



Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) Meeting #80

April 3, 2019

9:00 am – 10:30 am

**San Diego County Water Authority
Board Room**

**4677 Overland Ave., San Diego CA 92123
(858) 522-6600**

NOTES

Attendance

RAC Members

Lan Wiborg, City of San Diego (chair)
Ann Van Leer, Escondido Creek Conservancy
Bill Hunter, Santa Fe Irrigation District
Brook Sarson, San Diego Sustainable Living Institute
Eric La Chappa, La Posta Band of Mission Indians
Erica Pinto, Jamul Indian Village of California
Greg Thomas, Rincon del Diablo Municipal Water District
Jennifer Hazard, Rural Community Assistance Corporation
John Flores and alternate Rob Roy, San Pasqual Band of Mission Indians
Jonathan Witt, San Diego County Board of Education
Justin Gamble, City of Oceanside
Mark Stadler for Kelley Gage, San Diego County Water Authority
Laura Walsh, San Diego Region Climate Collaborative
Marisa Soriano, City of Chula Vista
Michael McSweeney and alternate S. Wayne Rosenbaum, Building Industry Association
Michelle Berens, Helix Water District
Mike Thornton, San Elijo Joint Powers Authority
Patrick McDonough, San Diego Coastkeeper
Rob Hutsel for Phil Pryde, San Diego River Park Foundation
Richard Whipple and alternate Stephanie Gaines, County of San Diego
Robyn Badger, Zoological Society of San Diego
Erick Del Bosque for Ron Mosher, Sweetwater Authority
Sandra Jacobson, California Trout
Sarah Pierce, San Diego Association of Governments
Seval Sven, Padre Dam Municipal Water District
Beth Gentry for Yasmin Arellano, City of El Cajon

RWMG Staff and Consultants

Andrew Funk, City of San Diego
Karina Danek, City of San Diego
Loisa Burton, San Diego County Water Authority
Mark Stadler, San Diego County Water Authority
Mark Stephens, County of San Diego
Nicole Poletto, Woodard & Curran
Rosalyn Prickett, Woodard & Curran
Ruth de la Rosa, County of San Diego
Sarah Brower, City of San Diego
Stephanie Gaines, County of San Diego

Interested Parties to the RAC

Aaron Cook, Fallbrook Public Utilities District
Alicia Appel, City of Escondido
Alison Pau, University of California, San Diego
Bailey Durant, Viejas Tribal Government
Brian Hojnacki, City of San Diego
Bob Leiter, American Planning Association
Cary Lowe, American Planning Association
Daniel DuGal, Viejas Tribal Government
Efren Lopez, San Diego County Water Authority
Hengameh Maher, City of San Diego
Jonathan Avila, City of San Diego
Joni German, San Diego County Water Authority
Julio Garcia, D-Max Engineering Inc.
Katherine Sharp, Wood PLC
Khadija Cunningham, City of San Diego
Lindsey Sheehan, ESA
Lisa Wu, City of San Diego
Marissa Potter, SFID
Sylvia Solis Daniels, City of Vista

Welcome and Introductions

Ms. Lan Wiborg, City of San Diego, welcomed everyone to the meeting and introductions were made around the room. Ms. Wiborg introduced and welcomed two new RAC members.

Regional Water Planning and Climate Resilience: San Diego Region Case Study

Mr. Robert Leiter, FAICP and Mr. Cary Lowe, PhD, AICP, from the American Planning Association presented on San Diego climate resilience and regional water planning. The project seeks to highlight water and climate issues in different geographic and ecological settings, illustrate integrated planning approaches at various scales, and to identify best practices. Including San Diego County, there are a number of case studies across the country including Cape Cod, Miami-Dade County, San Antonio, Minneapolis – St. Paul, and the State of Oregon.

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Mr. Lowe described San Diego's existing setting and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) ecoregion map that identifies the county as part of the California Mediterranean ecoregion. Additional planning documents and data considered in the analysis include surface hydrology information from recent Environmental Impact Reports (EIRs), SDCWA's 2015 Urban Water Management Plan, San Diego Basin Plan, Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) permits, Water Quality Improvement Plans (WQIPs), San Diego Multiple Habitat Conservation Program, and the IRWM Plan. These plans ensure regional resiliency and sustainability and ensure the long-time survival of this region from a water management standpoint.

A new mandate from the State requires an integrated and coordinated approach to hazard mitigation to be part of local jurisdiction plans. As part of SB379, climate change adaptation and resilience must be addressed in the safety element of all general plans in California. The only other state-mandated update to the General Plan is the Housing Element. This means that there is the potential to look at the relationship between the available land for future housing and the potential impacts of climate change during the required climate change analysis for local governments.

Mr. Leiter proposed three short-term actions to address climate change planning in the county: 1) outreach and community engagement, 2) collaborate on the required updates from SB379 in regional and local hazard mitigation planning, and 3) take into account the recent findings on wildfire and flood risk in the IRWM Plan and allow for funding of projects that might support these efforts. A long-term solution is to create a regional "greenprint," integrating water, energy, and habitat.

Questions/Comments:

- As we move through this planning process, a big issue is the funding and resources to make these plans a reality. How do we find the funds? Is it feasible to look at things like Measure W for funding? Plans should move beyond describing the problem and solution, but also present a funding source.
 - Your point is correct, but it is beyond the scope of what we looked at in this paper. It is the logical next question. How do you finance implementation of the plan? Financing of public work and public infrastructure varies across the country and even within California. It is difficult to do a one-size fits all.
 - There are opportunities in the IRWM plan to describe these issues and lay out the possibility of multi-benefit programs to not only meet compliance but also lead to more cost-effective investments in green space and open space. However, these may not be able to be implemented with a public funding source.
- Is this report final or is there an opportunity to amend the recommendations?
 - This report is being published next month by the regional planning division and is meant to be a first step. In the report, the IRWM program is written as a pivotal tool and could play a strong role for cross-jurisdictional and cross-issue solutions.
- How does IRWM intend to support this effort and report?
 - Both climate reports (California and San Diego) and APA Case Study will be uploaded to the SDIRWM website. The language will highlight that IRWM is being put forth as a solution to not only water issues but to larger climate issues.
- Most of the county is fire-prone. Before the county was developed a wildfire usually burned to the ocean. From the perspective of the building industry, where can land be developed if the

entire county is a fire hazard? Lack of production is the biggest reason for the housing crisis. We need to plan for hazard mitigation without over-planning and constraining housing.

- The map shows evacuation areas. Scientific research of wildfire doesn't ban development but says to take wildfire risk into account during development.

Proposition 1, Round 1

Mr. Mark Stadler, SDCWA gave an overview of the project selection process schedule. The process is on hold until DWR releases the Final Proposal Solicitation Package (PSP). In the past, the San Diego IRWM Program has always begun the process without the Final PSP but there are rumors that there may be significant changes from the Draft PSP. Despite public comments being closed in November 2018, the Final PSP has still not been released. If there are significant changes to the Final PSP from the Draft PSP, the Call for Projects will be reopened. Applicants that have already applied will have the opportunity to go back and submit changes to their grant application.

Questions/Comments:

- This feels unfair. How are we supposed to do what DWR is asking when they do not follow their timeline?
 - We have made it clear to DWR that the delay of the Final PSP is making it very difficult for SDIRWM's project selection process in a comment letter. Both the Upper Santa Margarita Watershed and South Orange County IRWM planning regions have echoed this sentiment. No response from DWR has been received.
- The delay of the PSP significantly impacts project sponsors, especially nonprofits. It is already a long time before grant funding is received, and now it is even longer.
- Will DWR hold a comment period for the Final PSP once it is released to allow for comment on major changes? If this occurs, will it delay the process?
 - If DWR makes significant changes to the PSP, they would probably need to open up the comment period again. If everyone must reopen the call for projects, the schedule will be delayed. It seems more likely that Round 1 will be pushed back to 2020.
- Will the available funding amounts change for this round?
 - No, they will not change.

Water Needs Assessment Update

Ms. Ruth dela Rosa, County of San Diego, provided an update on the Water Needs Assessment process. The draft report is currently released for public comment and a public workshop presenting the results of the Assessment will be held immediately following the RAC meeting. Comments on the report are due April 22nd to Nicole Poletto (npoletto@woodardcurran.com). The report can be downloaded here: <http://www.sdirwmp.org/2019-irwm-plan-update>.

Questions/Comments:

- Was the draft Water Needs Assessment sent out to all participants?

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- Yes.

IRWM Plan Phase 2 Public Draft

Mr. Stadler presented an update on Phase 2 of the IRWM Plan. The RWMG has spent the last eight RAC sessions collecting input on both phases of the plan update, and are now preparing for the final step in June. The Phase 2 update focused on incorporating the Stormwater Capture and Use Feasibility Study and Water Needs Assessment. The Draft Plan was recently released for public comment and is available for download here: <http://www.sdirwmp.org/2019-irwm-plan-update>. Comments are due to Mark Stadler (mstadler@sdcwa.org) by April 24, 2019.

Questions/Comments:

- Why are there only 2-3 weeks for review? Is there a reason for the short timeline?
 - The cost of the plan update is funded by DWR, so the update must be completed before the grant schedule ends in June. This is why the update was broken into two phases. This phase only focuses on incorporating the two reports that were released after the finalization of Phase 1. For ease, we can point to which sections were changed to allow for a more targeted, focused review.

Grant Administration

Ms. Loisa Burton, SDCWA, presented updates on grant administration. In total, the San Diego IRWM Region has received \$96.4 million dollars and 62% of that has been billed to DWR. Prop 84, Round 4 is slow on expenditure due to delays in construction and implementation activities. In the Prop 1 Plan Update, all completed work has already been billed to the State. Significant milestones for this period include the completion of San Diego River Park Foundation's Sustaining Healthy Tributaries to the Upper San Diego River project. This project included trainings to both adults and children for restoration activities in the Wilder area.

Public Comments

- No additional comments

Summary and Next Steps

Ms. Rosalyn Prickett, Woodard & Curran, presented a list of upcoming funding opportunities. They have been included in the table below. The State Coastal Conservancy now has a grant available due April 30 and USBR's Title XVI and Small-Scale Water Efficiency Projects grants are due towards the end of April. As we hear of the timing of other opportunities, we will let you know.

Questions/Comments:

- What is desalination construction?
 - There are three different types of Title XVI projects that all require the prior approval of feasibility studies. Desalination grants are for the desalination of either brackish water

or seawater. This is a separate bucket of funding that is appropriated by Congress. The City of Oceanside was awarded a Desalination Grant in 2018.

- Are there any other things that we could highlight for the public or for the RAC?
 - If there are other subjects that we could report out during RAC meetings, please let us know.

Project Types	Deadline	Website
State Coastal Conservancy		
Proposition 1 Grant	April 30	http://scc.ca.gov/grants/proposition-1-grants/
SWRCB Prop 1 Storm Water Grant Program		
Stormwater Grant Program	Summer 2019 (anticipated)	https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/grants_loans/swgp/prop1/
US Bureau of Reclamation		
Small-Scale Water Efficiency Projects Grant	April 24	https://www.usbr.gov/watersmart/swep/index.html
Title XVI/WIIN Grants	April 22	https://www.usbr.gov/watersmart/title/
WIIN Grants	Spring 2019	https://www.usbr.gov/watersmart/title/
Water Marketing Strategy Grants	May 2019 (anticipated)	https://www.usbr.gov/watersmart/watermarketing/index.html
Desalination Construction	TBD	https://www.usbr.gov/watersmart/desalination/index.html

Next RAC Meeting:

- June 5, 2019 – 9:00-11:30 a.m. at SDCWA’s Board Room