

Greater Monterey County Integrated Regional Water Management Plan
Regional Water Management Group Meeting
August 27, 2014
1:30 - 3:30 PM
Conference Call

RWMG Attendees:

Christina McGinnes – Monterey County Agricultural Commissioner's Office
Julianne Rhodes – Watershed Institute, CSUMB
Ken Ekelund – Garrapata Creek Watershed Council
Bridget Hoover – Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary
Sierra Ryan – Central Coast Wetlands Group, Moss Landing Marine Labs
Horacio Amezcuita – San Jerardo Cooperative, Inc.
Colin Bailey – Environmental Justice Coalition for Water
Vicente Lara – Environmental Justice Coalition for Water
Esther Min – Environmental Justice Coalition for Water
Rich Guillen – City of Soledad
Ed Wagoner – City of Soledad (for Don Wilcox)

Non-RWMG Attendees:

Susan Robinson – IRWM Plan Coordinator
Karen Nilsen – Nilsen & Associates
Claire Jahns – The Nature Conservancy
Jeanette Pantoja – Building Healthy Communities

Meeting Minutes:

1. Brief Introductions.

2. Developing a Drinking Water and Wastewater Plan for Disadvantaged Communities (DACs) in the Salinas Valley: Susan provided a brief update. She said the task force is still working on the scope of work and budget. One piece of news is that Jeanette has left California Rural Legal Assistance for a new job with Building Healthy Communities in Salinas. Jeanette has done extensive work with the disadvantaged communities in the Salinas Valley, and was slated to be the "boots-on-the-ground" community outreach person for this project, so this means the task force will need to find someone else to do that work. Vicente (EJCW) will probably be able to commit 50% of his time, and Colin says EJCW might consider hiring another staff to devote to that task. Others in the group will be able to do on-the-ground community work as well: Karen McBride will help assess DAC water resource problems (including conducting MHIs), and Karen Nilsen will assist in community outreach with project proponents and engineers to identify solutions to the drinking water/wastewater problems. Jeanette will continue to be involved in the DAC Plan as part of the Technical Advisory Committee.

The task force has agreed that the project timeframe should be two years. A two-year timeframe (as opposed to longer) will create some "momentum" and will enable us to reach the implementation stage that much sooner. The task force also decided that project administration would probably require a full 15% of the budget.

Susan emphasized that the intended outcome of this planning effort will be a list of recommended projects, along with project proposals that will be developed as far as funding allows, which the RWMG can then take to Assemblymember Alejo with a request for funding to implement those projects. Ken asked if the task force intended to have some project proposals ready in time for the Round 3 IRWM Implementation Grant. Susan said yes, that was one reason why the task force decided on a somewhat ambitious (two-year) project period for the planning effort.

Susan asked if anyone had questions or comments (no one did). She asked the RWMG to officially delegate EJCW as the fiscal agent for the project. A vote was held: all voted in favor of delegating EJCW as the fiscal

agent, none opposed, with no one abstaining.

3. IRWM Plan Amendments. Susan briefly reviewed the amendments to the IRWM Plan, consisting of the summary of the Water Resource Project Coordination effort (which will be included as part of the Integration chapter of the IRWM Plan) and the addition of the "interregional" summary report that was written for the Monterey Peninsula IRWM Plan, which will be included as an appendix to the Plan. Susan asked if anyone had any questions or comments (no one did). A vote was held to approve the amendments to the IRWM Plan: all voted in favor, none opposed, with no one abstaining.

4. IRWM Website. Sierra noted that there are some placeholders on the Greater Monterey County IRWM Plan website which need to be filled in, and she asked the RWMG for help in doing so. She asked for suggestions for the "Local Resources" page (<http://www.greatermontereyirwmp.org/resources/local/>). This page is intended to include contact details and other information for water resource-related organizations and agencies potentially useful to people with water-related projects. Sierra also asked about Spanish translation, including what parts of the website or documents the RWMG thought should be translated. She asked if anyone had suggestions for translators. Colin suggested the Google Translate feature in WordPress. Sierra asked everyone to please email her suggestions for the Local Resources webpage.

5. Other Business. Rich reported that the City of Soledad, as lead applicant on the Round 1 Implementation Grant, has had discussions with Keith Wallace and Keith's supervisor at DWR about the possibility of getting different DWR representation for our IRWM region. Keith and his supervisor agreed to the request, though Rich said we don't yet know the details.

The next RWMG meeting is scheduled for October 15, 2014, location TBD.