

**Greater Monterey County Integrated Regional Water Management Plan
Regional Water Management Group Meeting
April 17, 2013
1:30 - 3:30 PM
Moss Landing Marine Labs, Moss Landing, CA**

RWMG Attendees:

Sierra Ryan – Central Coast Wetlands Group
Ross Clark – Central Coast Wetlands Group
Bridget Hoover – Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary
Dennis Long – Monterey Bay Sanctuary Foundation
Ken Ekelund – Garrapata Creek Watershed Council
Rachel Saunders – Big Sur Land Trust
Monique Fountain – Elkhorn Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve
Karen McBride – Rural Community Assistance Corporation (RCAC)
Erika Holzhauer – Rural Community Assistance Corporation (RCAC)
Julianne Rhodes – Watershed Institute, CSUMB
Colin Bailey – Environmental Justice Coalition for Water
Brad Hagemann – Monterey Regional Water Pollution Control Agency
Brian True – Marina Coast Water District
Horacio Amezcuita – San Jerardo Cooperative, Inc.

Non-RWMG Attendees:

Susan Robinson – IRWM Plan Coordinator
Jeanette Pantoja – California Rural Legal Assistance (CRLA)
Kenia Acevedo – California Rural Legal Assistance (CRLA)
Monica Reis – Department of Water Resources
Jessica DeGroot – Resident
Bill Caruthers – Resident

Meeting Minutes:

1. Brief Introductions. Introductions were made around the room and on the phone. Susan mentioned that Jessica DeGroot, a student at CSUMB, is interested in volunteering for the Regional Water Management Group and the IRWM planning effort, and encouraged members to talk with Jessica about any volunteer opportunities they might have.

2. RCAC's Housing and Leadership Training Programs: Karen McBride introduced Erika Holzhauer, a housing specialist with RCAC. Karen said she had wanted to get Erika connected with this Group since Erika is "local" (Santa Cruz) and is available to help organizations/individuals with the services that RCAC offers. Karen explained that RCAC has two divisions: 1) Environmental, which helps communities find funding for various needs (which is where Karen works); and 2) Housing, which offers Leadership Training and Regionalization Training Programs (which is where Erika works). Erika introduced herself as a technical assistance provider for California and the western Pacific, including Guam. RCAC works with community housing organizations and other non-profit organizations to develop affordable housing. They also provide counseling on housing, e.g., assisting communities in foreclosure mitigation and in "self-help housing." In 2004 RCAC was designated as an intermediary for HUD, and they administer two housing counseling programs. They are funded through the USDA under Rural Development. RCAC partners with other non-profits and helps them in areas where they lack expertise to find development solutions specifically to do with affordable housing.

Erika described RCAC's Community Leadership Program, which RCAC can conduct for communities with

populations 25,000 or less. They train groups of community members (with typically 20-30 individuals in a group) to become leaders. The training takes place on weekends over four months, can be conducted English and/or Spanish, and includes among other things: determining personality type (via Myers Briggs Type Indicator), conflict resolution, strategic planning (including fundraising), how to run meetings, how to come to an agreement, etc. At the end of the training program, the group chooses a project to do, for example, constructing a wastewater treatment system for their community. RCAC has conducted these Leadership Programs in, for example, San Diego, Mendocino County, New Mexico, and Colorado. Since 1988, RCAC has also been able to provide loans for communities.

3. IRWM Strategic Plan Workshop: Julianne gave a brief overview of the IRWM Strategic Plan Workshop, which was held in Clovis (near Fresno) on April 10. Horacio and Jeanette were also present at the workshop, and IRWM regions from various parts of the state were represented. Julianne noted that this was the first of five meetings, the purpose of which is to set goals and objectives for the future IRWM program. Jeanette added that the meeting was largely an “envisioning” process. She said it was interesting to hear other regions’ perspectives on water management.

4. Draft Letter to Senator Bill Monning: Prior to the meeting, Susan had emailed the RWMG a letter to Senator Bill Monning, which had been drafted by a RWMG subcommittee to send on behalf of the RWMG in regard to the November 2014 Water Bond. Senator Monning sits on the Senate Environmental Committee and is currently working with a bipartisan committee to try to make the Water Bond more likely to pass. Ken briefly reviewed the highlights of the draft letter. Susan called attention to a table in the letter, which summarized funding allocated by region in the 2010 Water Bond proposal – noting that the Central Coast region was slated to receive much less funding relative to the other regions. Ken noted that the Delta set-aside money listed in the 2010 Water Bond proposal has been pulled (the water users will be paying for this).

The draft letter included a request for special set-aside funds for DAC projects identified in the anticipated AB 1 Salinas Valley pilot study, as well as funds for two MCWRA water supply projects that have “serious need” (Interlake Tunnel project and the Quagga mussel prevention project). Susan explained that the two MCWRA were called out specially because they are water supply projects (which the State prioritizes) that would impact most of the region’s water supply. Some RWMG members questioned calling out these two projects (and not others), and wondered whether we should instead request special funds for “categories” of projects critical for the region, e.g., water supply, water quality, and ecosystem restoration projects. Others noted that we need to reduce the letter to one page, and then maybe append more detailed information. Susan said she would place the draft letter on DropBox and asked RWMG members to take time to consider the letter carefully and to get back to her with revisions/comments no later than Monday. Ken said we should submit the letter to Senator Monning by Friday, April 26.

5. Other News – Round 1 Planning Grant Contract: Bridget said that they are getting ready to request an extension from DWR on the Planning Grant, which was originally planned to sunset in September. Some tasks and deliverables will be modified. Ross suggested that perhaps in adopting the IRWM Plan today, the RWMG should somehow note how the ongoing Planning Grant tasks will be added into the Plan. Susan explained that this has already been explained in the IRWM Plan itself. She emphasized that our Plan has always been intended to be a living document, an evolving plan, and that as the ongoing Planning Grant tasks and other new information becomes available, that information can be added into the Plan via amendments to the Plan by vote of the RWMG at a regularly scheduled RWMG meeting. Bridget said if any RWMG member wants to weigh in on the contract extension request to let her know. Monique said it would be nice for the Group to see the requested contract revisions before Bridget sends it to DWR, and Bridget agreed to do so.

6. Other News – Round 1 Implementation Grant Contract: Monique asked Monica for an update on the status of the Round 1 Implementation Grant contract. Monica said she would be working today with Rich Guillen (City of Soledad, lead applicant), and she expected the contract would be signed within the next 3-4 weeks.

7. Other News – Snapshot Day: Bridget announced that Snapshot Day will take place on May 4, 2013. Snapshot Day is an annual water quality monitoring event that was started in 2000 by the Coastal Watershed Council, Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary, and the State Coastal Conservancy.

8. Vote to Adopt the IRWM Plan: Susan said that the governing board of each RWMG member entity had submitted a signed resolution formally adopting the Greater Monterey County IRWM Plan. The purpose of the vote at today's meeting was for the Regional Water Management Group, as an entity, to formally adopt the Plan. Ken made a motion for the RWMG to formally adopt the IRWM Plan, and Ross seconded. All those present (in the room and on the phone) voted in favor, no one opposed, and no one abstained. Susan noted that five RWMG members who were unable to attend today's meeting all submitted "aye" votes via email prior to the meeting; they were: Monterey County Water Resources Agency (Rob Johnson), City of Salinas (Michael Ricker), City of Soledad (Rich Guillen), RCD of Monterey County (Paul Robins), and Monterey County Agricultural Commissioner's Office (Dawn Mathes). So the final vote was as follows:

RWMG Entity	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Did not vote
Big Sur Land Trust	X			
California State University Monterey Bay	X			
California Water Service Company				X
Castroville Community Services District				X
City of Salinas	X			
City of Soledad	X			
Elkhorn Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve	X			
Environmental Justice Coalition for Water	X			
Garrapata Creek Watershed Council	X			
Marina Coast Water District	X			
Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary	X			
Monterey County Agricultural Commissioner's Office	X			
Monterey County Water Resources Agency	X			
Monterey Regional Water Pollution Control Agency	X			
Moss Landing Marine Laboratories	X			
Resource Conservation District of Monterey County	X			
Rural Community Assistance Corporation	X			
San Jerardo Cooperative, Inc.	X			

After the vote, Susan congratulated everyone on a job well done and gave special recognition to Donna Meyers (Big Sur Land Trust) for having obtained the private grant that initiated the Greater Monterey County IRWM planning process, to Bridget Hoover for co-leading this effort, to the Monterey County Water Resources Agency – Rob Johnson, Bill Phillips, and Elizabeth Krafft – who had developed the original IRWM Plan for the Salinas Valley region and who had put endless hours of effort into the development of the new Plan, and to others who had put in a particularly significant amount of time on the Plan – Sierra Ryan, Ken Ekelund, and many others who served on subcommittees over the past few years. The meeting was then officially adjourned and a "social hour" celebration ensued.

Next month's RWMG meeting is scheduled for May 15th from 1:30 – 3:30 PM, location TBD.