Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) Meeting #77
November 7, 2018
1:30 pm – 3:30 pm

San Diego County Water Authority
Board Room
4677 Overland Ave., San Diego CA 92123
(858) 522-6600

NOTES

Attendance

RAC Members
Dana Friehauf, San Diego County Water Authority (chair)
Ann Van Leer, Escondido Creek Conservancy
Bill Hunter, Santa Fe Irrigation District
Chris Helmer, City of Imperial Beach
Greg Thomas, Rincon del Diablo Municipal Water District
Jim McVeigh for Jennifer Hazard, Rural Community Assistance Corporation
John Flores, San Pasqual Band of Mission Indians
Jonathan Witt, San Diego County Board of Education
Josh Brooks, San Diego CoastKeeper
Justin Gamble, City of Oceanside, and Alternate Alicia Appel, City of Escondido
Kimberly O'Connell, University of California – San Diego Clean Water Utility
Lan Wiborg, City of San Diego
Mark Seits, Floodplain Management Association
Mark Stadler for Bob Yamada, San Diego County Water Authority
Michelle Berens for Brian Olney, Helix Water District
Mike Thorton, San Elijo Joint Powers Authority
Phil Pryde, San Diego River Park Foundation
Ron Mosher, Sweetwater Authority
Seval Sen for Albert Lau, Padre Dam Municipal Water District

RWMG Staff and Consultants
Andrew Funk, City of San Diego
Goldy Herbon, San Diego County Water Authority
Loisa Burton, San Diego County Water Authority
Mark Stephens, City of San Diego

Nicole Poletto, Woodard & Curran
Rosalyn Prickett, Woodard & Curran
Ruth de la Rosa, County of San Diego
Sarah Brower, City of San Diego
Sally Johnson, Woodard & Curran
Toby Roy, San Diego County Water Authority

<u>Interested Parties to the RAC</u>
Adam Morrison, City of San Diego
Andrew Altmann, San Diego County Water Authority
Carmel Wong, City of San Diego
Catherine Rom, City of San Diego
Deena Isa, City of San Diego
Efren Lopez, City of San Diego
Emmanuel Arellano, SDHC
Jennifer Koopman, Kimley Horn
Joel Kramer, Joya Environmental
Joni German, San Diego County Water Authority
Juli Beth Hinds, University of California, San Diego
Julio Garcia, D-Max
Katherine Sharp, Wood PLC
Kirstin Skadberg, Groundwork San Diego
Marissa Perez, City of San Diego

Welcome and Introductions

Ms. Dana Friehauf, San Diego County Water Authority, welcomed everyone to the meeting. Introductions were made around the room.

Proposition 1 – Round 1

Mr. Mark Stadler, San Diego County Water Authority (SDCWA), announced that the solicitation period for projects to include in the San Diego IRWM Proposition 1, Round 1 Implementation Grant has begun. The Call for Projects is open through January 11, 2019 for applicants that want their projects to be scored, ranked and included in the grant application.

Mr. Stadler explained the application steps, eligible projects, and a projected timeline. In order to be included in the grant application, applicants must submit their projects to the Online Project Tracking & Integration (OPTI) database by January 11th, 2019. After submitted projects are scored, the Project Selection Workgroup will meet to discuss projects, hold interviews with priority projects, and choose a suite of projects to move forward in the regional application. All projects included in the regional application will be invited to the DWR Funding Area workshop anticipated May 2019. This workshop is a new step in the application process but was extremely useful during the last round of funding for the Disadvantaged Community Involvement (DACI) grant. After the workshop, more information will be needed from project sponsors to submit the application in Summer 2019. The Final Award date is anticipated in Fall 2019.

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Mr. Stadler pointed out new additions in DWR's Draft Proposal Solicitation Package (PSP) include a focus on climate change and contribution to regional water self-reliance. Required funding match is now 50%, unlike past years. Currently, CEQA costs are not eligible for match or reimbursement. CEQA timing and eligible costs concerns will be included in the San Diego IRWM's comment letter on the Draft PSP. The Regional Water Management Group (RWMG) will suggest no minimum DAC threshold in Round 1, which the RAC agreed with, as most of the DACI planning projects will be ready for Round 2 implementation grants as opposed to Round 1.

Ms. Friehauf reminded the audience that RAC membership applications are still open. Applications are due November 14th.

Questions/Comments:

- Will DWR score submitted projects individually?
    - Yes. There is a Low Project Threshold this year. All projects graded below the threshold will be dropped from the application. In the last round of Prop 84 funding, DWR scored each project but rolled it into a total proposal score. This process has evolved from that.
- When will Round 2 funding come out?
    - Round 2 is expected Summer 2020 but it depends on when the contracting for Round 1 is complete. It may be pushed back to 2021.
- When can the Local Project Sponsors expect to receive grant funds?
    - Funds are anticipated to be received 2-4 months after the contract. June/July 2020 may be the first reimbursement after the first quarter.
- Is advanced payment still an option?
    - Yes.
- Do match funds need to be non-State funds?
    - Yes.
- For Round 1, are any previous projects funded through other grants still eligible for Round 1 Prop 1 funding?
    - Yes. We can fund multiple phases of a project.

Project Scoring Criteria

Mr. Stadler discussed the project selection process and timeline. Project scores will be discussed and vetted with the RAC in February and project interviews will be held in March. The suite of projects and funding amounts will be approved at the April 3rd RAC meeting. Workgroup members will be nominated at the next RAC meeting on December 5th.

The IRWM Scoring Criteria relies heavily on DWR Scoring Criteria included in the PSP and the RWMG is proposing percentages for each of these criteria, which were distributed in an accompanying handout. Scoring criteria can also be round in Table 9-1 of the San Diego IRWM 2019 Plan.

The RAC discussed the proposed weighting of the scoring criteria in the 2019 IRWM Plan. Mr. Stadler reminded the RAC members that scoring criteria have been edited from previous rounds and some criteria can be weighted at 0% to be removed from the criteria list.

Questions/Comments:

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- How does score percentage in the San Diego IRWM Scoring Criteria reflect the PSP?
  - The Scoring Criteria are aligned with the PSP and the San Diego IRWM Plan. For example, "Resiliency to Climate Change" is worth 20% since it is a DWR priority in this round of funding.
- Would like to see how funded projects would score. For example, how many span multiple watersheds?
  - We estimate 20% of the projects are regional, infrastructure is usually more local.
- Where does multiple watersheds come into the scoring criteria?
  - This comes back to the definition of integration that was developed in 2010. One definition of integration is to cross multiple watersheds.
- How do projects break out over the last 10 years for DAC projects, projects that span multiple watersheds, stormwater projects, etc.?
  - We've looked at project types. There are lots of water supply projects because of Round 3 (Drought Round). DAC projects are probably 25% of projects because we consider more types of projects DAC than DWR does. We can bring back statistics on past rounds of funding to a future RAC Meeting.
- The Scoring Criteria look very well thought out.
- A few years ago, we did not have climate change as a criterion but a comment from the RAC led us to add it. Now it has become very prominent.
- Can these categories be condensed for time efficiency? Multiple objectives and multiple beneficial uses (BUs) for example? If you are having a project that spans multiple watersheds you are most likely collaborating with another entity as well.
  - Specific recommendations include combining multiple BUs and multiple objectives in addition to combining more than one entity and spans multiple watersheds.
  - Another option is to remove the multiple watersheds question and give more percentage somewhere else. The double dipping could reduce your project score when it is a good project overall.
- A project may not be in multiple watersheds but has multiple benefits. If you group too much, you may lose the strength of scoring.
- Are scoring criteria verbatim from DWR?
  - No, these scoring criteria are from the San Diego IRWM Plan.
- Clarification: The Project Selection Workgroup does not do the scoring – projects are scored by a third-party reviewer before the workgroup is convened. Combining categories won't save time for them or improve efficiency. However, if the purpose of combining categories is to make more functional sense in the criteria, then it makes sense to combine them.
  - If categories are combined, you need to increase the weighting in the Scoring Criteria.
- We will move forward with the Scoring Criteria the way it is for Round 1. If it seems burdensome then the Scoring Criteria can be changed for Round 2.
- It makes sense to combine multiple watersheds and multiple entities at 13% and then you can get points for either. This could help streamline the process.
  - Padre Dam example: Padre Dam is in one watershed but working with multiple entities. How would this project be rated? Do you give all 13% or not? There is a benefit to leaving the Scoring Criteria separate. This project would get 2 points for integration

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within a single watershed and 4 points for multiple project partners for a total of 6/8 points.

- There is a high weight on stormwater as a resource. Does this come from the PSP or our IRWM Plan?
    o This is from our IRWM plan. Stormwater was identified as a Technical Development Area and stormwater was a key area of emphasis.
- Is it understood that if it does not apply to you, you get 0 points?
    o Yes. Some show 0 points because we wanted to make that clear.
- What is enhancing infrastructure?
    o This was also a Technical Development Area that came out of the 2019 Plan Update. The purpose was to leverage existing infrastructure rather than investing deeply in new capital projects.

There was a motion to approve the recommended scoring criteria weighting.

RAC Vote Yes: 19

Call for Projects

Ms. Sarah Brower, City of San Diego discussed the open Call for Projects and how to enter projects into the IRWM Project Database (OPTI). In order to be eligible for grant funding, projects must be submitted to OPTI before January 11th, 2019. The database can be accessed at www.sdirwmp.org under "Project Database." Users must sign in with an existing username or register as a community member. A project must also meet Objectives A and B of the San Diego IRWM Plan and one other objective in order to be considered for funding.

Ms. Brower encouraged attendance to the Technical Workshop of December 5th, 2018, immediately following the RAC meeting. The workshop will give applicants the chance to ask questions and receive one-on-one assistance as they input their project information into OPTI. Each attendee must bring their own laptop.

Questions/Comments:

- Projects can be edited until as many times as needed before the Call for Projects closes. If you edit a project, it must be resubmitted.
- In the Draft PSP, it states a pre-application workshop with DWR. When is the workshop?
    o Hoping for May.
- There is a Project Information Form (PIF). In the PIF, you justify how you meet the scoring criteria as well as answer information for the PIF. In general, can we rely on the PIF in the PSP for the project application in OPTI?
    o No. OPTI has more questions than the PIF. We need more information in order to use our local scoring criteria.

Public Comments

Ms. Brower reminded the group that RAC member applications are due November 14th. The next RAC meeting will nominate the Project Selection Workgroup members.

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Questions/Comments:

- The PSP states that match can go back to 2015. Do you describe the work that has been completed prior as well as the work that goes along with that?
  - Yes. If you use match that goes back to 2015, you must include the description of that phase of project in the project application.

Summary and Next Steps

Next RAC Meeting:

- December 5, 2018 – 9:00-11:30 a.m. at MOC II
  - Proposition 1, Round 1 Technical Workshop from 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

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