

San Diego Regional Stormwater Copermittees Regional Management Committee

Meeting Notes

Chairperson Stephanie Gaines

Date	Agenda Summary
06/15/2017 Start time: 1:35 PM End time: 2:36 PM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introductions and Announcements • Regional Water Quality Control Board Update • Regional Shared Cost Accounting • Alvarado Channel Restoration Project Presentation • Challenges & Opportunities for Climate-Smart Stormwater Management in San Diego
Location	
County of San Diego 5500 Overland Ave, 4 th Floor San Diego, CA 92123	

Meeting Attendance:

- Number of Voting Copermittees at this Meeting: 21

VOTING MEMBERS (one vote per jurisdiction)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> City of Carlsbad Tim Murphy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> City of Chula Vista Boushra Salem & Marisa Soriano	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> City of Coronado Jim Newton	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> City of Del Mar Amanda Nelson
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> City of El Cajon John Phillips Yazmin Arellano	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> City of Encinitas Erik Steenblock	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> City of Imperial Beach Wbaldo Arellano	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> City of La Mesa Joe Kuhn
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> City of Lemon Grove Malik Tamimi	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> City of National City Brianna Martin	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> City of Oceanside Justin Gamble	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> City of Poway Melody Rocco
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> City of San Diego Andre Sonksen	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> City of San Marcos Reed Thornberry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> City of Santee Cecilia Tipton	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> City of Solana Beach Amanda Nelson
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> City of Vista Cheryl Filar	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Port of San Diego Stephanie Bauer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Airport Authority Richard Gilb	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> City of Escondido Helen Davies
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> County of San Diego Stephanie Gaines, Ruth de la Rosa, Rouya Rasoul			

OTHER ATTENDEES

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sean Porter Brown & Caldwell	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jennifer Peterson NV5	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Laura Walsh SDRCC
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jayne Janda-Timba Rick Engineering	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kristina Hysler AMEC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hilary Ellis Michael Baker International

- 1 **1. Call to Order**
- 2 Stephanie Gaines (County of San Diego) called the meeting to order at 1:35 p.m.
- 3 **2. Roll Call**
- 4 Stephanie called roll for each Copermittee.
- 5 **3. Time for public to speak on items not on agenda**
- 6 No members of the public requested time to speak about items not on the agenda.

1 **4. Introductions and Announcements**

2 A special meeting of interested Copermittees will be held in July to discuss trash
3 amendments and related issues. Stephanie Gaines (County of San Diego) sent an email
4 this morning with four possible dates. Copermittees are to respond to the email by the
5 close of business Monday with preferred dates, after which Stephanie will send out a
6 meeting scheduler.

7 Richard Boone (Orange County) has agreed to present on their Water Quality
8 Improvement Plan at the next Program Planning Subcommittee (PPS) meeting. Their
9 Water Quality Improvement Plan uses an approach to beneficial uses instead of load
10 reduction.

11 **5. Regional Water Quality Control Board Update**

12 Laurie Walsh (Regional Board) was unable to attend the meeting, but she did provide an
13 update via email to Stephanie. Stephanie shared the update and will email it to the
14 Copermittees after the meeting. Comments or questions on the update should be sent
15 directly to Laurie.

16 The Water Quality Improvement Plan for San Juan (South Orange County) was
17 submitted in April 2017. The 30-day public comment period closed on May 8. The
18 Regional Board is currently reviewing the plan for compliance with the Permit.

19 The Santa Margarita River Watershed Management Area Water Quality Improvement
20 Plan deliverable for goals, strategies, and schedules is due to the Regional Board on July
21 7, 2017. The Regional Board will post it once received, and there will be a 30-day public
22 comment period. Comments on this deliverable should be directed to Erica Ryan at the
23 Regional Board.

24 The State Board held a focused stakeholder meeting for comments on the incorporation
25 of TMDLs into the General Industrial Permit. Meeting notes are posted on the State
26 Board website.

27 The Regional Board continues to work on the REC-1 Triennial Review project to track
28 and evaluate available and forthcoming data, reports, and information related to
29 potential modification of water quality objectives or implementation plans for the REC-1
30 beneficial use. Regional Board Staff has recently provided significant comments on the
31 preliminary draft Cost Benefit Analysis. This triggered the need for more time for the
32 project team. The schedule was adjusted, and the final public report is now targeted for
33 July 2017. A public meeting is scheduled for August 2017 to discuss the report. Michelle
34 Santillan at the Regional Board can be contacted for more information.

35 Regional Board Staff has completed a program audit of each Copermittee's program
36 activities to effectively implement Provision A.1.b. The audit also assesses strategies in
37 each watershed management area. Beginning with the San Diego Bay Watershed

1 Management Area, the audits will start being delivered by email tomorrow. They will
2 contain recommendations required to be addressed and documented in the next
3 jurisdictional program annual report to confirm that Permit provisions are being met.

4 The State Board sent 13383 Orders to Phase II permittees throughout the State on June
5 1. Updated information is on the State Board website.

6 **6. Regional Shared Cost Accounting**

7 The Land Development Workgroup (LDW) did not use \$315,000 of budgeted funds for
8 the Hydromodification Management Plan task; therefore, the LDW recommended, and
9 the PPS also agreed to recommend to the Regional Management Committee (RMC), to
10 move those funds into the PPS budget. Once moved into the PPS, a series of tasks were
11 discussed to utilize the funds, including:

- 12 • Report of Waste Discharge Special Analysis (\$50,000 plus 5% contract
13 management fee): Consultant support for a special analysis of specific items
14 that the Regional Board requested from the Copermittees when they last
15 presented to the Board, including specific examples of reporting and customized
16 monitoring program per watershed.
- 17 • Trash Amendments Order (\$25,000 plus 5% contract management fee):
18 Consultant support for developing language to incorporate the Trash
19 Amendments Order into the new MS4 Permit.
- 20 • Stormwater Capture/Use Feasibility Study Participation (\$24,570): Funds for
21 Copermittees who decided to cost share for the study.
- 22 • California Stormwater Quality Association (CASQA): Dues increased by \$460 for
23 this year.

24 The RMC is to vote today on transferring the \$315,000 from LDW to PPS, rolling over
25 \$79,210 from the \$315,000 to the FY 17-18 PPS budget, and adjusting the budget as
26 necessary to account for Copermittees participating in the Stormwater Capture/Use
27 Feasibility Study.

- 28 • *MOTION: Transfer \$315,000 from the Land Development Workgroup FY16-17*
29 *Budget to the Program Planning Subcommittee FY 16-17 Budget. Roll over \$79,210*
30 *from the Program Planning Subcommittee FY 16-17 Budget to the Program Planning*
31 *Subcommittee FY 17-18 Budget. Adjust the budget to account for Copermittees*
32 *participating in the Stormwater Capture/Use Feasibility Study (\$24,570).*

33 **(APPROVED)**

- 34 ♦ Moved by: Helen Davies (City of Escondido)
- 35 ♦ Seconded by: Jim Newton (City of Coronado)
- 36 ♦ Vote: 21-0 in favor

1 **7. Alvarado Channel Restoration Project Presentation**

2 *Presented by Joe Kuhn, Stormwater Program Manager, City of La Mesa*

3 The City of La Mesa completed restoration of 900 linear feet of Alvarado Channel. The
4 project goals were to remove invasive vegetation, remove debris and trash and rubble,
5 eliminate homeless encampments and illegal behavior in the restoration area, establish
6 native vegetation, and establish access for the public. The area previously had a lot of
7 illegal dumping and drug-related activities. This is the area where a homeless man fell
8 off the embankment wall and attempted suing the City. Cleaning up the area was
9 imperative to the City.

10 The project location is below the SR-125 bridge along the MTS Trolley line. The channel
11 is in a canyon between Fletcher Parkway and Grossmont Hospital. This location was one
12 of the few potential restoration areas in La Mesa. Most stormwater conveyance
13 channels in La Mesa are box culverts or are under streets, behind private property, or
14 adjacent to roadways.

15 The area was so overgrown that it was not evident prior to the restoration what the
16 channel was supposed to look like after the restoration. To remove or cut trees, the City
17 had to obtain MTS permits and intermittently interrupt MTS Trolley service. Once large
18 trees were cleared, the consulting engineer could see the channel and revised the
19 restoration plan.

20 Joe showed photos of the area before the restoration. The existing bed area was a mix
21 of natural, hardened earth and rocks that had been previously dumped there. The
22 photos also showed significant amount of debris, trash, rubble, homeless camps, and
23 evidence of criminal activities. The City has held clean-up events at this location twice
24 annually to remove trash as much as possible. This restoration project cleared about 20
25 shopping carts from the mud, in addition to large amounts of invasive vegetation.

26 Joe also showed photos of project progress. Large, invasive species trees were removed,
27 minor grading was completed, and, with help from the consulting engineer, a plan was
28 developed to stabilize the area for a long-term period using EnviroGrid which is a
29 geotextile grid placement.

30 The City was concerned about maintaining the condition of the channel bank; therefore,
31 the EnviroGrid was installed along the entire bed and bank on the south side of the
32 project area. The EnviroGrid will hold soil in place and allow plants to grow through.

33 Joe noted that it is important when using a proprietary product to have the
34 manufacturer's representative involved and onsite to ensure proper installation. Storm
35 events occurred after the EnviroGrid was first installed at this site, and it was made clear
36 the first installation, which was done without direct manufacturer's support, was not
37 done correctly.

1 Following the EnviroGrid installation, the north slope was planted with mugwort,
2 sagewort, primrose, juncos sp., and sedges. These were all native grasses recommended
3 by the landscape consultant. A walking trail was established for pedestrians to traverse
4 from the condominium building on one side of the channel to the street on the other
5 side. Meander areas were added throughout the channel to facilitate pools and bed
6 vegetation. Willows, cottonwood, toyon, coyote brush, and Yerba mansa should grow
7 over time.

8 The construction period ended in May 2017. The area now looks like a natural stream.
9 The idea is to have vegetation grow high on one bank and have trees grow in the
10 outcrop areas. An irrigation system for the plants was installed and will remain for three
11 to four years, at which time the City will re-evaluate to determine if irrigation can be
12 stopped.

13 It is expected that maintenance will be the most challenging part of the project. Daisies
14 and other weeds and invasive species grow quickly in that area. Maintenance will need
15 to be performed every couple months. The contractor is responsible for maintenance
16 for the first 18 months, after which it will be the City's responsibility through Public
17 Works.

18 The City used CIP funds to complete the project; no grant funding was used. The
19 budgeted cost of construction was \$350,000. Joe estimated that design costs were
20 about \$30,000 to \$40,000. Environmental permits were slightly less than that.

21 The project was completed in approximately one year once they broke ground. Trees
22 were down within two to three weeks. All project delays were either due to rain or
23 rework because of incorrect installation. The main challenge with the project was with
24 the contractor and lack of experience in installing the EnviroGrid.

25 The City has not considered how this restoration project may relate to HMP credits.

26 **8. Challenges & Opportunities for Climate-Smart Stormwater Management in San Diego**
27 *Presented by Laura Walsh, University of California San Diego, Regional Climate*
28 *Collaborative*

29 Laura recently presented to the Regional Board. She will spend next year with the San
30 Diego Regional Climate Collaborative, focusing on green infrastructure projects. She is
31 specifically developing a water sticker for surfers that would allow instantaneous
32 detection of unsafe levels of pathogens in the surf zone. The presentation she provides
33 today is her Capstone Project at UCSD. A corresponding white paper will be published
34 soon.

35 The objectives of this project were to understand the current landscape of public
36 agencies in San Diego and how they are being climate smart. Laura mostly worked with
37 the established network of the Climate Collaborative and interviewed several people
38 throughout San Diego. She is open to more feedback from other agencies or people.

1 Laura explained that “climate smart” is simply an approach to stormwater management
2 that increases an area’s resilience to both extreme dry and wet season flows while also
3 enhancing local communities, businesses, and/or natural resources. Climate smart links
4 stormwater strategies with capture and use, as well as other alternative energy
5 strategies.

6 The challenges identified through this project included:

- 7 • **San Diego County Soils.** Groundwater recharge in our region is very difficult due
8 to the lack of groundwater basins and lack of permeable soils.
- 9 • **Financing.** The main financing challenges discussed were lack of dedicated
10 operation and maintenance funds, stormwater fee structure, and competition
11 for general fund dollars. The revenue collected is miniscule compared to the
12 total cost of stormwater services. As revenues remain flat, the cost of services
13 continues to increase. Some people who were interviewed are highly concerned
14 about this issue while others believe there are other opportunities to bridge the
15 financial gap.
- 16 • **Capacity.** Agency personnel responsible for stormwater have several jobs to
17 maintain compliance. Staff in the region is over-taxed.
- 18 • **Knowledge-sharing / Bureaucratic Silos.** Finding case studies is difficult, which
19 makes building community support more of a challenge. Regional standards are
20 new ideas in terms of stormwater management, which means contractors are
21 not adequately educated.

22 Laura identified some major regional trends with respect to best practices, including the
23 following:

- 24 • **Integrated Regional Watershed Management.** Agencies are working together
25 to manage from a watershed level.
- 26 • **Financing.** Specific opportunities include non-balloted funding mechanisms,
27 reassignment of stormwater program services, aligning stormwater projects
28 with other projects and programs, and improving the public’s perspective on
29 stormwater. The frontier of innovative climate smart tactics in the next few
30 years will be aligning projects which results in compounded co-benefits for the
31 same cost. Uncommon collaborations may also help solve capacity and resource
32 issues. The recent Proposition 1 Grant recipients in San Diego already show
33 success at combining projects, such as the Tijuana River Estuary Project for
34 stormwater that also solves flooding issues and the Sweetwater River
35 Bioretention Project that provides infiltration into the potable drinking water
36 reservoir.

- 1 • **Knowledge-sharing.** Best practices for increasing knowledge sharing include
2 putting projects in visible community areas and having certifications that
3 include stormwater standards.

4 Laura concluded it is clear from her interviews that the San Diego Region is proud to be
5 a leader in potable reuse and alternative energy strategies and that stormwater can be
6 part of that picture.

7 **9. Future Meetings**

8 The next PPS meeting is July 20, 2017

9 The meeting was adjourned at 2:36 PM.