



**Carlsbad and San Dieguito
Watershed Workshop
Notes**

September 25, 2012

1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

City of Escondido, Mitchell Room
201 N. Broadway, Escondido, CA 92025

Attendance

Alison Witheridge, City of Oceanside
Bryand Duke, California Department of Fish and Game
Bryn Evans, URS
Crystal Najera, City of Encinitas
David Neubert, River Partners
Debbie Biggs, Encina Wastewater Authority
Deena Raver, County of San Diego
Emily Michaelson, Katz & Associates
Erica Ryan, City of San Marcos
Jason Paquette, Bureau Veritas
Kelly Craig, Zoological Society of San Diego
Kristine Taniguchi, San Diego State University Geography Department
Lauma Jurkevics, California Department of Water Resources
Legeia Heagy, City of Vista
Lewis Michaelson, Katz & Associates
Lynne Baker, San Dieguito River Valley Conservancy
Mark Stadler, San Diego County Water Authority
Mike Porter, Regional Water Quality Control Board
Morgan Justice-Black, I Love a Clean San Diego
Raymond Lee, San Diego State University
Rosalyn Prickett, RMC Water and Environment
Scott Norris, County of San Diego
Stephanie Ponce, California Department of Fish and Game
Sue Pender, RBF Consulting
Taryn Dunbar, City of Solana Beach
Warren Wong, California Department of Fish and Game

Welcome and Introductions

Mr. Lewis Michaelson, Katz & Associates (facilitator), welcomed everyone to the meeting. Introductions were made around the room. Mr. Michaelson explained the necessity for obtaining

qualitative input at the workshop to use in developing the San Diego Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Plan Update. The purpose of the workshops is to characterize the watersheds in the San Diego Region and identify water management issues and priorities for each of the watersheds.

IRWM Overview

Mr. Mark Stadler, San Diego County Water Authority, provided an overview of IRWM planning, the San Diego IRWM Plan Update, the current Proposition 84-Round 2 grant opportunity and project submittal process, and types of project integration. Mr. Stadler explained that IRWM planning is an innovative way to increase reliable water sources, improve water quality, and protect natural resources through cooperation among public agencies with different jurisdictions and nonprofit public interest organizations. IRWM planning is also a mechanism through which the San Diego Region is eligible for substantial grant funding from Proposition 84 and Proposition 1E. The IRWM Plan Update will revise and improve the 2007 IRWM Plan and meet new California Department of Water Resources (DWR) IRWM program requirements. The input received at the watershed workshops will be used to amend the existing IRWM Plan to characterize resources on a watershed-scale.

Mr. Stadler stated that DRW recently announced Round 2 of Proposition 84 implementation grant funding. There is approximately \$10.3 million available for the San Diego Region in Round 2, which is expected to fund five to seven projects. To improve a project's likelihood of being selected to receive IRWM grant funding, a project should integrate multiple benefits and multiple project partners. An integrated project is one that contains at least one of the following components:

- **Partnerships** – Partnerships between different organizations
- **Resource Management** – Employing multiple water management strategies within a single project
- **Beneficial Uses** – Project supports several different beneficial uses
- **Geography** – Implementing watershed- or regional-scale projects
- **Hydrology** – Addressing multiple watershed functions within the hydrologic cycle

Questions/Comments

- Does IRWM have a list of priorities for funding?
 - *No, any project that would support water management, water quality and/or natural resources will be considered.*

Carlsbad Watershed

Watershed Characterization

Ms. Rosalyn Prickett, RMC Water and Environment, listed the references that are currently being used to characterize the Carlsbad watershed.

- 2002 Carlsbad Watershed Management Plan
- DWR Groundwater Bulletin 118
- 2010 Urban Water Management Plans (UWMPs)

- Watershed Urban Runoff Management Plans (WURMPs)
- Multiple Species Conservation Plans (MSCPs)
- Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) Basin Plan and 303(d) List

Ms. Prickett asked for input on additional references to consult, and workshop attendees suggested the following references:

- Agua Hedionda Task Force – Southern California Caulerpa Action Team
- City of Vista Agua Hedionda Watershed Management Plan
- Loma Alta Watershed Management Plan
- City of San Marcos Nutrient Management Plan for Upper San Marcos
- Regional Urban Runoff Management Plan (RURMP)
- Southern California Coastal Water Research Project Outfall Survey
- San Elijo Lagoon Restoration Project EIR
- Caltrans Interstate 5 EIR – Buena Vista Lagoon

Ms. Prickett presented the current characterization of the Carlsbad watershed to obtain feedback from the workshop attendees. The workshop attendees suggested that the following features be used to characterize the Carlsbad watershed:

- Historical agricultural use that affects groundwater and surface water
- Sediment starvation – Buena Vista and Agua Hedionda
- Watershed consists of five unique sub-watersheds
- Lagoon mouths – variability in mouth openings and flow regimes
- Loma Alta flooding issues – channelized by U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- San Marcos Creek flooding in downtown San Marcos
- Aquaculture at Agua Hedionda Lagoon

Water Management Issues in Watershed

Ms. Prickett listed key management issues for the Carlsbad watershed and asked for input on additional significant management issues the watershed faces. Workshop attendees shared the following management issues:

- Widening of State Route 78 and potential realigning of Buena Vista Creek
- Restoration of Buena Vista Lagoon to salt water origins
- Nutrients – Loma Alta Slough Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL)
- Desalination plant in Carlsbad – water supply reliability versus coastal impacts
- Recreation at Agua Hedionda Lagoon
- Expansion of recycled water distribution system
- Water quality at Lake San Marcos – TMDL
- Complexity of working with jurisdictions in five unique sub-watersheds
- Eutrophication in several water bodies
- Erosion of coastal bluffs due to development and sea level changes
- Utilities/sewage systems in creeks

IRWM Priorities for Watershed

Given the types of projects that IRWM is designed to fund, Mr. Michaelson asked the workshop attendees to think about what priorities in the Carlsbad watershed could be addressed through an IRWM-based project. Workshop attendees suggested the following Carlsbad watershed priorities:

- TMDL priorities – Loma Alta
- Planning, research and design phases for water quality issues
- Tie water quality solutions to ecosystem restoration and habitat protection
- Integrate MSCP efforts – fund acquisition
- Acquisition for floodplain protection and restoration
- Pilot projects related to water quality, water supply, and storm water

San Dieguito Watershed

Watershed Characterization

Ms. Prickett listed the references that are currently being used to characterize the San Dieguito watershed.

- 2006 San Dieguito Watershed Management Plan
- DWR Groundwater Bulletin 118
- 2010 UWMPs
- WURMPs
- MSCPs
- RWQCB Basin Plan and 303(d) List

Ms. Prickett asked for input on additional references to review. Workshop attendees suggested the following references:

- Prop 50 Lake Hodges Wetlands Project – San Dieguito River Conservancy
- San Dieguito Lagoon Restoration Plan
- San Dieguito Sanitary Surveys
- 2006 San Diego Zoo Safari Park Water Management Plan
- San Pasqual Valley Groundwater Management Plan
- San Dieguito River Conservancy Protected Lands Map
- San Pasqual Battlefield State Historic Park Map
- Bear Valley Parkway EIR
- Del Mar Fairgrounds Storm Water Management Plan
- California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection – Fire Management

Ms. Prickett presented the current characterization of the San Dieguito watershed. The workshop attendees suggested that the following features be used to characterize the San Dieguito watershed:

- Lake Hodges – percent urbanized versus agriculture; size of drainage area
- 25 percent of land is available for conservation or development
- Management of estuaries
- Tribal lands – Mesa Grande and Santa Ysabel

Water Management Issues in Watershed

Ms. Prickett listed key management issues for the San Dieguito watershed and asked for input on additional significant management issues the watershed faces. Workshop attendees shared the following management issues:

- Sediment issues after wildfires in San Pasqual Valley – slow vegetation growth
- Flooding as a result of sediment deposition
- Nutrient levels associated with sediment, agriculture, and golf courses
- Range management – cattle ranch upstream
- Lake management/fisheries
- Sod farms – nutrients fuel invasive species
- Utility/sewage systems in creeks

IRWM Priorities for Watershed

Given the types of projects that IRWM is designed to fund, Mr. Michaelson asked the workshop attendees to think about what priorities in the San Dieguito watershed could be addressed through an IRWM-based project. Workshop attendees suggested the following San Dieguito watershed priorities:

- Water quality projects to address nutrients, sediment, and bacteria
- Water quality in Lake Hodges – systems approach to consider all watershed inputs
- Agricultural outreach regarding sediment issues
- Introduction of imported water to Lake Hodges – different constituents
- Climate change impacts at Lake Hodges – drought causes decrease in water levels and increase in invasive species
- Climate change impacts can be addressed with reoperation; flood capture is also a goal
- Management of groundwater as a water supply resource
- Local water supply development – indirect potable reuse with intent to integrate water management strategies
- Acquisition of conservation lands
- Partnerships with tribes to address tribal water management issues
- Pilot retrofit projects related to water quality and storm water
- Make IRWM data more available to public – Project Clean Water
- Integrate multiple jurisdictions

Next Steps

Mr. Stadler explained that the input provided at the workshop will be used to complete the Carlsbad and San Dieguito watershed characterizations. The draft characterizations will be distributed to the workshop attendees in March or April for review. Mr. Stadler also noted there will be IRWM outreach meetings with the tribes.