



**Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) Meeting #82**

August 7, 2019

9:00 am – 11:30 am

**San Diego County Water Authority**

**Board Room**

**4677 Overland Ave., San Diego CA 92123**

**(858) 522-6600**

**NOTES**

**Attendance**

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**RAC Members**

Elizabeth Lovsted, County of San Diego (chair)  
Ann Van Leer, Escondido Creek Conservancy  
Bill Hunter, Santa Fe Irrigation District  
Brook Sarson, San Diego Sustainable Living Institute  
Greg Thomas, Rincon del Diablo Municipal Water District  
Oscar Romo for Jennifer Hazard, Rural Community Assistance Corporation  
Joel San Juan, Alter Terra  
John Flores, San Pasqual Band of Mission Indians  
Karina Danek for John Helminski, City of San Diego  
Jonathan Witt, San Diego County Board of Education  
Justin Gamble, City of Oceanside  
Kelley Gage and alternate Mark Stadler, San Diego County Water Authority  
Kimberly O'Connell and alternate Andrew Le, UCSD Clean Water Utility  
Joseph Randall for Kimberly Thorner, Olivenhain Municipal Water District  
Lance Andersen and alternate Courtney Provo, 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  
Brian Olney for Michelle Berens, Helix Water District  
Mike Thornton, San Elijo Joint Powers Authority  
Patrick McDonough, San Diego Coastkeeper  
Phil Pryde and Rob Hutsel, San Diego River Park Foundation  
Stephanie Gaines for Richard Whipple, County of San Diego  
Kelly Craig for Robyn Badger, Zoological Society of San Diego  
Ron Mosher, Sweetwater Authority  
Sarah Pierce, San Diego Association of Governments  
Seval Sven, Padre Dam Municipal Water District  
Yazmin Arellano, City of El Cajon

**RAC Non-Voting Members**

Jack Simes and alternate Leslie Cleveland, Bureau of Reclamation  
Jessica Spurlock for John Simpson, United States Marine Corps, Camp Pendleton

**RWMG Staff and Consultants**

Loisa Burton, 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  
Sally Johnson, Woodard & Curran

**Interested Parties to the RAC**

Allison Odell, Bureau of Reclamation  
Amelie Catheline, Public Health Alliance  
Andrew Funk, City of San Diego  
Anne Bamford, Industrial Environmental Association  
Bailey Durant, Viejas Tribal Government  
Brandon Bushnell, San Diego Regional Board  
Carmel Wong, City of San Diego  
Christopher Paulino, Viejas Tribal Government  
Colleen Dwyer, Bureau of Reclamation  
Daniel DuGal, Viejas Tribal Government  
Hengameh Maher, City of San Diego  
Jenna Voss, County of Orange  
Jessica Arm, Department of Water Resources  
Jonathan Avila, City of San Diego Public Utilities Department  
Joni German, San Diego County Water Authority  
Katherine Sharp, Wood PLC  
Kyrsten Burr, Hoch Consulting  
Lindsay Leahy, City of Oceanside  
Luca Zappiello, City of National City  
Michelle Hallack, Alta Environmental/NV5  
Mick Cothran, Fallbrook Public Utility Department  
Mike Konicke, San Elijo Joint Powers Authority  
Rosana Aguilera, Scripps Institute of Oceanography – University of California, San Diego  
Sarah Brower, City of San Diego

## **Welcome and Introductions**

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Ms. Elizabeth Lovsted, San Diego County Water Authority (SDCWA) welcomed everyone to the meeting and introductions were made around the room. Attendees on the phone were introduced.

## **Water Resilience Portfolio**

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Mr. Mark Stadler, SDCWA presented Governor Newsom's Water Resilience Portfolio Initiative on behalf of the Governor's Water Portfolio Program. On April 29, Governor Newsom issued an Executive Order calling on several state agencies to work together to prepare a water resilience portfolio, with extensive public input. The Program is soliciting feedback through multiple formats including listening sessions. SDCWA hosted a listening session on July 18, 2019 and the RAC presentation will also serve as an additional listening session.

The Water Action Plan was first drafted in 2014 and updated in 2016. Ten broad actions underpinned the plan, including "make conservation a California way of life," "manage and prepare for dry periods," and "protect and restore important ecosystems." The update of California's water policy is timely, as California's four warmest years have occurred since 2014. The drought made it clear how vulnerable hundreds of thousands of Californians are to dry wells, contaminated drinking water, or supply disruptions.

The Executive Order also calls for an "inventory and assessment" of water supply and demand in California, both statewide and by region, existing and projected. It also calls for an "inventory and assessment" of water quality of various water bodies including aquifers and beaches; projected water needs in coming decades for communities, the economy, and the environment; the anticipated climate change effects on water systems; and existing water policies, programs, and investments. The report to the Governor also must include an assessment of the work underway to complete voluntary agreements regarding flows and habitat on the Sacramento and San Joaquin river systems; to modernize conveyance through the Delta with a single tunnel; and to ensure all communities have clean, safe, and affordable drinking water.

The California Water Plan Update 2018 was released this month and is posted on DWR's website. In his Executive Order, the Governor called for a water resilience portfolio that:

- Prioritizes projects that meet multiple needs at once
- Takes full advantage of natural infrastructure such as wetlands and forests
- Embraces innovation and new technologies
- Takes a regional approach
- Considers successful approaches from outside of California
- Strengthens partnerships across governments and stakeholders, and
- Makes sure the state has its own house in order and is working in a coordinated, efficient way.

The team is currently soliciting ideas for a set of recommendations for state actions to help California thrive in spite of climate change, serve a bigger population, bring groundwater basins into sustainable levels of pumping and recharge, and improve conditions for our declining populations of native fish and wildlife species. All comments received at this RAC Meeting will be sent to the State to be a part of the record on this information gathering. If you'd like to provide written input, email

[input@waterresilience.gov](mailto:input@waterresilience.gov) or visit <http://waterresilience.ca.gov> for more information. Input must be submitted by early-September.

Questions/Comments:

- One topic of importance is the notion of water for environmental benefit. In San Diego County, there are several dams built 80 years ago or more that starve habitats downstream. The portfolio should consider water for environmental benefit. Additionally, there is a current push to infiltrate water and put it back into the ground and now allow it to go back to the streams. This reduces water for water rights or environmentally starved areas downstream of reservoirs. Preserving local water supplies is especially important in the face of climate change.
- Water suppliers are committed to working with the State. This group looks holistically at water supplies, and it would carry more weight if the local IRWM program submits a comment letter. This region has the opportunity to become water resilient, as we are at the end of the pipe.
- The IRWM Program has been approaching water management from a holistic standpoint for the past 13 years, resulting in a collaboration between diverse groups of stakeholders including local governments, water and sanitation agencies, non-profits, regulatory agencies, and tribal nations. The RAC helps everyone in the room learn about concerns, needs, and ideas for other groups and develop solutions across stakeholder lines. Through these efforts, we have broader understanding of the water-related issues within San Diego IRWM Region and have funded seawater and groundwater desalination, recycling and potable reuse, stormwater management, conservation rebates, wetlands/habitat enhancement, drinking water quality improvement, and disadvantaged community projects with State funding.
- The IRWM Program represents a history of cooperation and watershed management. This model should be analyzed, and program outcomes should be incorporated into the portfolio. Embrace and learn from the programs that are in place and appear to be working and support these programs for continued success; utilize lessons learned from the program to avoid re-inventing solutions. For example, there are multiple groundwater management planning and stormwater capture and reuse efforts that are underway. Collaboration with NGOs and the environmental community on supply and demand helps answer questions of, “how do you make water flow downstream” or “is recycled water acceptable as a replacement?” When everyone is at the table, you will be able to find a solution or determine needs.
- Due to its location at the end of the imported water pipeline, the San Diego Region is focused on using water effectively and wisely now and into the future. The Region has a unique opportunity to become water resilient, while other regions do not.
- The water resilience portfolio should focus on support for disadvantaged communities. There are many disadvantaged communities that are still drinking lesser quality water compared to more affluent communities.
- The portfolio should include a health and equity lens and explore non-potable reuse as a strong opportunity in many regions. For example, the San Diego Sustainable Living Institute and Public Health Alliance of California to mainstream non-potable reuse with a health and equity lens for disadvantaged community.

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## **San Diego Basin Study**

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Ms. Leslie Cleveland and Ms. Allison Odell, Bureau of Reclamation, along with Ms. Sarah Brower, City of San Diego presented the final San Diego Basin Study. Bureau of Reclamation participants joined in on the phone. This presentation was a culmination of a \$2.1-million-dollar effort from April 2015 – September 2019. Thanks and appreciation were delivered to the team members and to RAC members for participating in workshops and data collection. The team is currently working on the Final Report and Executive Summary. Technical memorandums posted on the website: <https://www.usbr.gov/lc/socal/basinstudies/SDBasin.html>.

Ms. Odell presented the results of the San Diego Basin Study. The purpose of the San Diego Basin Study is to help the San Diego region plan for the future. The baseline scenario, business as usual, has negative consequences with increased water shortages. This study looked at climate projections downscaled to the San Diego Region and how you reduce the impacts within the constraints of cost, complexity of implementation, effects on environment/community, and effects on other aspects of water systems (flooding, recreation, and energy).

A climate model ran a range of climate scenarios. Water demand projections based on the 2015 Urban Water Management Plan (UWMP) were used due to the timing of the model. In general, demands are increasing due to increases in population. Tactics to help reduce demands were grouped into six different Portfolios to assess the impacts. Projects included in the Portfolios were gathered from stakeholder input, the UWMP, Stormwater Plan, and IRWM Projects. Four different impacts were analyzed using the following impact assessment metrics: water delivery, flood control, recreation, and energy. Key findings of this analysis include:

- **Water Delivery:** Sources of additional water deliveries to meet increasing demands vary by Portfolio. Shortages occurred in all Portfolios (Baseline, Baseline +, Enhanced Conservation, Increased Supplies, and Desalination). The largest shortage was in the Baseline scenario (28%) and the smallest in the Enhanced Conservation scenario.
- **Energy Consumption and Generation:** The highest energy consumption was in the Baseline scenario as imported water is a very energy intensive supply source. The Enhanced Conservation Portfolio had lowest energy demands.
- **Recreation:** Recreation varied by reservoir, but boat ramp accessibility improved in all Portfolios more than Baseline.
- **Flood Control:** Flood control also varied by reservoir. Days with flood outflows decreased at Hodges in the Baseline + Portfolio and beyond.

The trade-off analysis followed to compare benefits and costs across a level playing field. It is important to note that some aspects can be quantified, while others cannot. The highest scoring concept was urban and water use efficiency, which never received a negative score. Watershed and Ecosystem Management, Stormwater Capture, and Stormwater BMPs were within the top 10%. It is important to note that results were influenced heavily by the weighting of evaluation objectives. Groundwater and Conveyance Improvement scored in the top 15%. Potable reuse scored the highest for the two most important evaluation objectives.

The study also conducted an economic assessment that evaluated three categories of benefit. All concepts generated positive monetary benefits, but enhanced conservation generated the greatest

monetary benefit, more than three times larger than the next concept resulting in a \$20 million dollar per year net benefit to the region.

The Customer Trade-Off Analysis Tool is an excel spreadsheet tool, available on the Basin Study website to help agencies prioritize evaluation objectives to understand what is valuable to their own agency. The Basin Study uses the best available science of climate modeling as well as stakeholder input. The tool can be used as a quantitative assessment to analyze the resiliency of baseline conditions, future conditions, and potential strategies to consider. The tool can be downloaded here: <https://www.usbr.gov/lc/socal/basinstudies/SDBasin.html>.

The Bureau of Reclamation just released the FOA for Drought Resiliency Projects for Fiscal Years 2020 and 2021, which could provide funding matching dollars for IRWM Projects. More information is provided in the “Summary and Next Steps” section below.

In summary, continuing the region’s active investments (as simulated in the Baseline + Portfolio) will improve water supply reliability and decrease dependence on imported water. There are promising options for future investments to further secure reliable water supplies while supporting other aspects of water management such as flood control, recreation, and energy. Conservation and Water Use Efficiency and increasing supply volumes through potable reuse would have a number of positive benefits for the region. Many concepts and projects analyzed through this study could be implemented as part of a suite of strategies to provide benefits to the region.

Questions/Comments:

- Compliments on the efforts over the last five years to characterize real world scenarios that are difficult to quantify; that demonstrates a testament to the commitment of the effort. My comment is that this is an academic process. We should be able to use the customized trade-off analysis tool to understand water rate settings for DACs. The trade-off tool can help agencies figure out how to save water without spending a dime. How can you make sure impacts to disadvantaged communities incur positively to inform stormwater, water management, and land use managers? The tool provides a great opportunity to set priorities and goals. We need to further the conversation of how this impacts DACs, water rates, sales tax.
- I am intrigued about the issues that you listed. The Tijuana River Valley on average produces 50 million gallons of waste that is being dumped into the ocean every day. Is there any way to also include that in your assessment?
  - We can’t add additional projects at this point, but it can be another future study that could be completed pending funding.
- In terms of the projections on water use. Is the trade-off analysis tool available to update with data as we go along? The Rincon del Diablo Municipal Water District has been operating at 25% below demand since the drought. As things change, can we tweak the models to look at things differently?
  - The model that we used is still available for additional model runs. If you have member agency specific questions, there is a level of detail that was not published. There may be a brief window of time that the USBR team can provide additional information to you to complete calculations for your agency. There may be possibilities in the future to update the Basin Study pending funding.



- Thanks to Leslie and the study and technical team. I hope that you take advantage of the study and the tool that has been mentioned several times today. Any follow-on effort is subject to the availability of funds. The budget needs to be approved federally and we are still waiting for approval. If you talk to elected officials, that is an important process in making our governance work. I ask for your continued support for the Bureau of Reclamation. We are a resource agency and we are here to help you. I will be sending out some funding opportunities that may be of interest to you all.

**Proposition 1, Round 1**

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Ms. Ruth Dela Rosa, County of San Diego gave an overview of the Proposition 1, Round 1 grant and next steps. The pre-application workshop with DWR will be hosted on September 18 at the Rancho California Water District in Temecula. An invite is needed for attendance.

Mr. Mike Thornton, San Elijo Joint Power Authority was a member of the Project Selection Workgroup and presented the project selection process and recommended projects from the Workgroup. The IRWM lenses that were applied to reviewing projects were consistent with reviewing the goals of the water resilience portfolio and Basin Study findings.

The Project Selection Workgroup was composed of nine caucuses, with 2 representatives for a total of 18 people that represented different focus areas during 34 hours of deliberation. 18 projects applied for funding, totaling a request of \$87 million. 10 projects were invited to interview, and six projects were chosen for funding. The recommended funding package from the Project Selection Workgroup is:

Project	Sponsor	Rec. Funding
Paradise Valley Creek Water Quality and Community Enhancement	City of National City	\$3,681,056
North City Pure Water Facility Influent Pump Station and Conveyance Pipeline	City of San Diego	\$1,477,600
2020 Regional Water Use Efficiency Programs	San Diego County Water Authority	\$1,440,000
North San Diego County Potable Reuse Project	City of Oceanside	\$4,560,000
Lower Santa Margarita River IPR Pilot Project	Fallbrook Public Utility District	\$687,500
North San Diego County Integrated Recycled Water Project	San Elijo Joint Powers Authority	\$2,570,000
<b>Total Grant</b>		<b>\$14,416,156</b>

The Paradise Valley Creek Project is a DAC project and represents 25% of the total grant ask. In the event DWR does not approve a project in the presented package, the Project Selection Workgroup recommended reallocating funds to the Paradise Valley Creek Project and then the 2020 Regional Water Use Efficiency Programs Project, pending availability of remaining funding. The Workgroup also noted that several DAC entities did not have strong applications and discussed additional support for DAC project sponsors to compete for funds including support for applications, interviews, and technical support. The RWMG and RAC will consider these Workgroup recommendations at a future RAC meeting.

Questions/Comments:

- I am very interested in the recommendation that you just mentioned surrounding additional support for DAC applications. It is not a surprise that DAC applications were not as strong as others because they need additional staff and support for DAC project sponsors to compete for funds, especially technical support.
  - SDIRWM has a healthy foundation to build on through the Workgroups, RACs, and RWMG. About 20% of funding to date has been to support DAC and tribal projects. It is not that we haven't been supporting these types of projects, but we think that support for these projects can be enhanced.
  - I believe this conversation should be put on a future meeting schedule. It is not just the Technical Support that is a challenge, but also the financial barrier to entry for the DAC community. Ideas should include a different administrative formula for the DACs; typically, a smaller grant award is a bigger burden on SDCWA. It is necessary to change the formula that is spread along the projects, perhaps use some of the money to hire someone to help with the DACs.
- Thank you for the very thorough review of the selected projects. I appreciate the work that has gone into the Workgroup. Coastkeeper has some concerns regarding the North San Diego County Project. We think the \$2.5 million could be redistributed. We understand that purple pipe currently plays an important role in the Region's water system, but we don't think the investment right now into the purple pipe system is a good use of this funding. Once Pure Water is up and running, that would be the important time to implement this infrastructure. The alternative would be to provide additional funding for the 2020 Regional Water Use Efficiency Programs Project. Coastkeeper has all of our talking points on why conservation programs are the most energy efficient, cost-effective, and multi beneficial way of doing things. The presentations today underscored this sentiment. We support those efficiency use programs and additional investment. These programs are already existing and seem to be working as well.
  - As a representative of the water supply group, I want to respond to the purple pipe comment. I too agree that potable reuse is and is going to be a very huge part of the water portfolio for the Region. Water is water, and if recycled water offsets the use of potable water with a low risk of an abandoned asset, then it should be utilized while potable reuse goes to the other demands. I agree that potable reuse is a bigger part of the future than purple pipe, but I think it is still appropriate to support a purple pipe project.
  - Recognizing conservation, most of the agencies here have maintained a 26% reduction in demand since the drought. We continue to encourage people to use water efficiently. In direct impact, I'm not sure water conservation is going provide the 97 million gallons of water per year that other projects will. There are direct benefits to the environment from the use of purple pipe for irrigation. It keeps plants and trees alive, which are needed to reduce impacts from greenhouse gas emissions. In our case on this Project, we are offsetting the cost for a senior city community. We are going to cut their water/sewer bill in half. You need all the tools in the toolbox. This region has done several great things to make this region resilient.

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*Motion to support the recommendations of the Project Selection Workgroup for the selected projects.*

**Yes: 22**

**Opposed: 0**

**Abstained: 2**

**Grant Administration**

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Ms. Loisa Burton, SDCWA, presented updates on grant administration. In total, the San Diego IRWM Region has received \$96.4 million dollars and 64% of that has been billed to DWR. \$57 million has been distributed through the funding rounds. Projects highlighted at this meeting included the SDCWA’s Turf Replacement Program and Regional Drought Resiliency Program, funded through Proposition 84, Round 2 and Round 4, respectively. These projects highlight the efficiency efforts discussed with the Water Resilience Portfolio and San Diego Basin Study.

**Public Comments**

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No additional public comments.

**Summary and Next Steps**

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Ms. Rosalyn Prickett, Woodard & Curran presented a list of upcoming funding opportunities. They have been included in the table below. The Bureau of Reclamation Funding Opportunity released on August 6 has been included below. These funds may be used as match for State grant opportunities.

Project Types	Deadline	Website
<b>Department of Water Resources</b>		
Riverine Stewardship Program – Urban Streams Restoration Program	August 30	<a href="https://water.ca.gov/Programs/Integrated-Regional-Water-Management/Riverine-Stewardship-Program/Riverine-Stewardship-Grants">https://water.ca.gov/Programs/Integrated-Regional-Water-Management/Riverine-Stewardship-Program/Riverine-Stewardship-Grants</a>
<b>US Bureau of Reclamation</b>		
Water Reclamation and Reuse Research Program	September 23	<a href="https://apply07.grants.gov/apply/opportunities/instructions/PKG00252387-instructions.pdf">https://apply07.grants.gov/apply/opportunities/instructions/PKG00252387-instructions.pdf</a>
Drought Resiliency Projects for Fiscal Years 2020 and 2021	October 14	<a href="https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/search-grants.html?keywords=BOR-DO-20-F002">https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/search-grants.html?keywords=BOR-DO-20-F002</a>

Next RAC Meeting:

- October 2, 2019 – 9:00-11:30 a.m. at SDCWA’s Board Room

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