

CCIRWMP conference call 9.14.2012

On phone: John Ricker, Santa Cruz County; Tracy Hemmeter and Lidia Gutierrez, Pajaro; Bridget Hoover, Greater Monterey County; Courtney Howard, SLO County; Matt Naftaly, Santa Barbara County; Tamara Doan, CA Coastal Commission

John and Tracy went to Sacramento for the Ca Water Plan update annual plenary session. They felt it was one of the better sessions that they've had. All materials are or will be posted on their website. There was a brief discussion of regional reports that will go into the water plan. John was disappointed to see that the CC poster looked to be the most incomplete. Author for the CC report was Michelle Dooley, and she indicated that the CCIRWM plans will fill in the missing details. John asked DWR for templates and they indicated that those templates will be provided soon. They'll be asking for project costs to get a sense of needs. John was following the finance tracks.

Regulatory alignment was a topic of discussion; DWR is trying to get the other agencies on the same page. A lot of push that regulatory alignment is an important issue and the water plan is a good vehicle to get this done. Might also be an opportunity for one grant application for all funding sources. There was also discussion about the need to educate the legislature. Key water staff from legislature talked about how they'll only do something if it's a priority. Need to educate our local elected officials to raise these important issues to the state legislature to get it on their radar.

There was a session on the strategic plan for IRWM that Tracy attended. There is a glossy brochure which basically laid out the goals. DWR asked for input regarding goals. Some regions want more involvement in the decisions and process. DWR said they can't just pick RWMGs to be involved rather they have to include everyone. There is a draft strategic vision available on the website. The strategic plan should be available for public review June 2013.

John asked what happened to the idea of regional forums? DWR was hoping that local agencies would lead these efforts. Tracy heard that each of the different DWR regional offices are supposed to be leading these. Ernie Taylor is our DWR regional contact. John had talked to Michelle Dooley about organizing another regional forum focused on tribal interests, but hadn't heard any more about it.

## **Regional Updates:**

### **Santa Barbara - Matt Naftaly**

They are getting to the end of the Prop 50 grant. All projects are about 90% complete and they hope to be finished by March 2013.

Received a Planning grant for \$596k for updating the plan (hope to have a draft complete in Feb 2013). It also includes:

- 1) Salt and Nutrient management plan for the Santa Maria Valley. Working on compilation of data and conceptual model for those constituents. They've had good representation from community, industry and CCRWQCB. Obstacle is getting all data from parties due to concerns on how the data might be used.

- 2) South Coast recycled water study for water users and producers. It identified an additional 3000 acre/ft of water.
- 3) Data management and climate change are new in the plan as well.
- 4) Project database for tracking projects. Had 40 projects submitted in the database. It also includes project proposals for plan. Was built by RMC with ability to expand.

Received an Implementation grant Round 1 for \$3M for 7 projects. Sub-agreements are complete. Held a Kick off meeting this morning. Some projects are well under way.

They are talking to cooperating partners to decide on Round 2. Right now, everything is on the table. They may just choose one project and switch from county administering the grant to the project proponent.

They have developed a new MOU for adding and removing cooperating partners and financial contributions and have updated their website.

### **San Luis Obispo County - Courtney Howard**

They did not submit a proposal for Round 1 planning grant. Did submit a Round 2 planning grant proposal and were recommended for funding. They've updated their governance structure and MOU. Courtney now has help from Carolyn Berg on IRWM efforts.

The Round 2 Planning grant will include:

- 1) Salt and nutrient management planning process similar to SB for the portion of Santa Maria Valley in SLO County. Want to ultimately do a model of the basin.
- 2) Developing a recycled water strategic plan. Includes detailed analysis of POTWs.
- 3) Salt and nutrient management plan Paso Robles sub-basin. Also will determine what other plans are needed within the county.
- 4) Watershed planning grant component the two RCDs are leading and will include instream flow studies, prioritizing and possibly inter-regional efforts.
- 5) An RFP for the plan update is on the street.

Round 1 Implementation grant – Three projects:

- 1) The Los Osos waste water treatment project has broken ground!! Still have to do design work for the treatment plant.
- 2) Arroyo Grande Creek flood control project
- 3) Nipomo project. It needed an Assesment vote but it didn't pass. Working on a phase 1 approach. They have a back-up plan if this doesn't move forward.

## **Greater Monterey County – Bridget Hoover**

GMC IWRM is one year in to its Planning Grant (\$755k)

- 1) Draft plan was out for public comment this summer. Hope to have a final adopted plan by end of year.
- 2) DAC Outreach; EJCW has partnered with CRLA and are working on DAC outreach and project development
- 3) Making great progress on the CC Action Tracker web portal and the IRWMP website. Hopefully the project tracker will be a useful tool to other regions since all of the CC RCDs were involved in content development.
- 4) Working on hiring an economist to help us develop tools for doing economic feasibility analysis. Hopefully this will also have regional benefits.
- 5) Held a climate change forum last December for the Monterey Bay region and continuing to meet with local partners in development of the CC chapter in the plan as well as identifying regional needs, projects, and tools for the region.

Round 1 Implementation grant – still waiting on contract from the state. Have had some delays due to complicated nature of the San Jerardo project. They received funding from SWRCB and DWR so it took a lot of time identifying how the funding would be divided up.

## **Monterey Peninsula – email from Larry Hampson**

*We're working with Susan on incorporating Ord Community issues and needs into the update of the Monterey Peninsula IRWM Plan. We've revised and prioritized objectives from the 2007 Prop. 50 IRWM Plan and the next steps are to convene an Ord Community subcommittee and then revise the overall project prioritization process. We also have a proposal to expand the RWMG from five members to seven by including the Resource Conservation District of Monterey County and the Marina Coast Water District (MCWD serves water to the Ord Community, but the water supply currently comes from the Salinas Valley Groundwater Basin).*

*I don't know what the area will do in regard to Round 2 implementation. The Monterey Peninsula faces a water supply "cliff" in 2017 that could reduce available supplies by 50%, so the need for funds and water supply projects is of paramount importance.*

## **Pajaro – Tracy Hemmeter and Lidia Gutierrez**

They did not apply for Round 1 Implementation

Received a \$1M Planning grant which includes:

- 1) College lake study – an integrated plan for College lake in Watsonville
- 2) San Benito sediment study – will provide data for the Pajaro River flood risk management.
- 3) Salt and Nutrient management plans in 4 sub basins.
- 4) Developing DAC projects for Pajaro Sunny Mesa service area. Goal is to put DAC projects into the plan and develop those proposals. Todd Engineering is doing project

work and Lidia is doing the outreach. They determined that the unmet critical needs are in Pajaro Sunny Mesa service area.

- 5) Plan update process - formalized a stakeholder steering committee to represent diverse interests. Updated goals and objectives. Clarified and updated project review process. Added DWR requirements to the project review and ranking. About to do a stakeholder project solicitation this month.

### **Santa Cruz County – John Ricker**

Finishing up Prop 50 projects by March 2013. They did get the USGS climate change study complete and published. It is available on the USGS website at <http://pubs.usgs.gov/sir/2012/5132/>

Received a \$1M Planning grant which includes:

- 1) Plan update, 2<sup>nd</sup> Nature is doing conceptual framework which includes metrics and strategies for plan prioritizing and performance. Hope to have the plan completed in early spring 2013. Public outreach meeting in August; 20 people attended and they had good press.
- 2) Technical studies –GW modeling in Scotts Valley. Delivering excess freshwater from San Lorenzo River to help ground water basin recover.
- 3) Watsonville slough ground water hydrologic study going well.

### **Future Actions:**

Tracy asked about data management and if there was opportunity for any coordination on that?

Bridget described process for the Central Coast Action Tracker. The content and fields were primarily developed by all of the Central Coast RCDs so it will hopefully be useful for all regions. Any input or participation from other regions is welcome. Bridget also explained the regional water quality monitoring effort under way for the Monterey Bay area discharges. Hopefully that data will be of value to all regions and participation is welcome.

More discussion about the California Water Plan and regional forums. It is important that the Water Plan reflect actual conditions and activities for the Central Coast region. We should talk more with Michelle Dooley about this. Possibly schedule a regional forum in the future.

Climate Change is another topic for regional coordination. Bridget explained the efforts of CCWG. Matt indicated that Santa Barbara was working on a vulnerability analysis. Santa Cruz commissioned a USGS study. We should talk with Michelle Sellman, DWR CC contact, about funding for climate change studies and coordination.

Next call will be in mid-November to discuss:

- Regional forum for water plan update
- Round 2 Implementation grant proposals