

## Greater Monterey County IRWMP

9-23-09 RWMG meeting minutes

### Participants:

Bill Phillips, Rob Johnson, Bridget Hoover, Donna Meyers (phone), Jim Smith, Ken Ekelund, Paul Robins, Sierra Ryan, Brad Hageman (phone), Dawn Mathes, Butch Kronlund, Elizabeth Krafft (phone), Horacio Amezcuita, Gary Rogers, Eric Tynan, Margie Kay (public), Laura Lee Lienk, Dana Jacobson.

### Updates:

Bill reported that the MPWMD sent a letter to DWR questioning their eligibility for the first round of upcoming Prop 84 funding. DWR had indicated that all RWMG participants had to have adopted the plan prior to the Sept. 2007 signing of SB1xx by the governor to be eligible for the funding.

Paul gave a summary of the two workshops in Big Sur and Soledad.

- The primary interest in Big Sur was water systems and the application of the CWA to small water companies vs. large water companies (1 mutual well = 2 or more hookups) and how it is much harder for the smaller companies to comply with the requirements.
  - Bill commented that we should remember this discussion and maybe consider it later as DAC and explore a pilot project to look at lower costs and expedited process for those entities.
  - Butch commented that there is a high level of distrust by land owners especially those whose water comes from the creeks.
  - Paul mentioned in both meetings there was concern that this process could turn into a regulatory program.
  - Ken commented that this might be reason to put “no undue burden...” back into the Goals and Objectives. Folks in Big Sur are very much like those living in South County.
- Also mentioned were concerns with post fire erosion, fish passages and water quality.
- Ken commented that there are only 1500 people in the Big Sur region compared to over 4000 in the Salinas Valley. We need to keep holding meetings there.
- Soledad meeting-
  - Opposite of the Big Sur meeting, comments were made that not enough of the regulations related to water are being enforced.
  - Jim questioned does concern about regulations outweigh the need for improved services?
    - There are split feelings in the community; 2-5 hookups want no part of it. The same thing is happening in Salinas Valley.
  - Margie asked to have chromium added to the list of contaminants in drinking water in Paul’s notes from the workshop.
  - Need for education, 4 million visitors come to this area each year (includes Big Sur).

- Need education for folks that are regulated and community members.
      - How to get help.
      - Improve management of resources
- Paul will compare these comments with the list of Issues and Concerns that the RWMG came up with.
- Horacio mentioned at the Soledad meeting there was a question about who was on the RWMG, why they were on it and can the public come to the meetings? Some of us explained why were on the committee. We said that the public could attend the meetings, that is why Margie Kay was present.
- Paul reported on the evaluations that folks completed.
  - Basically everyone heard about the meetings through email and word of mouth, not through print media
  - Most thought it was useful
  - Similar problems that we need to work together to solve
  - Need more outreach
  - Want draft abstracts for projects presented at the meeting (?)
- Dawn asked what happened with the list of experts?
  - Nothing to date. We need to continue that discussion and come up with a list of criteria that defines an “expert”. Next meeting?
  - Need to clarify expert vs. advocate

Moved on to finishing the review of the Goals and Objectives.

- Ken and Dawn facilitated this section. Comments in the G&O word document.
- Ken and team will incorporate the changes and present the RWMG with a draft final list for comments and approval.

Guiding Principals for the plan that came up were:

- No imported water from outside the county
- Don't burden anyone unnecessarily
- Need to measure success through monitoring
- Encourage projects with multiple benefits
- Minimize impacts to the environment from potential projects

Next meeting date is Wednesday, October 21<sup>st</sup> from 1-3 pm. I've reserved the conference room here at the sanctuary office but if you'd like to host the meeting, please let me know. Proposed agenda topics include:

- final review of G&O and I&Cs
- Determine criteria for “experts”
- Update on project ranking sub-committee

Meeting adjourned 3:15 PM.