



Project Clean Water

Watershed Protection Technical Advisory Committee

Draft

Meeting Summary

August 25, 2004

City of San Diego Metro BioSolids Center
5240 Convoy Street, San Diego, CA 92111
10:30 – 12:30 PM

1. Introductions/Background

Rob Hutsel and Bob Collins, co-chairs, provided a brief background on the Watershed Protection TAC and its main objectives.

1. Coordination of watershed management plan (WMP) efforts
2. Exploring science-based decision making
3. Implementation of WMPs and looking at funding opportunities.

2. Proposition 50 Update and Strategy Discussion

Chiara Clemente with the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) explained to the TAC that the draft Prop 50 Integrated Regional Water Management Grant Program Guidelines have been released and are on posted on the web.

http://www.grantsloans.water.ca.gov/docs/Prop_50_Chap_8_IRWM_Guidelines_Public_Draft_081604.pdf

This draft document gives qualifying information for this grant program. There will be a public workshop on this draft document on August 31, 2004 in Ontario, CA. Written comments will be accepted by Department of Water Resources (DWR) until September 30, 2004.

There is \$150 million dollars available in blocks of \$50 million. To be eligible, groups must have an Integrated Water Management (IRWM) Plan that is adopted or will be adopted by January 1, 2007. An eligible group consists of at least three local public agencies, two of which have statutory authority over water (i.e. County Water Authority, City of San Diego Water Department and County of San Diego). Next, the groups will piecemeal a plan together and determine if it meets the minimum plan standards outlined in the Prop 50 grant program guidelines. If the plan meets the requirements, groups can apply through the SWRCB. If the plan is incomplete, then applicants can apply through the DWR for funds to complete the IRWM Plan and obtain projects funds. Application submittal date will be around February 2005.

Prop 50 – Regional Plan Ideas

Jon Van Rhyn talked about the County Water Authority, the City of San Diego Water Department and the County of San Diego Watershed Protection Program coming together to discuss the development and possible adoption of the IRWM Plan. Thus far, the three agencies are in agreement on the staff level and are waiting to hear from management if they have support. In the Guidance document the following project elements are listed. One or more of these elements needs to be included in eligible proposals.

- Programs for water supply reliability, water conservation, and water use efficiency;
- Storm water capture, storage, treatment, and management;
- Removal of invasive non-native plants, the creation and enhancement of wetlands, and the acquisition, protection, and restoration of open space and watershed lands;
- Non point source pollution reduction, management, and monitoring;
- Groundwater recharge and management projects;
- Contaminant and salt removal through reclamation, desalting, and other treatment technologies; Water banking, water exchange, water reclamation, and improvement of water quality; water quality, storm water capture and percolation; and protect or improve wildlife habitat;
- Watershed management planning and implementation; and
- Demonstration projects to develop new drinking water treatment and distribution methods.

At this time the vision is to develop an umbrella over existing plans and then explore integration of the plans into an IRWM Plan. The question was asked if there would be an opportunity to check with the RWQCB to see if the effort will meet the requirements. The RWQCB staff agreed to this proposal.

Maria Mariscal, County Water Authority, explained that they have developed a one-page project information form which could be used to standardize how individual projects will be received. The TAC was asked to think about how they can support this effort. Project proposals should be submitted once the form is made available.

Based on the Prop 50 grant guidelines, there is an emphasis on regionalism and partnerships. The question was then raised of how a region is defined. Jon Van Rhyn will ask for clarification on the definition of a region at the public workshop in Ontario.

A question came up about other parts of the Prop 50 grant funds. It was requested that Dave Gibson's presentation from the Clean Water Summit be posted on the TAC website with links to existing fact sheets and web pages.

It is envisioned that the TAC would be a useful forum to keep updated on all Prop 50 and other funding processes.

3. Report on the Status of the Various Watershed Management Plans underway or planned in the County.

Santa Margarita, Joe DeStefano, County of San Diego. The Draft WMP due out in November 2004. The final draft of Watershed Assessment Report and Goals and Strategies Report are available for review. The workgroup is just beginning to outline potential projects. Involvement from the community has been hit and miss. All work products are posted on www.SantaMargaritaProject.org

San Luis Rey, Linda Isakson, City of Oceanside. Linda spoke about efforts being conducted as part of the WURMP activities. The San Luis Rey Watershed Council has not been very active due to funding limitations. Recent efforts by the council have focused on Arundo removal.

Carlsbad Hydrologic Unit, Deborah Le Levier, Carlsbad Watershed Network and Bruce Posthumus, RWQCB. The Carlsbad Watershed Network has completed a Watershed Management Plan. Recently, the network has received Prop 13 funds for invasive plant removal throughout the entire watershed management area. The San Elijo Lagoon Conservancy is the lead on the grant.

San Dieguito, Bob Collins, City of San Diego. A stakeholder group has been meeting for a couple years already. The group is in the process of identifying issues of concern, taking field trips to assist in identifying these issues. A contract will hopefully be signed with contractor for the development of the WMP by September 2004. The WMP will be completed by Spring 2006.

Peñasquitos, Randy Rodriguez, City of San Diego. A draft WMP will be out for review on October 27th. A baseline wetland analysis has been completed. A nine-member Citizen's Advisory Committee (CAC) has been formed. The next CAC meeting is Monday August 30, 2004, 6:30 – 8:00 pm, at the Adobe house off Black Mountain Rd. Randy indicated that work products will be posted on the Project Clean Water website. At this time, the CAC and project team are trying to translate identified problems in the watershed into projects.

San Diego River, Liz Giffen, County of San Diego and Rob Hutsel, San Diego River Park Foundation. The Watershed Workgroup started meeting 1999/2000. Recently, the Watershed Workgroup had a meeting to brainstorm projects. A draft WMP will be out for a 90-day review period in October 2004, with the final WMP to be completed in February 2005. Rob mentioned that the San Diego River Coalition, a group of 50

non-governmental organizations, is exploring the possibility of creating an organizational structure to include coordination with governmental agencies.

Pueblo, Sweetwater – No representatives in attendance. Several projects were mentioned: The Common Ground grant project, Chollas Rehabilitation and Paradise Creek school adoption.

Tijuana, Dr. Richard Wright, San Diego State University and Liz Giffen, County of San Diego. The BWAC, a group of stakeholders from both the U.S. and Mexico sides of the border, has released a draft the Binational Vision for the Tijuana River Watershed for BWAC review, and expects to release a revised draft to the public in November 2004. A final Binational Vision will be completed in January 2005. Twelve actions/projects have been identified in the Binational Vision. The EPA Border 2012 California/Baja California Water Task Force will be used as a mechanism for implementing the Binational Vision.

Desert, Trish Boaz, County of San Diego. The MSCP program recently received County Board of Supervisors approval to develop an East County MSCP plan. This includes areas from Volcan Mt., San Felipe Ranch and east.

Otay, Trish Boaz, County of San Diego. The Joint Executive Powers Agreement (JEPA) should be completed by October 2004. The JEPA will include the Port of San Diego, City of San Diego, City of Imperial Beach, City of Chula Vista and the County of San Diego. The organizational structure for coordinating the Otay Watershed Management Plan is the JEPA, Project Team, Executive Committee and Policy Committee. The Watershed Assessment is on the Project Clean Water and MSCP websites. The Draft WMP should be available for public review in December 2004. The team is involved in Otay River Park, Otay Ranch preserve and South County MSCP. They are looking for input on an on-going basis.

Rose Creek – it was indicated that recently state funds had been received to begin an assessment to identify projects.

4. Begin Discussion of Data Matrix from Various Agencies

This agenda item was continued in order to adjourn the meeting at 12:30pm.

5. Announcements/ Next Meeting

Announcement from Tedi Jackson, City of San Diego Water Department: The City has received grant funding for a watershed signage pilot project.

Next meeting will be in September/October 2004. A portion of each meeting will be devoted to updates on each of the Watershed Management Plans. The invitation list should be expanded to include state and federal agencies, and tribal governments.