



Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) Meeting #95

February 2, 2022
9:00 am – 11:30 am

Zoom Meeting

NOTES

Attendance

RAC Members

Al Lau and Marissa Potter, Santa Fe Irrigation
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
David Walker, San Diego Audubon Society
Elizabeth Lovsted for Kelley Gage, San Diego County Water Authority
Jennifer Sabine, Sweetwater Authority
Joey Randall for Kim Thorner, Olivenhain Municipal Water District
Julia Chunn-Heer, Surfrider
Julie Kalansky, Scripps Institute of Oceanography
Justin Gamble and Tim Murphy, City of Oceanside
Katrina Hiott for Jennifer Hazard, Rural Community Assistance
Keli Balo, City of San Diego
Kimberly O'Connell, UCSD Clean Water Utility
Leslie Cleveland for Jack Simes, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
Mark Seits, Floodplain Management Association
Michelle Berens, Helix Water District
Mike Thorton and Chris Trees, San Elijo JPA
Patrick McDonough, San Diego Coastkeeper
Phil Pryde and Rob Hustel, San Diego River Park Foundation
Sandra Jacobson, California Trout

RWMG Staff and Consultants

Arthella Vallarta, Woodard & Curran
Chelsea McGimpsey, County 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

Bill Luksic, San Diego County Water Authority
Bill Oswald, The Global Action Research Center
Bob Leiter, American Planning Association, Regional and Intergovernmental Planning Division
Cary Lowe, American Planning Association, Regional and Intergovernmental Planning Division
Diane Foote, Public
Gail Patton, San Diego County Water Authority
Joni German, San Diego County Water Authority
Mark Stadler, Mark Stadler Consulting
Michelle Hallack, NV5
Mick Cothran, Fallbrook Public Utility District
Paul Watson Jr., The Global Action Research Center
Peg Engel, STAY COOL for Grandkids
Ryan Krantz, Viejas Tribal Government
Wenda Alvarez, WSA Marketing

Welcome, Introductions, & Land Acknowledgement

Ms. Elizabeth Lovsted, San Diego County Water Authority, 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.

Collaborative Planning for Climate Resilience

Mr. Bob Leiter, American Planning Association, Regional and Intergovernmental Planning Division, presented an overview of the Collaborative Planning for Climate Resilience Report (the Report). The Report focuses on climate resilience and adaptation as opposed to mitigation to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. Most local governments and major institutions in the San Diego Region have adopted Climate Action Plans for mitigation purposes. In recent years, there has been more attention on climate adaptation, which manages the risk of climate change impacts. The four most important guidance documents and advisory reports on climate adaptation and resilience are the California Adaptation Planning Guide, California General Plan Guidelines, San Diego Region Report, and the 2019 San Diego Integrated Regional Water Management Plan.

Ms. Julie Kalansky, Scripps Institution of Oceanography, provided an overview of the climate change impacts in the San Diego Region. Since 1980, there has been an increase in both daytime and nighttime heatwaves in the San Diego Region. It is projected that the average hottest day per year at the end of the century in the San Diego Region will be two to four degrees hotter. The temperature also responds to carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. If GHG emissions are moderated, the temperature will not severely increase.

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The San Diego Region is also experiencing precipitation extremes. The projections show increased variability in the future, experiencing an increase in the most extreme precipitation at the end of the century (2070-2100). Additionally, the San Diego Region will experience seasonal changes due to climate change. The San Diego Region's winter months are projected to get wetter, and spring and fall are projected to get drier. If there is not enough precipitation in the fall, it may extend the fire season. The San Diego Region will also experience more extreme sea level rise, so it is essential to start planning for long-term solutions.

There is also a notion of compounding extremes that have become more prevalent in academic literature. An example of a compounding extreme is the 2012-2016 drought. Other examples of compounding extremes are co-occurrence of heatwaves and fires, co-occurrence of coastal and inland flooding, and sequential drought and wildfire.

Mr. Cary Lowe, American Planning Association, Regional and Intergovernmental Planning Division presented on environmental justice and equity in climate resilience planning. Many environmental justice communities, such as low-income communities, communities of color, and Native American Tribes (Tribes), are vulnerable to climate change impacts due to prevailing conditions. The prevailing conditions result from historical inequities, neglect by planners, diversion of resources by public officials, and avoidance by financial institutions. There is a special consideration for Tribal Nations. There are 18 federally recognized Tribal Nations in the San Diego Region, which is the largest in the nation. The Tribal Nations tend to be located further inland and in rural areas. Due to their locations, Tribal Nations are more subject to extreme climate impacts and compounding effects.

The result of climate change impacts that environmental justice communities face is reduced resilience and vulnerability to compounding extremes. Many of these communities experience conflicting land use, environmental degradation, flooding, lack of shade and excess pavement, substandard infrastructure, and sea level rise. The California Adaptation Planning identifies three categories in achieving equity. The first category is procedural equity, which refers to the process of achieving equity. The second category is distributional equity, which describes how resources are allocated. The third category is structural equity and that refers to the underlying social and economic conditions that make environmental justice communities vulnerable. There are opportunities to address environmental justice impacts through planning. By incorporating environmental justice concerns into planning documents, they will make planning documents more effective and equitable.

Mr. Leiter presented on climate resilience planning and implementation. The Report identifies several regional and subregional plans that require climate impact analysis. For the presentation, Mr. Leiter focused on the reports that are relevant to the San Diego IRWM Program. The first report is the Regional Water Management Plan. The San Diego County Water Authority updates their Urban Water Management Plan every five years. The second report is the Regional and Subregional Water Quality Plans, which includes the Water Quality Control Plan for the San Diego Basin and the Watershed Management Area Water Quality Plans. The third report is the Regional Subregional Habitat Conservation Plans, which includes the San Diego Multiple Species Conservation Program (MSCP) and the MSCP Subregional Planning Area Programs.

There are mandatory elements that must be included in city and county general plans. One of the required elements is the safety element. The purpose of the safety element is to "include safety considerations in the planning and decision-making process by establishing policies related to future development that will minimize the risk of personal injury, loss of life, property damage, and environmental damage associated with natural and human-caused hazards" as defined in the County of San Diego's General Plan. The second requirement element is the environmental justice element. The environmental justice element must address pollution exposure and air quality, public facilities, food access, safe and sanitary homes, physical activity, community engagement, and improvements and programs that address the needs of disadvantaged communities.

The proposed framework of the Report considers state and federal laws, state general plan guidelines, state climate adaptation planning sectors, and the American Planning Association's Sustaining Places Comprehensive

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Planning Framework. The framework's components include integration across topical focus areas, integration across scales, and environmental justice and equity as an overarching consideration. The Report also translates the state's adaptation sectors into four topical focus areas which are infrastructure, natural resources, coastal resources, and public health and safety. All 11 of the state's climate adaptation sectors fit within the four topical focus areas.

The Report also explains the conceptual planning process, which considered the plan development process, community engagement, and climate science research and modeling. Community engagement is an essential component of the climate planning process. The key players that should be involved in community engagement are public agencies and other service providers, Tribal nations, research organizations (universities), and community education, advocacy and outreach groups. The Report also includes other important considerations and future actions.

Questions/Comments:

- Here is the website for the report: <https://cnap.ucsd.edu/2021/06/30/collaborative-planning-for-climate-resilience/>. It includes the full report, an executive summary, one-page fact sheet about the report (all available for download), and interview about the report that aired on KPBS, and in Op-Ed that appeared in the San Diego Union Tribune.
- Are all the slides available in the full report?
 - The slides are not part of the full report. However, the tables included in the presentation are all part of the report.
 - The slides are in the RAC meeting packet and will also be posted this month to the San Diego IRWM website with today's meeting materials.
- Let's not forget floodplain management plans and drainage master plans.
- Ensuring equal access can mean making meetings after work hours or otherwise accessible to working class folks or those caring for children during the workday, providing childcare, etc.
 - Yes, please see how the report addresses those issues.
- Do you have any advice in making sure that certain groups do not have too much undoing influence in the development of planning documents?
 - It is an endemic problem in a process that is political. How to ensure that everybody has opportunities for influence is challenging, which is a concern in environmental justice. It is to make sure the process provides adequate participation of environmental justice communities and to ensure that their input is taken seriously. Once the input gets to the decision-makers, it is difficult to ensure equitable treatment. It has improved over the years, but it is still not perfect. There is always a concern of undoing influence by certain interests, but all you can do is push back and try to balance the scales. You need to make sure that everybody shows up and that they provide meaningful input.
 - The state law requires cities to update the safety element in the general plan, which has specific requirements which include consideration of climate change impacts. State law also requires any city or county to adopt an environmental justice element.
- You covered the three main components of IRWM. This is a reminder that flood plain management is a key part in our water management portfolio. How we manage our flood plains in relation to the topics that you discussed and how we incorporate the long-range coastal management is important as well.
 - It is critically important that we consider floodplain management in the context of water quality and water management. What we used to consider 100-year floods are now becoming 50-year floods, and this is happening more frequently. This is a direct result of climate change. There is a lot of technical work that needs to be done to update the mapping and research. There also needs to be policy updates to reflect flooding issues, and how they impact the environmental

justice communities that have underdeveloped stormwater facilities. I think this where IRWM can help local governments and agencies better manage stormwater.

- A lot of our grant and planning programs are based on the benefit to cost ratio. Our lower economic areas do not have the damages from a dollar standpoint that the more affluent areas have, causing those projects not to be prioritized.
- I think cost benefit analysis and return benefit analysis do not do a good job in considering the major impacts climate change is having on all systems.

Statewide IRWM and Grant Updates

Ms. Lesley Dobalian, San Diego County Water Authority, presented updates on the Department of Water Resources (DWR) grant funds that were authorized in 2021 through the Drought Funding Grant Program. \$500 million dollars was authorized by the California Legislature to provide drought relief financial assistance through the Small Community Drought Relief Program and the Urban and Multibenefit Drought Relief Program. The Small Community Drought aims to provide immediate and near-term financial and technical support to help small communities survive the current and future droughts. DWR has released four rounds of awards, and applications will be processed until funds are exhausted or until December 29, 2023, whichever comes first. The San Diego Funding Area submitted a \$5 million dollar grant application for the Underrepresented Communities (URCs) and Tribes Set Aside through the Urban and Multibenefit Drought Relief Program on January 13. The grant application included four projects, resulting in 932-acre feet per year of water supply reliability. The award is expected in March 2022. Additionally, the California Office of Emergency Services announced a new, one-time, grant initiative called the Prepare CA Jumpstart Program. The goal is to help socially vulnerable and high hazard risk communities to jumpstart their progress towards greater resilience through advanced outreach, technical assistance, and funds to subsidize local mitigation and resilience initiatives. There is approximately \$15 million dollars available, and applications are due February 28, 2022.

Ms. Stephanie Gaines, County of San Diego, presented updates on Proposition 1, Round 2. The draft Proposal Solicitation Package (PSP) and Guidelines for Proposition 1, Round 2 were released on December 10th. Comments to DWR are due Friday, February 18th by 5 PM and the San Diego IRWM Region plans to submit a letter. There is approximately \$16 million dollars available to the San Diego IRWM Region. The eligible applicants and project types have remained the same from Proposition 1, Round 1. The San Diego IRWM Region highly encourages partnerships. For project eligibility, DWR requires projects to have quantifiable benefits that address critical statewide needs, which includes climate change and regional water resilience, be consistent with statewide priorities, and have an expected useful life of at least 15 years. The San Diego IRWM Region requires projects to be included in the San Diego IRWM Plan, stormwater projects must be in the Stormwater Resources Plan, and meet Objective A (Encourage the development of integrated solutions to address water management issues and conflicts) and Objective B (Maximize stakeholder/community involvement and stewardship of water resources, emphasizing education and outreach). DWR requires a 50% funding match and there is a partial or full disadvantaged community waiver. Costs incurred following the final award are available for grant reimbursement, and DWR will set grant deadlines based on the PSP comments they receive.

The key changes from Proposition 1, Round 1 are that applicants no longer need to have the California Environmental Quality Act completed and submitted within 12 months of final award. There is no pre-application materials submission and workshop requirement. The Statewide Priorities have been updated to reflect the Water Resilience Portfolio and grant administration costs are excluded from the match requirement calculation. The requirements for Proposition 1, Round 2 are that projects must be complete by December 31, 2026. Applicants must also submit a self-certification form. Additionally, applications have been simplified for areas with funding split agreements.

The San Diego IRWM Region is planning to comment on the draft PSP. Grant administration will not be included when considering total project costs for purposes of match requirement. The San Diego IRWM Region requests DWR to clarify if this applies to the regional grantee or also to individual local project sponsors (LPSs). As indicated in the draft PSP, projects may be removed if they fail to progress in timely fashion. The San Diego IRWM Region requests DWR to clarify their process for determining whether project progress is timely. The San Diego IRWM Region also requests DWR to extend the project completion date to five years from agreement execution, and to extend the grant agreement deadline to accommodate a replacement project if a project is removed.

Ms. Dobalian reviewed San Diego IRWM Program's local process and schedule. The first step of the local process is URC Outreach, which is a new step resulting from the Justice, Equity, Diversity, Inclusion (JEDI) recommendations. This step involves creating an Outreach Workgroup, attending local community meetings to advertise IRWM, and notifying URCs and Tribes of upcoming funding opportunities. The next step is the Local Call for Projects, which involves hosting an Integration Workshop and a Technical Assistance Workshop. Submitted projects during the Call for Projects can be at any level of development. Following the Local Call for Projects is the Project Submittal step. This is where projects are reviewed for any fatal flaws, scored, and tiered. The next step is convening a Project Selection Workgroup (PSW). The PSW evaluates the Tier 1 projects, interviews LPSs, and recommends projects for funding to the RWMG. The RAC will then approve the project list and the grant team will prepare the grant application and submit the application to the state.

Questions/Comments:

- The San Diego River Park Foundation is open to partnering on a grant if someone is looking for a nonprofit partner working in the San Diego River Watershed.
- A community that we assisted with applying for DWR's small community funding received an email from DWR that said they have already received more funding applications than they have funding to fulfill.

URC Outreach Workgroup Update

Ms. Brook Sarson, San Diego Sustainable Living Institute, presented an update on the URC Outreach Workgroup, which was formed in response to previous RAC discussions and a recommendation from the JEDI Workgroup in 2021. The objectives of the Workgroup are to conduct targeted outreach to URCs to the Call for Projects, create distribution materials for URC outreach, notify URCs and Tribes of upcoming funding opportunities, and attend local community meetings to advertise opportunities. The purpose of the Workgroup is to bring more URCs to the table in advance of the Call for Projects and assist URCs in creating competitive funding applications for Proposition 1, Round 2.

The URC Outreach Workgroup has partnered with the Global Action Research Center, which is a social change organization that works to connect grassroots organizing to policy makers and researchers by helping people find their voices in decision-making and dialogue around their communities. The URC Outreach Workgroup is comprised of nine volunteers representing the following RAC caucuses:

- RWMG Agencies (3)
- Natural Resources and Watersheds (1)
- DAC/Environmental Justice (2)
- Water Quality (1)
- Tribal (1)
- Other (1)

The first Workgroup meeting focused on expanding the contact list, discussing outreach methods for maximum stakeholder engagement, and discussing communication needs for stakeholders. The next steps are to develop outreach materials, initiate contact with URCs, and identify and attend local community meetings to present IRWM.

Questions/Comments:

None.

Grant Administration

Ms. Burton, San Diego County Water Authority, presented updates on grant administration. In total, the San Diego IRWM Region has billed DWR over \$81.3 million dollars in grant funding out of the \$111.7 million dollars for nine grant programs, equating to 73% billed. 50 projects are now complete out of the 74 projects funded, which equates to a 68% completion. The total reimbursements received by LPSs to date is \$76.1 million. Proposition 84, Round 3 is almost complete (5 out of 7 projects complete). Two remaining projects under Proposition 84, Round 3 are Project 4: Regional Demand Management Program Expansion (99% complete) and 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 March 2024 with all project implementation to conclude no later than December 2023. There will be no further project extensions authorized by DWR for this grant program. The Proposition 1, DACI Program is about 95% complete. There are two remaining projects: Project 4 Groundwater Planning for Pauma Valley DACs (87% complete) and Project 7 Sediment Management for Tijuana River (81% complete). Proposition 1, Round 1 Program is ongoing. The construction for most projects is underway. Project 5: Pure Water Oceanside and Project 7: San Elijo Stormwater Capture & Reuse are over 80% complete.

Questions/Comments:

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
Cal OES: Prep CA Jumpstart	February 28	Hazard Mitigation Grant Program
DWR: Drought Response Funding <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Small Communities Drought Relief 	Small Communities Funding opened 8/6, rolling deadline	Small Community Drought Relief (ca.gov)
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: Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation (WIIN)	March 15	https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppId=337378

Next RAC Meeting:

- April 6, 2022 – 9:00-11:30 a.m. via virtual platform.

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

- June 1, 2022
- August 3, 2022
- October 5, 2022
- December 7, 2022