



Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) Meeting #69

August 2, 2017

9:00 am – 11:30 pm

San Diego County Water Authority Board Room
4677 Overland Avenue, San Diego, CA 92123

NOTES

Attendance

RAC Members

George Adrian, City of San Diego (chair)
Albert Lau, Padre Dam Municipal Water District (and alternate Arne Sandvik)
Ann Van Leer, Escondido Creek Conservancy
Bill Hunter, Santa Fe Irrigation District
Chris Helmer, City of Imperial Beach
Chris Trees for Mike Thornton, San Elijo Joint Powers Authority
Greg Thomas, Rincon del Diablo Municipal Water District
Jennifer Hazard for Olga Morales, RCAC
John Flores, San Pasqual Band of Mission Indians
Joseph Randall for Kimberly Thorner, Olivenhain Municipal Water District
Justin Gamble, City of Oceanside
Kimberly O'Connell, University of California – San Diego Clean Water Utility
Mark Seits, Floodplain Management Association
Mark Stadler for Bob Yamada, San Diego County Water Authority
Michael Garrod for Ron Mosher, Sweetwater Authority
Michael McSweeney, Building Industry Association (and alternate S. Wayne Rosenbaum)
Michelle Berens for Brian Olney, Helix Water District
Oscar Romo, Alter Terra
Phil Pryde, San Diego River Park Foundation
Roberto Yano, City of Chula Vista
Robyn Badger, San Diego Zoo Global
Sandra Jacobson, California Trout
Sarah Pierce, San Diego Association of Governments
Jack Simes, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation

RWMG Staff and Consultants

Andrew Funk, City of San Diego
Goldy Herbon, San Diego County Water Authority
Jen Sajor, Woodard & Curran
Loisa Burton, San Diego County Water Authority
Mark Stephens, City of San Diego

Ramin Abidi, County of San Diego
Rosalyn Prickett, Woodard & Curran
Sally Johnson, Woodard & Curran
Stephanie Gaines, County of San Diego

Interested Parties to the RAC

Alex Heide, City of Poway
Allison Danner, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
Armin Munevar, CH2M Hill
Brett Mooney, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, Boulder
David Pohl, ESA
Eric Rubalcava, San Diego County Water Authority
Helen Davies, City of Escondido
Joel Kramer, San Diego State University
Joel San Juan, Antioch University
Julia Chunn-Heer, Surfrider San Diego
Lisa Wu, City of San Diego
Martha Davis, City of San Diego
Mike Wright, Bureau of Reclamation, Sacramento
Minell Enslin, Amec Foster Wheeler
Mo Lahsaiezadeh, City of Oceanside
Olin Applegate, Larry Walker Associates
Steve Piper, Bureau of Reclamation, Denver

Welcome and Introductions

Mr. George Adrian, City of San Diego, welcomed everyone to the meeting. Introductions were made around the room.

San Diego RWQCB Update

Ms. Rosalyn Prickett, Woodard & Curran, presented the San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) update on behalf of Ms. Laurie Walsh, San Diego RWQCB, who was unable to attend the RAC meeting. The complete Water Quality Improvement Plan (WQIP) for the San Juan Watershed Management Area will be presented to the Executive Officer this week for his consideration of accepting the WQIP on behalf of the San Diego RWQCB. The Executive Officer will be reviewing the staff recommendation to accept the Orange County Copermittees' request to be deemed in compliance with Receiving Water Limitations for the following:

- High Priority Water Quality Conditions
 - Pathogens (Wet and Dry Weather)
 - Unnatural Water Balance/Flow Regime (Dry Weather Condition)
 - Channel Erosion and Associated Geomorphic Impacts (Wet Weather Condition)
- Priority Water Quality Conditions

- Nutrients and Eutrophication (Dry Weather)
- Turbidity (Wet Weather)
- Index of Biotic Integrity (IBI) or other Bioassessment Scores (Dry Weather)

The Santa Margarita River Watershed Management Area WQIP deliverable, which described the Goals, Strategies, and Schedules, was received by the San Diego RWQCB on July 7, 2017. The 30-day public comment period ends at **5 pm on August 10, 2017**. Interested persons wishing to comment on this aspect of the Draft WQIP should contact Erica Ryan at 619-521-8051, or Erica.Ryan@waterboards.ca.gov.

The San Diego RWQCB staff will be participating in a Water Reliability Summit along with the Santa Margarita Water District and other water authorities and state and local authorities to discuss achieving a reliable, sustainable water supply, including direct potable reuse of recycled water and desalination. The Summit is being held on August 15, 2017 from 10:30 am to 2 pm at the Norman P. Murray Community Center in Mission Viejo. See flyer for more information.

The San Diego RWQCB has a new Community Outreach webpage. Please visit it at http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sandiego/press_room/community_outreach/index.shtml and let them know how they can partner with others to improve, and reshape their relationships with the communities they serve.

The San Diego RWQCB continues its work on the REC-1 Triennial Review Project. The public is invited to submit written comments on the Draft Cost Benefit Analysis (CBA) Report and Fact Sheet (http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sandiego/water_issues/programs/basin_plan/docs/issue3/CBA_Document_Version_0.9.pdf) during the 30-day period from **July 27, 2017 to August 27, 2017**. All written comments, as well as comments received during the public meeting, will be considered by the contractor in the development of the Final CBA Report. Commenters may use the comment table to submit comments, and should email comments to sandiego@waterboards.ca.gov, using the subject line "REC-1 Triennial Review Project – Cost Benefit Analysis". For more information on this project please contact Michelle Santillan at the San Diego RWQCB at Michelle.Santillan@waterboards.ca.gov.

Finally, the deadline for owners and/or operators of commercial agricultural operations to enroll in the General Agricultural Order is **August 7, 2017**. For more information visit http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sandiego/water_issues/programs/commercial_agriculture/commercial_ag.shtml or contact Barry Pulver at (619) 521-3381, or Barry.Pulver@waterboards.ca.gov.

IRWM Program Updates

Mr. Mark Stadler, San Diego County Water Authority (SDCWA), and Ms. Stephanie Gaines, County of San Diego (County), presented on updates in the IRWM Program.

Proposition 1 Planning Grants Status

Mr. Stadler updated the RAC on the status of the Proposition 1 IRWM Planning Grant and the Proposition 1 DAC Planning Grant. The IRWM Planning Grant contract was signed on July 31, 2017. Due to a delayed contract schedule, the IRWM Plan Update schedule has been revised. The Plan Update

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is expected to be complete by March or April 2018 with the Stormwater Capture Feasibility Study anticipated to be complete by November 2018. The Plan Update Kick-off is scheduled for October 2017. The DAC Planning Grant award letter was received this week. Local Project Sponsors (LPS) should complete the upcoming data request as soon as possible as the contract conditional requirements must be submitted by August 31, 2017. LPS contracts are anticipated in November or December 2017.

Statewide IRWM Update

Mr. Stadler also presented statewide IRWM updates. The California Department of Water Resources (DWR) briefed the Roundtable of Regions (RoR) about possible changes to how the program is operated. DWR presented potential solutions to perceived problems with the grant program process. In general, DWR had four major observations:

- Some projects were not funded because Regions are in highly competitive Funding Areas (FAs)
- Some projects with questionable benefits were funded because they were included in funding packages with strong projects
- Selected projects do not always address IRWM Plan goals and objectives
- DWR has limited discretion in project evaluations in non-competitive FAs

DWR proposed including a multi-step application process, which includes meetings with FAs to discuss needs and post-application Q&A meetings. DWR also proposed that grant applicants apply for 150% of available funds. From there, DWR would then be able to select individual projects from the application to achieve 100% of available funds. Finally, DWR is considering reducing the level of detail for the budget and schedules sections of grant applications and omitting the work plan requirement.

The San Diego RWMG, with its Tri-County Funding Area Coordinating Committee (FACC) partners, submitted a comment letter to DWR on June 29, 2017 detailing the following points:

- Tri-County FACC strongly opposes DWR selecting final projects
- Applying for 150% of grant funds disincentivizes DACs, NGOs, and smaller agencies from participating
- Limiting discretion in project evaluations in non-competitive FAs undermines IRWM's intent to encourage cooperative solutions within FAs.
- Tri-County FACC does support the multi-step process with Q&A session

Mr. Stadler also outlined the Proposition 1 Grant Program schedule. The Draft Proposal Solicitation Package (PSP) for Round 1 implementation grant is anticipated for late 2017 with applications due in Spring 2018. Round 2, which will be another implementation round, will occur in 2020. DAC funding will happen concurrently with implementation grants. The majority of DAC funding has been allocated for Round 2 in 2020. The RWMG has encouraged DWR to provide adequate time for the local project selection process. As with all anticipated grant funding, the timeline is subject to change.

The San Diego IRWM is hosting a delegation of new DWR IRWM staff on August 3, 2017. The group will tour projects that have been funded by the IRWM program, including projects at the San Diego Zoo Safari Park and at Lake Hodges reservoir.

Storm Water Resource Plan

Ms. Gaines provided an update on the Storm Water Resource Plan (SWRP). The final SWRP was posted in June 2017 and can be found on the San Diego IRWM website (<http://www.sdirwmp.org/2017-swrp>). The final SWRP includes an excel-based benefits calculator tool designed to help LPS calculate project benefits described in the SWRP. Appendix G of the SWRP was also updated to include example calculations. In addition, OPTI can now auto-generate storm water project scoring and ranking so that LPS can compare scores.

Questions/Comments:

- Mechanically, what does [DWR's proposed solution] mean for the application process?
 - These are just suggestions at this point. DWR is still looking for feedback. We strongly oppose DWR choosing our projects. We know the needs of our Region better than they do. Requesting 150% of funding disincentivizes NGOs and DACs. The point of IRWM is to collaborate and they are hindering this process. We do support the multi-step process, which occurred during the DAC Planning Grant process.
 - There was wide-spread opposition across the state. Some competitive Regions liked the idea of DWR choosing projects, but overall, most Regions opposed it.

San Diego Basin Study Public Workshop – Andrew Funk, City of San Diego, & Allison Danner, US Bureau of Reclamation

Mr. Andrew Funk, City of San Diego, Ms. Allison Danner, and Mr. Steve Piper, both U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (USBR), conducted the San Diego Basin Study (Study) Public Workshop. Mr. Funk presented background information about the Study. The purpose of the Study is to identify approaches to bridge current and future water supply gaps and is designed to complement existing planning efforts. The two major objectives of the Study are to 1) evaluate water supply demand under future and climate change conditions and 2) identify potential upgrades to existing facilities and operations that can alleviate impacts of increasing demands and climate change. This will be done by developing portfolios of concepts. The Study Area is the San Diego IRWM planning region. Tasks 2.1 through 2.3 have been completed, with Task 2.3 to be completed in August 2017. *Task 2.4 Structural Operations Concepts* and *Task 2.5 Trade-off Analysis and Recommendations* are expected to be complete in Winter 2017.

Ms. Danner presented a summary of Task 2.3, which examined baseline impacts to five areas of the Study based on 2015 data. The areas of study were flood control, energy, water delivery, recreation, and environment. She highlighted an increase in imported water due to an increase in demand. Because local supplies are already used as efficiently as possible, additional demands will need to be met by non-local supplies. In addition, water shortages are expected to occur more often and will be larger due to climate change. Ms. Danner noted that although recreational activities in the Region's reservoirs is not necessary to reservoir functions, they are important economic drivers and, therefore, were analyzed in the Study. Despite increased deliveries, which would help generate hydropower, net energy consumption would increase due to the increase in imported water supplies. The number of floods and their volumes would decrease. Environmental impacts were not modeled in Task 2.3, but an extensive literature review was done. Environmental impacts were the only qualitative measure the Study focused on.

Mr. Funk presented a summary of Task 2.4. The objective of Task 2.4 was to identify and analyze structural and non-structural concepts that can alleviate the impacts of increasing demands and climate change. The teams developed portfolios consisting of adaptation concepts and their associated water resource projects. The portfolios were then modeled for a range of climate and demand scenarios. Adaptation concepts include potable reuse, gray water use, stormwater capture, desalination, and imported water purchases. Associated projects were pulled from SDCWA's 2015 Urban Water Management Plan (UWMP) and 2013 Regional Water Facilities Optimization and Master Plan, the City of San Diego's 2015 UWMP, and the 2013 San Diego IRWM Plan. Specific projects included in the Study were the Carlsbad Desalination Plant, San Diego Pure Water, and Safari Park Storm Water Capture and Reuse Project.

Mr. Piper presented a summary of future work included under *Task 2.5 Trade-off Analysis*. The goal of Task 2.5 is to evaluate the trade-offs between portfolios developed in Task 2.4 and will also include assessment of a well-defined no action alternative. The first step in the evaluation process is to identify evaluation objectives and their associated performance measures. This workshop focused on refining the draft list of evaluation objectives. The performance measures will then be used in the trade-off analysis. Mr. Piper went through the process of conducting a trade-off analysis. Both quantitative and qualitative benefits and costs can be included in a trade-off analysis, and weighting applied to indicate the relative value between the objectives. For example, if water supply is determined to be more valuable than hydropower, performance measures associated with water supply will be weighted more heavily in the trade-off analysis.

Following the presentation, the RAC broke out into discussion groups based on RAC caucuses. During the session, RAC members, joined by members of the public, discussed the draft list of evaluation objectives. The groups were asked to consider the comprehensiveness of the list and to include any objectives and performance measures they thought were missing. The goal of the discussion session was to produce a revised list of evaluation objectives. USBR representatives recorded the discussions of each breakout group.

The feedback from the session will be synthesized after the RAC meeting. A summary of the feedback and final outcomes will be available online. The RAC was encouraged to look up the trade-off analysis done for the Los Angeles Basin Study (Task 6) as an example.

Mr. Funk concluded the workshop by outlining next steps for the Study. A Task 2.4 Results presentation is planned for Fall 2017, and a Task 2.5 Results presentation is planned for Winter 2017. The Study Summary Report is expected in April 2018.

Questions/Comments:

- Why wasn't the Padre Dam IPR project included in the Study?
 - The projects listed on the slides were just some examples of projects included in the Study. The Padre Dam project was included in the analysis.
- Is the trade-off process used to determine final list of projects?
 - The trade-off analysis is used as a tool and is not an end result. It is important to adapt trade-off results to whatever you are looking at. They can also be updated with improved results later. It is important to get different relative values.

- Sometimes trade-offs are not equal, especially if impacts are on the other side of the border.
 - You can still incorporate them qualitatively.
- Did you consider fire protection in the objectives?
 - We can talk about this during the breakout group discussion. We are open to all ideas.
- How does the model consider regulatory constraints that could prohibit a project from moving forward?
 - Regulatory constraints would have been recognized in Task 2.4 and projects with these constraints would not make it into the trade-off analysis. Portfolios should only include feasible projects.
- Regulatory constraints could also be included as an objective.
 - Good point.
- Is there a need for a vulnerability assessment?
 - This is not currently addressed, but can be talked about in the discussion session.

Stormwater Capture Feasibility Study Update – Stephanie Gaines, County of San Diego

Ms. Gaines presented a summary of the Stormwater Capture Feasibility Study (SWCFS) Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Meeting #1. The SWCFS includes the following tasks:

1. Existing conditions
2. Feasibility Analysis
3. Cost Analysis
4. Implementation Approach/Prioritization
5. Feasibility Report

The SWCFS is finishing Task 1 and is moving into Task 2. The TAC consists of a wide-range of technical expertise and has a good representation of RAC members. Task 1 focused on data collection of existing watershed conditions and an inventory of stormwater capture facilities. The analysis looked at current plans and studies as well as the regulatory framework in the Region. The feasibility analysis (Task 2) will include a technical memorandum outlining the modeling approach, model results, and conclusions regarding opportunities and constraints. The TAC identified that system currently has limited storage capacity available and determined that this would be a focus on the SWCFS. More specifically, the study will focus on stormwater storage on public parcels, where the County would have more control over the process. Potential storage at public parcels was estimated to be 92,000 acre-feet per year (AFY). To put this into a regional perspective, the Region has 500,000 AFY of potable use demand. Stormwater captured would count for one-fifth of this need in storage alone. The analysis also determined that 23,000 AFY of stormwater could be infiltrated to potable groundwater basins and 3,000 AFY to non-potable groundwater basins. Treatment and irrigation would be able to utilize 1,000 AFY, and 65,000 AFY could be used for treatment and potable or recycled use. Potential beneficial

uses also include sustaining vegetation in natural treatment systems and using stormwater as controlled discharge to wastewater treatment for indirect potable reuse.

Task 3 Cost Analysis will determine costs of capital, operations and management, and rehabilitation and replacement. The goal of this task will be to develop a unit cost of water in dollars per AFY. The analysis will also identify any potential funding opportunities. Task 4 will develop prioritization criteria, which will include volume of local water supply augmented, SWRC multi-benefit scoring, and feasibility. The task will prioritize projects into short-, mid-, and long-term projects.

Ms. Gaines presented a summary of TAC recommendations including consideration of ecological impacts. The hope for the SWCFS is that it will be considered a “living document.” The County is restricted by time and costs, which is why it is focusing on storage on public parcels. Ms. Gaines hopes that another entity can continue the study upon completion. The San Diego Basin Study (Study) may also help to inform the SWCFS. The SWCFS can infer from Study results about future efficiency improvements of existing water infrastructure, including reservoirs and conveyance systems. In addition, the SWCFS can incorporate the Study’s climate change impact results. The County is currently accepting data from all entities in the Region until close of business on August 8, 2017. The data sharing information is listed below. For those interested in staying informed about the SWCFS, please subscribe at the following website: <http://www.projectcleanwater.org/stormwater-capture-and-use-feasibility-study/>. The Data Collection and Existing Conditions Technical Memorandum (TM) is expected to be complete by September 26, 2017. The Draft Technical Feasibility Analysis and Model Approach TM will be complete by October 23, 2017. The TAC Meeting #2: Model Approach Webinar is scheduled for late October 2017.

Data Sharing Information

Open in file explorer: <ftp.esassoc.com>

Username: TAC

Password: SDH2O

Questions/Comments:

- Is the study focused only on the San Diego Bay?
 - The study area is the San Diego IRWM Region.
- Will the team take data after the deadline?
 - Yes.
- Have you looked at water rights issues?
 - There is legal counsel on the TAC to advise on water rights issues that may come up.

Public Comments

None.

Summary and Next Steps

Ms. Prickett presented current funding opportunities in the Region. This will be a new segment in future RAC meetings and will be used to inform the RAC about current and future funding opportunities. She encouraged the RAC to let the RWMG know of any opportunities that are not on its radar. The DWR Desalination and Sustainable Groundwater Planning (SGWP) Grant Programs are now open for application. The SGWP Grant Program is broken down into two categories – groundwater sustainability for severe DACs and Groundwater Sustainability Plan planning and development. The Draft PSP has been posted, with the Final PSP anticipated to be posted soon. Application submissions are based on a rolling deadline. Phase 1 applications can be submitted from August through October 2017. Phase 2 applications can be submitted from December 2017 through January 2018. The USBR Water Infrastructure for Improvements to the Nation (WIIN) Act Grant Program is also open. There are 34 projects (nation-wide), which submitted a USBR Title XI Feasibility Study, that are eligible for this grant. The application deadline is August 17, 2017.

Questions/Comments:

- I would just like to inform everyone that eligibility for Category 1 of the SGWP Grant requires that the project must be previously included in an IRWM Plan.
 - Good point, this is also a requirement for the Desalination Grant. Please reach out the RWMG if you would like us to export the list of existing IRWM Plan projects from OPTI for your application.
- There is a new State Water Resources Control Board program called the Drinking Water for Schools Grant Program. The program focuses on providing funding for impaired drinking water or drinking water access for schools (K-12) in DACs. Projects include installation of point-of-use equipment like drinking water fountains. The program is offering \$25,000 – \$100,000 for individual schools and \$25,000 – \$1 million for school districts. Rural Community Assistance Corporation (RCAC) is holding a workshop next month, with an announcement to follow. Because we wanted to allocate as much money to installation of the projects, we have a limited outreach budget. If anyone would like to donate a venue for the workshop, please contact Jennifer Hazard.
- I would like to say thank you to the RAC for allowing us to use today's meeting for our Basin Study Workshop. Thank you for providing your input and adding value.

Next RAC Meeting:

- October 4, 2017 – 9:00-11:30 am

2017 Meeting Schedule:

- December 6