Carlsbad – San Dieguito
Workshop on 2013 San Diego IRWM Plan, Watersheds, and Disadvantaged Communities

Workshop Notes

Wednesday July 17, 2013
1:00-3:00 p.m.
Vista City Hall
200 Civic Center Drive
Vista, CA 92084

Attendance

Cheryl Filan, City of Vista
Crystal Mohr, RMC Water & Environment
Cynthia Mallett, City of Oceanside
Dave Draper, Rincon Del Diablo Municipal Water District
Erica Ryan, City of San Marcos
Goldy Thach, City of San Diego
Isabella Kay, UCSD Natural Reserves
James Wood, City of Carlsbad
Jeff Warner, City of Escondido
Joey Randall, Olivenhain Municipal Water District
Kelly Craig, Zoological Society of San Diego
Ken Weinberg, San Diego County Water Authority
Ligeia Heagy, City of Vista
Lowell Grimaud, Carlsbad Resident
Mark Stadler, San Diego County Water Authority
Mark Stephens, City of San Diego, Stormwater Division
Mary Clarke Friends of Agua Hedionda Creek
Paul Hartman, Larry Walker Associates
Robyn Badger, Zoological Society of San Diego
Rosalyn Prickett, RMC Water & Environment
Scott Norris, County of San Diego
Sheri McPherson, County of San Diego
Stan Williams, Poseidon Water
Steve Strapal, City of Poway
Taryn Kjolsing, City of Solana Beach
Teresa Penunuri, San Diego County Water Authority
Toby Roy, San Diego County Water Authority

Welcome and Introductions

Teresa Penunuri, San Diego County Water Authority (facilitator), welcomed everyone to the meeting. Introductions were made around the room. Ms. Penunuri discussed the purpose of the workshop, which was to: present and discuss contents of the draft 2013 San Diego IRWM Plan, review draft watershed characterizations for the Carlsbad and San Dieguito watersheds, and discuss disadvantaged community issues within the watersheds.

IRWM Overview

Goldy Thach, City of San Diego, provided the group with an overview of the 2013 IRWM Plan. To begin the overview, Ms. Thach described IRWM planning and the statewide IRWM Program. Ms. Thach described IRWM planning as an innovative way to increase reliable water supplies, improve water quality, and protect natural resources through cooperation among public agencies with different jurisdictions and non-profit public interest organizations. Ms. Thach also explained that IRWM planning is the State's preferred method of funding local water management, and that the IRWM Program is used to disburse water bond funding from Proposition 50, 84, and 1E.

Ms. Thach described the San Diego IRWM Program, which is led by the Regional Water Management Group (RWMG) consisting of the San Diego County Water Authority, City of San Diego, and County of San Diego. The primary advisory to the RWMG is the Regional Advisory Committee or RAC. RAC members represent water supply, wastewater, stormwater, natural resources and include other community members representing tribes, academia, Chamber of Commerce, the San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG), and agriculture. In addition, we have had representation from State and Federal agencies such as Regional Water Quality Control Board staff and the U. S. Bureau of Reclamation.

The San Diego IRWM Region is comprised of 11 parallel hydrologic units that flow west from the mountains into the Pacific Ocean. Eight of the watersheds are within San Diego County and three are partially located in another county or Mexico.

IRWM planning has two primary functions: grant project funding and project planning. The benefits of IRWM planning are that it coordinates and integrates water management activities within a region, emphasizes local priority setting and control, establishes regional goals and targets, identifies and helps to fund projects to achieve goals, and fosters cooperation among agencies and non-governmental organizations.

2013 IRWM Plan

Goldy Thach then provided information about the 2013 IRWM Plan, which was updated based upon the 2007 IRWM Plan but with the addition of new planning documents and reports, planning studies, and stakeholder input. The 2013 IRWM Plan was also updated to meet new IRWM Plan requirements established by the Department of Water Resources (DWR).

With respect to the DWR requirements, the 2013 IRWM Plan includes new sections on integrated flood management and climate change, but was also tailored to reflect the Region's unique circumstances. For example, the 2013 IRWM Plan includes a separate chapter on watershed descriptions to reflect the Region's unique hydrologic structure (11 parallel watershed), and also

includes a separate chapter on tribal nations to describe the Region's diverse tribal nations. Ms. Thach then provided an overview of each of the eleven 2013 IRWM Plan Chapters:

Chapter 1, Introduction:

This chapter includes the purpose and organization of the 2013 IRWM Plan purpose and organization, the governance structure (RWMG) and IRWM Program structure, describes how the 2013 IRWM Plan is consistent with IRWM Plan Guidelines (DWR requirements), and includes an overview of challenges and conflicts in water management and how IRWM planning can help address them.

Chapter 2, Vision and Objectives:

This chapter includes the IRWM Vision, Mission, Goals, and Objectives. The IRWM Vision is: an integrated, balanced, and consensus-based approach to ensuring the long-term sustainability of the Region's water supply, water quality, and natural resources.

The 2013 IRWM Plan has eleven objectives, which were updated with extensive input from stakeholders. The 2013 IRWM Plan also includes new pass/fail rules for projects: 1) To be included in the San Diego IRWM Plan, all implementation projects must contribute to at least one IRWM Plan objective, 2) To be considered for IRWM funding, implementation projects must contribute to the attainment of Objective A, Objective B, and at least one other objective. The IRWM objectives are:

A. Encourage the development of integrated solutions to address water management issues and conflicts
B. Maximize stakeholder/community involvement and stewardship of water resources, emphasizing education and outreach
C. Effectively obtain, manage, and assess water resource data and information
D. Further the scientific and technical foundation of water management
E. Develop and maintain a diverse mix of water resources, encouraging their efficient use and development of local water supplies
F. Construct, operate, and maintain a reliable infrastructure system
G. Enhance natural hydrologic processes to reduce the effects of hydromodification and encourage integrated flood management
H. Effectively reduce sources of pollutants and environmental stressors to protect and enhance human health, safety, and the environment
I. Protect, restore, and maintain habitat and open space
J. Optimize water-based recreational opportunities
K. Effectively address climate change through adaptation or mitigation in water resource management

Chapter 3, Region Description:

This chapter was comprehensively updated with: new information available since 2007, planning studies conducted specifically for the IRWM Program, and input from the RAC and other stakeholders. This chapter includes a summary of regional water resources with tables that are generally organized by watershed. This chapter also includes three new sections: Stormwater Management, Flood Management, and Climate Change.

Chapter 4, Tribal Nations:

This chapter is an entirely new chapter that was created based on data review and outreach to tribal nations. Information in this chapter was vetted extensively by tribal representatives, and includes a description of tribal reservations and groups and an overview of water management issues on tribal lands.

Chapter 5, Watershed Characterizations:

This chapter is an entirely new chapter that was created based on data review and outreach through Watershed Workshops conducted in September 2012. Each watershed description contains information on hydrology, water systems, land uses, stormwater and flood, natural resources, and management issues and conflicts.

Chapter 6, Governance & Stakeholder Involvement:

This chapter describes the overall governance structure of the IRWM Program and stakeholder involvement that has taken place to-date. This chapter was updated based on extensive outreach conducted since 2007, including input from a specific ad-hoc workgroup that was convened to discuss governance and financing of the IRWM Program (Governance and Financing Workgroup). Although the workgroup did not recommend making changes to the overall governance structure, the workgroup drafted a formal charter for the RAC, which is included in this chapter.

Chapter 7, Regional Coordination:

This chapter includes information about coordination of information and planning studies across the IRWM Region. This chapter also includes a high-level summary of the planning studies that were conducted for the 2013 IRWM Plan. Those studies, which include Collaboration with Regional *Board, Salinity Nutrient Management Planning Guidelines, Integrated Flood Management, Climate Change Analysis, Water Management and Land Use* are appended to Chapter 7 of the 2013 IRWM Plan.

Chapter 8, Resource Management:

This chapter was updated based on the Resource Management Strategies (RMS) in the *2009 California Water Plan Update*. This chapter includes all of the RMS that were deemed, through stakeholder input, to be applicable to the IRWM Region. This chapter also includes additional RMS that were identified by stakeholders, and includes examples of how the RMS are being implemented in the IRWM Region.

Chapter 9, Project Evaluation and Prioritization:

This chapter outlines the general process for selecting projects for future rounds of grant funding. Information in this chapter includes updates to project scoring that were made to better-sort projects based on their value to the Region and based on the principles of IRWM planning. This chapter was updated based on input from an ad-hoc workgroup that was convened for the 2013 IRWM Plan (the Priorities and Metrics Workgroup), the workgroup that was convened to evaluate and recommend projects to be funded for Round 2 of Proposition 84 Implementation Grant funding, and the RAC.

Chapter 10, Data & Technical Analysis:

This chapter summarizes technical resources that are available in the Region for water-based planning purposes. This chapter acknowledges a future comprehensive Data Management System (DMS) that is being developed by the County, and includes a new "WaterGIS" database that is available on www.sdirwmp.org website.

Chapter 11, Implementation:

This chapter includes a series of "action items" that were developed based on the planning study recommendations (described in Chapter 7), and have received implementation commitments from a stakeholder in the Region. This chapter also includes information about updating and revising the IRWM Plan, including production of a Report Card every three years. Further, this chapter includes a comprehensive table of potential financing options for the IRWM Program and for IRWM projects.

Questions/Comments

- In terms of responsible parties, you mentioned the RWMG (City, County, Water Authority). How are other agencies such as the City of Vista involved?
    - *The RWMG is responsible for managing the IRWM Program and for funding portions of the program that are not covered by grants. However, many agencies (including the City of Vista) are involved via the Regional Advisory Committee and as active stakeholders at meetings such as the one being held today.*

Watershed Characterizations

Ms. Rosalyn Prickett, RMC Water and Environment, provided an overview of the current characterizations for the Carlsbad and San Dieguito watersheds. Information on these watersheds, as provided by Ms. Prickett, is included below:

Carlsbad Watershed:

- Six parallel stream systems discharge to the Pacific Ocean:
    1. Loma Alta Creek which drains into Loma Alta Slough
    2. Buena Vista Creek which drains into Buena Vista Lagoon
    3. Agua Hedionda Creek which drains into Agua Hedionda Lagoon
    4. San Marcos Creek which drains into Batiquitos Lagoon
    5. Encinitas Creek which drains to the Pacific Ocean
    6. Escondido Creek which drains into San Elijo Lagoon
- Other major surface water bodies include: Lake Wohlford, Dixon Lake, Lake San Marcos, San Dieguito Reservoir, and Olivenhain Reservoir. Neither San Dieguito nor Olivenhain are natural water bodies; both are used to store imported water.
- Surface water comes from the San Luis Rey Watershed, transferred to Lake Wohlford via the Escondido Canal
- Water systems within the Watershed are complex; due to the large amount of imported water use and limited amounts of other water supplies
- Groundwater basins include Batiquitos Valley, San Elijo Valley, San Marcos Area, and Escondido Valley.

- In 2012, the San Diego County Water Authority entered into contract with Poseidon to construct a reverse-osmosis seawater desalination facility and 10 miles of pipeline. The desalination facility will enhance the Region's water reliability through supply diversification.
- Contains multiple local jurisdictions, including 7 cities, the County, and 10 water agencies
- Anticipating substantial population growth in the future
- Multiple water bodies on the 303(d) list of impaired water bodies, including 3 of the 4 lagoons for excessive bacteria and sediment. TMDLs are being developed to improve the water quality
- Stormwater management is complex due to multiple jurisdictional agencies involved as well as urbanization, which presents unique issues
- Flood control has historically involved channelizing major surface water bodies to prevent private property flood damage
- Urbanization has also led to habitat degradation and introduction of invasive species
- Lagoons are important wildlife habitats– 3 are salt water marsh and Buena Vista is freshwater marsh. Because tidal flushing does not occur, sedimentation in lagoon is a problem
- Water quality related issues that generally associated with urban development – sedimentation, nutrients, bacteria
- Concerns regarding use of Encina Power Plant intakes for seawater desalination facility, in terms of habitat and fisheries
- Erosion issues along coastal bluffs and need for beach sand replenishment

San Dieguito Watershed:

- Major surface water bodies within the San Dieguito Watershed: San Dieguito River, San Dieguito Lagoon, Lake Hodges (owned by City of SD; stores natural runoff and imported), Lake Sutherland (City of SD; stores natural runoff), Lake Poway (City of Poway; imported), and Lake Ramona (Ramona MWD; imported)
- Imported water stored in Lake Hodges is transferred to/from Olivenhain Reservoir in the Carlsbad watershed – both are part of the Water Authority's Emergency Storage Project
- Groundwater basins include San Dieguito Valley, San Pasqual Valley, Santa Maria Valley, and Pamo Valley
- Recharge in the San Pasqual Valley Basin occurs from rain/runoff infiltration. In normal years, all surface runoff within the San Pasqual Valley becomes groundwater recharge
- Recharge within the San Dieguito Valley Basin can also come from underflow beneath Lake Hodges
- Contains multiple local jurisdictions, including 5 cities, the County, and 7 water agencies as well as lands owned by the San Dieguito River Valley Regional Open Space Joint Powers Authority
- Approximately 60% of watershed is undeveloped or open space; however, a 300% increase in residential development is projected by 2030 (SANDAG)
- Tribal lands make up 7%: San Ysabel and Mesa Grande Reservations

- Multiple water bodies are on 303(d) impaired waters list (purple on map), primarily due to pollutants in urban runoff
- Stormwater and flood management are the responsibility of the County and individual municipalities
- Localized flooding occurs in several reaches of the San Dieguito River: downstream of Lake Hodges to Del Mar
- Flood control issues remain a key concern; Lake Hodges spilled 13 times between 1955-2005
- Due to undeveloped nature of watershed, diverse array of habitats from Volcan Mountain to San Dieguito Lagoon
- Issues include ensuring that development does not impact the river, protecting water quality, and controlling flooding
- Preserving and enhancing the San Dieguito River Park is a priority to watershed groups
- Fires are a threat to both habitat and water quality; the 2003 fire burned 13% of watershed and have resulted in loss of habitat, increased erosion/sedimentation, and establishment of invasive plant species

Questions/Comments

- Cottonwood Creek, which drains into Moonlight Beach, was not mentioned. This is an important effort to recognize. The effort involves a separate, organized group, which has made notable improvements in water quality.
- Always concerned about Lake San Marcos voluntary planning efforts. These efforts are substantial, and involve many parties.
- Agua Hedionda Watershed Urban Runoff Management Plan (WURMP) needs to be included. In addition, please mention that proposed development along Agua Hedionda Creek. This development would involve building about 200 dwelling units alongside the creek, and would result in substantial riparian habitat removal. It is a controversial project, which is opposed by many.
    - *While the Plan does not include information about specific developments such as these, we can mention that development and expansion of urban areas alongside important water bodies is a concern, particularly for the removal of riparian habitat.*
- Based on the research done for the Plan – can you explain how the Carlsbad Watershed is different from others in the Region?
    - *The Carlsbad Watershed is unique for many reasons, including: it is diverse, with many jurisdictions, it is highly urbanized, it is comprised of several small catchments, it experiences substantial stormwater issues (due to urbanization), and has many institutional (jurisdictional issues). In addition, the watershed itself is comprised of several small interconnected water systems – these are somewhat like six small watersheds within the larger watershed. Some consider this watershed to be a miniature IRWM Region itself due to the diversity and watershed composition.*

- If we had documents, how do we send them for inclusion in the IRWM Plan?
    - *Documents that can be sent by email, please send to Rosalyn Prickett: rprickett@rmcwater.com*
    - *If documents are too large to email, please either send a link (if available online), or email Rosalyn Prickett to get access to the FTP site.*
- There is scientific research that demonstrates how the complexity of water infrastructure systems can impair the understanding and management of water within a region, and can have substantial impacts on water quality. Is there a cumulative way that these systems are being tracked and understood? Specifically, is information on water transfers tracked?
    - *The 2013 IRWM Plan does have information on the Emergency Storage Project and related infrastructure, which is a means of transferring water throughout the Region. In addition, water transfers that are mentioned in Urban Water Management Plans are documented in the Region Description.*
- Adding the watershed-specific information into a large-scale planning document such as the IRWM Plan is important and encouraging. Will this watershed emphasis be carried through to the project selection process?
    - *Yes. Projects that emphasize hydrologic benefits at the watershed-scale will receive points in the new project selection process. In addition, we anticipate that the project selection workgroup will base some of their decisions on the information presented in the Watershed Chapter (Chapter 5).*
- This watershed is particularly unique. With the implementation of the Emergency Storage Project, this watershed is linked to the regional imported water system (Lake Hodges). It seems that the issues presented for this watershed will be further-elevated in the next project selection process, because the watershed now has such a regional connection.
    - *The project selection process does emphasize regional benefits above watershed-specific benefits. Due to this watershed's connectivity to the regional system, it is possible that projects in this watershed will be seen as having such regional benefits.*
- The regional/watershed-based approach seems particularly important for groundwater management (salt and nutrient management planning).
    - *The IRWM Plan does acknowledge regional planning efforts for salt and nutrient management planning, and mentions the connectivity between land use planning and water management.*
- How does the IRWM Program/IRWM Plan process align with the development of Water Quality Improvement Plans (WQIPs) for the new stormwater permit?
    - *The IRWM Plan explains information about the permit and its requirements (WQIPs). However, given that these plans are not yet developed, the IRWM Plan does not include specifics on these efforts. It is anticipated that the next round of IRWM funding (anticipated mid-2014) will include water quality projects included in the WQIPs.*
- Please add that the County MSCP effort includes some of the Carlsbad Watershed – it covers Escondido Creek and a very small portion of the San Dieguito Watershed.

- Please add information about the Multiple Habitat Conservation Plans (MHCPs) from other municipalities. There are many in this watershed – for example, the City of Carlsbad has an approved MHCP.
- For the Carlsbad Watershed – the Natural Resources section has an error. This section mentions ongoing efforts to eradicate clerpa from Agua Hedionda. This effort is not ongoing – it was successful and has been completed.
- For the Carlsbad Watershed – the Stormwater/Flood section has an error. Lake San Marcos is mentioned as a flood control facility. This lake is only for agricultural irrigation, and is not part of the flood control system.
- For the Carlsbad Watershed – the Water Quality section needs to be updated. The Pacific Shoreline is no longer 303(d) listed at Buena Vista Creek.

Disadvantaged Community Issues in Watershed

Mark Stadler, San Diego County Water Authority provided information about disadvantaged community (DAC) issues. Mr. Stadler explained that according to DWR, DACs are defined as geographic areas with a combined Median Household Income (MHI) of less than 80% of the Statewide MHI ($48,706 in 2010). To-date, the IRWM Program has gathered information about DAC issues pertaining to water management. The program has found that urban and rural DAC issues are distinct, and are generalized as follows:

- Urban DACs
    - Poor surface water quality, including San Diego Bay
    - Flooding due to creek constrictions
    - Public perception – education and outreach
- Rural DACs
    - Unreliable water supply
    - Contamination of drinking water supply
    - Deteriorating infrastructure – water and septic
    - Technical/Managerial/Financial capacity

Mr. Stadler then invited the group to provide additional comments about DAC issues either within the Region or pertaining to DACs in particular watersheds. Mr. Stadler noted that any additional comments pertaining to the IRWM Plan or watershed characterizations were also welcome at this time. Below is an overview of additional input received:

Questions/Comments

- You mentioned that the 2013 IRWM Plan includes a section on diversification of funding. What information is included?
    - *This section, located in Chapter 11, Implementation, includes information about funding for the IRWM Program and IRWM projects. For the IRWM Program, it is acknowledged that to-date, funding has come from statewide sources (water bonds). This section mentions that future water bond funding, and therefore future IRWM Program funding is uncertain. This section also provides information about a variety*

of other grant and loan programs that project sponsors could look to for other funding options.

- Cannot believe that there are mapped DACs in Sorrento Valley! This seems false.
    - *We agree, and have purchased additional data to show as many of the officially mapped DAC areas as possible. The issue is the scale of the data, and we have currently purchased data at as fine of a scale as possible.*
- Do projects get prioritized if they are within a mapped DAC?
    - *Yes. Projects get additional points in our local scoring process and within DWR's scoring process if they benefit DACs.*
- Even though the DAC project requirements are limited to "critical" water quality and water supply issues – in our region, it is important to consider water quality improvements associated with stormwater. This is especially true for small projects such as community gardens that capture and reuse greywater.
- What are the next steps? How will we know if our comments are addressed in the Plan?
    - *Comments will be put into a matrix, and discussed with the Regional Advisory Committee on August 7th, 2013 (see below for details).*

Summary and Thanks

Teresa Penunuri thanked everyone for attending, and noted to please submit comments by July 31st:

Email: Rosalyn Prickett: sdirwmp@rmcwater.com
Web Forum: http://sdirwmp.org
Hard Copy: Mark Stadler, IRWM Program Manager
4677 Overland Avenue, San Diego, CA 92123

Ms. Penunuri also invited stakeholders to attend the August 7th RAC meeting, which will be held from 9 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. at the San Diego County Water Authority (address above).