

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

December 19, 2018

Location: Moss Landing Marine Labs, Moss Landing, CA

RWMG Entity Attendees:

Dan Bertoldi – Monterey County Resource Management Agency
Ross Clark – Central Coast Wetlands Group
Monique Fountain – Elkhorn Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve
Brian Frus – City of Salinas
Bridget Hoover – Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary
Elizabeth Krafft – Monterey County Water Resources Agency
Karen McBride – Rural Community Assistance Corporation
Mike McCullough – Monterey One Water
Victoria Nava-McClellan – Environmental Justice Coalition for Water
May Nguyen – Environmental Justice Coalition for Water
Heidi Niggemeyer – City of Salinas
Shaun Richards – Resource Conservation District of Monterey County
Paul Robins – Resource Conservation District of Monterey County
Rachel Saunders – Big Sur Land Trust
Sarah Stevens – Monterey One Water
Brian True – Marina Coast Water District
Eric Tynan – Castroville Community Services District

Non-RWMG Attendees:

John Hunt – UC Davis
Susan Robinson – Greater Monterey County IRWM Program Director

Meeting Minutes

1. Brief Introductions.

2. Project Ranking: Susan Robinson had sent the RWMG the Draft Ranked Project List to the RWMG for review prior to the meeting. She thanked the Project Ranking Committee for their work: Monique Fountain, Victoria McClellan, Mike McCullough, and Brian True (Susan also participated on the committee). Susan explained the process that the Project Ranking Committee used for scoring projects, noting that each project was scored by at least two, and in most cases, three people. She commented that the scoring between committee members was surprisingly consistent. Where inconsistencies came up, the committee members discussed and then agreed upon a score. She emphasized that the scoring only took into account how well the projects addressed the IRWMP goals and objectives, resource management strategies, and climate change factors. While the scores are valuable for showing the RWMG how well projects address the region's objectives, many other factors must be taken into account when selecting projects to put forward in any Implementation Grant round; the Ranked Project List should be viewed with that in mind.

Susan asked if there were any questions or comments. Ross Clark said he thought the scores made sense, given what it was intended to do, and added that the process doesn't suggest that some projects are more important than others. Bridget Hoover commented on the diversity of projects. Ross said the Storm Water Resource Plan (SWRP) project team will be meeting with project proponents in January to discuss an

implementation strategy for the SWRP, and will hopefully be discussing how to bring some of the concept proposals listed in the IRWMP from concept to implementation-ready.

Paul Robins moved to approve the Ranked Project List. Ross seconded. All voted in favor, none opposed, none abstained.

3. IRWMP Project Solicitation Process: Susan began with a summary of grant funds that will be available to the Greater Monterey County region for Round 1. DWR is proposing that 35% of DAC Implementation funds and 50% of General Implementation funds be allocated in Round 1, leaving the rest for Round 2 in 2020. Assuming those ratios, there would be \$310,631 available for DAC Implementation and \$3,067,842 for General Implementation for Round 1. The RWMG generally agreed to that balance. Susan reviewed the general timeline for the Round 1 process:

- The Central Coast Funding Area will have its Pre-Application Workshop with DWR probably in June 2019.
- At least two weeks prior to the workshop (let's assume by end of May 2019), the RWMG must provide DWR with a Proposal Summary and a Project Information Form for each project.
- After the workshop, DWR will get back to regions with comments within four weeks.
- Application to DWR will be due 12 weeks after the workshop date (let's assume mid-September 2019).

Working backwards, then, Susan pointed out that the drop-dead date for the RWMG's decision on which projects to put forward in Round 1 would be the May 15, 2019 RWMG meeting.

There are currently 11 projects in the table for Round 1. The deadline for those project proponents to submit their Project Information Forms is January 7, 2019. Susan suggested the following process:

- January RWMG meeting: Review all projects and budgets. Review information in the Project Information Forms.
- February – March RWMG meetings: Project proponents attend the meetings and present their projects.
- April – May RWMG meetings: The RWMG decides.

John Hunt pointed out that the February meeting is also scheduled to include a SWRP Technical Advisory Committee meeting. After some discussion, the RWMG decided on the following process:

- January 16 RWMG meeting: Review all projects and budgets. Determine some sort of objective process for selecting projects.
- February 20 RWMG meeting: Devoted to SWRP TAC meeting.
- March 20 RWMG meeting: A special 3-hour meeting. Project proponents present their projects.
- April 17 and May 15 RWMG meetings: The RWMG decides.

Susan noted some of the Prop 1 eligibility criteria, including the AB 1249 requirement that regions with nitrate, arsenic, perchlorate, or chrom 6 contamination include projects in their proposals to address the contamination or justify why they haven't. She noted that there are *numerous* small disadvantaged communities (DAC) in the region that have nitrate, arsenic, and/or chrom 6 contamination, but there are no implementation projects on the table for Round 1 that address this issue. She was concerned about that. She said Karen Nilsen had submitted two concept proposals to fund drinking water infrastructure for small DACs, but the proposals were concept only. She offered, if the RWMG were accepting of this idea, that she and Karen could put together an implementation project for Round 1 for something like \$300K to upgrade/repair infrastructure for small DACs, or potentially to purchase Point-of-Use/Point-of-Entry treatment facilities, in order to address contaminated drinking water.

Other general comments and actions:

- John suggested that project proponents look for ways to integrate projects (others agreed).
- Rachel requested that Susan add a column in the current spreadsheet for project budgets.
- Susan said she would make a list of “key criteria” to keep in mind for selecting projects, prior to the January meeting.
- Someone requested more time to submit the Project Information Form, and it was agreed to postpone that due date to January 14, 2019.
- An important question to ask project proponents is: If selected, would your organization be willing/able to act as Lead Applicant? (Susan will check the PSP for the allowable administration percentage for Round 1.)

4. Other Business. Elizabeth Krafft announced that a new Interim General Manager has been appointed for six months. The agency will be holding a nationwide recruit for a permanent General Manager.

The next RWMG meeting will be held on January 16, 2019, 1:30PM – 3:30PM, at Moss Landing Marine Labs.