



Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) Meeting #103

October 4, 2023
9:00 am – 11:30 am

Hybrid Meeting

NOTES

Attendance

RAC Members

Richard Whipple (Chair), County of San Diego
Alisa Nichols for Karren Jassoy, City of Poway
Anne Bamford, American Water Works Association
Brook Sarson, San Diego Sustainable Living Institute
David Walker, San Diego Audubon Society
Charlie de la Rosa and Kelly Craig, San Diego Zoo Global
Erica Wolski, Ramona MWD
Eylon Shamir, Hydrologic Research Center
Joey Randall for Kim Thorner, Olivenhain Municipal Water District
Julia Chunn-Heer, Surfrider Foundation
Kimberly O’Connell and Amanda Loeper, UCSD Clean Water Utility
Marissa Potter, Santa Fe Irrigation District
Mark Seits, Floodplain Management Association
Michelle Berens and Brian Olney, Helix Water District
Oscar Romo, Alter Terra
Patrick McDonough, San Diego CoastKeeper
Rob Hutsel, San Diego River Park Foundation
Tim Murphy for Justin Gamble, City of Carlsbad
Toby Roy, RCAC
Wayne Rosenbaum, Building Industry Association

RWMG Staff and Consultants

Andrew Funk, Woodard & Curran
Ariel O’Callaghan, Woodard & Curran
Arthella Vallarta, Woodard & Curran
Aydel Zielke, County of San Diego
Bill Luksic, San Diego County Water Authority
Chelsea McGimpsey, County of San Diego
Elizabeth Lovsted, San Diego County Water Authority
Ernesto Rios, City of San Diego
Gail Patton, San Diego County Water Authority
Jessica Cleaver, San Diego County Water Authority
Joy Newman, City of San Diego
Loisa Burton, San Diego County Water Authority

Sally Johnson, Woodard & Curran
Staci Domasco, City of San Diego

Interested Parties to the RAC

Alex Tardy, Public
Alexi Schnell, San Diego County Water Authority
Cassandra Smith, City of San Diego
Christine Tolchin, County of San Diego
Elise Ruiz, County of San Diego
Joel San Juan, Public
Kelly Brown, Building Industry Association
Laurie Broedling, San Diego Green Infrastructure Consortium
Mariah Mills, City of San Diego
Mark Stephens, Public
Megan Otto, Geosyntec
Mia Gil, Viejas Tribal Government
Shana Tighi, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
Soleil Develle, Fallbrook Public Utility District
Stephanie Gaines, County of San Diego
Stephanie Zinn, Geosyntec
Tony Endress, San Diego Green Infrastructure Consortium
Vicki Estrada, San Diego Green Infrastructure Consortium
Wendell Taper, SDRC

Welcome, Introductions, & Land Acknowledgement

Mr. Richard Whipple, County of San Diego (County), welcomed everyone to the hybrid RAC meeting. Ms. Sally Johnson, Woodard & Curran, reviewed the in-person and virtual meeting process, including how to use the virtual controls and chat feature. Meeting participants were encouraged to enter their name and organization into the chat for roll call and to update their name on Zoom.

Mr. Whipple read the Tribal Land Acknowledgment to the group, which was written to be delivered in a hybrid setting:

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 acknowledgment is a critical step toward working with native communities to secure meaningful partnership and inclusion in the stewardship and protection of their cultural resources and homelands. We respect these ancestral grounds where we are collectively gathered and support the resilience and strength that Indigenous people have shown worldwide.

Mr. Whipple also announced that the 2024 SDIRWM Summit will be held on February 29, 2024 at Balboa Park and encouraged attendees to save the date. More details about the Summit will follow.

Program Completion Report – Proposition 84, Round 3

Ms. Loisa Burton, San Diego County Water Authority (SDCWA), presented on the program completion report for Proposition 84, Round 3. Proposition 84 was also known as the Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control River and Coastal Protection Bond Act of 2006, and it was passed by California voters in November 2006. Its purpose was to assist in financing statewide projects that help deliver safe drinking water,

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protect water quality, and the environment. In total, Proposition 84 was a \$5.8 billion bond with \$1 billion allocated for IRWM. Approximately \$900 million was provided for regional planning and implementation and \$100 million for the Department of Water Resources' (DWR) administration of the program.

Proposition 84 for IRWM was divided into four implementation rounds and one planning round. Proposition 84, Round 3 was implemented in response to Governor Jerry Brown's proclamation of Drought State Emergency on January 17, 2014. In March 2014, Governor Brown signed legislation to assist drought-affected communities and provide funding to better use local water supplies via Senate Bills 103 and 104. Proposition 84, Round 3 for SDIRWM Program was awarded \$15.1 million in grant funding, which funded seven projects in the region. The seven projects were sponsored by water agencies, cities, non-profit organizations, and utility districts. Total project costs for all seven projects were approximately \$54.2 million and took eight years to implement.

The seven projects developed approximately 8,810 acre-feet per year (AFY) of local water supply. The projects addressed immediate regional response to the drought, which included; drought preparedness, water supply reliability and delivery of safe drinking water, and water quality or ecosystem conflicts. Additional benefits were reduction of imported water supplies, reduced demand on Bay-Delta, reduced greenhouse gases (GHGs) and related social costs of GHGs, reduced water costs to customers, reduced discharged to outfall and increase available capacity, and increased local treatment capacity of for recycled water.

The Reynolds Groundwater Desalination Facility Expansion Project, sponsored by Sweetwater Authority, expanded potable water production at Sweetwater Authority's Reynolds Facility through installation of additional extraction wells, conveyance pipelines, and expanded treatment capacity. The Project increased production at the Reynolds Facility by 5,200 AFY.

The Fallbrook Plant Nurseries Recycled Water Distribution System Expansion, sponsored by Fallbrook Public Utility District and in partnership with Mission Resource Conservation District and San Diego County Farm Bureau, extended recycled water to four nurseries. This project also provided public outreach and recycled water site training to project partners and stakeholders. The project delivered about 100 AFY of recycled water to the four nurseries.

The Carlsbad Recycled Water Plant and Distribution System Expansion, sponsored by the City of Carlsbad, expanded Carlsbad Municipal Water District's existing water reclamation facility by two million gallons per day. This project delivered 274 AFY of recycled water by constructing pipelines and completing customer retrofits. In partnership with Olivenhain Municipal Water District, the City of Carlsbad conducted outreach efforts to water customers, focusing on turf management using recycled water.

The Regional Demand Management Program Expansion, sponsored by SDCWA, installed approximately 290 detention facility plumbing retrofits, implemented turf rebates, and conducted landscape workshops, which conserved about 152.5 AFY of water.

The San Diego Water Use Reduction Program, sponsored by the City of San Diego, involved the implementation of two pilot programs: a Pressure Reducing Incentive Program (PRIP) and Recycled Water Filling Station (RWFS). The PRIP pilot program reduced high water pressure, ensured the operation of water efficient devices, and reduced water lost from leaks and pipe ruptures. The RWFS assessed the feasibility of a full-scale residential and commercial recycled water filling station. The project conserved about 23 AFY of potable water.

The Rincon Customer-Driven Demand Management Program, sponsored by Rincon Municipal Water District, provided WaterSMART technology for customers to see real-time water consumption data, resulting in 94 AFY of water savings. In total, 29,000 leak detections were reported as a result of the program.

The Regional Emergency Storage and Conveyance Intertie Optimization, sponsored by the City of San Diego, purchased and installed a mobile aeration unit to assist in controlling algal productivity in Hodges Reservoir.

This project improved water quality and increased drinking water supplies up to 3,000 AFY. Improving water quality in Hodges Reservoir also addressed mercury in fish, which benefited the surrounding wildlife.

Grant administration disbursed \$15.1 million in grant funding to the local project sponsors and ensured grant agreement compliance. Grant administration processed and submitted 76 individual project invoices, 169 project progress reports, 250 deliverables, five grant funding agreement amendments, and 12 local project sponsors agreement amendments. The total costs of grant administration was \$513,834, which was funded by the grant and local project sponsors.

Implementation challenges included administration, project-related, and funding challenges. Staffing changes slowed down the progress of the grants. Construction costs were much higher than expected, which reduced the scope and benefits of projects. DWR and local project sponsor coordination was important to avoid reimbursement delays. Project oversight and familiarity with grant agreements were also important to ensure compliance with the state.

Questions/Comments

None.

Drought Resiliency Project

Ms. Aydel Zielke, the County, presented updates on the Drought Resiliency Project. The Drought Resiliency Project was a pilot effort to develop a competitive regional project for non-IRWM funding. The Drought Resiliency Workgroup (Workgroup) identified concepts, needs, and opportunities and solicited input from the RAC. After input from the RAC, the Workgroup refined and developed a final project concept. The final project concept was the Water Use Efficiency Incentive Project, which includes incentives to reduce financial barriers for underrepresented communities. It also includes an indoor and outdoor incentives program and a community development program. A resource database was also included as an optional task depending on the project sponsor's ability to implement it.

The consultant team developed a Regional Drought Resiliency Project Technical Memorandum (TM) that summarizes the Water Use Efficiency Project. The Drought Resiliency Project TM was released for public review on August 16 and closed on September 16, 2023. Only three minor comments were received regarding the final prioritization criteria and the addition of project concepts in Appendix A. The final TM will be available on the SDIRWM website and will be distributed via email in October.

Questions/Comments

None.

Colorado River Updates

Ms. Shana Tighi, United States Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) presented updates on the Colorado River. Reclamation's Colorado River Mid-Month Modeling System (CRMMS) modeled projections of Lake Powell and Lake Mead for September 2022. CRMMS can be run in a deterministic mode, which is called the 24-Month Study, and a probabilistic mode which is called CRMMS-ESP, after the Colorado Basin River Forecast Center's ensemble streamflow prediction system used to generate the inflow ensemble. Lake Powell and Lake Mead's elevation projections were anticipated to be low. Lake Powell's minimum power pool is at an elevation of 3,490 feet, and there were a number of traces that projected Lake Powell to fall below the minimum power pool during 2023. Lake Mead's projections were not as dire as compared to Lake Powell's. Lake Mead's minimum power pool is at an elevation of 950 feet.

For Water Year (WY) 2023, snow water equivalent (SWE) peaked at 161% of the peak seasonal median on April 7, 2023, and cumulative WY 2023 precipitation was at 113% of average at the Colorado River Basin above

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Lake Powell. In the Salt Verde River Basin, SWRP peaked at 246% of the seasonal median on March 3, 2023 and cumulative WY 2023 precipitation was at 132% of average. These wet conditions had significant impacts on operations. For example, at Lake Powell, the annual release volume had initially been set to 7 million acre-feet (AF). In April 2023, the Secretary determined that there was sufficient inflow to warrant a shift to balance releases so that Lake Mead and Lake Powell were equal at the end of the 2023 WY.

In March through June, which is the runoff season for the Virgin River Basin and other smaller basins above Lake Mead, the inflows were above average. Due to high inflows in the Salt River Project, flood control releases were initiated. The water made it all the way down Painted Rock Dam on the Gila River. Consequently, the U.S. Army Corps had to initiate flood control releases out of the Painted Rock Dam. Most of the water seeped into the ground before it reached the confluence with the Colorado River down in Yuma, but the United States Geological Survey measured about 87,000 AF at the Gila River Dome gage, which represents the volume that arrived at the confluence and was used to meet delivery requirements to Mexico. In addition, there was a lot of inflow into another U.S. Army Corps reservoir in Central Arizona called Alamo. The U.S. Army Corps initiated high releases at Alamo into the Bill Williams River, which flows directly into Lake Havasu to drop the pool elevation. Reclamation estimated that 108,000 AF reached Lake Havasu. In total, approximately 200,000 AF of additional flows arrived at the Colorado River in 2023, which would be used to meet water deliveries rather than releasing water out of Lake Mead. However, this does not consider the conservation projects that many water districts have been implementing.

Lake Powell was projected to end Calendar Year (CY) 2023 at an elevation of 3,568.57 feet, which places Lake Powell in the Mid Elevation Release Tier for Water Year (WY) 2024, with an annual release of 7.48 million AF. Lake Mead was projected to end CY 2023 at an elevation of 1,065.27 feet. With this projection, the Lower Basin will operate in a shortage condition under Section 2.D.1a of the 2007 Interim Guidelines during CY 2024.

Shortage reductions and contributions presented today have been updated to highlight the level of shortage reductions as well as contributions under the Drought Contingency Plan (DCP) and Binational Water Scarcity Plan that will be in place for 2024. Shortage reductions in Arizona, Nevada, and Mexico totals 383,000 AF, which is under the 2007 Interim Guidelines and Minute 323. Additionally, there are DCP and Binational Water Scarcity Contingency Plan savings of 230,000 AF. This results in a total reduction and contribution volume of 613,000 in CY 2024, which is equivalent to about 7 feet in Lake Mead at current elevations.

In September of 2023 Reclamation is no longer projecting Lake Powell to fall below minimum power pool for the next 2 years. Lake Mead conditions have also improved, with over 20 feet in elevation gains over the past year. Despite the improvement in conditions this year, there are a range of projections out to 2025 that show that Lake Mead could return to lower elevations. One wet year does not make up for many dry years. In summary, wet conditions in the Upper and Lower Colorado River Basins in WY 2023 improved reservoir conditions. Lake Powell will operate WY 2024 in the Mid-Elevation Release Tier with an annual release of 7.48 million AF. Lake Mead will operate CY 2024 in a Level 1 Shortage Condition with water savings contributions under the Lower Basin DCP.

Ms. Alexi Schnell, SDCWA, presented Colorado River updates as it relates to Southern California water agencies. In June 2022, Reclamation Commission Camille Touton called for additional 2-4 million AF of water conservation annually through 2026. Southern California water agencies developed the California Plan to conserve up to 1.6 million AF of water over four years. With no Basin-wide plan, Reclamation began a study to revise the current set of guidelines for river management called the 2007 Interim Guidelines. Additionally, the Supplemental Environmental Impact (SEIS) looked at alternatives to include reductions.

The Lower Basin states, which include Arizona, California, and Nevada, reached an agreement on a consensus-based, conservation-focused proposal for near-term actions through 2026. This agreement includes voluntary conservation of 3 million AF by the end of CY 2026 and at least 1.5 million AF will have to be met by the end of CY 2024. California will contribute 1.2 million AF in total for 2024-2026, and 2.3 million AF to be funded

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through the Inflation Reduction Act. This agreement was submitted to Reclamation on May 22, 2023 as a proposed alternative for the Draft SEIS, and Reclamation is incorporating the Lower Basin Plan into the updated Draft SEIS as an alternative.

Reclamation has begun a long-term planning effort to develop the post-2026 guidelines for river operations. Public comment letters on developing the new guidelines were submitted this summer, and both the Lower Basin states and the entire Basin submitted consensus-based letters, which focused on having a transparent process and allowing for flexibility. SDCWA is engaging in the development of the Post-26 guidelines in a collaborative effort through the Colorado River Board of California. Reclamation is expected to release Draft EIS by end of 2024.

In the San Diego region, over half of the region's water comes from Colorado River supplies under the landmark 2003 Quantification Settlement Agreement (QSA). The QSA assures the San Diego region has a reliable supply while protecting agriculture. QSA supplies include 200,000 AF of water annually under the nation's largest agriculture-to-urban water transfer and 77,700 AF annually through lining portions of two canals that move river water into California. The QSA supplies are tied to high priority rights under the Law of the River.

In addition, the primary goal of the QSA was to reduce the state's overdependence on surplus river supplies. Since 2003, the state has lived within its 4.4 million AF apportionment. The QSA provides funding for the Imperial Valley to implement conservation in a way that protects agriculture, addresses the environment, and serves as a model for voluntary conservation.

Questions/Comments

- How does Reclamation incorporate El Nino into their projects?
 - El Nino has a strong correlation with lower basin hydrology. The Lower Basin could experience a wet winter and that impacts the Colorado River system because there are agricultural users, so Reclamation will not need to divert as much water. Compared to the Lower Basin, the Upper Basin does not have a strong correlation with El Nino. There is uncertainty, but Reclamation is not expecting a huge impact to the Upper Basin.
- Do the shortage release plans incorporate the new agreement?
 - The Basin states made a new proposal, so Reclamation withdrew the first draft. The new draft was published, so that is the proposal. This is not currently part of the standard operation, but the majority of the proposal is based on the ongoing conservation programs. The Interior published a request for proposals for conservation programs in the Lower Basin, and many of the agreements have not been executed. Those that have not been executed are not included.
- How will the region's supplies be impacted by the voluntary reduction?
 - According to the 2007 Guidelines, California does not face reductions. For this voluntary proposal, water agencies will develop plans for their voluntary conservation. This is all voluntary, and this region's water will not be affected.
 - Will SDCWA not be making voluntary reductions in the immediate term?
 - SDCWA uses supplies conscientiously and encourages our member agencies and customers to conserve. There is nothing in place right now, but the proposal is being reviewed.
- Can you give any details of where the proposed California conservation will come from?
 - There are discussions about where conservation could come from, but SDCWA member agencies are not yet involved. Reminder, none of the region's supplies will be reduced since it is a voluntary reduction. The region's supplies will only be reduced if the situation is dire.
 - All conservation will be voluntary and compensated. The vast majority of water use in the Colorado River, in California, is agriculture. Agriculture is the biggest opportunity to save. There are ongoing discussions in California, but nothing is definite.

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- Who are the members of the California Colorado River Board?
 - The members are Coachella Valley Water District, Imperial Irrigation District, Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, Palo Verde Irrigation District, San Diego County Water Authority, Public Members, California Department of Water Resources, and California Department of Fish and Wildlife.
- How does compensation work if entities do projects that optimize local supplies and reduce demands on the Colorado River?
 - Unfortunately, SDCWA does not have this information but funding for these types of programs kicked off a year ago.
- Will Reclamation look at more long-term infrastructure opportunities?
 - Reclamation received 80 proposals for long-term efficiency, and proposals are being reviewed.
- The San Diego region is not agriculture intensive, and the region is mostly residential. The region has also been successful in reducing outdoor water residential use. Does SDCWA have updated numbers about the overall water use for outdoor irrigation?
 - The Drought Resiliency TM includes a component for outdoor water use efficiency. There are also several turf conversions programs funded by IRWM throughout the years, but we cannot speak about active programs.
 - Metropolitan Water District of Southern California increased their rebates by \$1.
 - The County of San Diego partners with SDCWA. The County is not a water supplier, but it puts a lot of effort into Water Quality. Eliminating irrigation runoff will improve water quality. If there are any interests, we can have a future meeting on this topic.

San Diego Green Infrastructure Consortium

Ms. Laurie Broedling, Ms. Vicki Estrada, and Mr. Tony Endress, San Diego Green Infrastructure Consortium (GIC), presented about the San Diego GIC and how it relates to SDIRWM. The purpose of the San Diego GIC is to implement integrated green infrastructure projects, programs, and policies that make a significant, measurable impact, providing the expertise and orchestration needed to do so. The objectives of the San Diego GIC are to build capacity by building synergy among individual efforts, inform key decision-makers and influencers about the value of using green infrastructure, help implement specific projects, programs and policies that systematically apply green infrastructure in urban environments, with particular attention to communities of concern, and ensure stakeholder involvement and ownership.

Urban green infrastructure falls into three basic types, which are living things, other natural elements such as water, air, and soil, and man-made infrastructure to support these elements. Some examples include vegetation/urban forestry, animals, surfaces, diversions, fire prevention techniques, maps and eco-benefit, waste reduction, waste repurposing, and energy efficiency. There is an urgency for green infrastructure because the degradation of the environment is happening faster than people's best efforts to control and adapt. There needs to be more efficient use of investments, and a transformational approach is also needed. The solution is to integrate green infrastructure because it can create major improvements in community resilience through water and air quality and management, carbon sequestration, heat reduction, human health, fire prevention and safety, and more.

The San Diego region can apply the enhanced Emerald Necklace model, focusing initially on the Otay and San Dieguito Watersheds Climate in a way that helps IRWM achieve its objectives. The Emerald Necklace Model is for urbanized watersheds and includes simultaneously increasing ecological, social, and economic resilience. It also provides solutions that harmonize human presence within natural systems including water, air, land, plants, and animals.

The San Diego GIC's Action for Community and Climate Resilience Report was funded by the San Diego Foundation. The goal of the report was to operationalize action through collaborative integrated projects emphasizing multiple green infrastructure solutions using a watershed model. The report emphasized producing synergy, building on existing plans, shovel-worthy projects, and existing programs, and emphasize on local stakeholder involvement. A copy of the report can be downloaded here: <https://www.greeninfrastructureconsortium.org/projects.html>.

Some similarities between SDIRWM and San Diego GIC include emphasizing the need for integration, appreciating the need for more nature-based solutions, understanding the inter-related character of natural systems, and considering climate change as a factor in implementing improvements within Urban watersheds. The San Diego GIC can help SDIRWM achieve Objective B: Maximize stakeholder/community involvement and stewardship of water resources, emphasizing education and outreach, Objective E: Develop and maintain a diverse mix of water resources, encouraging their efficient use and development of local water supplies, and Objective I: Protect, restore, and maintain habitat and open space. Some differences are that SDIRWM focuses on water and San Diego GIC focuses on holistic improvements, including ecological, sociological, and economic resilience. The San Diego GIC looks forward to collaborating with SDIRWM in the future.

Questions/Comments

- The Surfrider Foundation, in partnership with other agencies and organizations, developed the Sustainable Landscapes Program in Proposition 84, Round 1. This can be helpful in connecting with the goals of the San Diego GIC.
- Does the San Diego GIC's projects emphasize native plants?
 - Yes, but there are certain cases where non-native plants are used since most native plants are riparian. For example, it does not make sense to use native riparian plants for street medians.
- Is the San Diego GIC interested in recruiting for additional projects?
 - Yes.

Closing remarks: It was a pleasure to be able to present to SDIRWM about San Diego GIC, and we hope to collaborate in the future.

Regional Water Equity Report Updates

Ms. Elise Ruiz, County, presented updates on the County's Regional Water Equity Report. Reminder, the Regional Water Equity Report is to analyze drought management and water sustainability practices to proactively address the challenges of the region's reliance on water sources. The focus area of the report is San Diego County, Imperial County, and Binational areas, and its primary contents include water conservation, collection, and reuse, water in agriculture, and related extreme weather risks.

The key takeaways in San Diego County does/should include implementing One Water Nexus Solutions, partnerships with Mexico on transboundary water management solutions, and groundwater studies and localized on-site reuse opportunities. Key takeaways in Tribal nations are water rights considerations, groundwater management efforts, and regional and local water reuse opportunities. Key takeaways in Imperial County include continuing agricultural efficiencies, potential for water rights auctioning, or expanded QSA type transfer agreement. For Border communities, key takeaways include partnership projects with the U.S. to improve local sewage issues, desalination projects, and aquifer recharge.

The next steps include individual review meetings from October till December. The County will be hosting a second Water Assembly on October 18 via Zoom. In December, the Regional Water Equity Report will be released for public comment. All questions and comments can be directed to Ms. Ruiz at Elise.Ruiz@sdcounty.ca.gov.

Questions/Comments

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- Can you elaborate on how the County engages with stakeholders? Did the report evaluate clean water for recreational purposes?
 - We focused on binational partnerships and our engagement team has been hosting individual meetings. We have also contacted group organizations and collaborated with community organizations. Clean water for recreational purposes was not evaluated, but it is something that we can explore later.
- Are you going to County Planning group to outreach to the rural communities? Recommend presenting to them since they have an audience that may be interested. In addition, the County can evaluate water quality in areas closer to the ocean.
 - We are trying to reach those folks in-person or virtually. We are working with rural communities and considering their water use and needs. The report did not focus on coastal impacts.
- Ramona Municipal Water District is in the unincorporated areas and agrees with reaching out to planning groups. Is there a list of organizations you have engaged with?
 - Some organizations include farm bureaus, individual farmers, small grass roots organizations, and the local Mexican government.
- Diversion of stormwater is an issue for ecosystems and has to be analyzed. There needs to be an analysis on the appropriate amount of stormwater to maintain the health of ecosystems.

Grant Administration

Ms. Burton, SDCWA, presented updates on grant administration. Total grant funding awarded to the San Diego IRWM Program is approximately \$133 million for 84 regional projects. Almost \$98 million has been spent to date with \$35 million in grant funding remaining. Actual funding reimbursed to local project sponsors totals \$89 million in payments and 26 projects are still active. Five projects are complete for Proposition 84, Round 4 with eight remaining projects. An official request to extend the program for nine months was submitted. The new completion date for Proposition 84, Round 4 is December 2024. Two projects remain in Proposition 1, Disadvantaged Community Involvement Grant Program. Five projects in Proposition 1, Round 1, are more than 50% complete, and Project 4: Lower Santa Margarita River IPR Pilot Project will be complete soon. The project has submitted a final invoice and deliverables, and their project completion report is currently under review. Three projects remain in the Urban Multibenefit Drought Relief Program, and the program is scheduled to be complete by December 2025. During this period, Project 2: Ballard Well Connection and Transmission Pipeline project began drawing down on the advance funds. Other projects are continuing to work on planning activities, such as the California Environmental Quality Act and plan designs. Proposition 1, Round 2 is ongoing, and two projects are more than 30% complete.

Questions/Comments

- What happens if a project can no longer proceed?
 - We have not experienced that type of incident, but that depends on the state. The state has to approve the project replacement and if that is allowed in the bond.

State and Federal Funding Opportunities

Ms. Johnson presented a list of upcoming state and federal funding opportunities. They have been included in the table below.

Project Types	Timing	Website
USBR: Drought Resiliency Projects	Application due October 31, 2023	https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppId=346822
USBR: Cooperative Watershed Management Program – Phase 1	First round due December 5, 2023; Second round due September 3, 2024	https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppId=349783
USBR: Planning and Project Design Grants	First round due October 17, 2023; Second round due April 2, 2024	https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppId=349785
USBR: Small Surface Water and Groundwater Storage Projects	Application due November 30, 2023	https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/search-grants.html?keywords=r24AS00010
USBR: Title XVI and WIIN Act Projects	Application due December 7, 2023	WIIN: https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/search-grants.html?keywords=title%20XVI Title XVI: https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/search-grants.html?keywords=title%20XVI
USBR: Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration Projects	Second round due January 24, 2024	https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppId=346822
DWR: Pilot Program	Anticipated in October	TBD
SWRCB: Prop 1 Technical Assistance Funding Program	Open: rolling	https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/grants_loans/proposition1/tech_asst_funding.html
DWR: Water Desalination Grant Program	Open: rolling	https://water.ca.gov/News/Public-Notices/2020/Sept-2020/Water-Desal-Grant-CAP

Public Comments

None.

Summary and Next Steps

2024 Meeting Schedule

- February 7
- May 1
- August 7
- November 1

Regular meetings to be held quarterly in 2024.

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