Disadvantaged Community (DAC) Outreach Meeting
Urban Areas

Thursday September 20, 2012
2:30 – 4:00pm

Malcolm X Library
5148 Market Street
San Diego, CA 92114

DRAFT Meeting Notes
Action items in italics

Attendees:

Nia Gipson, San Diego Coastkeeper	Connery Cepeda, Caltrans
Travis Pritchard, San Diego Coastkeeper	Keith Pezzoli, UCSD
Michelle Lande, UC Cooperative Extension	Charles Davis, Jacobs Center
Vassy Lerinska, City of San Diego	Leslie Reynolds, Groundworks Chollas Creek
Denna Spehn, Senator Kehoe	Goldy Thach, City of San Diego
Hedy Levine, REC Consultants	Rosalyn Prickett, RMC

1. **Welcome and Introductions**

   Rosalyn Prickett introduced the meeting, and thanked everyone for attending.

2. **IRWM Overview**

   Rosalyn Prickett began the meeting by summarizing the purpose of the Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Plan, which is to ensure the "long-term sustainability of San Diego's water supply, water quality, and natural resources." Ms. Prickett explained that the San Diego region adopted its first IRWM Plan in 2007 and is now in the process of completing a comprehensive update to that plan. Further, Ms. Prickett noted that the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) has specific provisions pertaining to economically disadvantaged communities (DACs), which are defined as those communities whose income is less than 80% of the statewide median household income. As part of the IRWM Plan Update process, the San Diego IRWM Program is conducting specific outreach and support activities to the region's DACs.

3. **DAC Characterization in IRWM Plan Update**

   Rosalyn Prickett then gave a summary of the IRWM Plan Update and the goal to expand the description of DACs within the region. She asked for input regarding what should be included for the DAC characterization and how that information should be gathered. She referenced the list of issues in the meeting handouts, which were taken from the 2007 IRWM Plan and the Region Acceptance Process from 2009.

Below is an overview of the discussion on this topic:

- Chollas Creek issues include: pollution, homeless, encampments.
- Water conservation in DACs is an issue – need to have more community groups convey messages about reducing costs and increasing affordability of water. There are bilingual needs for these meetings, not just Spanish.
- Stormwater management is an issue. Pollution prevention is needed, especially in businesses. The region already knows where the TMDLs are, and knows where there are needs.
- Need to get out into the community. Raise awareness of surface waters –their existence and value.
- UC Cooperative Extension's Community Engagement component of the proposed Chollas Creek project (for Round 2 of Prop 84 funding). This component will focus on water-borne toxins in science component – how to communicate this issue to the larger community.
- No public health issues regarding urban surface water, but food security is an issue. Need water supply for community gardens – rainwater harvesting, bioswales.
- Sustenance fishing in Mission Bay and San Diego Bay. State map regarding fishing warnings (due to pollutants). UC Cooperative Extension to study values and communities and what incentives would be needed to change behavior. Focus on changing values over time.
- Habitat restoration is an issue – need to see Chollas Creek as an asset. Arundo removal to increase flood flows as well as habitat. Increases safety with trash removal and removal of invasive species. Invasive species result in choked channels (flooding) and hiding places (safety).
    - San Diego River Watershed – there is mapping of homeless encampments.
- Sea level rise is an issue. Coastkeeper is mapping sea level rise, and will overlay with DAC mapping along the Bay. Environmental Justice issue – DACs along the bayfront will be impacted by sea level rise and additional storm surges.
- Tribal communities – fire ash contaminated drinking water supply. Backcountry issues associated with water quality.
    - Mapping with County Department of Environmental Health regarding small water systems that do not meet standards (MCLs).
- Drinking water contamination at USMC Camp Pendleton water supply system for family housing. There are federal investigations regarding this issue.
- Reconvene DAC meeting in the spring to review the Draft DAC write-up – circulate via email before the meeting.

4. Prop 84-Round 2 Grant Opportunity

Mark Stadler provided an overview of the upcoming grant opportunity for Round 2 of Proposition 84 funding. Mr. Stadler stated that DWR 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

Mr. Stadler also explained that project proponents can submit projects to the online database by accessing the following web page: www.sdirwmp.org If proponents have any trouble with the database, please contact RMC (Rosalyn Prickett).

5. DAC Participation in IRWM Program

Rosalyn Prickett then gave a summary of DAC participation in the IRWM Program, and asked the group to brainstorm ways to improve participation.

Below is an overview of the discussion on this topic:

- Education and outreach are needed in other languages beyond Spanish.
- Refer to conversation above regarding issues – these are the primary barriers to participating. Community needs are imperative to address (i.e. food scarcity).

6. Next Steps

- Follow-up meeting to be held in the spring to review the draft DAC write-up for the IRWM Plan Update.