

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

**December 19, 2006
2:00 pm – 5:00 pm**

***Meeting Location:
Central Coast Water Authority (CCWA), Board Room
255 Industrial Way, Buellton***

Attendees

Cooperating Partners

Robert Almy, Santa Barbara County Water Agency; Joe Barget, Vandenberg Village CSD; Charles Blair, Vandenberg Village CSD/Mosquito Vector Management District, SB County; Rachel Couch, Santa Barbara County; Eric Erland, City of Lompoc; Bill Ferguson, City of Santa Barbara Water Resources Division (telephone); Len Fleckenstein, Santa Barbara County Water Agency; Dale Lipp, City of Carpinteria Public Works (telephone); Autumn McKee, City of Santa Barbara Creeks Division; Warren Morgan, GSWC; Misty Williams, Goleta Water District; Kate Rees, CCRB and COMB; Matt Roberts, City of Carpinteria Parks Department (telephone); Steve Tanner, Pueblo Water Resources; Brad Vidro, City of Solvang; Bruce Wales, Santa Ynez RWCD

Others Present

Kathy Caldwell, CH2M HILL (telephone); Shruti Chandra, Santa Barbara County Water Agency/Dudek; Lorraine Woodman, CH2M HILL

Proceedings

The meeting was called to order at 2:11 by Rob Almy.

Public Comments for Items not on the Agenda

None.

Approval of 11-30-06 Meeting Minutes

The minutes were approved; Kate Rees abstained.

General Update on Progress

Rob Almy--There was a good turnout at last stakeholder's meetings; the public provided positive input into the process. The IRWMP team has been working on the document -

particularly issues and challenges, integration, and project matrices. Additionally, they have been continuing to have discussions with State regarding the IRWMP. DWR's Tracie Billington said that an objective addressing infrastructure would be viewed favorably and should relate to how infrastructure is viewed in the State Water Plan. The team also is looking at other integrated plans that ranked highly and arriving at an approach that is effective and acceptable to the State agencies. The IRWMP team spent several hours with Lynn Rodriguez, with Ventura County, asking her about process and substance regarding Ventura's IRWMP. Another meeting may be held with San Luis Obispo and Ventura counties to share thoughts – it is especially important to talk to SLO because of Prop 84 because the State will likely allocate Prop 84 funds to the entire Central Coast Region as a whole, rather than separately to individual counties. Rob met with the SLO Manager of Environmental Affairs Section of the Public Works Department to discuss the IRWMP. Monterey is also having discussions with SLO. SB will need to talk to Monterey, Santa Cruz, etc. because of Prop 84.

Kate Rees--many regions are just beginning their IRWMPs. Now all of the Association of California Water Agencies is involved and aware of the process. This is a good message to take back to the Cooperating Partners' Boards. Other agencies are struggling with how to define regions. The State is looking to develop integrated plans including other resources, such as energy and land use. There will be less oversight by the State for individual projects – local agencies are to figure out how to best use funding.

Integration Update

Bill Ferguson, Kate Rees, and Rob Almy are working on an integration write up. It eventually will become a section of plan where we talk about our history of integrated planning where we share common resources. Santa Barbara has a strong history of integrated systems and agreements. Cooperating Partners are to provide comments to Shruti by next Wednesday. The discussion will be emailed after this meeting. The Santa Maria adjudication will be included in the discussion of integration. The integration discussion will be included in multiple places in the text.

Approval of Regional Priorities

The IRWMP will recognize that short-term objectives also can be long-term objectives. The Cooperating Partners approved making changes to groundwater recharge and quality priorities, to be edited by Bruce Wales and added to the draft plan.

Review "Key Water Issues and Challenges"

Input is needed from the Cooperating Partners. We need to make sure that the Santa Maria adjudication is described well. This should be provided to CH2M HILL by next Friday at noon. Use comment inserts to flag comments from other people. Bruce and Bill can see how their work is translated. The Partners should put X's to identify whether issues are being addressed or not and add discussions in the Notes column where appropriate; conflicts should be discussed with Bill and Bruce. Bruce and Bill to put X's where they can, but they need help from wastewater people and Bill Brennan regarding SWP water. The County will look at them after Bill and Bruce have added their input. Rob Almy will talk to Teresa Reyburn about her comment – "what is the source of nitrate contamination?"

Charles Blair – *Arundo donax* can cause multiple problems, including flooding. Need to work with Dave Chang to hit spots now. Maybe the work will get done faster than the plan is implemented, but it should be in the plan.

Charles Blair – The IRWMP needs input from Vector Control regarding projects in the Goleta Slough – don't want to interfere with their efforts. The integration discussion should be expanded to include other agencies' concerns.

Water quality issues should be quantified in the text as much as possible. ID #1 has a well that they can't use because nitrate levels are too high – use statistics to help people understand the magnitude of the issue.

Project Evaluation

Rob Almy – Projects are not being ranked now, only sorted into two groups. The Cooperating Partners need to make sure that dots are placed correctly in the matrix. Projects were sorted using nine sets of priorities. A few agencies' projects dominated the rankings when doing it this way. A suggested method is to first sort by watershed, then score – the State supports watershed planning – this approach is defensible. Projects that are South Coast-oriented may rank highly, but they don't compete against projects in other areas and don't force a comparison of the importance of projects in the South Coast with those in the North.

Bill Ferguson – we should also consider population served in addition to watershed – this definitely should matter for grant applications.

Rob Almy – the first bucket of projects should capture the projects that will be sent to the State. It would be good to gather information regarding population served – maybe dollars per capita.

Bruce Wales – dissents because high population areas produce impacts in low population areas – there is no relationship between dollars people send to the State and the dollars they get back. Water goes to the South Coast, but the impacts occur in the Santa Ynez Valley, which has a low population.

Rob Almy – it would be good to collect data without passing judgment. Information regarding population served doesn't need to be included in the plan. We don't need to settle on ranking criteria for grant proposals now.

Rob Almy – We will move forward with the watershed concept, then come up with reasonable number of projects in each watershed. This will identify the higher priority projects in each watershed.

Rob Almy – CH2M HILL should add the San Antonio Creek watershed to the matrices and say that there are no projects in this watershed at this time. Only two entities are located there – Los Alamos CSD and VAFB. The San Antonio Creek Consolidated Resource Management Plan is in effect – no projects are included in the IRWMP because issues are being addressed through this other mechanism. No public agencies are involved – the landowners are choosing to use another mechanism.

The master list of projects will be sent to the Cooperating Partners, who will modify them and send them to Mike Maxwell. Call the County if needed to clarify an items in the matrices. Changes are due Friday.

Upcoming Meetings

The project list and grouping will be shown to participants at the Stakeholder Workshops held on January 3 in Santa Barbara at the County Employee's University and on January 4 in Lompoc at the County Administration Building, 4th District Supervisor's Meeting Room. Both workshops are scheduled from 5-7 PM.

The January 17 Cooperating Partners Meeting will be held from 9-12, probably at the Goleta Sanitary District.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 4:42 by Rob Almy.