board on water supply planning as opposed to project by project.
  - Provide tools for Regional Board to prepare permits – Maps.
  - Sharing across Regional Board areas to more rural areas of San Diego County.