

Minutes

Santa Barbara Countywide IRWMP Cooperating Partners Meeting

CCWA Conference Room

255 Industrial Way, Buellton

November 14, 2006, 9:00 A.M. – 12 P.M.

Attendees

Cooperating Partners

Cynthia Allen, Vandenberg Village CSD; Robert Almy, Santa Barbara County Water Agency; Joe Barget, Vandenberg Village CSD; Jeff Dameron, La Cumbre Water District; Eric Erland, City of Lompoc; Bill Ferguson, City of Santa Barbara Water Resources Division; Len Fleckenstein, Santa Barbara County Water Agency; Mary Martone, SYRWCD, ID #1; Autumn McKee, City of Santa Barbara Creeks Division; Warren Morgan, Golden State Water Company; Craig Murray, Carpinteria Sanitary District; Kate Rees, CCRB and COMB; Teresa Reyburn, City of Santa Maria (via telephone); Susan Segovia, City of Lompoc; Bruce Wales, Santa Ynez RWCD; Martin Wilder, Santa Barbara County Laguna Sanitary District; Kathleen Werner, Goleta Sanitary District; Misty Williams, Goleta Water District

Others Present

Kathy Caldwell, CH2M HILL; Lorraine Woodman, CH2M HILL

Proceedings

The meeting was called to order at 9:07 A.M. by Kathy Caldwell.

Kathy Caldwell described the implications of the passage of Proposition 84, which will eventually result in new funding for Santa Barbara County – the region that will receive funding will be larger than just the County and may include San Luis Obispo, Monterey, and Santa Cruz counties.

No public comments for items not on the agenda were received.

The minutes for the October 19, 2006 Cooperating Partners meeting were approved.

Rob Almy gave a general update on progress to date. CH2M HILL has most background information required, but still needs the UCSB Economic Forecast, which is being obtained by the County. All project information forms are due to Lorraine Woodman by Friday at the latest.

Steps to improving stakeholder/public participation at the workshops were discussed. The County is emailing and calling key potential stakeholders, such as Channel Keeper, Heal the Ocean, the Agricultural Advisory Committee, and the Environmental Defense Center. The Cooperating Partners are to contact other regularly involved community organizations and individuals to encourage them to participate. The County will send out an email with the list of people who are being contacted to the Cooperating Partners, and the Cooperating Partners are to let the County know if other names should be added to the list. The County will contact mass media to get additional coverage.

Bill Ferguson -- expressed concern that the stakeholders are not aware that they can develop projects.

Rob Almy –this will be clearer once the projects are released – this will be discussed more in the next workshop. The process was discussed with the Agricultural Advisory Committee last week.

Craig Murray – special interest groups have a narrow focus and strong voice – in the larger context, their proposed projects may not deserve to be in the regional priority list.

Rob Almy – the projects will be ranked according to established priorities, but community input will be obtained.

Objectives and Strategies

Joe Barget – some Board members concerned that the “ecosystem restoration” strategy might be much broader than water issues.

Kathy Caldwell -this is a mandatory strategy.

Bruce Wales – will the extent to which the Cooperating Partners are already meeting objectives be included in the plan?

Rob Almy - yes; e.g., a description of the Lowe Santa Ynez Fish Management Strategy will be included.

Bruce Wales -- conjunctive use along the Santa Ynez River should be incorporated.

Len Fleckenstein – no priority is reflected in objectives and strategies.

Rob Almy - the objectives and strategies should be reordered to be consistent/correspond with each other.

Consensus was obtained on objectives and strategies with minor modifications.

Issues and Challenges

Rob Almy -issues that affect a wider area than the individual service areas need to be captured in the plan. The precise language to be used to describe these issues requires feedback from the Cooperating Partners. The list presented at this meeting is just to stimulate discussion; some issues could be well under control, others may need more assistance through the IRWMP.

Craig Murray-- beach water quality is of concern.

Bill Ferguson – another issue is dealing with increasingly stringent standards for wastewater, water treatment, and stormwater.

Autumn McKee - the City of Santa Barbara faces the challenge of educating the public on water quality issues. Could this be an objective, strategy, or regional priority?

CH2M HILL is to look at other plans to see how public involvement fits in.

Revisions to the regional issues and challenges are to be provided by Friday

Regional Priorities

DWR (Natalia Deardorff) provided new direction for the discussion of regional priorities. They should be related to the objectives, but more specific. Both short-term and long-term priorities should be included.

Integration

The Santa Ynez River agreements are the best example of integration; includes water supply within the basin and outside the basin, water quality, etc. Operation of the Coastal Branch also is well integrated. Water supply planning involving the Santa Ynez River reservoirs also is well integrated. The Cooperating Partners need to think of new areas where they can integrate more in the future. Some projects can be integrated when viewed together (ecosystem restoration in Arroyo Burro and Mission Creek, water quality improvement).

Bill Ferguson, Bruce Wales, Kathleen Werner, and Teresa Reyburn will serve on a committee to discuss potential for integration via teleconference.

Potential Projects

Cooperating Partners are to review the tables containing the project descriptions, objectives, strategies, statewide priorities, and project evaluations and return via email by Friday. They will be posted next week.

Rob Almy-conceptual projects that address specific challenges are good to include.

Projects will be prioritized on November 30 at the Cooperating Partners meeting. Prioritization will be more specific when grant applications are submitted. The IRWMP can be more inclusive.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:33 by Len Fleckenstein.