



Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) Meeting #96

April 6, 2022
9:00 am – 11:45 am

Zoom Meeting

NOTES

Attendance

RAC Members

Ann Van Leer, Escondido Creek Conservancy
Anne Bamford, American Water Works Association
Beth Gentry, City of Chula Vista
Brook Sarson, San Diego Sustainable Living Institute
Charlie de la Rosa and Kelly Craig, San Diego Zoo Global
Chris Trees for Mike Thorton, San Elijo JPA
David Walker, San Diego Audubon Society
Elizabeth Lovsted for Kelley Gage, San Diego County Water Authority
Jennifer Hazard and Katrina Hiott, RCAC
Joey Randall for Kim Thorne, Olivenhain Municipal Water District
John Flores, San Pasqual Band of Indians
Julia Chunn-Heer, Surfrider
Julia Escamilla, Rincon de Diablo
Justin Gamble and Tim Murphy, City of Oceanside
Keli Balo, City of San Diego
Kimberly O'Connell and Amanda Loeper, UCSD Clean Water Utility
Leslie Cleveland for Jack Simes, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
Michelle Berens, Helix Water District
Patrick McDonough, San Diego Coastkeeper
Phil Pryde and Rob Hustel, San Diego River Park Foundation

RWMG Staff and Consultants

Arthella Vallarta, Woodard & Curran
Chelsea McGimpsey, County of San Diego
Jane-Marie Fajardo, City of San Diego
Julie MarLett, City of San Diego
Lesley Dobalian, San Diego County Water Authority
Loisa Burton, San Diego County Water Authority
Mark Stephens, City of San Diego
Nicole Poletto, Woodard & Curran
Rosalyn Prickett, Woodard & Curran
Sally Johnson, Woodard & Curran

Interested Parties to the RAC

Arash Afghahi, Viejas Natural Resources Department
Barry Pollard, Urban Collaborative Project
Bill Luksic, San Diego County Water Authority
Bob Leiter, American Planning Association, Regional and Intergovernmental Planning Division
Brian Hojnacki, City of San Diego
Carmel Wong, City of San Diego
Cody Harrison, Public
Cristina Torres, Viejas Band of Kumeyaay Indians
Cynthia Gorham, San Diego Water Board
David Tcheng, San Diego Green Infrastructure
Efren Lopez, San Diego County Water Authority
Elisa Marrone, City of Escondido
Eylon Shamir, HRC
Heidi Brow, Pala Band of Mission Indians
Joni German, San Diego County Water Authority
Juan Magdaroag, City of Escondido
Kelly Mooney, Hoch Consulting
Khadija Wade, City of San Diego
Kimberly Greene, University of California, San Diego
Krysten Burr, Hoch Consulting
Kumiko Hayazaki, City of San Diego
Mark Stadler, Mark Stadler Consulting
Matt Fleming, San Diego Zoo Safari Park
Megan Chery, Environmental Incentives
Mick Cothran, Fallbrook Public Utility District
Neil Czapinski, Cal Fire
Robert Kennedy, Public

Welcome, Introductions, & Land Acknowledgement

Ms. Elizabeth Lovsted, San Diego County Water Authority (SDCWA), welcomed everyone to the virtual RAC meeting. Ms. Sally Johnson, Woodard & Curran, reviewed the 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.

Ms. Lovsted read the Tribal Land Acknowledgment to the group, which was written to be delivered in a virtual 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 acknowledgement 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.

San Diego Regional Drought Update

Mr. Efren Lopez, SDCWA, updated the group on water supply conditions in San Diego and on recent drought-related actions in the state. The California Department of Water Resources (DWR) completed the most recent

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snow survey on April 1 at the Phillips Station. The snow water equivalent measured at 1-inch and is at 4% of average at this time of year. The statewide snowpack measured at 8.7-inches of snow water equivalent and 31% of average.

The Northern Sierra Snowpack, which supplies runoff to the State Water Project, is at 24% of normal as of April 5, 2022. Snowpack conditions have remained below normal across the Northern Sierra for the past two years. The Northern Sierra 8-Station Precipitation Index tracks conditions across eight locations in the Sacramento River Basin. As of April 5, 2022, the Northern Sierra 8-Station Precipitation Index is 74% of normal. In the state reservoir system, many reservoirs are below the historic average such as Lake Oroville. The storage volume of Lake Oroville is at 48% of capacity and 67% of average as of April 4, 2022. As of March 21, 2022, the Colorado River Basin precipitation conditions are at 95% of normal, the snow water equivalent is 85% of normal, Lake Mead is 33% full and Lake Powell is 24% full.

For local conditions, the San Diego region is 69% normal at Lindbergh Field and 71% normal at Roman Airport for the water year to date (October 1, 2021 – April 5, 2022). The Climate Prediction Center released an 8-14 Day Temperature Outlook from April 13 – April 19. The outlook leaned towards near normal and above normal conditions for the state. In terms of precipitation, the San Diego region is leaning towards below-normal conditions.

Governor Newsom's Executive Order N-7-22 was signed on March 28, 2022, calling on all Californians to strive to limit summertime water use and to use water more efficiently indoors and outdoors. The Executive Order also directs the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) to consider adopting emergency regulations that require all urban water suppliers to submit a preliminary Annual Water Supply and Demand Assessment by June 1 and a final version by July 1, activate Level 2 of Water Shortage Contingency Plans, and ban irrigation of non-functional turf in commercial and industrial sectors.

Questions/Comments:

- Is it possible to get a copy of this presentation?
 - Yes, the presentation will be uploaded to our website and will also be distributed via email after the meeting.
- Will the SDCWA have their preliminary Annual Water Supply and Demand Assessment numbers available to their member agencies?
 - We would meet all requirements and deadlines as indicated by the State Water Board. We are also working with the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California to ensure that their numbers will be available.
- This Executive Order was signed on March 28th, but additional items will be considered by May 25th. Can you clarify this?
 - The State Water Board has to develop the regulations and adopt them by May 25th. The regulatory process includes preliminary regulations and comment periods. The SDCWA will know more about these regulations on May 25th.

Wildfire Panel

Ms. Lesley Dobalian, SDCWA, presented the impacts of wildfire on water quality. Wildfires provide many ecological benefits, but there has been an increase in wildfires due to climate change. Recent studies have shown that climate change has lengthened the fire season and increased the frequency and total burn area. Wildfires can adversely affect human health, aquatic ecosystems, and water utilities treatment and distribution systems. The sources of contamination of wildfires are fire, firefighting activity, and the environment.

The impacts on water systems can be broken down into three categories. The first category is water supply. Wildfires contaminate surface waters, affecting multiple water quality parameters such as alkalinity, total

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dissolved solids, and turbidity. Wildfires also increase sedimentation, which can reduce the capacity of reservoirs. The second category is treatment facilities which can be damaged during wildfires. Water suppliers may have to adjust the treatment process and there may be a shortage of staff. The third category is distribution and service area. There can be infrastructure damage and water quality concerns resulting from stagnation and contaminants entering the water system. Additionally, there can be impacts from pressure changes such as low pressure in areas where multiple hydrants are in use.

Ms. Dobalian discussed the California Urban Water Agencies (CUWA) mitigation and response resources for wildfires. CUWA is a non-profit organization comprised of 11 of the largest water agencies in California, serving over two-thirds of the State's population. CUWA developed three resources on wildfire and mitigation response. The mitigation strategies for water utilities include maintaining year-round water quality protections, preparing to face wildfire events, and continuously improving future wildfire responses. Ms. Dobalian ended her presentation with additional information and research about wildfire impacts on water quality.

Mr. Neil Czapinski, Cal Fire), provided an overview of the state of the native fuels and drought impacts. The Southern Region Moisture map indicated that local fuel moistures were shown normal for March – May 2022 and above normal for June 2022. There are multiple sites across San Diego County that measure fuel moisture. For example, the Rainbow Camp Battalion 1 shows 143% of new live fuel moisture and 90% old live fuel moisture. Overall, fuel moisture sites remain well above critical and new growth sprouts are emerging at some sites.

The Southern Operations Monthly and Season Outlooks were issued on April 1 and are valid through July 2022. The temperatures will likely be above normal through July and rainfall will likely be below normal through June. The Santa Ana wind events will likely be near to a little above normal in April and May. The marine layer will likely be shallower and not penetrate as far inland as normal in May and June. The monsoon shower and thunderstorm activity will likely be near to above normal in July.

Mr. Czapinski also explained the Cal Fire PEAK staffing for San Diego. Cal Fire will have 27 type III engines, which will not affect the local government contracts in the rural communities. All fire crews will be covered. There will be four dozers with a minimum of two dozers covered at night, and all aircraft, which provide air support during fires.

The Governor approved an early action request for funding. This approval led to the conversion of the six-month California Conservation Corps fire crew to a 12-month funded crew. The natural guard crew will be a permanent fire crew in the San Diego region. There is also a potential addition of a Type 1 Helicopter or Large Air Tanker at the Ramona Air Attack Base. Finally, the Fox Fire Center was established at Southern Palomar Mountain, which has the potential to staff two fire crews.

Questions/Comments:

- Many of the water quality impacts on surface waters may occur after the fire. Does it require rain to wash stuff into the water?
 - That is one mode of transport and why we are seeing contamination later as contaminants are washed downstream. I also included a link in the chat to a United States Geological Survey article that summarizes the water quality impacts after a wildfire (available at <https://ca.water.usgs.gov/wildfires/wildfires-water-quality.html>). Source contaminants can be ashes and chemicals from firefighting moving downstream over time. Changes in vegetation can increase sedimentation, mobilizing sediments and causing pollutants to be released.
- Is the majority of the contamination in surface water from structures that have burned and then rainwater carries the pollutants from burnt homes into rivers?
 - The question was answered previously.

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- In the Southern Region Moisture Map, does red equate to lower-than-average moisture, which is along the coast of Southern California?
 - The red is above average. The map shows the potential of the marine layer influence.
- Is Cal Fire able to use recycled water for firefighting?
 - Yes. You may see purple fire hydrants around cities, which are reclaimed water systems.
- Is there information for homeowners about how to adapt rainwater and well water tanks for fire support?
 - There are systems that homeowners can get to claim water off their down spots into tanks. In terms of getting that water plumbed and accessible, I would defer to your local plumber and fire station.
- Do you know the status of the updated Wildfire Hazard Severity Zone Maps that Cal Fire has been working on?
 - Most of the maps are from Predictive Services for the Northern and Southern Geographic Area Coordination Centers. I can provide the web addresses if people want to look at those maps.
- In terms of fire protection for homes and structures, has anyone seen any studies about how effective exterior rooftop sprinklers are in protecting a home from burning down? We have indoor rooftop sprinklers, but are people using outdoor rooftop sprinklers?
 - I would check with your local fire station if outside rooftop sprinklers are viable. During a fire, your power may be off, so your sprinkler system may not be useful. I recommend doing a defensible space and having an emergency kit ready to go.
- San Diego County has a rain barrel program for homeowners wanting to capture rainwater <https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/dpw/watersheds/residential/RainBarrelInformation.html>.
- Can green roof technology reduce fire hazards? There is a push for cities to reduce heat. Some of the green roof technology include covering roofs with vegetation.
 - I am not an expert in this subject matter, but it would be hazardous to put too much vegetation on your roof.

Project Completion Report

Ms. Kimberly O'Connell, University of California, San Diego (UCSD), presented the project completion report for the Water Conservation and Watershed Protection project. UCSD partnered with the San Diego Coastkeeper, WildCoast, Urban Corps, Tijuana River National Estuarine Research Reserve (TRNERR), and Border Field State Park to implement the project.

The project included six components. For the first project component, UCSD expanded the use of recycled water for industrial use at the cooling towers located in the central utility plant to offset potable water use. One challenge of the cooling tower retrofits was that the equipment and water chemistry must be monitored to prevent the recycled water from causing erosion and equipment damage. Prior to this project, the cooling towers used potable water and account for about 25% of total water consumption on campus. The cooling towers now operate using 65% recycled water and 35% potable water, saving 60 million gallons of potable water each year.

The second project component retrofitted the plumbing for four adjacent research buildings to collect air handling unit condensate, reverse osmosis treatment system reject water, and water softener reject water. The

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collected water goes to a 628-gallon holding tank that is connected to the campus's recycled water distribution system. The collected water is used for irrigation in the cooling towers and more than 1.5 million gallons of water are collected per year from these four buildings, offsetting the use of potable water.

The third project component was community outreach on water conservation, which was led by the San Diego Coastkeeper. Community outreach included writing and publishing educational media articles and blog posts, conducting water conservation workshops and tours targeting residential and commercial conservation, training volunteers on how to detect and report water waste and best practices to conserve water, and designing and distributing door hangers and posters. The San Diego Coast Keeper hosted bike tours in Golden Hill, South Park, North Park, Kensington, and Talmadge to showcase residential water conservation. The bike tours stopped at homes to explore backyard rainwater capture and greywater reuse projects and discussed water use efficiency, localized water supply, and conservation strategies. Additionally, water conservation professionals from San Diego Sustainable Living Institute and Catching H2O discussed specific projects and regional conservation.

The fourth project component consisted of replacing turf with drought-tolerant stormwater treatment landscapes at the Grove site and Scholars Lane site. The objectives of the turf removal and the stormwater treatment component were to conserve water by reducing irrigation, treat stormwater runoff, and reduce pollutants from discharging into the Los Peñasquitos watershed. For the Grove site, an asphalt road used for parking and a turf area were replaced with a stormwater treatment detention basin and drought tolerant landscaping. There was an increase in costs for construction, materials, and labor when the grant was awarded and when the project went onto bid. Adjustments had to be made within the scope to keep construction costs at the estimated amount and the project had to be re-bid.

For the fifth project component, a modular wetland treatment system was installed and comprised of three chambers. The first chamber included pre-filter cartridges which remove sediment, trash, and hydrocarbons and prevent pollutants that can cause clogging from migrating to the biofiltration chamber. The second chamber contains the wetland media, which removes heavy metals, sediment, hydrocarbons, and other pollutants. The third chamber is post-treatment monitoring. Stormwater that has passed through the treatment system is sampled before it discharges into San Diego Bay. To evaluate the effectiveness of the modular wetland treatment system in removing pollutants from stormwater runoff, samples were collected upstream and downstream from the treatment system starting in 2018. The modular wetland treatment system was effective in removing zinc, total suspended solids, and copper, but had mixed results in removing iron and aluminum and was not effective in removing lead.

The sixth project component included habitat restoration and non-point source pollution reduction in the Tijuana River Valley. The Tijuana River Valley is heavily impacted by cross-border trash and pollution and invasive species. This project component was led by WildCoast, Urban Corps, TRNERR, and Border Field State Park staff. Habitat restoration activities included irrigation system installation, removal of invasive species, and planting of native plants. The trash and watershed cleanup activities included education and outreach to participants on how to protect the coastal ecosystems. In total, the sixth project component enhanced four acres of habitat through 20 cleanup events in the Tijuana River Valley, restored one acre of habitat, engaged 977 community volunteers in stewardship activities, collected 13,709 pounds of trash, and removed 573 tires.

The health and safety of staff and volunteers were important. During the Tijuana River Action Month in 2017, it was discovered some staff and volunteers felt unwell after the tire and trash clean-up at Goat Canyon. To protect the health and safety of staff and volunteers, this location was removed at future cleanup events.

The total cost of the project was approximately \$4 million. The combined benefits of the six project components included more than 61 million gallons of potable water saved per year, the removal of stormwater pollutants in the Los Peñasquitos Watershed, Pueblo Watershed, and the Tijuana Watershed, habitat restoration and enhancement in the Tijuana River Valley, and community education and engagement.

Ms. O’Connell ended her presentation by dedicating the project to the loving memory of Sam Lopez, who was an invaluable project partner from Urban Corps.

Questions/Comments:

- These are great best management practices! Is there a breakdown of cost for completion and effectiveness of each best management practice? Is it available online?
 - I believe so. I would have to look at our project completion report.
 - The completion report has a breakdown of major task costs as well as consulting and construction costs. We will post it on the website.
- On behalf of the San Diego IRWM Grant Administration Program, I would like to thank Kimberly. We truly appreciate her patience and hard work in completing this project.

Proposition 1, Round 2

Ms. Loisa Burton, SDCWA, informed the group that the San Diego Funding Area was awarded \$5 million from the Urban and Multibenefit Drought Relief Program. She would like to thank all the grant applicants, Project Selection Workgroup (PSW) members, the Regional Water Management Group (RWMG), the RAC, and Woodard & Curran for their effort in this expedited grant solicitation.

Ms. Burton presented updates on Proposition 1, Round 2 and the application process. DWR is expected to release the final Proposal Solicitation Package (PSP) at the end of April. Any substantial changes will be communicated to the public. There are approximately \$16 million available to the San Diego IRWM Region. There are four steps to the application process in the San Diego IRWM Region. The first step is the call for projects, which will remain open from April 6th to May 13th. Local project sponsors (LPSs) are invited to submit eligible projects to the OPTI database. The second step involves project scoring and a “fatal flaw” review. The “fatal flaw” review was added to the scoring process in 2021 by the Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Workgroup. All submitted projects will undergo a fatal flaw review and if any “fatal flaws” are discovered, LPSs will have a brief opportunity to revise the application prior to project scoring. The third step is the projection selection process. All submitted projects are evaluated based on RAC-approved criteria. During this process, LPSs are asked to answer PSW member questions and attend an interview. The fourth step is grant application writing. Important dates of the application process include the Integration Workshop, which will be held after the RAC meeting, the Technical Workshop on May 2, and the Scoring Workshop on May 24.

Ms. Dobalian provided an overview of the PSW. The PSW advises the RWMG on projects to include for Proposition 1, Round 2. The PSW will meet five times at the end of May and early June and will review submitted projects, conduct project interviews, and identify projects for funding. The PSW will consist of nine representatives and alternates from the RWMG and each RAC Caucus. The San Diego IRWM is soliciting representatives for the PSW. Members of the public are eligible to serve on the PSW but must be nominated by the appropriate Caucus.

Motion to authorize the PSW to select the suite of projects and make a recommendation to RWMG.

Yes: 23

Opposed: 0

Abstained: 3

Ms. Julie MarLett, City of San Diego, provided an overview of the draft PSP requirements and the San Diego IRWM Region Scoring Criteria. DWR requires projects to have quantifiable benefits that address critical statewide needs, be consistent with statewide priorities, and have an expected useful life of at least 15 years. The San Diego IRWM Region requires all projects to be included in the San Diego IRWM Plan and stormwater projects must be in the Stormwater Resource Plan. All projects must meet Objective A (Integrated project),

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Objective B (Community Engagement), and at least one other objective. There is a 50% funding match required, but there are partial or full waivers available for disadvantaged communities (DACs). Eligible project costs incurred after the final award are deemed reimbursable and projects must be complete by September 30, 2026.

The scoring process is detailed in the IRWM Plan. All projects will be screened to ensure they meet eligibility requirements. Once all projects are scored, they are ranked into Tier 1 and Tier 2 projects. This project list will be presented at the May 24 Scoring Workshop. The scoring criteria are provided in Table 9-1 of the San Diego IRWM Plan. Though the weighting is different from the San Diego IRWM Plan, it is fairly consistent with the weighting in Proposition 1, Round 1.

The RAC discussed and voted to approve the scoring criteria.

Questions/Comments:

- Have you determined the location of the meetings for the PSW?
 - We are still finalizing locations but expect to be meeting in the Kearny Mesa area.
- Can you give a few examples of what would constitute a direct benefit versus an indirect benefit for DACs?
 - Direct investment in DAC's water systems, consolidation, or training, and can include septic to sewer conversion projects or any project that provides drinking water and wastewater benefits directly to DACs. Other benefits that improve overall conditions in DACs can be habitat restoration or creek restoration projects. Indirect benefits are regional projects that include DACs in the project area, but the project does not focus on implementation within those DACs.
- The Addresses Multiple Objectives criterion seems low based on the overall goals of IRWM. Is there a way to redistribute the 15% weight in DACs to multiple objectives since DAC is an IRWM objective?
 - The objectives are in the San Diego IRWM Plan and there is not an objective specific to DACs.
- This is a follow-up to the previous comment about direct and indirect benefits to DACs. How are water systems defined?
 - In the San Diego IRWM Plan, there is a table that provides additional details and gives examples of water systems. Water systems focus on infrastructure which stems from DWR's historical preference for DAC benefits being a drinking or wastewater benefit.
- When you are talking about DACs, are you referring to DWR's definition?
 - For our local scoring process, DACs, economically distressed areas, and environmental justice communities go beyond DWR's definition. When we are talking about the DAC funding waiver, that is based on DWR's definition.
 - How are the other categories defined?
 - There are mapping resources that are available on the OPTI database and will be included in the call for project materials. If you have any questions, please reach out to our team.
- My question is about the nexus between resiliency to climate change and sustainable water development. Is there going to be further clarity? Because of the intrinsic nature of some water projects, such as creating new sources of recycled water or indirect potable reuse, these projects automatically qualify for resiliency to climate change, unlike projects that are not water related. Is the intention of the scoring nexus that if you meet one criterion, you also meet the other? Additionally, can the percentage of the total score go between these two criteria?
 - If you have a project that creates new water, you will get points under sustainable water development, and you may also be getting points for resiliency to climate change. If you want to make a recommendation in shifting percentages, we can shift those percentages somewhere else and have a discussion.

- I propose making sustainable water development the largest percentage instead of resiliency to climate change. Sustainable water development will be 20% and resiliency to climate change will be 15% and keep everything the same.
 - I would support this proposal.
- Are Tribes included in DWR's definition of DACs?
 - Tribes are automatically considered underrepresented communities by the State. They are only considered DACs if they meet the economic definition which is a median household income (MHI) less than 80% of the statewide MHI.
- In terms of the last proposal, I have a differing opinion. Water is intertwined with climate change. I propose to keep it as how it was originally presented. I propose more emphasis on addressing multiple objectives to keep them truly integrated projects.
 - Do you have a recommendation? To increase multiple objectives, we would have to pull the percentages somewhere else.
 - I propose decreasing DAC to 10%, beneficial uses 10%, and keeping resiliency to climate change and sustainable water development as they were originally presented.
 - We represent the Natural Resources and Watersheds, and I get concerned when there is a heavy emphasis on built infrastructure. I agree with giving more weight to multiple objectives.
- This is my first involvement in water management and resources. I want to speak on behalf of the underrepresented communities. One of the purposes is to right the wrongs that have occurred over the years. When we start diluting the equity factor, we need to be mindful of what that means. I do not have a vote, but I want people to step back and look at it from a community perspective. I know climate change and water resources are important, but I would not support decreasing the percentage for DACs.
- I would like to offer an alternative proposal. Instead of taking a percentage from DACs, the 5% can be taken out of the resiliency to climate change, which would still be 15%, and giving that 5% to multiple objectives and beneficial uses.
 - I support this proposal. We should leave 15% for DACs.
 - I support this proposal as well. I do not want to take away from DACs. I wanted to make sure the projects are multiple objectives.
- I motion to vote on the current proposal.
 - I second this motion.

Motion to approve the proposed scoring criteria.

Yes: 20

Opposed: 3

Abstained: 3

Grant Administration

Ms. Burton presented updates on grant administration. The addition of \$5 million from the Urban and Multibenefit Drought Relief Program increased the San Diego IRWM grant funding to \$116.8 million. In total, the San Diego IRWM Region has billed DWR over \$83.6 million for ten grant programs, equating to 72% billed. 52 projects are now complete out of the 78 projects funded, which equates to a 64% completion. The total reimbursements received by LPSs to date are \$79.6 million. Proposition 84, Round 3 is almost complete (6 out of 7 projects complete). The remaining project under Proposition 84, Round 3 is Project 6: Rincon Customer Driven Demand Management Program (93% complete). Proposition 84, Round 4 is still ongoing. Two projects are complete, and the remaining projects are still in the implementation phase with nine projects over 50% complete. The program is scheduled to end in March 2024. The Proposition 1, Disadvantaged Community Involvement (DACI) Program has been extended. The two remaining projects require additional time to perform

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work and therefore have submitted requests for extensions. The funding from the Urban and Multibenefit Drought Relief Program will be added to Proposition 1, DACI. This program will be extended to December 2025.

Questions

- None.

Public Comments

- None.

Summary and Next Steps

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

Project Types	Deadline	Website
SDIRWM: Prop 1 Round 2 IRWM Implementation Grant (local call for projects)	May 13	https://sdirwmp.org/
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
USBR: WaterSMART Drought Resiliency Projects for Fiscal Year 2023	June 15	https://www.usbr.gov/newsroom/#/news-release/4147

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Next RAC Meeting:

- May 24, 2022 – 9:00-11:00 a.m. via virtual platform.

The meeting schedule for 2022 is included below. Please add them to your calendar:

- ~~June 1, 2022~~ – canceled
- August 3, 2022
- October 5, 2022
- December 7, 2022

Integration Workshop

Ms. Johnson welcomed everyone and explained the purpose of the workshop. The purpose of the Integration Workshop is to learn about other projects in the Region and to begin exploring integration opportunities. The ideal IRWM project is an integrated, multi-benefit water management project that achieves one or more IRWM Plan goals. The four IRWM goals are to 1) optimize water supply reliability, 2) protect and enhance water quality, 3) provide stewardship of our natural resources, and 4) coordinate and integrate water resource management. Integration creates better projects by leveraging resources more efficiently, increasing the level of benefits for the Region, and improving competitiveness for IRWM grant funding. Ms. Johnson described the different ways in which project integration can occur, such as by partnership, resource management, beneficial uses, geography, and hydrology, and provided example projects that addressed these types of integration.

Partnership is specifically defined in reference to the IRWM Plan Scoring Criteria. An active partnership involves partners that work jointly on a task, work on separate tasks of the same project, or provide financial support. Partners must also be from different entities. Two sub-entities in a single larger entity working together are not considered a partnership under the IRWM Plan Scoring Criteria. In addition, passive support, such as letters of support, is not considered a partnership. A project that addressed the partnership integration is the San Elijo Stormwater Capture and Reuse project, which was funded in Proposition 1, Round 1. This project was sponsored by San Elijo Joint Powers Authority. The agency partnered with Nature Collective, a non-governmental organization. The non-governmental organization will provide education and outreach activities regarding stormwater capture and reuse for community benefit.

Resource management integration is employing multiple resource management strategies within a single project to effectively address a variety of issues. DWR defines a resource management strategy as a project, program, or policy that local agencies can implement to manage water and related resources to meet integrated plan objectives. In reference to the IRWM Plan Scoring Criteria, resource management integration is based on the number of IRWM objectives the project addresses. A project that addressed resource management integration was the Conservation Home Makeover in the Chollas Creek Watershed, which was funded in Proposition 84, Round 4. The project addressed resource management by fulfilling multiple IRWM objectives such as increasing urban water use efficiency, reducing runoff by capturing stormwater, and improving the management of local resources.

Beneficial use integration is project solutions that can be implemented to support several different beneficial uses, which are the uses of water necessary for the survival and well-being of people, plants, and wildlife. In reference to the IRWM Plan Scoring Criteria, beneficial use integration is based on the number of beneficial uses addressed. A project that addressed beneficial use integration was the North San Diego County Regional Recycled Water Project – Phase II, which was funded by Proposition 84, Round 2. This project addressed beneficial use integration through integrating urban and agricultural-based recycled water systems, maximizing

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the use of recycled water systems across a variety of agency service areas, and providing recycled water for industrial, municipal, and agricultural beneficial uses.

Geographic integration is implementing watershed or regional-scale projects that may benefit from economies of scale. In reference to the IRWM Plan Scoring Criteria, geographic integration is based on the level of integration that the project achieves across multiple watersheds. The Nutrient Management in the Santa Margarita River Watershed – Phase II project, funded in Proposition 84, Round 2, addressed geographic integration by involving the Upper Santa Margarita Watershed IRWM Region. This project enabled regions to share financial, technical, and knowledge resources.

Hydrologic integration is addressing multiple watershed functions within the hydrologic cycle. Projects meet this integration criterion by addressing dominant hydrologic processes, existing streams in the watershed, current or anticipated future land uses that may impact the hydrologic cycle, sedimentation or sediment yield areas, and existing flood control structures or channel structures and associated hydromodification. The Chollas Creek Integration Project – Phase 11, funded in Proposition 84, Round 2, addressed hydrologic integration by addressing different components of the hydrologic cycle.

Integration workshop participants broke out into groups based on watershed region to brainstorm and discuss potential project integration opportunities.

Questions/Comments

- None.