

**Greater Monterey County Integrated Regional Water Management Plan
Regional Water Management Group Meeting
October 19, 2011
1:30 - 3:00 PM
Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary, Monterey, CA**

RWMG Attendees:

Bridget Hoover
Michele Lanctot (CSUMB Watershed Institute/Return of the Natives)
Butch Kronlund
Eric Tynan
Brian True (Marina Coast Water District)
Rob Johnson
Ken Ekelund
Horacio Amezquita
Dana Jacobson
Paul Robins
Dawn Mathes
Monique Fountain (Elkhorn Slough NERR)
Sierra Ryan

Non-RWMG Attendees:

Susan Robinson – IRWMP Coordinator
Monica Reis – Department of Water Resources (DWR)
Lon Martin – City of Soledad
Karen McBride – Rural Community Assistance Corporation (RCAC)
Hector Hernandez – Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board
Katie Siegler – UC Davis Granite Canyon Marine Pollution Studies Lab

Meeting Minutes:

1. Updates: Bridget began with a brief update on the Planning Grant. She said the contract from DWR is now in hand, and a kick-off meeting for Planning Grant participants is scheduled for October 31 at 10:30am, at the Sanctuary office. She mentioned that she had spoken with a board member at the Environmental Justice Coalition for Water (EJCW); she believes there is a good chance that EJCW will be able to carry out their Planning Grant tasks and will continue to stay involved in the IRWM planning process. Bridget welcomed everyone to attend the kick-off meeting, and encouraged anyone interested in getting involved in any of the Planning Grant tasks to let her know.

Sierra gave a brief update of the Water Project Reconciliation process (one of the Planning Grant tasks). She noted that the subcommittee has changed the name to “Water Project Coordination” in order to emphasize “integration” and “coordination” (positive) rather than “conflict resolution” (negative). The subcommittee has met several times already as they are eager to get the process underway. They have developed a stakeholder list and a draft scope of work for the facilitator (the SOW may change with input from the stakeholders), and are now waiting on the next round of IRWMP projects in case any new Gabilan watershed projects are submitted for inclusion in the plan. The goal is to hire a facilitator early next year. If anyone knows of a good facilitator, please let Sierra know.

Lon provided a brief update on the Implementation Grant. A kick-off meeting was held on October 12 for the seven project proponents involved in the grant. They reviewed the requirements from DWR for submittals, sorted out logistics of submitting projects via SharePoint, and Bryan summarized and sent questions from the group concerning the grant to Monica (DWR). Lon said they must have one project fully submitted to DWR, and then

the rest can follow. They currently have two, maybe three, projects ready for submission (Soledad, Castroville, and Monterey Bay Sanctuary Foundation).

2. RWMG Roundtable: Susan had asked for volunteers to present and discuss their projects and/or water resource concerns with the rest of the RWMG at this month's meeting. Several RWMG members volunteered.

Butch Kronlund, Coastlands Mutual Water Company: Butch discussed an effort with which he has been involved for the past year or so: FireScape Monterey (for more information: <http://firescape.ning.com/>). This effort is sponsored by the Forest Service and is facilitated by The Nature Conservancy. The effort covers a very broad geographic area, including the Los Padres National Forest and Ventana Wilderness, north to Marina, east to Salinas, down the Salinas River to Lake Nacimiento, with the intent of including a sphere of influence that will eventually cover all of Monterey County. FireScape Monterey is a collaborative approach to wildfire management that aims to bring all stakeholders to the table (including those that are traditionally opposed), to “leave swords at the door” and develop wildfire management practices that make sense from a “landscape” fire management point of view rather than a “jurisdictional” point of view. FireScape Monterey is in the process of developing goals and strategies and an implementation plan.

Bridget mentioned that she, Susan, and Ken had met with Butch last week to discuss the possibility of submitting a project for FireScape Monterey for the IRWMP; however, FireScape Monterey's needs at present are planning, rather than implementation, so the IRWM program is not an appropriate source of funds (though we may include FireScape Monterey and fire management efforts in general in our next Planning Grant). Bridget pointed out a tie-in with America's Great Outdoors (<http://americasgreatoutdoors.gov/>), noting the potential for opportunities through this program for FireScape Monterey down the road. Butch encouraged all those interested to attend a FireScape Monterey symposium that is being held next week, October 26 and 27, in Carmel Valley (Susan forwarded this information to RWMG members; details are also on the FireScape Monterey website).

Eric Tynan, Castroville Community Services District: The CCSD is one of the seven organizations that has recently been awarded Prop 84 IRWM Implementation Grant funds. CCSD's project consists of installing an arsenic treatment system for its new deep well. Eric explained that the arsenic will bind with iron, and that the water will then be filtered and backwashed into the sewers where it can then be treated. Eric said they requested about a half million dollars for this project, but now it looks like the project will cost more like \$889 million. But he noted that the town currently has three wells and can run on one well, so they're in good shape. Rob reminded the Group that the CCSD was a partner in the original Prop 50 RWMG, so they have been waiting patiently for quite some time for a project to get funded through the IRWM Grant Program.

Susan asked about the status of seawater intrusion, and Rob responded that it is being pretty well held in check, that the rate of advancement has slowed down considerably, though the MCWRA needs to collect more data to show this. He noted that in the first year of the Salinas Valley Water Project, pumping from coastal wells had been reduced by 85%.

Susan asked if anyone could explain what “The People's Moss Landing Water Desal Project” was. Brian pointed out, in his opinion, two significant holes with the project: 1) the People's Project claims the infrastructure for the desal plant already exists at Moss Landing, but Brian noted that infrastructure is still needed to convey that water from Moss Landing to the Monterey Peninsula; 2) the project needs a public agency to sponsor it, but Brian doesn't see any public agency willing to do so. Others said that the most significant problem with the project is the problem of entrainment (which the Marina Coast Water District desal project resolves). Ken noted that another project is also being proposed in Moss Landing – the “Deep Desal Project” – that also uses open water intakes and that therefore shares the problem of entrainment. The Deep Desal Project is being sponsored by a group of venture capitalists in Silicon Valley who would like to build the plant and then turn it over to a JPA. There will be a workshop at the Steinbeck Center in Salinas on October 26, sponsored by CalAm.

Michele Lanctot, CSUMB Watershed Institute/Return of the Natives: Michele gave an overview of CSUMB's Watershed Institute. The Watershed Institute is a collaboration of restoration ecologists, researchers, and educators currently working in watersheds around the world to apply a watershed systems management approach. The Return of the Natives Restoration Education Project (RON) is the education and outreach branch of the Watershed Institute, emphasizing community involvement in habitat restoration and outplanting. Michele encouraged RWMG members to consider partnering with RON when developing their implementation projects.

Michele then briefly described the projects that each of the professors is working on at the Watershed Institute. Fred Watson's current research includes: the design and operation of an experimental treatment wetland at the Tembladero Slough and Old Salinas River channel confluence; remote sensing and landscape modeling work; and ecosystem visualization (EcoViz), resulting in interpretive computer-rendered visualizations of ecosystem processes. Doug Smith manages research in the CSUMB Watershed Geology Lab. His research topics include geology, sedimentology, fluvial geomorphology, hydrology, and geospatial analysis in a variety of environmental and scientific investigations; his studies include both watershed and near-shore marine systems. Marc Los Huertos's research includes a study of water percolation rates in managed aquifer recharge in Pajaro Valley and Carmel. Professor Los Huertos's lab identified the presence of harmful cyanobacteria presence in Pinto Lake in Watsonville, and is working to create an integrated management plan.

Dawn suggested it would be nice to know where the Watershed Institute projects are located, and the status of those projects. Bridget noted that our new website will include a Project Tracker (but it is obviously not available yet). Michele offered to develop a summary of Watershed Institute and RON projects to send to the RWMG. Karen suggested getting CSUMB students involved in conducting surveys of community members to track progress of IRWMP projects (i.e., "cultural surveys" as opposed to water quality surveys); Michele will follow up with Karen on that idea.

Horacio Amezcuita, San Jerardo Cooperative, Inc.: Horacio gave an overview of the work that will be done through the Implementation Grant, which includes lining two wastewater ponds with plastic lining to prevent the water from percolating into the underlying aquifer. But he said they need to increase the capacity for the wastewater, i.e., to create leach fields following the evaporation process and/or a recycled water treatment process. They will consider submitting another project for Prop 84 Implementation Grant funds, not in the next round but perhaps in round 3. He noted an important need is to get the San Jerardo community members to implement water conservation practices. He said there are 250 people living in the community on a continual basis plus about another 100 people who live in San Jerardo eight months/year, from April through October. Regarding the Implementation Grant funds, Monica reminded Horacio that only one source of State funds can go toward this project. Karen commented that one bonus of the Implementation Grant is that it is giving San Jerardo an opportunity to work with Engineers Without Borders. Someone suggested that we hold a RWMG meeting at San Jerardo so everyone can see the work being done there; Susan agreed we should consider that.

The RWMG decided to end the meeting early because of parking meters. We will continue the roundtable at next month's meeting, beginning with Rob (Monterey County Water Resources Agency), Sierra (Central Coast Wetlands Group), Paul (RCD), and then whoever else would like to volunteer.

3. Other Business. There was no other business.

Next month's RWMG meeting is scheduled for November 16th from 1:30 – 3:30 PM, at the Monterey County Water Resources Agency in Salinas.