

## **Greater Monterey County IRWMP**

2-17-10 Regional Water Management Group Meeting Minutes

Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Meeting Room

RWMG Participants: Bridget Hoover, Elizabeth Krafft, Horacio Amezcuita, Ken Ekelund, Bill Phillips, Rob Johnson, Dawn Mathes, Kevin O'Connor, Sierra Ryan, Ross Clark, Paul Robins  
On phone: Brad Hagemann, Amy Vanderwarker, Susan Robinson, Bryan Largay, Dawn Mathes  
Dana Jacobson, Michael Ricker, Butch Kronlund

Non-RWMG Participants: Dave Hart, Margie Kay

**Bylaws:** Bill Phillips asked whether the concerns brought up by the MCWRA board had been adequately addressed in the recent Bylaws revisions; everyone agreed that they had. Rob Johnson motioned to approve the Bylaws; Ross Clark seconded. Approval was unanimous, with no abstentions.

**MCWRA Board and the MOU:** Bill gave an overview of the situation and reported that at the special board meeting held on January 25, 2010, the Board of Directors authorized the General Manager to sign the MOU, with the provision that language be added to the MOU to protect against any limitations on the agency's existing authorities and power. Bill read the suggested language, Paul Robins motioned to approve the new language, Ken Ekelund seconded the motion, and the Group unanimously approved the modification to the MOU. However, the Group requested that the text be revised to apply to all agencies with statutory authority (not just the MCWRA).

While all of the RWMG agencies and organizations have now signed the MOU (with the exception of the Monterey County Agricultural Commissioner's Office), it was agreed that a single hardcopy version of the MOU will be sent around to collect all of the signatures on one page. That version will include the added text requested by the MCWRA board, and will be considered the final, official MOU for the Greater Monterey County RWMG.

**Goals and Objectives:** Today's agenda included a discussion of the responses to public comments regarding goals and objectives, and a vote to approve those responses as well as a vote to approve the final goals and objectives. However, Rob Johnson requested on behalf of the MCWRA board of directors that the public comment period deadline be extended one more time to allow the board to weigh in (the original deadline was December 23, 2009; an extension to January 29, 2010 was granted to the Farm Bureau and the Salinas Valley Water Coalition; but given recent circumstances surrounding the MOU, the board has requested more time). The Group agreed to grant the extension. The MCWRA board will be commenting on the latest version of the goals and objectives (February 12, 2010 version), and comments will be due February 26, 2010. The RWMG will review responses to comments and will vote on the final goals and objectives at the March RWMG meeting.

**Project Committees:** Susan Robinson gave an update on the status of the Project Committees. At this point, we have recommended names of experts but no one has been invited to participate as of yet. The Group decided that it would be best to wait until after the public workshops (early March) in order to gauge the level of stakeholder interest in submitting project applications. We reviewed the existing list of committee members and ensured that members were not on multiple committees. If they were, we determined which committee was more appropriate and they were

removed from the other committees. Amy requested that DACs be considered when reviewing projects. After the workshops, RWMG members assigned to the various Project Committees will begin inviting experts (determining “who to call first”), and will report back to the Group at the March RWMG meeting. Susan will develop guidance for Project Committee members. Bridget and Paul also made some suggestions for revisions to the Project Application form (including a requirement to include a map, and submission instructions).

**Public Workshops:** Paul Robins gave a brief update on the public workshops. This workshop will focus on project submissions. The workshops are scheduled for March 1 in Salinas, March 2 in Big Sur, and March 3 in King City. RWMG members were surveyed to ensure there would be representation at each of the meetings. At least four RWMG members will be in attendance at each workshop.

**Resource Management Strategies:** Susan led the Group in a “first round” of choosing resource management strategies for inclusion in the IRWMP. The strategies discussed today were all from the California Water Plan Update 2009. Decisions were made for all but one strategy (“crop idling for water transfers”), which was tabled for further discussion. The Group will continue this discussion at the March RWMG meeting.

The next meeting will be held March 17<sup>th</sup> at the Monterey County Water Resources Agency meeting room, at 1:00 PM. Meeting adjourned 3:00 PM.