



Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) Meeting #85

June 3, 2020

9:00 am – 11:30 am

GoToMeeting

NOTES

Attendance

RAC Members

Richard Whipple, County of San Diego (chair)
Ann Van Leer, Escondido Creek Conservancy
Rania Amen for Al Lau, Santa Fe Irrigation District
Brook Sarson, San Diego Sustainable Living Institute
Eric La Chappa, La Posta Band of Mission Indians
Erica Pinto and James Cuero III, Jamul Indian Village
Julia Escamilla, Rincon del Diablo Municipal Water District
Jennifer Hazard and alternative Oscar Romo, Rural Community Assistance Corporation
Rob Roy for John Flores, San Pasqual Band of Mission Indians
Jonathan Witt, San Diego County Office of Education
Julia Escamilla, Rincon del Diablo Municipal Water District
Keli Balo for Surraya Rashid, City of San Diego
Darbi Berry for Julie Kalansky, San Diego Regional Climate Collaborative
Justin Gamble, City of Oceanside
Elizabeth Lovsted for Kelley Gage, San Diego County Water Authority
Kimberly O'Connell, UCSD Clean Water Utility
Joseph Randall for Kimberly Thorner, Olivenhain Municipal Water District
Lance Andersen, Mission Resource Conservation District
Marisa Soriano, City of Chula Vista
Mark Seits and alternate Alex Yescas, Floodplain Management Association
S. Wayne Rosenbaum for Michael McSweeney, Building Industry Association
Michelle Berens, Helix Water District
Mike Thornton and Chris Trees, San Elijo Joint Powers Authority
Patrick McDonough, San Diego Coastkeeper
Phil Pryde, San Diego River Park Foundation
Robyn Badger and Kelly Craig, Zoological Society of San Diego
Ron Mosher, Sweetwater Authority
Sarah Pierce, San Diego Association of Governments
Yazmin Arellano and Beth Gentry, City of El Cajon

RWMG Staff and Consultants

Chelsea McGimpsey, County 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

Sally Johnson, Woodard & Curran
Stephanie Gaines, County of San Diego
Roselyn Prickett, Woodard & Curran

Interested Parties to the RAC

Alison Pau, University of California San Diego
Amanda Sousa, San Diego Housing Commission
Amelie Catheline, Public Health Alliance
Anna Shepherd, Naval Base Coronado
Anne Bamford, Industrial Environmental Association
Carmel Wong, Department of Water Resources
Christopher Paulino, Viejas Tribal Government
Denise Landstedt, Landstedt Consulting
Daniel DuGal, Viejas Tribal Government
Efren Lopez, San Diego County Water Authority
Elisa Marrone, City of Escondido
Gail Patton, San Diego County Water Authority
Garry A Turner
Ian Clampett, University of California San Diego
Jacqueline Harris, San Diego Housing Commission
Joel Kramer, Weston Solutions
Julie Miles
Jenna Voss, County of Orange
Justin Haessly, Rancho California Water District
Joni German, San Diego County Water Authority
Juli Beth Hinds, University of California San Diego
Megan Chery, Environmental Incentives
Natalie Mladenov, San Diego State University
Patrick Lach, Hey and Associates
Robert Leiter, American Planning Association
Sarah Runger, Hey and Associates
Sheri McPherson, County of San Diego
Will Gaters, San Diego Gas and Electric
Vic Nguyen, Department of Water Resources

Welcome and Introductions

Mr. Richard Whipple, County of San Diego welcomed everyone to the first virtual RAC Meeting. This meeting was held virtually due to COVID-19. Ms. Sally Johnson, Woodard & Curran reviewed the virtual meeting process including how to use the virtual controls and chat feature. The RAC congratulated Sarah Brower on the birth of her son, Elwood.

Project Completion Report

Ms. Juli Beth Hinds, University of California San Diego presented the project completion report for the Alternative Non-Potable Water supplies, Xeriscape Design, and Flood Prevention for Disadvantaged Communities (DACs). This project was funded through the Proposition 1 Disadvantaged Community Involvement Grant in collaboration with the San Diego Housing Commission, the City of Chula Vista, Public Health Alliance, and the City of Imperial Beach. Project costs totaled \$1,175,000.

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The purpose of the project was to engage DAC residents in the design of effective use of alternative, non-potable water supplies, low water use xeriscapes, and flood mitigation strategies. The project expanded community understanding of safe and appropriate use of non-potable water and involved extensive outreach for the collaborative development of resilient landscape designs. Landscapes were designed for sites in Chula Vista, Imperial Beach, and San Diego Housing Commission properties and incorporated community gardens and alternative non-potable water supplies.

The project conducted a targeted needs assessment to understand the determinants of health in plan areas. Factors studied in the survey included poverty rates, unemployment, median household income, active commuting, tree canopy, poor park access, food deserts, and high renter cost. Active commuting was above average and there was a lot of voter engagement in these areas. Three key needs were met through this project and multiple DAC issues were addressed in the designs including urban flooding, poor surface water quality, illegal dumping and trash, high volume surface runoff, and lack of recreational spaces.

Outreach was conducted by an engagement consultant. There was high participation in the Needs Assessment survey and social mapping outreach. Over 200 people attended and participated in a collaborative design workshop or site visit. Eighth graders learned how to use scenario planning software and 25 organizations, agencies and business were directly engaged in the process.

Project benefits are dependent on each landscape design. There is a range of savings over a number of different settings and projects. Implementation benefits include irrigation offsets from 6,109 to 513,490 gallons per year, capture and infiltration of 4,167 to 185,831 gallons per 1-inch storm, and capture & reuse for community garden/landscape from 1,260 to 20,000 gallons per year. A few challenges were encountered during project implementation including agency silos and challenges with school districts in particular. This is hopefully something that IRWM can troubleshoot and engage with in the future.

Questions/Comments:

- How do we incorporate and encourage more grey water use into the requirements of our IRWM Plan?
 - We need to increase the literacy of what laundry grey water is; there are a lot of myths. There are currently ongoing regulatory barriers, but there will be a push from Sacramento to get more alignment in State and County regulations.
 - This project is trying to advance the use of grey water on a pilot level. There is community demand. It is easiest to implement on single properties. For example, how do we get tenants in a multi-family building to agree on a laundry detergent? There was a lot of citizen input that we included in our report, that can be accessed at the following link: <http://bit.ly/BlueprintSD2019>.
- Great job on the presentation and project Juli Beth. There are a lot of similarities with the San Diego Region Stormwater Capture and Use Feasibility Study process; looking forward to reading your final report.
- This project is exciting to see. I am interested in the quantification of benefits specifically related to flooding. Have the areas you were looking at experienced flood benefits on a regular basis? How do you trade-off the benefits between water supply and flood prevention?
 - One of the sites in Imperial Beach addressed a chronic flooding issue. The local hydrology was flashy with a neighborhood and intersection that frequently floods. There was also the issue of erosive flood damage. Project benefit provided relief in a DAC. Are there locations where flood capture could turn into a water supply opportunity?

- What was the problem encountered with school districts?
 - We began our engagement at the beginning of the school's modernization process. While we were able to work with the school board, there was a very narrow project scope. Because the plans were already developed and modernization was on a particular track, it was difficult to reconcile. It was also difficult to update the plans, and then it became a contract and bidding issue. In the future, engagement at the highest level will begin before plans are developed to avoid similar issues. This project struggled with the inability to modify for new opportunities and fear of losing funding and a spot in the construction queue.
 - Sometimes it can be hard to change a process when there is muscle memory. We found that in periods of bid savings, we could offer changes in the form of betterments. If project estimates were coming in under government estimate, we could use those opportunities to add in extra benefits. Using that approach may make it easier to insert yourself into the process.
- I'd like to speak to the flood prevention aspect in City Heights. There was flooding and erosions at numerous properties. With stormwater capture and very strategically placed green infrastructure we would be able to improve the flooding and soil erosion at these properties.

Multiple RAC members used the chat feature to thank Juli for an excellent presentation.

San Diego IRWM Summit

Ms. Stephanie Gaines, County of San Diego discussed the IRWM Summit that was held on March 2, 2020 at the Water Conservation Garden. The classroom where the event was held was funded through an IRWM grant. The event included a tour of the garden, a game of Jeopardy to review SDIRWM history and accomplishments, a Q&A period with DWR, and a feedback activity related to the evolution of the program. Sandy Kerl from the San Diego County Water Authority was the keynote speaker and discussed the value of IRWM in the region. RAC Members Oscar Romo and Robyn Badger tied for the win in the game of Jeopardy. Following the game show, Carmel Brown from DWR gave an update on the IRWM program, and shared about the new Safe and Affordable Funding for Equality and Resilience (SAFER) program as a resource for IRWM stakeholders who may need additional assistance with project development, operations, and maintenance.

Through an interactive feedback activity, participants discussed the future of SDIRWM for the San Diego Region. We looked at past activities, past Summits, and feedback from the RAC to help determine priorities moving forward. The feedback session was broken into four topics: the RAC, the Future of SDIRWM, IRWM Evolution, and IRWM Program Support for Stakeholders. Key themes from the discussion included: expand topics and activities, engage with more entities and initiatives, increase funding-related support, encourage changes at the State level to improve the funding process, and go beyond planning and funding. At a future RAC meeting, the results of this discussion will be presented.

Questions/Comments:

- It was a great Summit!

Localizing San Diego Water Conference

Ms. Amelie Catheline, Public Health Alliance and Ms. Brook Sarson, San Diego Sustainable Living Institute presented information on the Localizing San Diego Water Conference planned for Spring 2021.

This project is part of the greater Proposition 1 grant described by Ms. Hinds earlier today and is related to the Advancing Safe, Healthy Non-potable Water Use for the San Diego Region project. This project focused on

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greywater, rainwater, stormwater, and A/C condensate and was applied at different scales from single family homes, mixed use buildings, and the community garden.

Two documents were created to explore issues and challenges for greater use of non-potable water in the San Diego Region. The Discovery Document can be found here: <http://bit.ly/DiscoveryDocumentSD2019> and the blueprint to unlock the barriers can be found here: <http://bit.ly/BlueprintSD2019>.

The purpose of the conference will be to enhance localized water in San Diego. Both Amelie and Brook attended the annual statewide conference for the Localizing California Waters conference last November. Some topics mirrored topics discussed at RAC meetings. The focus of these discussions was watershed health. There was a more localized, regional conference in Ojai last April for Ventura, Santa Barbara, and San Luis Obispo counties. This conference focused on further enhancing collaboration between organizations, highlighting innovative integrated strategies that bridge successful water, land and resource management, and developing a shared vision.

The San Diego Localized Water Conference is an opportunity to come together and create a model for upcoming State requirements, climate change, and community resilience. A more collaborative opportunity in the region will elevate more voices and create a long-term vision for regional collaboration.

There was feedback from the Summit that stakeholder would like to go beyond the planning and funding model and have more collaboration. In Santa Ana, over 80% of water management funding is from local jurisdictions. Amelie and Brook suggested if we work together, we may be able to free up more funding for watershed planning to bring more DAC and social justice voices to the table.

Desired outcomes for the conference include:

- A vision for localizing water in San Diego
- Develop a strategic plan for the region to include decentralized non-potable water
- Develop creative ideas for collaborative and local funding streams
- Collaborate with local stakeholders and engage with the broader state and national effort

In terms of logistics, they are looking at funding options, determining interest, and securing a venue. They would like to ensure a broad audience can attend and therefore, that the conference is affordable. They do have the support of the Sierra Watershed Progressive who planned to participate in the event during early planning stages prior to the pandemic. They will follow up with a RAC Member survey to determine if anyone is interested in becoming involved with preliminary planning or discussion of event outcomes. The RAC has a great structure for project selection and it would be great to apply this structure at a broader level in the region for a wider range of projects.

Questions/Comments

- None

COVID-19 Impacts

Ms. Loisa Burton, SDCWA discussed the impact of COVID-19 pandemic on the region's IRWM projects. In early April, DWR inquired about the impact of the pandemic on the Proposition 1, Disadvantaged Community Involvement (DACI) Grant. SDIRWM surveyed all active local project sponsors in the DACI round, Proposition 84, Drought Round and Proposition 84, Round 4. 44% of local project sponsors responded and reported impacts. Reported impacts included impacts on day-to-day operations, cashflow, environmental documentation, project activities, and schedule. Many project sponsors are working from home and utilizing digital space for outreach and coordination. The IRWM Grant Administration Program began working from home on March 18 and

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created an electronic document routing and approval processes and switched to virtual meetings and electronic communications.

Mr. Mark Stadler, SDCWA, discussed upcoming stimulus funding in light of impacts from COVID-19. Stimulus funding is expected to flow through existing programs like the State Water Resources Control Board and WaterSMART. The priority is anticipated to be on shovel ready projects and projects that support DACs. If applying for stimulus funding, frame your projects along the lines of economic benefits. The water bond is expected to be delayed in favor of COVID-19 relief and this stimulus funding is expected to be an infrastructure/economic stimulus bond measure. We hope and anticipate that there will be a water resources related component and are working to incorporate IRWM program funding into that component.

In terms of impacts on the San Diego IRWM Program, the RWMG and RAC are still meeting as usual. The GAP is continuing to submit reports and invoices, and DWR is issuing reimbursements. IRWM agencies are following the governor's stages of reopening and DWR remains committed to IRWM.

Proposition 1 Implementation Grant

Ms. Gaines provided updates on the Proposition 1, Round 1 IRWM grant. The draft award was released on May 7. SDIRWM collaborated with the Tri-County FACC on a comment letter that was submitted May 28. The letter thanked DWR and provided recommendations on how to improve Proposition 1, Round 2. Final award is expected in July 2020. Awarded projects have up to 12 months to complete CEQA and permitting needed to begin construction.

Questions/Comments:

- Regarding the North City Pure Water Project, why didn't the benefits change when the project cost was lowered from \$60M to \$30M?
 - The project was simplified to reduce administrative burden. The need for the pump station alone met the grant award, which is why the removal of the conveyance didn't impact the project or the project benefits.
- What if the City of San Diego wants money for another component of Pure Water later?
 - It would not be eligible. If we credit the project for 37,000 AFY, that benefit cannot be reused in a future round for a different component. The same benefits cannot be repetitively claimed.

Grant Administration

Ms. Burton presented updates on grant administration. The last update was at the December 2019 RAC Meeting. In total, the San Diego IRWM Region has received \$96.4 million dollars and 69% of that has been billed to DWR (\$66.9 million). Proposition 84, Round 3 received a one-year extension for two added projects. Otherwise, all other projects have been completed. Project highlights include the Carlsbad Recycled Water Plant & Distribution System Expansion and San Diego Water Use Reduction project.

Proposition 84, Round 4, is scheduled to be complete in October 2022 with most projects at over 50% completion. Project highlights include the Regional Drought Resiliency Program, the Safari Park Drought Response and Outreach, and the Rural DAC Partnership Project, Phase III. This project involves floating trash booms in the Tijuana Valley to capture trash transport in Smugglers Gulch Channel. Proposition 1, DACI Round is also nearing completion, with 6 of 11 projects over 90% complete.

In March of 2020, SDIRWM hosted a site visit at the San Luis Rey Water Reclamation Plant with DWR. It was a great success.

Questions/Comments

- Are there impacts to aquatic life or the potential for human entanglement in the trash boom? Any negative environmental impacts?
 - This project is CEQA exempt. We designed the trash booms so wildlife cannot be trapped. They are monitored and have not experienced. This is mostly wastewater in the creek. When it rains there is a lot of trash and is unpleasant for wildlife.
- What is done with the trash?
 - The trash that we can use is high density plastic that can be reduced to flakes. These flakes can be melted back to useful pieces. So far we have been producing these large sheets that can be made in different thicknesses. In the future, we may be able to do something else with the sheets or with the trash.
- How long will the trash boom be supported/maintained through the grant?
 - O&M is typically not paid for by the grant. Currently, there is no funding to keep the trash boom operating. We are working with the County to adopt the trash booms after completion. They will manage the booms for 2 more years. The trash booms themselves are made out of trash. The tiles are 8x4 feet sheets that help produce these trash booms. Most of the materials and floating devices are secondhand materials. Going to try to repurpose the trash that is useful (high density plastic) and the rest is for the landfill.
- Can the boom capture heavy non-floating trash in the benthic area, such as tires, or just floating trash?
 - It can only capture floating trash. In the next storm season, the booms are being retrofitted and will be applied in September to capture trash that flows under the booms.
- Is it kept up during flood events?
 - Storm season is early September to late April. After the storm season, the booms are removed because the channel gets dredged. Spills are difficult to predict. If the trash booms are installed during that time, they can help.
- Were there any regulatory approvals (for example by the Regional Water Quality Control Board) that were required to install this in a receiving water?
 - We followed the permitting process, yes.
- Nice to see such a holistic approach to social problems and material sourcing. Genius!

Public Comments

- The RAC is due to discuss support for DAC communities that are well organized to assist with project planning. Can we have this discussion at the next meeting?
 - Yes, we can. Do you have specific suggestions about what you want us to touch on?
 - We have had this discussion previously. The two topics that should be touched on are: 1) Some DAC communities don't have the ability to put together projects and need help and 2) sometimes DAC projects do not match the kind of projects that IRWM is looking for. We even talked about some RAC members volunteering their time to make those projects happen, so perhaps we can formally commit to that.

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- We would like to add DAC opportunities to the localizing San Diego Waters Conference.

Summary and Next Steps

Ms. Sally Johnson, Woodard & Curran presented a list of upcoming funding opportunities. They have been included in the table below.

Project Types	Deadline	Website
SWRCB		
Prop 1 Storm Water Grant Program (SWGPP)	July 2 at 2:00 p.m.	https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/grants_loans/swgp/prop1/
Prop 1 Technical Assistance Funding Program	Open: rolling	https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/grants_loans/proposition1/tech_asst_funding.html
USBR WaterSMART Drought Response Program – Drought Resiliency	July 8 at 3 p.m.	https://www.usbr.gov/newsroom/newsrelease/detail.cfm?RecordID=70743
Prop 68 Groundwater Treatment and Remediation Grant Program for Severely Disadvantaged Communities	July 17 at 5 p.m.	https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/grants_loans/propositions/prop68.html#applying
State Coastal Conservancy Prop 1 Grant	July 31	https://scc.ca.gov/grants/proposition-1-grants/

SWRCB Storm Water Grant Program

Eligible projects for the Storm Water Grant Program may include green infrastructure, rainwater and stormwater capture projects, and stormwater treatment facilities. Approximately \$100M in funding is available with grants ranging in size from \$25,000 to \$10M per applicant.

In order to be eligible for the grant program, the project must be contained in SDIWRM’s OPTI database on the SWRP Project List (<http://irwm.rmewater.com/sd/login.php>). Project applications are due July 2, and confirmation letters must be requested from SDIRWM by June 15.

Next RAC Meeting:

- August 5, 2020 – 9:00-11:30 a.m. via virtual platform, or SDCWA’s Board Room if applicable.