

**Greater Monterey County Integrated Regional Water Management Program
Regional Water Management Group Meeting**

October 17, 2018

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

RWMG Entity Attendees:

Horacio Amezcuita – San Jerardo Cooperative, Inc.
Dan Bertoldi – Monterey County Resource Management Agency
Ross Clark – Central Coast Wetlands Group
Monique Fountain – Elkhorn Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve
Sarah Hardgrave – Big Sur Land Trust
Bridget Hoover – Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary
Alison Imamura – Monterey One Water
Mike McCullough – Monterey One Water
Victoria Nava-McClellan – Environmental Justice Coalition for Water (EJCW)
May Nguyen – Environmental Justice Coalition for Water (EJCW)
Kevin O'Connor – Central Coast Wetlands Group
Rachel Saunders – Big Sur Land Trust
Emily Zefferman – Resource Conservation District of Monterey County

Non-RWMG Attendees:

Sara Galindo – Watershed Stewardship Intern with Central Coast Wetlands Group
Mike Godwin – Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board
John Hunt – UC Davis
Maddy Luthard – Watershed Stewardship Intern with Central Coast Wetlands Group
Gary Petersen – Salinas Valley Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency
Susan Robinson – Greater Monterey County IRWM Program Director

Meeting Minutes

1. Brief Introductions.

2. IRWMP Project Solicitation Process: On October 5th, DWR released the Draft Prop 1 Implementation Grant Proposal Solicitation Package (PSP) and Draft 2018 IRWM Program Guidelines. Susan Robinson provided an overview of the timeline and process for both the Round 1 Implementation Grant as well as for the submission of projects to the IRWM Plan, in anticipation of Round 1. Comments on the Draft PSP and Guidelines are due to DWR by November 20, 2018.

Susan began with a summary of the grant funds that will be available to the Greater Monterey County region through Proposition 1. She noted that DWR will be taking 10% off of the top for administrative costs rather than the 7% that was anticipated when the six Central Coast IRWM regions signed the Central Coast funding strategy MOU back in 2016. This means that the Greater Monterey County region will have \$266,257 less in grant funds through Prop 1 than anticipated.

Prop 1 IRWM Grant Funds Available to Central Coast Funding Area

Prop 1 Allocation to CCFA:	\$43,000,000
Minus State costs (10%):	- \$4,300,000
Remaining for CCFA:	\$38,700,000
<i>Of that amount:</i>	
DAC Funding (20% total allocation):	\$8,600,000
General Implementation Grant Funding:	\$30,100,000

Prop 1 IRWM Grant Funds Available to the Greater Monterey County Region

Total Prop 1 funds available:

DAC:	\$1,775,034
General Implementation:	\$6,212,620
TOTAL:	\$7,987,654

Prop 1 funds spent to date:

Planning Grant:	\$76,935
DAC Involvement (50% of total DAC):	\$887,517
TOTAL:	\$964,452

For Round 1, Susan explained that DWR is proposing that 35% of DAC Implementation funds and 50% of General Implementation funds be provided, leaving the rest for Round 2 in 2020. Assuming these ratios, in Round 1 there would be \$310,631 available for DAC Implementation and \$3,067,843 for General Implementation. Susan noted that DWR is seeking feedback on that split, and asked if anyone had any opinions. Some RWMG members commented that the RWMG will have a better idea whether that split works after they see what projects are on the table (in January). They suggested that the comments to DWR request that DWR be “flexible” in allowing different splits for different regions (or Funding Areas).

Susan explained the general timeline for Round 1:

- Oct 5, 2018: Draft PSP and Guidelines were released
- Late 2019: Final PSP will be released
- DWR will schedule Pre-Application Workshops with each Funding Area sometime between February and July. Previously the Central Coast IRWM regions had agreed to request a workshop for April. Susan noted that May would give the RWMG more time to consider and select projects. Other RWMG members agreed that May would be preferable. Susan said she would request a May date for the Pre-Application Workshop at the upcoming Central Coast Funding Area meeting.
- Each IRWM region must provide DWR with information on proposed projects at least two weeks prior to the workshop. This includes a Proposal Summary, plus a “Project Information Form” for each project.
- DWR will get back to regions with comments within four weeks after the workshop.
- Application to DWR will be due 12 weeks after the workshop date.

Finally, Susan offered a suggested timeline for the IRWM Plan project solicitation:

- October 18, 2018: Project solicitation begins. Project proponents have about six weeks to complete applications (Thurs Oct 18 – Mon Dec 3).
- December 3, 2018: Applications are due. Subcommittee has about two weeks to rank projects. Prioritized project list due by Friday December 14 (prior to Dec 19 RWMG meeting).

- December 19 RWMG Meeting: Discuss project ranking with RWMG, and approve ranked Project List for Round 1.
- January – February – possibly March RWMG Meetings: Project proponents present their projects to the RWMG. RWMG selects projects to put forward.
- March or April RWMG Meeting: RWMG decides which projects to put forward, in time for April or May Pre-Application Workshop.

Susan then briefly reviewed the project application process. Project proponents who wish to apply in Round 1 must submit two forms, a Project Application Form and DWR's Project Information Form. Kevin O'Connor suggested that the Project Information Form be due later to give project proponents more time (with the Project Application Form still due December 3rd). Others agreed, and Susan suggested a deadline of about one week prior to the January RWMG meeting for the Project Information Form. Susan asked whether project proponents should be asked to submit a more detailed budget (vs. the "high level" budget currently in the application form). Mike McCullough commented that "everything costs way more than you think" and so suggested that project proponents at least provide some sort of justification of costs. Others suggested that the application include a statement such as, "The more detailed the budget, the better the chance of getting selected for Round 1."

Monique Fountain asked how a project should be submitted if it is part of a much larger project where, for example, the project benefits only accrue when the entire project is completed. Susan responded to submit the larger project with the simpler application (e.g., completing only Sections I and II of the Project Application Form), and then go through the full application process for that part of the project that would get considered for Round 1. Ross asked whether there would be another project solicitation for Round 2, and Susan responded that there would be.

Susan asked for volunteers for a Project Ranking subcommittee. The following RWMG members volunteered:

Mike McCullough (Monterey One Water)
 Monique Fountain (Elkhorn Slough)
 Kevin O'Connor (Central Coast Wetlands Group)
 Victoria Nava-McClellan (EJCW)

Susan noted that the November RWMG meeting date falls one day before Thanksgiving and asked whether the RWMG preferred to cancel the meeting or to re-schedule. The RWMG members opted to cancel the November meeting.

3. Carr Lake Site Design Process: Rachel Saunders and Sarah Hardgrave provided a presentation on the site design process for Big Sur Land Trust's Carr Lake property. Rachel began by describing the Carr Lake watershed and physical setting. The Gabilan, Natividad, and Alisal watersheds drain to Carr Lake, and converge there to become the Reclamation Ditch that conveys these flows to the bay.

The Carr Lake property owned by Big Sur Land Trust is a 73-acre parcel; two families own the remainder of the approximately 480-acre Carr Lake basin. Big Sur Land Trust received State grant funds for the Carr Lake acquisition project from the Coastal Conservancy and from the California River Parkways grant program, both of which are interested in multi-benefit projects resulting in such benefits as: ecological benefits, creation of parklands, addressing water quality issues, and enhanced flood management. Big Sur Land Trust, in partnership with a core group of local agencies and community-based organizations, has been working closely with the local community to design a multi-benefit park. They recently received grant funds from the Resources Legacy Fund for the design process.

Big Sur Land Trust has hired BFS Landscape Architects, with Balance Hydrologics on their team, to assist with the design process. They have held several public workshops, with great attendance. The workshops serve both to obtain public feedback and also to educate. Big Sur Land Trust recently submitted a grant proposal to the Coastal Conservancy to move forward next year with 30-50% site design, CEQA, and permitting. This design process is expected to take 2-3 years (2019-2021) after which time, and depending on funding, the project can

move on to implementation. The hope is that the project could be constructed by 2027 (10 years since acquisition of the property in 2017), if not before.

Sarah noted that one factor affecting flooding in the basin and that needs to be considered in the design process is the size of the culverts under Main Street, noting that they are very undersized (Gary Petersen pointed out that whether or not the culverts are “undersized” depends on whether one lives below or above Carr Lake...). The culvert elevation informs flood levels and backup into the system. Full inundation of Carr Lake occurs when the culverts are filled. Because the culverts are beyond Big Sur Land Trust’s property and control, the design process will need to work within the constraints of existing conditions for flooding. Another “constraint” is that the entire basin is located within the FEMA floodway: Carr Lake is the “key” flood storage basin for Salinas and areas downstream; flood conveyance capacity and storage capacity cannot be diminished in any way. Big Sur Land Trust is looking at locations on high ground where additional structures might be built along with playgrounds, gardens, etc.; restored natural features, open space, trails, etc. will be focused in low-lying areas. Whatever they do, they need to be careful not to negatively impact neighboring properties.

Rachel and Sarah showed the RWMG the conceptual design. Sarah emphasized that the property size is limited, and so water quality improvements will focus on treating smaller storm events (not large events). The benefits that result from the re-design and restoration of the 73-acre Carr Lake property is seen as a demonstration project that might inform future projects.

Rachel and Sarah welcomed the RWMG members to provide suggestions and input as they move into 30% design phase. Ross Clark pointed out linkages with the larger basin that the design process can build off of.

4. Other Business. Susan noted that one of the changes in the new 2018 IRWM Grant Program Guidelines is that projects that affect groundwater levels must have the approval of the local Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA). Susan asked Gary Petersen, who is the General Manager for the Salinas Valley Basin GSA, about this. Gary said that the process isn’t that far along yet... The draft for the first Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) will be completed by September 2019, with the final plan due January 31, 2020. The GSPs for the other five subbasins will be completed by January 31, 2022. Susan suggested that perhaps the GSA can simply review the projects that affect groundwater levels and ensure that they are generally consistent with the GSP goals.

The next RWMG meeting will be held on December 19, 2018, 1:30PM – 3:30PM, location TBD.

NOTE: There will be no RWMG meeting in November.