



Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) Meeting #88

April 7, 2021
9:00 am – 11:30 am

Zoom Meeting

NOTES

Attendance

RAC Members

Ann Van Leer, Escondido Creek Conservancy
Anne Bamford, American Water Works Association
Anne Middleton, ECOLIFE Conservation
Beth Gentry, City of Chula Vista
Brook Sarson, San Diego Sustainable Living Institute
Charlie de la Rosa, San Diego Zoo Global
Chris Trees for Mike Thorton, San Elijo Joint Powers Authority
Darbi Berry for Julie Kalansky, San Diego Regional Climate Collaborative
David Walker, San Diego Audubon Society
Don Butz, Lakeside Fire Protection District
Elizabeth Lovested for Kelley Gage, San Diego County Water Authority
Eric Del Bosque, Sweetwater Authority
Jennifer Hazard and Katrina Hiott, Rural Community Assistance Corporation
Joey Randall for Kimberly Thorner, Olivenhain Municipal Water District
Julia Chunn-Heer, Surfrider
Julia Escamila, Rincon del Diablo MWD
Kimberly O'Connell and Jennifer Gonzales, UCSD
Keli Balo, City of San Diego
Marisa Soriano, City of Chula Vista
Mark Seits, Floodplain Management Association
Michael McSweeney, Building Industry Association
Michelle Berens, Helix Water District
Oscar Romo, Alter Terra
Patrick McDonough, San Diego Coastkeeper
Rob Hustel for Phil Pryde, San Diego River Park Foundation
Tim Murphy for Justin Gamble, City of Oceanside

RWMG Staff and Consultants

Arthella Vallarta, Woodard & Curran
Chelsea McGimpsey, County 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, City of San Diego
Nicole Poletto, Woodard & Curran
Sally Johnson, Woodard & Curran

Sarah Brower, City of San Diego
Rosalyn Prickett, Woodard & Curran

Interested Parties to the RAC

Ashley Gilreath, Department of Water Resources
Bryan Redden, CivicSpark, Department of Water Resources
Carmel Brown, Department of Water Resources
Catherine Rom, City of San Diego
Christopher Paulino, Viejas Tribal Government
Daniel Dugal, Viejas Tribal Government
Efren Lopez, San Diego County Water Authority
Eleonore Durand, Environmental Incentives
Eylon Shamir, Hydrologic Research Center
Inken Mello, Woodard & Curran
Joni German, San Diego County Water Authority
Laurie Broedling, LB Organizational Consulting
Leslie Reynolds, Groundwork San Diego – Chollas Creek
Maria Lorenzo-Lee, Department of Water Resources
Marisa Perez-Reyes, Department of Water Resources
Megan Openshaw, City of Imperial Beach
Patrice Baker, Groundwork San Diego – Chollas Creek
Shoshana Aguilar, City of Carlsbad

Welcome and Introductions

Ms. Elizabeth Lovested, 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.

Mr. Mark Stadler, San Diego County Water Authority, updated the group on the Wildfire/Next Seat. Applications were accepted from February 12 until March 8, and the Membership Workgroup met on March 11. Chief Donald Butz, Lakeside Fire Protection District, was selected for the Wildfire/Water Nexus. Mr. Stadler welcomed Chief Butz and thanked the Workgroup members.

Update from the Department of Water Resources Financial Assistance Branch on State Priorities, Grants and Tribal (CivicSpark) Activities

The California Department of Water Resources (DWR) Financial Assistance Branch provided updates on State priorities, grants, and tribal activities. Ms. Carmel Brown, Branch Chief at DWR, presented first on the State priorities and their impact on DWR. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, DWR is mostly teleworking. Ms. Brown acknowledged that there were a few hiccups with the invoice processing, but she ensured the group that DWR will continue to provide funding to its grantees.

There was no new funding available for the implementation of the Water Resilience Portfolio, which is Governor Gavin Newsom's blueprint for equipping California to build a climate-resilient water system in the face of climate change. Nancy Vogel, Director of the Governor's Water Portfolio Program, is currently preparing an implementation report that is anticipated will be released in the summer and will document all the State's activities that address the actions in the Water Resilience Portfolio. Additionally, Ms. Brown spoke about the latest Snow Survey conducted on April 1st, 2021, indicating this is the State's third driest year. Though California

is in a drought situation, Governor Newsom has not issued a drought emergency proclamation. DWR is unsure if the Governor will issue that proclamation, but there have been some actions at the State level that have addressed drought conditions. Some of the State's reservoirs are below 50% capacity, and a few of them are in critical condition. San Diego is in good shape since the region has implemented many conservation, rebate and landscape replacement programs.

Climate resiliency is an important topic for DWR. Ms. Brown informed the group that there have been several proposed bills that focus on climate resiliency. Though DWR cannot advocate legislation or additional funding for the Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) program (there may be some funds coming from the Association of California Water Agencies [ACWA]), DWR encouraged local regions to share their stories and data, especially disadvantaged communities (DACs) and tribal communities, to advocate for funding. For example, DWR's Public Affairs Department is in the process of developing an ArcGIS StoryMap map to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the IRWM program. Ms. Brown encouraged the San Diego IRWM Region (Region) to feature one of its projects in DWR's StoryMap because the Region is a good example of how IRWM programs should operate.

Ms. Brown acknowledged the uncertainty about the future of the IRWM Program due to the uncertainty of funding. However, Ms. Brown stated that DWR is working to ensure that there is a future due to the importance of the IRWM program. For instance, the DAC and Tribal Involvement program has been a success in ensuring new voices are heard, including non-federally recognized tribes.

To end her presentation, Ms. Brown spoke about the Statewide Needs Assessment Report conducted as part of the DAC and Tribal Involvement program to identify and assess the needs and challenges across communities. Upon completion of the needs assessments, DWR started identifying other tasks that could be done to develop projects for those communities. DWR wants to highlight findings to share the data and inform decision-making at the State level, such as future legislation, future projects, and future funding. Mr. Mark Stadler, San Diego County Water Authority (SDCWA), was one of the selected reviewers.

Ms. Maria Lorenzo-Lee, Senior Water Resources Engineer at DWR, updated the group on Proposition 1 and discussed the upcoming Round 2 implementation. About 61% of the Proposition 1 agreements have been executed. The Upper Santa Margarita Watershed Region agreement has been executed, San Diego's agreement is in the final review, and South Orange County will follow. On May 6 from 9:30 AM to 11:30 AM, DWR will host a workshop to discuss the Round 2 process. DWR will release the draft Guidelines and Draft Proposal Solicitation Package (PSP) in the summer of 2021. The final PSP is scheduled to be released in the fall of 2021. One concept that will be discussed at the May 6 workshop is a two-phase application process.

Additionally, Ms. Lorenzo-Lee spoke about CivicSpark Program and the California Climate Corps opportunities. DWR has partnered with CivicSpark over the years and fellows have worked on projects with local agencies and communities. The application deadline for communities that want a CivicSpark fellow to join them next year is April 30. If anyone has questions, please head to their website at <https://civicspark.lgc.org/>. Ms. Lorenzo-Lee also notified the group that the California Financing Coordinating Committee host the 2021 virtual fair at the end of May or June. This is an excellent resource for underrepresented communities and tribes.

Mr. Bryan Redden, CivicSpark Fellow, spoke about multiple projects that he has been working on as a fellow. In the Region, Mr. Redden created and distributed a San Diego County Tribal Survey to understand the impact of the State's grant process on tribes and how the DWR can better support tribes. The survey has been distributed for 1.5 months and it was sent to San Diego IRWM representatives, California Rural Water Association, and the Southern California Tribal Chairman Association. The results will be analyzed in approximately one week.

The second project that Mr. Redden presented is the creation of the IRWM Roundtable of Regions Tribal Caucus. The Caucus is meant to provide a platform for tribes involved in IRWM to coordinate and elevate their interests and priorities. Mr. Redden noted that DWR is trying to build support for IRWM among tribal leaders through

the State and work with interested tribal representatives to determine the best structure that would allow for input and governance as tribes see fit.

Mr. Redden has also been working on a long-term engagement project aimed to provide direct grant technical assistance to tribal communities in the Region. Several volunteers have expressed initial interest in the program. Mr. Redden is working with two tribal leaders and communities in the area to organize a meeting to discuss how to merge the skills of the volunteers to match the needs of the tribal communities.

Questions/Comments

- I just want to say that Bryan has been a great help in doing some of the stuff that we like to do but didn't have the resources to do. We found that underrepresented communities could really use some assistance in putting together project applications that are feasible and fundable. I want to thank Bryan and CivicSpark.
- How does DWR's work intersect with the Governor's Biodiversity Collaborative to conserve 30% of the State's land and coastal waters by 2030?
 - It does intersect, but unfortunately, I don't have the information right now. My counterparts in the Special Restoration and Initiatives Branch and the Division of Multi-Benefit Initiatives are some people I can reach out to.
- Can DWR elaborate on the two-phase process for Round 2?
 - We are looking to revise how to run the solicitation and minimize the amount of work and time in the pre-application period. We are not going to do the formal Funding Area workshops that we did in Round 1. Instead, we are providing two deadline options and we will work with each region to select which one you prefer. We did this to accommodate a range of requests.
- When you say you are not going to do formal workshops, what workshops are you referring to?
 - I am referring to the formal pre-application workshops. All regions were required to present at these workshops, and the date of the workshop decided the formal application deadline. We are still going to meet with regions and we're still going to give you feedback on your projects and proposals. We are just going to keep it informal to accommodate those who have travel difficulties.
- I am glad that you are not getting rid of the workshops altogether. We appreciate getting direct feedback for our projects and proposals.
 - Yes, DWR will still sit with local project sponsors and give feedback. We are going to start doing those feedback meetings in September. We plan to reduce the pre-application requirements to simplify the application process.
- When will you have a formal schedule for Round 2?
 - We have a draft now that is being reviewed by the executive team. We are going to finish briefing our deputy director on Friday. If he does not have any requests to make changes, we will distribute the schedule during the May workshop. We will ask for feedback on the schedule, and based on comments received, it could slightly change.
- How do you apportion the funding between the two phases?
 - We will not. Each region will decide its own deadline. If the Funding Area does not have a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), then all applicable regions will need to agree on a deadline and submit it at the same time. If you have an agreement between regions on how you

are going to divide the money, then you can mix and match deadlines. If you have a region that wants the money earlier, then we're going to put some flexibility on the PSP that allows you to come earlier while the other two come later.

- I do want to clarify that we will be only asking for three applications from the San Diego Funding Area, so one for each region. Local project sponsors within a region would have to coordinate their projects and readiness.

Project Completion Report: Conservation Home Makeover

Ms. Leslie Reynolds and Ms. Patrice Baker of Groundwork San Diego – Chollas Creek updated the RAC on the Conservation Home Makeover project, which was completed on September 5, 2018. The objectives of the project were to design and build drought, pollution, food insecurity, and climate change response/resiliency. Groundwork San Diego – Chollas Creek outreached to community members in Encanto, which is a disadvantaged/underserved community in the Region. The program information was sent to over 1,000 neighbors and influencers and highlighted benefits to families on water conservation and “Home Makeover.” Fifty families signed up for the program and the Water Survey assessed present knowledge and educated families on water conservation. The families were all Conservation Ambassadors who hosted walking tours, neighborhood coffee stops, and workshops to display results and benefits to others.

The project focused on the installation of water conservation methods, such as rain barrel/gutters, greywater systems, waterwise landscapes, and conservation retrofit devices. Fifty systems of rain barrels (450–800-gallon sizes) and over 50 greywater systems were installed. The waterwise landscapes were done in phases and residents had the choice of transforming their front or backyards. First, the impervious surfaces were removed, and residents were provided with a planting palette to aid in the selection of plants. The planting palette also contained information about how to care for the plants. Second, residents worked with a contractor to design their waterwise landscapes. Ms. Baker reported that residents were delighted that they contributed to the process. She also shared photographs of waterwise landscapes, showing how yards can be easily transformed. Finally, conservation retrofit devices were installed in homes. Forty units of low flush toilets, 30 units of low flow showerheads, and 33 units of faucet aerators were installed, which allowed residents to conserve water and lower their water bills.

Ms. Reynolds discussed the education portion of the project. Groundwork San Diego – Chollas Creek runs the EarthLab Climate Action Park, which is a four-acre space where students and community members gather to learn about climate science and generate solutions to improve the environment. Ms. Reynolds stated the organization educates about 2,000 students a year. Through the project, 882 students were able to participate in the EarthLab, learning about conservation and participating in conservation activities. The organization also implemented additional outreach activities, such as newsletters, social media, neighborhood coffee stops, meetings, and presentations.

Ms. Reynolds reported on the value added by the project. Ms. Baker partnered with a solar company, which led to 6 solar installations. No project funding was used, and the solar installations resulted in approximately \$550 in savings a year. The project received recognition from the San Diego Climate Collaborative. Ms. Reynolds stated that Groundwork San Diego – Chollas Creek is planning to reach out to the City of San Diego to pilot and scale their efforts.

To end her presentation, Ms. Reynolds went over the project by numbers. Approximately 94% of the grant funds were spent on construction and implementation. A total of 231,162 gallons of water were captured and about 1.5 million gallons of potable water were saved based on the average use of washing machines, toilets, showerheads, and aerators. The trees planted will capture and store approximately 96,894 pounds of carbon dioxide over 30 years. About 66,941 square feet of impervious surfaces were removed, capturing stormwater runoff and improving groundwater and erosion control.

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Questions/Comments

- I want to thank Leslie and Patrice for this fabulous project and for working with us. This project was funded through Proposition 84, Round 4. You were the first project to be completed in two years. We appreciate your coordination throughout the two years that we have worked together. Good job.
- When we took our DWR representative on a tour of several projects, he was so impressed and supportive. We appreciate this project, and we like to show it off also.
- First off, congratulations on this project. I love seeing 94% of the money going to construction. You had 11,000 square-feet impervious surface removed. Was that paving removed or was it dead lawn?
 - It was a combination of both, but predominately lawn.
- These systems are super cool. I remember working on a similar project done in LA: <https://ourwaterla.org/elmer-avenue-neighborhood/>.
- It was extremely impressive reading about it on Progress Reports during implementation with all the photos of the installations.
- Here is a little blog I wrote based on my experience designing and installing these systems for this: <http://www.h2o-me.com/smart-water-savings-blog/2018/4/4/a-tale-of-two-watersheds-simple-backyard-solutions-are-the-key-to-watershed-health>
- I'm reading through the comments and everyone is impressed. This is great example of the work we do at IRWM. The City of San Diego wants you to reach out to them.
- Thank you, Leslie and Patrice, wonderful presentation! Yes, please reach out to the City of San Diego. We can continue communications with the Public Utilities Conservation Team.

Advancing the Nexus of Water and Equity

Ms. Darbi Berry, San Diego Regional Climate Collaborative, shared the [Advancing the Nexus of Water and Equity ArcGIS StoryMap](#) with the group. The San Diego Regional Climate Collaborative's mission is to connect the region to advance climate change solutions and mitigate and adapt to the effects of climate change. The StoryMap was funded by the San Diego Foundation and its objectives are to highlight the intricacies of the Region's water management and to elevate multiple local projects.

The region's geography contributes to its complex water management. The Region is surrounded by the ocean and mountains, and has an expansive landscape. The Region is classified as a Mediterranean climate, meaning that it experiences warm, dry summers and cooler winters with little yearly precipitation. As a result, the Region is susceptible to droughts. The Region is also home to a complex system of watersheds. The reservoirs within the watersheds supply water to the Region, but the arid Mediterranean climate results in a limited local water supply.

San Diego's water sources are impacted by the changing climate conditions, and its livelihood is dependent on its accessibility to those water sources. Without proper management and protection, the local water resources can be contaminated by harmful pollutants from stormwater runoff. The City of San Diego has implemented some green infrastructure projects which provide many services such as flood control. Additionally, San Diego has protected 40% of the wetlands, but more action is needed to ensure the health and safety of the water sources.

Since 1944, the Region's water has been managed by the SDCWA, supplying water to approximately 3.3 million people in the county. SDCWA receives a large supply of water from the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD). However, droughts have decreased this supply, causing SDCWA to seek local alternatives such as surface water, groundwater, recycled water, and desalinated water from the ocean. A potential local water supply is stormwater, but if not properly managed and captured, it can flow through the urban landscape and become polluted.

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Climate change has affected the Region's water sources through long droughts and severe floods, but it has exacerbated the underlying social issues such as lack of access to drinking water. The Region has historic inequities in zoning and planning laws, which has hindered many communities to access public assets such as parks and green spaces. These communities already have long-term public health implications, but climate change will make them more vulnerable. For instance, the increased variability in rainfall and potential flooding contributes to the ongoing water quality issues such as heavily polluted runoff and flash flooding events. State and regional efforts have already begun to address these underlying social issues through local projects that improve access and quality of life of residents. The StoryMap highlights three of those projects in the Region.

The Paradise Creek Water Quality and Community Enhancement project in National City will treat and direct stormwater runoff along Paradise Road through a biofiltration detention basin. Currently, the creek cannot efficiently convey the 100-year storm even without causing potential flood damage to over 30 properties in the neighboring DAC. The Public and Nonprofit Agency Collaboration to Restore an Urban Creek and Trail project in the City of San Diego is restoring a section of Chollas Creek in an underserved urban neighborhood. The Coordinated Approach to Invasive Plant Removal on Public and Private Properties in Chollas Creek improved climate resiliency in the DAC of Southcrest. The project removed invasive plants from adjacent public and private properties in the Chollas Creek channel.

To end her presentation, Ms. Berry spoke about the State's future actions. In July 2020, the State released the California Water Resilience Portfolio, which outlines four key goals working towards water security for all Californians. Additionally, Ms. Berry provided other resources for the group to connect with a broader audience. [The Atlas For Cities](#) and [Equinox Project's Quality of Life Dashboard](#) are both excellent resources to connect with other agencies and explore additional funding opportunities.

Questions/Comments:

- The link to the StoryMap Darbi is sharing is included in the RAC agenda, and can also be found here: <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/d9ac0b5cc24141369298ea600095687f>
- Are there plans for this StoryMap to be more widely dispersed?
 - Yes, we have been doing our best to share widely with our network, but we are happy to have others share the link and use it in their work. I am not a communications professional, so I am always happy to hear suggestions to make this more accessible.
- Thank you so much everyone for allowing me to share. If you have any follow-up questions, please email me at darbiberry@sandiego.edu. Also, please check out our Decade of Impact Report: <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/060c12030c214733892fc7aad26bb98f>
- Thank you, Darbi! And I agree with the many other comments, this is an excellent and comprehensive StoryMap/tool. I hope that as many cities, agencies, and decision-makers use it.
 - Thanks. Please feel free to email and happy to chat/strategize more on outreach and how this could map support Coastkeeper more directly.

Long Term Conservation Regulations Update

Ms. Lovested, San Diego County Water Authority, presented on the Long-Term Conservation Regulations. The Water Conservation Act of 2009 (Senate Bill X7-7) required water suppliers to increase their water use efficiency and save 20% by 2020. The water uses will be reported in the 2020 Urban Water Management Plans (UWMP), which are due in July 2021. Based on her observations, the Region is meeting and exceeding its target.

In 2014, the California Water Plan was updated, which included two action items: "Make Conservation a California Way of Life" and "Manage and Prepare for Dry Periods." In 2016, Governor Jerry Brown issued Executive Order B-37-16 entitled "Making Conservation A California Way of Life." This executive order covered four areas:

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- Use water more wisely
- Eliminate water waste
- Strengthen local drought resilience
- Improve agricultural water use efficiency and drought planning

In May 2018, the California State Legislature enacted Senate Bill 606/Assembly Bill 1668 to establish a new foundation for long-term improvements in water conservation and drought preparedness. However, these two bills were a framework, displaying how the State was going to accomplish the planned water conservation and drought preparedness. Most of the details are still in development. In November 2018, the Making Conservation A California Way of Life Primer was released, which contained all the information about Senate Bill 606/Assembly Bill 1668 and corresponding statutory roles and responsibilities.

Ms. Lovested explained the components that strengthened local drought resilience. Every five years, water suppliers prepare UWMPs which indicate their long-term plans to ensure adequate supplies are available to meet current and future water demands. Water suppliers are required to update UWMPs every five years and conduct a five-year drought risk assessment. The Water Shortage Contingency Plan (WSCP) is a document describing how a water agency will respond to various stages of drought or prolonged water shortages. Under the WSCPs, agencies and suppliers are required to define their methodology and evaluation criteria used to conduct the Annual Water Budget Forecast and include six standard shortage levels and shortage response actions for each shortage level.

DWR and the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) are working together to develop water use efficiency targets. The water use efficiency targets must increase statewide targets beyond 20% by 2020 and require permanent monthly reporting. The new water use targets or performance measures are based upon strengthened standards in four areas:

- Indoor residential per capita use
- Outdoor irrigation incorporating landscape area and climate
- Water loss through leaks
- Commercial/Industrial/Institutional (CII)

Indoor use, outdoor use, water loss, variances, and bonuses for qualifying potable reuse projects are added together to create each water provider's unique target. This target is for water providers and not for individual customers. Suppliers can choose which areas to invest in and how to conserve water to meet their unique target. Ms. Lovested reminded the group that water loss is legislated through Senate Bill 555 and will be evaluated separately. Suppliers have to meet their overall unique water use target as well as their water loss target, or they can be subject to penalties.

Ms. Lovested explained how the four areas are calculated. The Indoor Residential Portion of Target is calculated by multiplying the number of residences with the indoor gallons per capita daily (GPCD). Currently, the Indoor standard is 55 GPCD, but it will change to 52.5 GPCD beginning on January 1, 2025. On January 1, 2030, the Indoor standard will be 50 GPCD. There is a study to recommend a new standard and determine the impacts of indoor efficiency, which will be completed in June 2021.

The Outdoor Irrigation Portion of Target is much more complex. It is the annual evapotranspiration multiplied by the landscape area multiplied by the evapotranspiration adjustment factor. Evapotranspiration (Eto) is the measured weather factor of solar radiation, temperature, humidity, wind/plant transpiration, and evapotranspiration adjustment factor (ETAF) is the level of water use applied based on landscape type. The Model Water Efficient Landscape Ordinances (MWELo) use ETAF to establish water budgets for landscapes. The State provided residential landscape area measures for each agency by March 2021. The target also includes commercial, industrial, and institutional landscape areas, which are served by a dedicated meter. The State does not provide the measurements for dedicated meters; each supplier has to develop its own dedicated meters.

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Ms. Lovested stated that variances are in the preliminary stages of being developed. There are variances in evaporative coolers, horses and other livestock, seasonal population fluctuation, recycled water irrigation, dust control, pond and lakes for wildfire, fire protection, and agricultural use. DWR is working with stakeholders to figure out how to estimate the water use of the unique variances.

The Water Loss Standard Portion of the Target is the loss standard per connection multiplied by the number of connections. The water loss standard is established through Senate Bill 555 process. The rulemaking is anticipated in 2021 and the components of the proposed framework include individualized targets based on an economic model that can be enforced outside of efficiency standards.

The CII Performance Measures are not going to be a quantified target. Instead, the State will develop recommendations for performance measures through a stakeholder process. The State shall solicit input on classification, minimum thresholds for dedicated meters, and best management practices. The adopted performance measures are scheduled to be adopted on June 20, 2022.

Ms. Lovested discussed the Water Use Efficiency Standard Timelines:

- October 2021 – DWR makes standard recommendations to SWRCB
- June 2022 – SWRCB adopts urban water use efficiency standards, performance measures, and variances
- January 2027 – Urban water suppliers shall achieve the urban water use objective

Additionally, Ms. Lovested went over the Enforcement Timeline:

- January 1, 2024 – Water suppliers provide the first report of targets and water use and a plan to meet the target by January 1, 2027. The SWRCB may issue information orders to agencies not meeting the standards.
- January 1, 2025 – Water suppliers provide a report of targets and water use. The SWRCB may issue a written notice to agencies not meeting the standards.
- January 1, 2026 – Water suppliers provide a report of targets and water use. The SWRCB may issue conservation orders to agencies not meeting the standards.
- January 1, 2027 and annually after – Water suppliers provide a report of targets and water use. The SWRCB may impose civil liabilities (fines) on agencies not meeting the standards.

Questions/Comments:

- So a family of four is allotted about 200 gallons per person per day for indoor use only? Is that how that water budgeting works?
 - Yes. Again, it is going to be on the total agency, and it is not going to be applied to each customer. It is going to be up to the water supplier on how they are going to manage their response to meet the target for the agency.

Justice, Equity, Diversity & Inclusion Workgroup Update

Ms. Sarah Brower, City of San Diego, gave an update on the Justice, Equity, Diversity, & Inclusion (JEDI) Workgroup. To start her presentation, Ms. Brower showed an illustration that displays the concepts of inequality, equality, justice, and equity to remind the RAC how the JEDI Workgroup is thinking broadly about these issues. In the inequality framework, there is unequal access to opportunities. In the equality framework, the tools to access opportunities are distributed evenly, but not everyone has the same access to the tools. The justice framework fixes the system to offer equal access to both tools and opportunities. In the equity framework, customs tools are provided that identify and address inequality.

The JEDI workgroup is formed, and scheduling is underway for meetings. The Workgroup is planning to hold four meetings from April 2021 through July 2021. There are 17 volunteers representing a diverse group of agencies and nongovernmental organizations. There are several RAC and non-RAC members in the JEDI Workgroup. The first meeting is in April and that will set goals and review the draft JEDI definitions.

As a reminder, Ms. Brower went over the objectives of the JEDI Workgroup:

- Define justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion as related to SDIRWM
- Establish justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion goals for the SDIRWM Program that incorporate the definitions developed above, and metrics to evaluate progress towards meeting these goals
- Examine project scoring and selection processes and make recommendations to meet established goals
- Consider SDIRWM activities and identify opportunities for meaningful access to and involvement in the program
- Identify resources with local JEDI expertise, data, and knowledge

Questions/Comments:

- Are there opportunities for the rest of the RAC to provide input through the next few meetings of the JEDI process?
 - The JEDI workgroup will be reporting its progress at RAC meetings, which will allow RAC members to give input process. They also can provide input to me (Mark Stadler), as the program manager, or to any of the workgroup members.

Grant Administration

Ms. Loisa Burton, San Diego County Water Authority, presented updates on grant administration. In total, the Region has received \$111.7 million and 50 projects have been completed. About 66% of the grant award has been billed to DWR (\$74.1 million). Proposition 84, Round 3 is almost complete; only two projects remain, both of which are 87% complete. Due to COVID-19 challenges, an amendment to the agreement was submitted to the State in February to extend this program for another 18 months. A new completion date for Round 3 is February 2023. Proposition 84, Round 4 is in the implementation phase and 9 active projects are 53% completed. A new amendment was also submitted to the State in mid-February to extend project tasks, scopes, and budgets due to challenges associated with the pandemic. The amendment is expected to be approved in April 2021. Proposition 1, Disadvantaged Community Involvement (DACI), is scheduled for completion in December 2022. Six of the 9 local projects sponsored have been completed.

Ms. Burton highlighted several of the Region's projects that were funded by Proposition 84, Implementation Grant, Round 4. Project 12, Sweetwater Reservoir Wetlands Habitat Recover completed its wetland delineation report, which fulfills permit application requirements by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. Project 1, Regional Drought Resiliency Program, was successful in turf replacements in many residences in the Region. Project 7, University of California San Diego (UCSD) Water Conservation and Watershed Protection, renovated turf sites into sustainable landscaping at UCSD. Project 11, San Diego River Healthy Headwaters Restoration, removed invasive vegetation, debris, and trash from the Alpine Watershed. Additionally, Ms. Burton highlighted multiple projects funded by the Proposition 1, DACI Grant Program.

Project 8, Storm Water Quality for Grape Day Park DACs, is a planning effort to transform a parking lot at Grape Day Park in Escondido.

To end her presentation, Ms. Burton reviewed the upcoming activities for Proposition 1, Round 1. The Region is working on the local project sponsor agreements, which are expected to be completed this month. DWR facilitated a Grantor/Grantee Kickoff Meeting in late February and early March. Ms. Burton said they are executing the agreement this month and will see expenditures in June.

Questions/Comments:

- Why were impervious surfaces added as part of the turf replacement in Project 1, Regional Drought Resiliency Program?
 - These projects were funded through the grant and administered through MWD’s turf replacement program. There is a pervious surface requirement. When they take out the turf, they must put in surfaces that allow for infiltration. The impervious surfaces are subtracted from their rebate amount, so they are not going to receive credit. There are still impervious surfaces because it is a design choice. For instance, one of the homeowners has a disabled daughter. She decided to create a path so her daughter can have access to the garden.
- <https://www.waternewsnetwork.com/accessible-garden-wins-otay-water-district-watersmart-landscape-contest/>
- I’m excited to see that we are going to get our Proposition 1, Round 1 agreements.

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
WaterSMART Grants: Water Marketing Strategy FY 21	TODAY: April 7	https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppId=331273
WaterSMART: Title XVI WIIN Water Reclamation and Reuse Projects	April 23 at 3:00 PM	https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppId=332329
Prop 1 Technical Assistance Funding Program	Open: rolling	https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/grants_loans/proposition_1/tech_asst_funding.html
Water Desalination Grant Program	Open: rolling	https://water.ca.gov/News/Public-Notices/2020/Sept-2020/Water-Desal-Grant-CAP

Next RAC Meeting:

- June 2, 2021 – 9:00-11:30 a.m. via virtual platform.

Visit us at www.sdirwmp.org

The meeting schedule for 2021 is included below. Please add them to your calendar:

- August 4, 2021
- October 6, 2021
- December 1, 2021