



# Project Clean Water

## Watershed Protection Technical Advisory Committee Meeting Summary

December 8, 2004, 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM  
 Encinitas Community Center  
 1140 Oakcrest Park Drive, Encinitas, CA 92024

**Stakeholders  
Participating:**

Lennie Rae Cooke - Anchor Environmental	Geoffrey Smith - Imperial County Projects Director of the Desert Protective Council
Trish Boaz - County of San Diego	Meleah Ashford - City of Encinitas
Dick Bobertz - San Dieguito River Park	Tershia D'Elgin, Thirty-Second St. Canyon /Task Force
Rob Hutsel – San Diego River Park Foundation	Paul Gerbert - San Diego 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
Jim Hogan - MAC TEC	Christian Braun - County of San Diego
Linda Isakson – City of Oceanside	David Keith – Anchor Environmental
Alistair Muller – Jensen Precast	Matt Rahn – San Diego State University
Robin Rierdan – Lakeside Conservancy	Barbara Simmons - County of San Diego
Julie Simonsen-Marchan – AMEC Environmental	Katherine Comer - Institute for Regional Studies of the Californias
Vic Smothers – U.S Department of Agriculture	Doug Gibson - San Elijo Lagoon Conservancy
Robert McClure – San Diego Zoo	Steve Gruber – Weston Solutions
Donald Janssen – San Diego Zoo	Chiara Clemente - SDRWQCB
Yvette Villa – The Nature Conservancy	Eric Wong - County of San Diego
Zachary Principe – The Nature Conservancy	Jason Giessow – Santa Margarita San Luis Rey Weed Management Area
Derek Reed – Dudek	Dennis Verrilli - County of San Diego
Brent Duncan	Lucy Frank – County of San Diego
Cathy Cibit – City of San Diego	Deborah Jayne – SDRWQCB
Jeff Opdycke – San Diego Zoo	Melanie Craig – Weston Solutions
Mike Kelly, Conservation Resource Network	Rosanna Lacarra
Bob Collins – City of San Diego	Kelly Barker - County of San Diego

## **1. Introductions and Overview of Process for Completing Prop 50 Project Selection and Developing an Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Plan**

Bob Collins, City of San Diego Water Department and co-chair of the TAC, welcomed everyone to meeting and the began with a summary of the vision of Proposition 50, the Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Grant Program, in the San Diego Region and how we hope to achieve this vision collaboratively.

- In order to be applicable for Prop 50 funding, the San Diego Region must have an Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWMP). This IRWMP requires at least three governmental agencies in conformance with state standards participate. At least two of the agencies must have statutory authority over water management, which may include but is not limited to water supply, water quality, flood control, or storm water management.
- This IRWMP must be completed by January 1, 2007 or Prop 50 funding will be retracted.
- The three agencies participating in the IRWMP are the City of San Diego, the San Diego County Water Authority, and the County of San Diego. For purposes of Proposition 50, this collaboration will be designated as the Regional Water Management Group (RWMG).
- Within the next six to seven months, the RWMG will have to prepare four items for submittal to the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB). This timeline is subject to the SWRCB and can change as the State Board see fit. These items are:
  1. Application for development of IRWMP by the RWMG.
  2. Draft IRWMP.
  3. Memorandum of Understanding between RWMG.
  4. Submittal of projects for funding by Chapter 8 of Prop 50.
- Jon VanRhyn has prepared a draft list of projects from the County of San Diego and the City of San Diego. The County Water Authority is preparing a project list separately. There will be a consolidated list of projects by mid-January.
- For implementation projects, the State Board will be reviewing how the different projects fit into the IRWMP developed by the RWMG.
- A major challenge of this process will be developing the IRWMP concurrently with the different implementation projects.

Participants introduced themselves and stated their organization and reason for attending the TAC meeting.

## **2. Group Overview of Submitted Project Proposals**

Jon VanRhyn, County of San Diego Watershed Protection Program, coordinated the project list for the County of San Diego and the City of San Diego. He reiterated that the successful application process is going to require collaboration and group effort. The project list will be posted on the PCW website soon depending on resources.

- Jon handed out a spreadsheet summarizing the sixty-three project proposals that he received, as well as the actual proposal summary forms for forty-two of the sixty-three projects. The spreadsheet listed project title, watershed(s), agency/organization, contact, requested amount, and whether or not a match has been identified.
- Jon asked group to review the forms and spreadsheet for mistakes, and to identify opportunities to partner in order to strengthen proposals.
- Partner opportunities can be identified by watershed, agency or organization, and by project type. Examples of partner opportunities include regional land acquisition or invasive species removal on a watershed level; however, we need to move on these partnerships because of the short time frame.
- Most of the projects submitted were land acquisition projects. Many of these land acquisition projects already had match funding identified, making for strong proposals.
- The work product will be a regional list developed from these sixty-three proposals, along with the proposals from the County Water Authority.

## **3. Review of Implementation Project Selection Criteria**

Bob Collins presented a schedule and a process for identifying projects and reinforcing projects. Bob reinforced that the schedule is dependant upon the SWRCB time frame.

- Guidelines for Prop 50, Chapter 8 are on the SWRCB's website at <http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/funding/irwmgp/>
- Once the final application is posted on this site, the RWMG has four months to submit proposals.
- Chiara Clemente with the San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board (SDRWQCB) Grants Assistance Unit gave an update from Dave Gibson (SDRWQCB) on a projected timeline from the State Board. There will be a draft Project Solicitation Proposal (PSP) out for review to the Regional Board during the week of December 13<sup>th</sup>. The PSP will be out for stakeholder comments during mid-January. Two meetings will be held for stakeholder comments. The final PSP will be out mid-February.
- Bob Collins passed out a four-page summary of the IRWMP Review process. Minimum project criteria needs to be developed for the San Diego Region that is

consistent with what is being asked for in Prop 50. The main areas that the Prop 50 program focuses on are water supply, water quality, and enhancement of watersheds.

- The SWRCB will give higher preference to projects with multiple benefits, multiple partners, proposals that are ready for implementation (complete design, ESA approvals, permits in place), and projects that have matching funds or plans for matching funds.
- Jon noted that because the IRWMP and the Prop 50 proposals are being developed concurrently, it is important to get started on all of these elements immediately including the draft criteria for San Diego Regional projects.
- Attachment A to Bob's four-page summary is a tentative schedule for the SDR IRWMP Project Selection. This schedule assumes that by mid-January, all of the project summaries will be posted to the Project Clean Water website [www.projectcleanwater.org](http://www.projectcleanwater.org). This schedule requires that the group review each of the proposals for completeness and that the proposals meet the criteria set forth by the RWMG and the stakeholders. For projects that do not meet the criteria, a process will be set up by which partnerships can be fostered, making stronger proposals and incorporating all elements of each of the proposals.
- A workshop will be held in early February to review proposals and identify possibilities for collaboration.
- By the end of February, all proposals should have collaborations determined and project elements iterated. From here, a technical committee made up of people from the three RWMG agencies, NGO's citizens, and academics will review the proposals. The committee will be arranged so that it is as non-partisan as possible. This committee will develop a list of high-priority proposals. This list will not be a ranking.
- Attachment 1 and 2 to the summary handed out by Bob details what is going to be required of the those proposing projects if their project is selected for inclusion onto the high-priority list. The state goes through a two-step process. The first step is a selection of projects from the RWMG submittal list that the SWRCB wants to see RFPs submitted. The second step is the final project funding from submitted RFPs.

On February 4, 2005, an afternoon workshop will be held to suggest direction, make conceptual connections, and link projects that have similar goals or have a regional focus.

Questions:

- Q: Is there money guaranteed for San Diego?
- A: Southern California has to get 40% of available funding, but there is a good chance that Southern California could get 50%. That funding is then split over the 7 counties. This will guarantee that the region decides how to spend the money, not Sacramento.
- Q: How will agencies be distributing funds?

- A: For ease of administration, bigger projects will get funding and contracts set up for the smaller organizations.
- Q: Do in-kind services count toward match?
- A: Based on past grant administration, yes.
- Q: Have people been chosen for the technical review panel?
- A: Soon but not yet
- Q: Has a rationale been developed for the IRWMP?
- A: No. The submittals are influencing the plan development. This will be discussed at the February workshop.
- Q: Can you apply for planning funding at the same time as implementation funding?
- A: Chiara from Dave: You can apply for both types of funding at the same time, but it will weaken the competitiveness of the implementation proposals.
- Q: On the NGO side, are there any concerns about the thought process to date? How will this impact ongoing regional planning efforts? It seems as if projects that have gone through or are currently going through review just get thrown into the pile with the rest of the projects. If a plan already has a project review process in place, can this be incorporated into the collaborative criteria? Will this process reflect ongoing regional planning efforts?
- A: The incorporation of regional planning efforts into the IRWMP is built into the criteria.
- Q: Will there be any coordination between counties on the development of the IRWMP?
- A: No, there is no mechanism for that built into the Prop 50 guidelines or IRWMP guidelines.

#### **4. Updates/Reports from Watershed Groups**

*San Diego River:* The draft Watershed Management Plan (WMP) is out for comment until December 28, 2004. The Final WMP will be finalized in February.

*Tijuana River:* The draft management plan is out for the second round of comments until January 3, 2005.

*Santa Margarita River:* Management plan is out for public review through December 15, 2004. There will be a workshop held in January or February regarding planning applications for implementation projects

*Otay River:* JEPAC policy committee meeting is being held December 13, 2004. A draft plan will be completed in early February.

*Penasquitos Watershed:* A draft plan is out for public review on Friday December 10, 2004. The final plan will be out in early February.

*Carlsbad Watershed:* Carlsbad watershed is implementing projects identified under is adopted watershed management plan. Projects include invasive species removal.

*Rose Creek:* An existing conditions report is being prepared.

*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:* The City of Oceanside and the County of San Diego are implementing a joint monitoring plan, attempting to identify constituents of concern.

*Salton Sea and Desert Region:* Looking for project funding.

#### **5. Announcements/ Next Meeting**

Next Watershed Protection TAC meeting is scheduled for February 4, 2005. This will be a half-day afternoon workshop to identify project linkages and discuss development of IRWMP. A meeting agenda will be sent by email shortly.

[http://www.projectcleanwater.org/html/tac\\_watershed.html](http://www.projectcleanwater.org/html/tac_watershed.html)