



Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) Meeting #64

October 5, 2016

9:00 am – 12:00 pm

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

NOTES

Attendance

RAC Members

Lan Wiborg, City of San Diego (chair)

Amanda Loeper for Kimberly O'Connell, University of California – San Diego Clean Water

Ann Van Leer, Escondido Creek Conservancy

Arne Sandvik for Albert Lau, Padre Dam

Bill Hunter, Santa Fe Irrigation District

Bob Kennedy, Otay Water District

Brian Olney, Helix Water District

Chris Helmer, City of Imperial Beach

Chris Roesink for Patrick Crais, California Landscape Contractors Association

Crystal Najera, City of Encinitas (and alternate Ligeia Heagy, Carlsbad Municipal Water District)

Greg Thomas, Rincon del Diablo Municipal Water District

Jack Simes, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation

Jennifer Hazard, Alter Terra

Joey Randall for Kimberly Thorner, Olivenhain Municipal Water District

John Flores, San Pasqual Band of Mission Indians (and alternate Rob Roy, La Jolla Band of Indians)

Kristin Kuhn for Travis Pritchard, San Diego Coastkeeper

Lauma Willis, Department of Water Resources – Southern Region Office

Leigh Johnson, University of California Cooperative Extension

Mark Stadler for Toby Roy, San Diego County Water Authority

Marilyn Thoms, County of Orange

Michael McSweeney, Building Industry Association

Mike Thornton, SEJPA

Pablo Figueroa for Olga Morales, RCAC

Phil Pryde, San Diego River Park Foundation

Ramin Abidi, County of San Diego

Sarah Pierce, San Diego Association of Governments

RWMG Staff and Consultants

Andrew Funk, City of San Diego
Crystal Benham, RMC Water and Environment
Goldy Herbon, City of San Diego
Loisa Burton, San Diego County Water Authority
Mark Stephens, City of San Diego
Rosalyn Prickett, RMC Water and Environment
Sally Johnson, RMC Water and Environment
Stephanie Gaines, County of San Diego

Interested Parties to the RAC

Alex Heide, City of Poway
Amanda Sousa, San Diego Housing Commission
Antonia Estevez-Olea, LWA
Bryn Evans, Dudek
Boushra Salem, City of Chula Vista
Chiara Clemente, Regional Water Quality Control Board - Region 9
Doug Thomsen, City of San Diego
George Wilkins, San Luis Rey Watershed Council and La Jolla Tribe
Heidi Brow, Pala Tribe
Helen Davies, City of Escondido
Jana Vierola, San Diego County Water Authority
Janice Duvall, San Diego County Office of Education
Lisa Skutecki, Brown and Caldwell
Maria Margarita Borja, City of San Diego
Marsha Westropp, Orange County Water District
Martha Davis, City of San Diego
Mo Lahsaie, City of Oceanside
Nathan White, City of San Diego
Ray Teran, Viejas Band of Kumeyaay Indians
Ruth de la Rosa, County of San Diego

Welcome and Introductions

Ms. Lan Wiborg, City of San Diego, welcomed everyone to the meeting. Introductions were made around the room.

Regional Stormwater Resources Plan

Ms. Ruth de la Rosa and Mr. David Pohl, ESA, presented on the Regional Stormwater Resources Plan (Regional SWRP), which is being funded under a grant received by the County of San Diego through the IRWM Program under Proposition 1. The Regional SWRP's process includes public workshops, which are being held jointly with RAC meetings. This meeting served as the first public workshop for the Regional SWRP. Mr. Pohl explained the focus of this workshop was on the proposed project scoring process under the Regional SWRP. Inclusion in an SWRP is required for stormwater projects under Proposition 1 and SB 985, but the SWRP is not a compliance document. Instead, the Regional SWRP

is intended to be a guide to help project sponsors determine potential competitiveness of stormwater projects for funding, as well as to help identify potential areas in which the projects could be strengthened.

Due to the timing of grant programs for stormwater projects, development of the Regional SWRP is on an aggressive schedule. Stormwater projects are required to be included on the SWRP's project list within 90 days of grant award. Project proposals under Round 1 have already been submitted, and awards are anticipated at the end of January 2017. The Regional SWRP will be a functional equivalent plan because the San Diego Region has already completed substantial stormwater planning efforts, including the Water Quality Improvement Plans (WQIPs). Any projects that are already included in stormwater-related planning documents will be included in the Regional SWRP.

Round 2 of stormwater funding is underway, and the current call for projects is now. This program funds individual projects, not regional applications, so each potential project sponsor must apply separately.

The project prioritization process under the Regional SWRP consists of three steps: 1) project eligibility, 2) project scoring, and 3) watershed analysis. The first step identifies whether a project is eligible based on the following project benefits: water quality, water supply, flood management, environmental, and community. Projects must have two or more benefits in order to qualify, along with additional eligibility requirements. Each claimed benefit is then assessed and assigned a score based on benefit-specific metrics (Step 2). Additional points are assigned to projects that have been identified in planning documents under the watershed analysis (Step 3). For a more in depth look at the prioritization process please refer to the presentation slides.

Once the Regional SWRP is complete, to get your project added to the list for the Regional SWRP, you will use the San Diego IRWM Program's online OPTI database, and check the box indicating it is a stormwater project. The IRWM Program is excited to work with the stormwater Copermittees to make this change.

Questions/Comments:

- How would the Regional SWRP intersect with the City of San Diego's Watershed Protection Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)?
 - Projects developed through other programs need to go through the project list and scoring process in the Regional SWRCP if it is a qualifying stormwater project
- Should I already know the vision for this plan? Is the vision for the Regional SWRP driving the projects or vice versa?
 - The Regional SWRP provides guidance for project development to help develop multi-benefit projects and to help develop metrics for multiple benefits.
- How much funding in Proposition 1 is available for stormwater? How much funding is available under Round 2 of the stormwater grants? Are these funds statewide funds?
 - Yes, the funds are statewide. There is \$200 million available under Round 2. There are multiple pots of funding for stormwater in Proposition 1; the Regional SWRP applies to applicable funding streams under Proposition 1 (refer to presentation for additional information).

- If you can hit all five benefits, will you score better?
 - Yes. The purpose is to think about multi-benefit projects and to think holistically to help you better prepare for grants.
- How do you define implementation?
 - Most Proposition 1 programs require implementation projects with actual outcomes. Some grants allow some planning activities. The amount of funding available for implementation versus planning is up to the individual programs. If you need planning dollars, you will likely need to find matching funds.
- How do you define environmental benefit versus community benefit?
 - Environmental benefit relates to habitat enhancement and/or creation. Community benefit pertains to education, job creation, etc.
- Would design count as implementation?
 - The amount available for design depends on the solicitation. Typically funds are available for the physical work being completed.
- Do regions in the rest of the state have WQIPs? Do we have an advantage by referencing the WQIPs?
 - The San Diego region is ahead of the rest of the state with the WQIPs. The work completed under the WQIPs are why we are developing a functional equivalent plan for the Regional SWRP. Other regions are completing an assessment of their issues as part of the SWRP.
- If the state is looking to compare across regions, San Diego is years ahead.
 - Yes, San Diego is ahead of the rest of the state.
- Do you need to have a certain level of watershed analysis completed for Step 3?
 - When you go through the steps, the guiding questions will help you. Questions may ask, “is the project part of a plan?” and the project sponsor will have to explain and reference those plans.
- Looking at the example project – we are at a disadvantage because of soil types in the region, which don’t allow for infiltration. If infiltration gives you points, we are not able to claim those.
 - We are trying to make the Regional SWRP’s scoring region-specific, and focusing on stormwater capture and direct use. We are trying to get the Region to think about potential opportunities. Though limited, restoring hydrologic cycles can create watershed benefits. Try to look for other benefits to get a high score.
- Where could the example project in your presentation score higher to max out points?
 - If it captured and reused stormwater for irrigation, it could have scored higher. You need to focus on benefits you can achieve and develop the project enough to actually quantify those benefits.
- What is the maximum score per category?
 - The maximum score per category is 40 points, except for water supply. There are bonus points for water supply for additional direct use because the State’s guidance encourages it.
- When is the next round of funding for projects that can’t make it in this timeframe?

- Future solicitations will provide an opportunity to update the checklist and project list on database.
- How does the scoring in the Regional SWRP relate to the scoring on the actual project solicitation?
 - If you go through the checklist, it will prepare you for the solicitation because the goal is to align the checklist with scoring considerations of the solicitation. Completing the checklist will help you address the solicitation.
- Will new projects be added continuously or just at one time?
 - The list is not static. The current focus is on Round 2 because it is the next one, but the project list will be updated for future solicitations.
- The environmental checklist refers to “urban” greenspace. Is it only urban greenspace?
 - Urban greenspace is called out in the guidelines. Many solicitations focus on urban greening. Habitat restoration is also a focus of the environmental benefits.
- Would the San Luis Rey Watershed Management Plan (which is called a Guideline) be considered a plan?
 - Yes, it would meet the scoring criteria.
- Does the Regional SWRP include tribal water management plans?
 - Yes, tell Ruth de la Rosa about any tribal water management plans you would like to have included in the Regional SWRP.
- Can we define systems/elements that could be incorporated into multiple projects/plans or does it have to be site-specific?
 - Yes, you can describe systems or elements if they meet the eligible benefits.
- How does Regional SWRP fit into the Stormwater Capture and Use Feasibility Study (SWCFS)?
 - The SWCFS will help inform future Regional SWRP efforts. It will identify feasible locations for infiltration, etc. that can then be used to assist future Regional SWRP efforts and checklists.
- Have you prioritized projects at the watershed level?
 - Watershed priority project should move to the top, based on the scoring.

Supplemental Environmental Projects – Chiara Clemente, Regional Water Quality Control Board – Region 9

Ms. Chiara Clemente, San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB), presented a potential alternative funding stream for local and regional projects – Supplemental Environmental Projects (SEPs) and Enhanced Compliance Actions (ECA). Penalties assessed by the RWQCB for permit violations currently go to a state funds, which is then distributed to fund projects that address statewide priorities, regardless of location in relation to the violation. Oftentimes, this means penalties assessed in the San Diego Region are used to fund projects outside of the Region. The RWQCB wants to redirect these funds to the region through the creation of a database of potential local projects that could be funded in lieu of a portion of the penalty. The RWQCB is currently soliciting projects for their new SEP-ECA project list. The deadline to submit projects is soon - October 20, 2016. Projects should

further the Regional vision or statewide priorities. Getting on the list does not guarantee a project will be funded, nor does it mean funds will be available soon. Once a project is on the list, it must wait until a violator chooses to fund it as part of its settlement, and the settlement is approved.

Questions/Comments:

- Will a project earn more points if it is in the same watershed as where the fine was imposed?
 - Yes, we look for a nexus between project benefit and the violation. One way to do this is to be in the same watershed.
- Currently, an SEP can cover up to 50% of the fine; the rest of the fine goes to the state. Will more of the fine go to an SEP under this program?
 - No, the split is mandatory. We are trying to get more SEPs implemented and actually benefit region based on needs.
- What can we do to keep more money in the region?
 - Enforcement policies need to change. They are currently open for comments and will likely need legal action to make a change.

RAC Membership 2017-2020 Term – Mark Stadler, San Diego County Water Authority

Mr. Mark Stadler, SDCWA, presented the RAC member selection process for the 2017-2020 term. There are a total of 13 open seats. The RAC member selection process will include a RAC membership workgroup that will review the applications and select the new members. Applications will be open October 5th through November 10th. The RAC membership workgroup will convene on December 7th and the new RAC membership will be in effect January 2017. Mr. Stadler described desired attributes and general duties of future RAC members. Caucus break-out groups discussed RAC membership workgroup nominations. RAC applications are due on November 10 and are available online. For questions about the process of submittal process, please contact Mr. Stadler.

The RAC voted to accept the nominations of the RAC membership workgroup.

Questions/Comments:

- There are lots of opportunities for agencies and NGOs, but business groups are only listed in the “other” category. Are you looking for diversity of people or experiences?
 - Is your organization an NGO? It looks like there are other places where business people can fit well. The RAC is already a large group, so we would like to avoid growing it too much.
- Tribes would like not to be in the “other” category. There are 18 tribes in multiple watersheds, making it hard for one person to represent every tribe. Are there any opportunities to expand tribal representation and get in their own category? Tribes are increasing participation in the IRWM Program. Thank you for the outreach to tribes that the Program has been doing.
 - We can talk about expanding the group on a future RAC agenda.
- Can outgoing representatives be re-elected?
 - Yes.

IRWM Grant Program – Andrew Funk, City of San Diego

Mr. Andrew Funk, City of San Diego, presented an update about the Proposition 1 IRWM Planning Grant and DAC Planning Grant. A total of \$250,000 in grant dollars was requested to update the 2013 San Diego IRWM Plan to incorporate new guidelines, policies, and regulations, including the development of a SWCFS. The Planning Grant was submitted on September 23, 2016, with anticipated draft and final awards in November 2016 and January 2017, respectively. The DAC Planning Grant application is currently being prepared and is an effort to work collaboratively to involve DACs in the Region. A kick-off meeting was hosted with the LPS and responses to the initial data request have been received. Anticipated grant award and grant contract dates are January 2017 and March 2017, respectively for the DAC Planning Grant.

Questions/Comments:

- Do you work for the City of San Diego? The City hired AECOM to do a stormwater capture feasibility study.
 - AECOM is doing a site-specific study, but it will feed into the County effort.

IRWM Grant Administration – Loisa Burton, SDCWA

Ms. Loisa Burton, SDCWA, presented a financial summary and progress report of all current and active projects that received Proposition 50 and Proposition 84 grants. All projects that received Proposition 50 funding are now complete and there are four projects that will be presenting at upcoming RAC meetings. A total of \$37.4 million in grant funding (out of \$89.6 million awarded) has been billed to DWR.

Questions/Comments:

None.

Summary and Next Steps

Next RAC Meeting:

- December 7, 2016 – 9-11:30am

2017 Meeting Schedule:

- February 1
- April 5
- June 7
- August 2
- October 4
- December 6