

**Water Quality Working Group
Criteria Subcommittee
Meeting Summary**

Monday, July 12, 2010

Time: 11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

San Diego County Department of Public Works, 5201 Ruffin Road, Suite P, Watershed
Protection Program office
San Diego, CA

Members Present

Shannon Quigley-Raymond, San Diego River Park Foundation

Mark Stadler, San Diego County Water Authority

Jeff Pasek, City of San Diego

Kris McFadden, City of San Diego

Bill Harris, City of San Diego

Eric Larson, San Diego County Farm Bureau

Stephanie Gaines, County of San Diego

Supporting Roles

Michael Drennan, Weston Solutions

Introduction

Stephanie opened the meeting and indicated that she asked Michael Drennan to serve as the facilitator. The facilitator explained that the purpose of the meeting was to develop some draft criteria for selection of example projects and programs that will be published in the Needs Assessment / Cost Estimate Report. Examples will not only provide graphic representation of project / programs, but will provide greater accuracy for the cost estimate.

Stephanie briefly summarized the results of the June 29 Water Quality Working Group (WQWG), and the reason for the formation of this subcommittee. She also provided a series of handouts including:

- 1) A Comparison Worksheet which summarized the current SANDAG Stakeholder Working Group (SWG) Criteria as well as the WQWG Guiding Principles
- 2) The Quality of Life SWG Agenda Item #2 from their May 2010 meeting (which included their draft Funding Strategy Criteria to Evaluate Program Priorities Among Quality of Life Elements)
- 3) Water Quality Planning Framework (developed by the WQWG)
- 4) A hard copy of a powerpoint presentation which summarized the purpose of this Subcommittees' meeting and supporting information.

Draft Criteria Discussion and Development

- The facilitator reviewed the draft Element and Program Criteria developed by SWG. Element Criteria are defined as pass/fail, and Program Criteria are defined for prioritization.

- The group agreed that there were many similarities between the draft criteria developed by the SWG, and the draft Guiding Principles and Objectives developed by the WQWG. They also agreed that it would be valuable to combine the criteria into a single list for the purpose of reviewing projects and programs being developed by the WQWG.
- The group acknowledged that the primary purpose of the Water Quality Enhancement Element of the Quality of Life Funding Strategy is to manage quality of water from polluted runoff, and proposed that their draft criteria should begin with that focus, and then include the Element and Program Criteria developed by SWG.

Following is a summary of the proposed criteria developed by the Subcommittee:

1. Qualifying Criteria:

Tier 1 Objectives - Surface Water Quality / Runoff Management

1. Support the implementation of watershed-based programs and projects that achieve cost effective solutions for established water quality objectives.
 - Protect coastal waters such as bays, beaches, and estuaries from polluted runoff
 - Protect reservoirs from polluted runoff
 - Protect aquifers from polluted runoff
 - Enhance biota and habitat through creek and wetlands restoration
2. Support jurisdictional water quality programs and projects such as monitoring, education, enforcement, and source control.
 - Expand regional monitoring efforts for a more efficient and comprehensive program.
 - Expand coordinated regional education and outreach program to create a more robust program
 - Support special source studies that identify the sources of pollution, impacts and the steps needed to address them.

2. Screening Criteria (SANDAG Element Criteria)

- A. Has a clearly demonstrable nexus to region's quality of life, as defined by the "Three E's," Economy, Equity and Environment (E)
- B. Moves region toward sustainable growth and long-term solutions, i.e., is not a short-term "fix" (E)
- C. Addresses unfunded or underfunded need (E)
- D. Benefits are quantifiable, measurable and / or transparent (E)

3. Ranking Criteria (includes WQWG Tier 2 Ancillary Benefits and SANDAG Program Criteria)

Tier 2 Objectives – Ancillary Benefits

The primary scope of water quality needs identified for the purposes of the Quality of Life Funding Strategy are aimed first and foremost at demonstrable and significant improvements to water quality. Other programs and / or projects that can augment water supply, restore habitat, amend or include community enhancements such as parks or trails that provide multiple benefits, in addition to water quality, are included in the Tier 2 Objectives, entitled Ancillary Benefits.

The WQWG recognizes that these Ancillary Benefits are justified on a cost-benefit basis and would be appropriate as they are complementary to and synergistic with other Quality of Life elements. Three categories of ancillary benefits have been identified, including:

1. Habitat Restoration
 2. Community Enhancement
 3. Water Supply Augmentation
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1. Addresses underlying causes versus symptoms in terms of affecting quality of life (S)
 2. Has a high cost/benefit ratio (“best bang for the buck”) (Q)
 3. Benefits a larger number of communities in the region (CB)
 4. Is equitable in its benefits and impacts and addresses social justice concerns (CB)
 6. Helps leverage/obtain other funding (S) (U/U)
 7. Addresses a previously deferred program need or activity (CB) (Q)
 8. Anticipates evolving regulatory trends (S)
 12. Benefits are important to those who are being asked to help fund (CB)
 13. Program’s operational and maintenance costs are anticipated (S) (U/U)
 14. Consequences of not funding are significant and/or costly for region (S) (CB)
 15. Has credibility in terms of its ability to be implemented and achieve promised benefits (CB) (Q)

Next Steps

The Subcommittee proposed to distribute this draft meeting summary internally for subcommittee members’ review this week, and then present a summary of their recommendations to the WQWG at their regularly scheduled monthly meeting on July 20, 2010.