

Meeting Minutes
Santa Barbara Countywide
Integrated Regional Water Management Plan
Cooperating Partners Meeting

July 16, 2007
9 am -12 pm

Location: Central Coast Water Authority, 255 Industrial Way, Buellton

Attendees

Cooperating Partners

Robert Almy, Santa Barbara County Water Agency; Mike Alvarado, La Cumbre Mutual Water Company; Len Fleckenstein, SB County Water Agency; Gary McFarland, Goleta Water District; Autumn Malanca, City of Santa Barbara Creeks Division; Bill Ferguson, City of Santa Barbara, Water Resources Division; Wendy Motta, Santa Ynez River WCD, ID #1; Kate Rees, Cachuma CRB and COMB; Teresa Reyburn, City of Santa Maria; Tully Clifford, City of Solvang; Charles Hamilton, Carpinteria Valley WD; Cindy Allen, Vandenberg Village CSD, Bill Brennan, Central Coast Water Authority; Ruben Moreno, City of Guadalupe;

On the Conference Call

Bruce Wales, Santa Ynez River WCD

Others Present

Shruti Chandra, Santa Barbara County Water Agency/Dudek; Kathy Caldwell, CH2MHILL; Lorraine Woodman, CH2MHILL

Proceedings

The meeting was called to order at 9:15 by Rob Almy.

There were no public comments for items not on the agenda.

The minutes from the Cooperating Partners meeting on June 21, 2007 was approved and adopted as written. The only change to the copy that was emailed is the correction to the attendees list.

Feedback from State's 7/12 Workshop on Prop 50, Step 1

Participation and Topics: The attendees from our region (Rob Almy, Kathy Caldwell and Kate Rees) thought the meeting in Riverside was very productive. The meeting was a little over 2 hours. There were representatives from DWR and SWRCB, but no representative from the Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB). The workshop was centered around 4 issues as follows: General topics for Step 1 application, using the on-line FFAST application, Environmental Justice (including

disadvantaged communities), and IRWMP. The State used the opportunity of the workshop to elaborate on Environmental Justice as part of the Step 1 process.

Funds Available and Competitors in Southern California: There are a lot of unknowns with how many competitors there will be in Southern California. The range of funding available could be 43 million to 65 million dollars. Apparently the Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority (SAWPA) (which has received over \$25 million in Prop 50 funds) intends to ask for a variance in order to seek funds for a project in a sub-region which didn't have a project as part of the earlier grant award. There is also potential for a Step 1 application from the City of Riverside. There may be a few other Plans, e.g., from the Coachella area, that are being prepared in order to qualify for submittal of a Step 1 application.

It may be a good idea to re-convene a meeting with the other Southern California regions. We want DWR and SWRCB staff to know that Southern California entities are on top of Prop 50 allocations and issues, and that we are tracking the Prop 50 process. We expect some politicking when State agency decisions are made. Being on top of things will allow us to advocate for Santa Barbara.

Step 1 application: The State elaborated that they really are looking at the Plan as part of Step 1 and projects are not really a big part of it. There are a lot of questions on the FFAST application.

DACs and Environmental Justice: We really need to work with Cuyama and Casmalia, two of our 3 Disadvantaged Communities (DAC's), to determine how the community has worked on receiving funding and proposed projects that do not cause environmental impacts. The State is really looking at the input that the public had on the projects in disadvantaged communities and what type of formalized process there was to receive public input. We may want letters from DACs discussing the public process. The State wants to see real, on the ground, public outreach.

Step 2 application process: We will also come up with a list of questions for the Step 2 public workshop that Department of Water Resources (DWR) will hold so that we can get some clarity on what the State is expecting from us on Step 2 submittals. The soonest we would hear back on our Step 1 application would be in November, as indicated in the State's Round 2 Guidelines. However, that date could slip because both DWR and SWRCB have to agree on who is called back, and apparently SWRCB has to hold a hearing before making a final call-back decision. Also, there is some potential for at least one of the grant recipients having to sign 2 contracts with 2 agencies for Round 2 grants. It will depend on how much money remains in the DWR allocation and how much is in the SWRCB allocation of Prop 50 funds.

Communications among Southern California Regions

This topic was already covered in discussion (above). There was a recent conference call with the 3 regions applying for Round 2 funds (Santa Barbara, San Diego County,

Antelope Valley). The Santa Barbara region is the only one of the three that has an adopted and completed Plan.

Draft Application for Step 1

Kathy Caldwell: CH2M Hill will incorporate the Partner's input on the draft application. The project team will present the Partners with an electronic copy of the Step 1 application prior to the next meeting on July 25th, if possible.

A matrix which contained the FFAST application responses was created by CH2M Hill and details regarding application answers were reviewed during the meeting. Draft attachments to the application were also reviewed.

There is a meeting set-up with Tom Fayram of County Public Works on July 24th and a meeting with Ron Cortez of the County Executive Office on July 26th to discuss governance and what the County's role should be as the process moves forward. Governance needs to be decided before the August 1st submittal date for the Step 1 application.

Step 2 Application Process

CH2MHill is going to review the preliminary project list to make sure that the proposed projects meet eligibility requirements before requesting funding from the State as part of the Step 2 process. This project eligibility review will take place in August.

A draft paper with Step 2 cost estimates from other regions was prepared by Kathy Caldwell. The draft can help us understand what it might cost for Step 2 application preparation. The process may cost somewhere between \$100,000 and \$300,000 based on other region's experience. A sub-committee may need to refine the scope of Step 2 and then figure out the logistics for staff time, etc. We will discuss this topic further at our next meeting, July 25th.

As noted earlier today, the Prop 50 Guidelines indicate the State will decide in November as to who will be invited to submit a Step 2 application. However, because SWRCB needs to hold a hearing before making such a decision, the State agencies will probably have to delay a call back decision until December or January. Either way, we need to be able act quickly to get our respective agencies' boards & councils' approval for authorization to apply for the grant. The timeframe will be very tight, but we will need a resolution authorizing the application for grant funding.

Roundtable of Regions for IRWMP

Kathy and Len have been participants in the state-wide "Roundtable of Regions" for IRWMP. As a result, we are learning lessons from other regions' experiences with IRWMP and Prop 50 applications. The Roundtable's next conference call is this afternoon, and both Kathy and Len will call-in.

Legislation on Prop 84

New legislation is being written by Jerry Huffman, who is a new assemblyman. The assembly bill is called AB 1489, which would be the implementing legislation for Proposition 84. So far, AB 1489 details how constituents to be coordinated with as part of the application process. If passed, these new requirements may necessitate a possible re-write of the IRWMP with new sections, and it may also require re-writing it every 3 years. Some topics potentially to be added include the need to discuss greenhouse gas emissions and/or climate change as a result of the proposed projects. Additionally, it may require a comprehensive stakeholder list which will be a much bigger effort than what is currently required as part of Prop 50. Right now, the Prop 84 legislation and timeline is unclear and highly speculative.

DWR's California Water Plan Update 2009

The State's *California Water Plan* is updated every 5 years, and DWR is holding a public workshop in Santa Barbara on July 23rd to gather information on water issues in the Central Coast. Anyone wishing to attend must RSVP to Chang Lee of DWR.

Next Meeting

The Partners next meeting will take place on Wednesday, July 25th at City Hall in Santa Maria. We will schedule another meeting during the week of August 20-24th.

The Governance Sub-committee meeting will take place on the afternoon of Friday (7/20), prior to meeting with County Water Resources management on 7/24.. The sub-committee might prepare a short presentation for a discussion at our 7/25 meeting in Santa Maria. Kate Rees will provide call-in info for the sub-committee.

Rob Almy adjourned the meeting at noon.