



Project Clean Water

Watershed Protection Technical Advisory Committee Meeting Summary

February 4, 2005, 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM
San Diego County Water Authority
4677 Overland Avenue, San Diego, CA 92123

**Stakeholders
Participating:**

Lennie Rae Cooke - Anchor Environmental	Dianna Zamora-Marroquin – Office of Assembly Member Juan Vargas
Trish Boaz - County of San Diego	Cathy Cibit – City of San Diego
Rob Hutsel – San Diego River Park Foundation	Tershia D’Elgin, Thirty-Ninth St. Canyon Task Force
Joe Purohit – Sparkers, Inc.	Paul Gebert - County Water Authority
Nick Buhbe - AMEC Environmental	Ann Van Leer – The Nature Conservancy
Kathy Weldon - City of Encinitas	Elizabeth Giffen - County of San Diego
Bruce Goff - AMEC Environmental	Peggy Goldstein - County of San Diego
Maeve Hanley - County of San Diego	Jon VanRhyn - County of San Diego
Derek Reed – DUDEK, Inc.	Christian Braun - County of San Diego
Dave Gibson - SDRWQCB	Jerry Rolwry – Borrego Water District
Randy Rodriguez- City of San Diego	Matt Rahn – San Diego State University
Kyle Cook – SAIC Consulting	Kenda Salisbury – Kleinfelder, Inc.
Shelby Tucker - SANDAG	Suzanne Michel - SCWRP
Vic Smothers – U.S Department of Agriculture	Doug Gibson - San Elijo Lagoon Conservancy
Bruce Posthumus - SDRWQCB	Eileen Goff – Geomorphis Solutions, Inc.
Roger Morrison – City of Poway	Chiara Clemente - SDRWQCB
Yvette Villa – The Nature Conservancy	Ted Lee – Mooney, Jones, and Stokes
Richard Wright – San Diego State University	Jason Giessow – Santa Margarita San Luis Rey Weed Management Area
Derek Reed – Dudek	David Younkman
Brent Duncan - DPRA	Lucy Frank – County of San Diego
Andrew Zingale – Office of Assembly Member Lori Saldaña	Deborah Jayne – San Diego River Conservancy
Lynne Baker – Endangered Habitats League	Joseph Arlotto – Zoological Society of San Diego
Cheryl Segawa – City of San Diego	Rosanna Lacarra – PBS & J
Bob Collins – City of San Diego	Kelly Barker - County of San Diego
Karen Henry – City of San Diego	Drew Kleis – City of San Diego
Vicki Driver - County Water Authority	Mark Stadler – County Water Authority
Dana Frieauf – County Water Authority	

1. Introductions

Vickie Driver with the San Diego County Water Authority (CWA) opened the meeting and took a minute for introductions. Participants introduced themselves and stated their organization. Vickie handed out her card at the meeting. She can be contacted at:

Phone - (858) 522-6760
Fax - (858) 268-7881
e-mail - vdriver@cdcwa.org

2. Background

Bob Collins, City of San Diego Water Department and co-chair of the TAC, went into some background of the Prop 50 process in the San Diego Region and what has occurred to forward this process.

- ✓ The City of San Diego, the County of San Diego, and the San Diego County Water Authority are in the process of negotiating and preparing an Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWMP) and drafting a memorandum of understanding (MOU) between the three agencies.
- ✓ Two main steps to the plan are; Plan must be drafted and submitted to the SWRCB, and plan partners must submit projects that can implement the plan.

Overview of proposals

- 82 Project proposals have been received (see handout or http://www.projectcleanwater.org/html/prop_50.html) for a total of \$210 million.
- 69 projects are environmental/water quality projects.
- 13 projects are from the County Water Authority.
 - Water supply – 14 proposals
 - Water conservation – 5 proposals
 - Invasive species – 5 proposals
 - Land acquisition – 23 proposals
 - Several combinations of regional proposals

3. Schedule and Review of Implementation Project Selection Criteria

Jon Van Rhyn, County of San Diego Watershed Protection Program, described the process and the necessary elements for project selection. The IRWMP development agencies are in the process of reviewing the 82 proposals. Jon referred to several handouts, including one titled 'Proposition 50 Eligible Chapters for the San Diego Region.' Funding under Chapter 8 is the reason for current collaboration. Jon also referred to a 'Schedule for Proposition 50 IRWM Project Submittal, Review, and Selection' handout, which gives tentative timelines for project submittal and review.

Jon also discussed a handout titled 'Interim guidelines for IRWM Project Proposal Ranking and Selection: February 3, 2005.' This handout is a straightforward representation of what is known

of the criteria development to date. Jon made it known that this criteria is NOT final yet. Much of the selection criteria will depend on the development of the IRWMP and the outline of the plan. It is important that both the Prop 50 projects and the IRWMP are complimentary of each other. On **February 25 (tentative)**, the IRWMP Partners will provide an updated, FINAL list of selection criteria.

Jon provided a few suggestions on what can be done before February 25 to strengthen projects and help them conform to Ranking and Selection Criteria;

- Foster collaboration and identify linkages between different proposals. Attempt to integrate projects into one another. Time was set-aside at the end of the meeting for project proponents to brainstorm linkages.
- Review the schedule and criteria from the State of California, including the Project Solicitation Package (PSP), California Program Preferences, California Water Management Strategies, and California Statewide Priorities and make sure that the projects satisfy appropriate criteria.
- Make sure that the project is consistent with the Regional objectives of the IRWMP. These objectives are the structure for the plan and WILL NOT change over plan development.
- Be able to clearly define how the project fits into the IRWMP and fits the Prop 50 criteria, as it is not the responsibility of the coordinating entities to make a case for where the projects fit into the IRWMP or Prop 50.
- Have 10% match clearly identified. Make sure that the match is non-state funds.
- Preferences will be given to proposals consistent with criteria from the State and IRWMP Development:
 - Project needs to have measurable benefits.
 - Support for projects consists of work or monetary commitments, not simply support letters.
 - Project needs to be ready for implementation.
 - Be able to articulate water quality benefits.

Questions;

- **Q:** Ann Van Leer asked if we can combine funding that is received into a regional program to be regranted?
- **A:** Dave Gibson with the SDRWQCB replied that that question has been referred to the State Board to scope out, but other regions are looking at this issue as well.
- ✓ **Q:** Craig Adams inquired as to the process for commenting on the Guidelines for IRWM Project Proposal Ranking and Selection.
- ✓ **A:** Jon Van Rhyn replied that comments would be accepted.
- ✓ **A:** Vickie Driver requested that all comments be submitted to the SDCWA, lead agency in the IRWMP development by **February 9, at 5:00 PM.**

Rob Hutsel, San Diego River Park Foundation and co-chair of the TAC noted that this is not a “typical” granting process, as the plan, grant and selection criteria are being developed simultaneously in a stakeholder involved process. He asked that everyone exercise patience with the process and acknowledged his appreciation for the openness the County of San Diego, City of San Diego and County Water Authority have demonstrated.

Jon then turned attention to two spreadsheets on which the projects were broken out into watershed and land acquisition projects. These matrices would help to identify overlaps and chances for collaboration. Jon then noted that these matrices would be posted on the project clean water website (www.projectcleanwater.org), along with future matrices that will identify other project breakouts. Project development is going to require that people step up in their respective watersheds and in the different breakouts allowing for a focal point for project coordination.

Bob Collins commented that the proposals have been reviewed and it is time to move from concept to plan. The second part of the application will assist with this.

Vickie Driver spoke from the perspective of the CWA and made a number of points:

- ✓ Emphasized collaboration between projects and collaboration over the region as a whole.
- ✓ The San Diego Region is under intense pressure to improve water supply reliability and quality. She noted that this would be the emphasis of the IRWMP.
- ✓ Proposal packages need to work together to forward water quality, water quantity, and water supply.
- ✓ Emphasis will be placed on how the proposals work with each other and how they work with the IRWMP.
- ✓ Projects need to be quantifiable and verifiable.
- ✓ IRWMP collaborators will contact project submitters regarding strengthening projects.
- ✓ Proposition 13 projects can submit for proposition funds IF there is a different target audience.

4. Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

Vickie Driver described the MOU process;

- The IRWMP requires three entities, two of which are water purveyors, to enter into an MOU.
- The MOU is a three-way agreement with the County of San Diego, City of San Diego Water Department, and the CWA.
- Since the CWA is the most regional entity, they will be the lead agency and will be submitting the IRWMP.
- When it comes time to distribute funding for projects, the CWA will be the pass through agency.
- The State has said that they will only enter into an agreement with one agency, but it is possible that they may contract with the projects directly.
- IRWMP development is going to amount to \$300,000 split evenly between the three entities.
- The CWA has already set aside \$50,000 for plan development and to start the application process.

5. Request for Proposal (RFP) for Consultant to Prepare San Diego Region's IRWMP Application

Paul Gebert with the CWA described the process for contracting a consultant to develop the IRWMP.

- The IRWMP Development RFP is not final, but it has an aggressive timeline.

- The RFP is scheduled to be released on February 16, 2005 and will be ready for contract by mid-March.
- For this fiscal year, the entire funding amount is not available, so the development has been split into two separate projects.
- \$50,000 (set aside by the CWA) for the first phase of the project and \$250,000 for the second phase of the project.
- It is likely that the consultant that is contracted for the first phase of the project, assuming that the cooperating entities are happy with the performance, will be sole sourced for the second phase.
- The IRWMP must be completed by January 1, 2007.

6. IRWMP

Dana Frieauf with the CWA is overseeing the development of the IRWMP. She is currently working on the 2005 Urban Water Management Plan, putting together planning documents. There are three objective of the IRWMP;

- Ensure that the selected projects fit well with the IRWMP and they meet the objectives of the plan and vice versa.
- Characterize how to come together as a region, making sure to incorporate stakeholders into the development.
- Make this a strong, long-term plan, not simply for this project. We want to make sure that we get use out of this plan, incorporating current planning documents and current information, making this an umbrella document.

The IRWMP will be implemented through funded projects. To conclude the plan development, funded projects will be reviewed and the plan will be changed to reflect the priorities of the funded projects.

Phase one will be an outline of the plan with guidelines and timelines for completion. A draft plan should be prepared by September 2005 for final step two submittal.

Questions:

- ✓ **Q:** Trish Boaz inquired as to whether it would be detrimental not to have adopted watershed management plans in place. She wondered if they should be incorporated into the IRWMP.
- ✓ **A:** Dave Gibson replied that California Water Code 79507 allows finance of projects consistent with adopted watershed management plans. The IRWMP meets these criteria. IRWMP should be a stand alone document and reference to other WMPs could be a hindrance to the adoption of this plan, as the referenced WMPs would have to be adopted by January 1, 2007 as well. Language from non-adopted WMPs could be inserted directly into the IRWMP to support identified watershed specific issues.
- ✓ **Q:** Lynne Baker asked whether it would be beneficial to split the funding into north, south, and east county proposals since San Diego County is so large.
- ✓ **A:** Several responses indicated that breaking up the County would make the region less competitive, and that we would be competing against one another.

7. San Diego County Water Authority Proposals

Mark Stadler with the CWA reported on a draft workshop on the draft Chapter 8 PSP. He handed out a power point presentation from the State Department of Water Resources Management and the State Water Resources Control Board and a summary of the meeting.

Mark commented that one concept being explored is for projects that are totally funded and fit with the IRWMP and Prop 50 criteria, be submitted so these could help serve as a match for the entire grant.

Private water providers cannot directly seek funding, but indirectly through partnerships, funding can be acquired.

Mark said that state staff would speak to groups regarding Prop 50, but would not review individual proposals.

8. Updates/Reports from Watershed Groups

San Diego River: Comments are being incorporated and will be completed by February 10. There will be a meeting February 11 to discuss the implementation of the plan and how to keep stakeholders involved.

Tijuana River: The Binational Vision Plan is being finalized. EPA 2012 formed a stakeholder group that will take over efforts of the Binational Watershed Advisory Council (BWAC) and implement portions of the Plan. A Tijuana River Watershed Atlas was published.

Santa Margarita River: The WMP has been finalized. The County will meet with stakeholders to keep the plan moving forward into implementation.

Otay River: A draft plan is moving forward. A tour was held in the Otay Watershed on January 21. The tour was well attended.

Peñasquitos Watershed: Comments for the final plan are being discussed. The final plan will be out in February.

Chollas Creek: The City of San Diego Parks and Recreation Department is partnering with the 39th Street Canyon Task Force to perform stream restoration. Established the Chollas Creek Steering Committee to help implement the Chollas Creek Enhancement Plan.

Carlsbad Watershed: 149 acres of invasive species have been treated in the Carlsbad Watershed and planting of natives will begin on March 15. Have applied for additional funding

Rose Creek: The Rose Creek Watershed Alliance is looking for funding to develop a steering committee.

San Dieguito River: The development of a watershed management plan is underway and a draft plan will be out for review by the middle of 2005.

San Luis Rey River: 50 acres of invasive species have been recently treated.

Salton Sea and Desert Region: The Borrego Water District has submitted for 303 funding to develop an active groundwater-monitoring plan.

9. Break out

Stakeholders and project proponents discussed partnerships and how to strengthen proposals.

10. Announcements/ Next Meeting

Next Watershed Protection TAC meeting is tentatively scheduled for February 25, 2005.

http://www.projectcleanwater.org/html/tac_watershed.html