



Watershed Planning and Outreach Workgroup Meeting #3
May 19, 2008
2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Q&S Escrow Inc.
16710 Bernardo Center Drive, San Diego 92128

Meeting Notes

Attendance

Present

Bill Simmons, San Dieguito River Valley Conservancy (chair)
Sheri McPherson, County of San Diego Department of Public Works
Sue Varty, Olivenhain Municipal Water District
Rob Hutsel, San Diego River Park Foundation
Karen Franz, San Diego CoastKeeper
Mark Stadler, San Diego County Water Authority
Roselyn Stewart, RMC Water and Environment

Absent

Kathy Weldon, City of Encinitas
Cathy Pieroni, City of San Diego
Todd Snyder, County of San Diego
Kimberly O'Connell, UC San Diego Environmental Affairs
Linda Flournoy, Planning & Engineering for Sustainability
Rick Alexander, Sweetwater Authority
Mike Kelly, Friends of Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve
Jack Simes, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation

Welcome and Introductions

Mr. Bill Simmons welcomed everyone to the meeting. Introductions were made around the room.

Workgroup Updates

Ms. Rosalyn Stewart reviewed the action items from last meeting. She thanked the group for their recommendations on additional Workgroup members to provide geographic representation. She explained that the Brown Act was not applicable to the Workgroup. She also reminded the group to download the Watershed Matrix from the www.sdirwmp.org website and provide any updates/revisions.

Tri-County FACC Updates

Mr. Mark Stadler provided an update on Tri-County FACC activities. He explained that all nine RWMG agencies from the three planning regions adopted the Tri-County MOU before we submitted the RAP Application. He also noted that project coordination will be undertaken by the group to address Santa Margarita watershed issues.

Statewide Watershed Program and Watershed Forum Updates

Mr. Rob Hutsel provided an overview of the proposed AB 1520, which establishes a Statewide Watershed Program with an advisory committee. Recent changes to the draft legislation have increased the number of environmental/watershed group representatives on the advisory committee.

Mr. Hutsel also provided an overview of the San Diego River Forum, which brought together watershed groups, municipalities, and State and federal agency representatives to discuss the San Diego River watershed. Highlights included a keynote speech by Senator Christine Kehoe and a discussion of the cultural value of watersheds.

Watershed Policy Proposal

Mr. Rob Hutsel led a discussion of the revised Watershed Policy Proposal drafted by Craig Adams. The purpose of the IRWM program is to integrate the 'best' of water supply, habitat protection, and water quality efforts. The policy proposal suggests allowing meaningful review of IRWM projects at the watershed level before moving them forward into the larger RAC/Workgroup process. In this way, watershed groups and other stakeholders are given an opportunity to comment on project value with their understanding of the project context. Suggest including watershed groups, municipalities, and agencies in the review/comment cycle.

Two members who participated in the Prop 50 project ranking/selection process expressed concern about having appropriate information available. During Prop 84, more training will be needed for the watershed groups so they can develop effective project proposals that meet grant requirements. The proposed watershed review/comment cycle may contribute to a more real understanding of each project.

Workgroup comments included:

- Address the IRWM Plan metrics in the project ranking.
- Identify regional priorities in advance of project solicitation.
- The cumulative impacts/benefits of project implementation be considered.
- Regional projects need not funnel through watershed review.
- Project database will help to identify and link up projects that are similar.
- WURMP Workgroups could serve as watershed review body where watershed groups are not fully organized.

Project Database

Ms. Rosalyn Stewart provided an overview of the handouts (the SD IRWM Prop 50 Project Application Form used in 2007 and the current LA IRWM online project form) and asked for Workgroup feedback on the contents of the proposed Project Database.

Workgroup comments included:

- Needs limits (# characters).
- Clarify the not every box should be checked
 - How to limit to ‘truths’?
- How to encourage ‘good’ projects without data (smaller organizations)?
- Information about what to do/who to contact if you need help
- Technical assistance for DACs? Or no match?
- More specific definition of benefit to DACs (“In or adjacent to...”)
- List all IRWM Plan metrics + ask for quantification.
 - Include ‘other’?
- Crosswalk watershed w/Metrics → Line up w/watershed priority in Watershed Management Plans
- Ask if project is in adopted Watershed Management Plan
- May need to hide some info on ‘Acquisitions’
- Project templates for economic analysis?
- Type of project → dictates which info/fields available for user. Provide ‘guide’ to user when filling out info.
- Identify impaired water bodies.
- Map → Calculate/fill in which municipality the project is located in.

Project Guidance

Ms. Rosalyn Stewart asked the Workgroup to brainstorm the contents of the Project Guidance to be distributed to watershed groups, DACs, and other stakeholders.

Workgroup comments included:

- Prop 84 bond language.
- Basic requirements for the Prop 84 contract (match, group, labor compliance program, 10% withholding).
- Encourage partnerships -- Attach Watershed Matrix!
- Intro paragraph.
- IRWM Plan Metrics used to evaluate projects.
- Host a webinar on the Project Guidance rather than ‘Road Show’ meetings.
- Distribute in Newsletter format?
- Early + often → Distribute guidance ASAP!
- Distribute to Project Clean Water email + Community Planning groups.

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- Email sign-up on Project Database (+zip code to track participation)
- Emphasize integration!
- Definition of 'drought-related project' might include:
 - Conservation / Water use efficiency;
 - Recycling;
 - Desalination (conflicted opinions);
 - Monitoring the effects of conserving greywater

Action Items

Mr. Bill Simmons reviewed the action items for the group.

- Rob will email the revised Watershed Policy Proposal to the group for further comment and revision.
- Rosalyn will ask web developer 1) Can some info on Project Database can be hidden (i.e., info on Acquisitions)? 2) Can the type of project selected dictate which info/fields available for user?
- RMC will distribute a draft Project Database spreadsheet and draft Project Guidelines before our next meeting.
- **Next meeting: July 8th at CoastKeeper, Point Loma**