

**Greater Monterey County Integrated Regional Water Management Program  
Regional Water Management Group Meeting  
March 18, 2015**

**Location: Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary, Monterey, CA**

**RWMG Attendees:**

Horacio Amezcuita – San Jerardo Cooperative, Inc.  
Colin Bailey – Environmental Justice Coalition for Water  
Kaitlyn Chow – for the Marina Coast Water District  
Monique Fountain – Elkhorn Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve  
Daisy Gonzalez – Environmental Justice Coalition for Water  
Rich Guillen – City of Soledad  
Bridget Hoover – Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary  
Elizabeth Krafft – Monterey County Water Resources Agency  
Vicente Lara – Environmental Justice Coalition for Water  
Jordan Maeding – CSUMB Watershed Institute  
Christina McGinnis – Monterey County Agricultural Commissioner’s Office  
Kevin O’Connor – Central Coast Wetlands Group, Moss Landing Marine Labs  
Paul Robins – Resource Conservation District of Monterey County  
Rachel Saunders – Big Sur Land Trust

**Non-RWMG Attendees:**

John Hunt – UC Davis  
Katie McNeill – Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board  
Karen Nilsen – Nilsen & Associates  
Susan Robinson – Greater Monterey County IRWM Program Coordinator

**Meeting Minutes:**

**1. Brief Introductions.**

**2. Water Bond Coalition.** Lisa Renton, coordinator for the Water Bond Coalition, had invited the Greater Monterey County Regional Water Management Group to become a member of the Coalition, and Susan asked the group whether they would like to join. After some discussion, the consensus was that it would probably be beneficial to join, though several RWMG members asked to see the Coalition membership list before committing. Susan said she would send the list to the group.

**3. Funding Ongoing Coordination of IRWM.** Bridget provided an update on funding for continued coordination of the IRWM process (i.e., for Susan’s time). Bridget said she now has commitments for \$7,000 from RWMG members, with a few more “hopefuls.” The goal is \$10,000 for this year (and that, she said, is on the low end, particularly with a project solicitation coming up).

**4. Round 1 Implementation Projects Update:** Rich provided an update on the Round 1 IRWM Implementation projects (Rich represents the City of Soledad, which is the fiscal agent for the grant). He said they were awarded the contract in June 2013, and in April 2014 the first invoice was processed. On January 14<sup>th</sup> they submitted Invoice 2, and are now working on Invoice 3. As of August 2014, they (and the Regional Water Management Group, generally) now have a new DWR project manager – Simar Dhanota, and she seems motivated to get things up to speed. The seven projects are:

- Project 1: City of Soledad: “Soledad Water Recycling/Reclamation Project”
- Project 2: Castroville Community Services District: “Castroville CSD Well 2B Treatment Project”
- Project 3: San Jerardo Cooperative, Inc.: “San Jerardo Wastewater Project: Water Quality Concerns in a Disadvantaged Farm-Worker Community in the Salinas Valley”
- Project 4: Elkhorn Slough Foundation: “Integrated Ecosystem Restoration in Elkhorn Slough”

- Project 5: Central Coast Wetlands Group at Moss Landing Marine Labs: “Water Quality Enhancement of the Tembladero Slough and Coastal Access for the Community of Castroville”
- Project 6: Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary, Central Coast Wetlands Group, and RCD of Monterey County: “Watershed Approach to Water Quality Solutions”
- Project 7: UC Davis Granite Canyon Marine Pollution Studies Laboratory: “Evaluation of Potential for Stormwater Toxicity Reduction by LID Treatment Systems”

Rich noted that Projects 1 and 2 are still in the design stage. Project 3, San Jerardo, is finishing its first phase through a Cleanup and Abatement Account (CAA) grant and will be starting design through the IRWM grant soon. Projects 4, 5, and 6 are underway but need more money; and Project 7 is on hold because there hasn't been much rain.

**5. Salinas Valley Water and Wastewater Plan for Disadvantaged Communities:** Susan gave a brief progress report on the planning effort to date. This grant is being administered by the State Water Resources Control Board, and she said that they've been great to work with; Colin concurred (EJCW is the fiscal agent for the grant). Susan said that a Technical Advisory Committee for the project has been convened. The TAC had their first meeting in early March. The other major task accomplished to date is data collection. EJCW has taken the lead, with help from the Center for Regional Change at UC Davis and GreenInfo, in developing a database and data maps. The maps show DACs in the Salinas Valley based on the latest (2009-2013) ACS data, which is also the data that DWR is currently using. GreenInfo is in the process of adding layers to those maps, which will show information such as water systems, parcel boundaries, and water quality information. Those maps should be ready any day now. The next step will be to analyze the maps, hone in on potential “hidden DACs,” and determine which communities to begin outreach to in order to identify drinking water and wastewater problems.

**6. Final Prop 84 Implementation Grant Round and Looking Ahead to Prop 1:** Susan reported that DWR is expediting the final Prop 84 Implementation Grant round. The draft PSP was released a few days ago, and applications will be due in early August. She noted, with this round being expedited, the RWMG would need to expedite the project solicitation for the IRWM Plan – and asked, Do we still want to do a project solicitation? If so, this would be the timeline:

- March 19 or 20: The project solicitation begins.
- April 13: Project applications are due (less than 4 weeks).
- April 15: At the RWMG meeting, RWMG would briefly review new projects, select a Project Review Committee, and begin strategizing an approach for how to choose projects to put forward.
- April 16 – May 11: The Project Review Committee would review and rank projects. On May 11, Project Review Committee would send out the draft ranked project list to the RWMG for review. The RWMG would have an opportunity to comment prior to the next RWMG meeting (i.e., work out any perceived problems).
- May 20: At the RWMG meeting, the RWMG would approve the new ranked project list, and would decide which projects to put forward in the 2015 IRWM Implementation Grant round.
- May 21 – early August: Implementation Grant application gets written! (~2.5 months)

Everyone agreed to go ahead with the project solicitation. Susan then went over some of the highlights of the 2015 Implementation Grant round, including the fact that, while this is not a drought round, applications addressing drought impacts and long-term drought preparedness would be prioritized. DAC projects will also be given preference (as in previous rounds), as will projects that address the Human Right to Water Policy. And while only implementation projects are eligible for this grant source, an exception is being made for DAC projects, which can consist entirely of planning and feasibility activities. Susan said that all projects must have multiple benefits, but only two benefits (per project) can be listed on the application. Projects are expected to begin construction or implementation by April 1, 2016. She noted that we should be CASGEM compliant by the time the application is due, so we need not worry about that this time (Elizabeth affirmed that).

For the project solicitation, Bridget recommended that Susan include some of these highlights in her email to stakeholders, and let them know which projects would be prioritized for this final round (i.e., drought-related,

human right to water, and DAC projects). Someone else suggested that Susan include an estimate for how much it might cost to apply (i.e., for grant writing and economic analysis). Another person noted that grant writing costs can be reimbursed out of the IRWM grant funds in this round; Susan offered to find out from DWR how to account for grant writing costs in the budget.

Susan said there will be about \$4.9 million for the Central Coast Funding Area in this final Prop 84 round. She noted that DWR will be allocating every penny of that money, and wondered whether the RWMG would want to ask the other IRWM regions to evenly divide those funds; in other words, each region would apply for their exact share, with the assumption that DWR would then award the full amount of each proposal. We would be shooting for a much lower amount (\$822,836, assuming all six regions applied, vs. as much as the entire pot of \$4,937,016) – but we’d at least be assured of getting it. Elizabeth and some others were skeptical, saying we can’t be sure what DWR will do. Also, as long as we need to go through the expense and time of writing the application anyway, we might as well go for the whole amount. The group agreed to at least begin a conversation with the other five regions, and see which regions are planning to apply. Bridget will set up a Central Coast regions meeting. Susan talked a little bit about the evaluation process, and how we can learn from our evaluation in Round 2. She agreed to send the group the evaluation, along with the list of projects that the RWMG submitted for Rounds 2 and 3 (assuming the RWMG may want to re-submit some of those projects).

Susan then went over the anticipated rollout of funding for Prop 1. There will be \$43 million for the Central Coast Funding Area, as follows:

2015-2016: \$32.8M  
2016-2017: \$51M  
2017-2018: \$209M  
2018-2019: \$0  
2019-2020: \$183M

She said she had spoken recently with Assemblymember Alejo and his staff about the Interlake Tunnel project. Asm. Alejo is very interested in getting that project funded, and said he had persuaded DWR to increase the Prop 1 allocation to the Central Coast by \$15 million on account of the Interlake Tunnel project – though they would not go so far as to earmark the funds for the project. Asm. Alejo is actively pursuing several different sources of funding for that project, and hoped that the RWMG could obtain \$15 million for the project through IRWM. Susan asked the group if they would consider strategizing to put forward the Interlake Tunnel Project in 2017-2018 (at which point the project should be shovel-ready). No one objected, though the sense was that 2017-2018 was too far in the future to make plans; the IRWM landscape could change, and Elizabeth thought that funds for the Interlake Tunnel Project might well be in place by then anyway. Susan said she at least wanted to plant the seed.

Bridget pointed out that there are a lot of different pots of money in Prop 1, and that the RWMG should keep its eye on these different sources of funding for IRWMP projects. Rachel mentioned that the Coastal Conservancy, State Water Board, Wildlife Conservation Board, and Department of Fish and Wildlife will all be finalizing their guidelines by spring; RFPs will be coming out in the summer. Susan and Rachel agreed to look at the timelines and keep the RWMG informed. Bridget noted that we should consider what projects to put forward in this final Prop 84 round based also on those others sources of funds.

**The next RWMG meeting is scheduled for April 15, 2015, at the Elkhorn Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve.**