

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

**May 15, 2019  
Conference Call**

**RWMG Entity Attendees:**

Horacio Amezcuita – San Jerardo Cooperative, Inc.  
Ross Clark – Central Coast Wetlands Group  
Monique Fountain – Elkhorn Slough Foundation  
Beth Febus – Big Sur Land Trust  
Bridget Hoover – Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary  
Elizabeth Krafft – Monterey County Water Resources Agency  
Victoria McClellan – Environmental Justice Coalition for Water  
John Olson – California State University Monterey Bay  
Paul Robins – Resource Conservation District of Monterey County

**Non-RWMG Attendees:**

Susan Robinson – Greater Monterey County IRWM Program Director

**Meeting Minutes**

**1. Brief Introductions.**

**2. Approving Projects for Round 1 IRWM Implementation Grant Application:** Susan Robinson provided an overview of the selection process for projects to put forward for the Region's Round 1 Prop 1 Implementation Grant application package:

Initially there were 11 projects on the table. Some of those project proponents removed their projects from consideration early in the process. Susan asked the others to see if they could reduce their budgets, and work together to integrate projects, if possible. Almost everyone reduced their budgets, and a few of the projects were successfully integrated. This resulted in six projects, but the combined costs still exceeded the grant funds available by more than \$500K.

At the March RWMG meeting, it was decided that a subcommittee of RWMG members who *didn't* have projects on the table should be convened to evaluate the projects and make a recommendation for which projects to put forward for the Region's Round 1 application package. The subcommittee met 3-4 times to discuss projects. They developed a quantitative scoring system. Each subcommittee member individually scored each project, scores were compared and the projects discussed at length, and the subcommittee arrived at a recommended application package. They recommended: 1) removing the Environmental Justice Coalition for Water (EJCW) project (it was considered an important project, but wasn't considered "ready"); 2) reducing the Monterey County Water Resources Agency (MCWRA) budget by \$200K (as a modeling project, it was hoped that the project could be scaled down in scope); 3) reducing the City of Salinas portion of the Monterey One Water (M1W) project from about \$605K to about \$300K (this component was considered expensive, particularly given that the "IRWM" benefits did not seem as strong as other projects). The subcommittee met with these project proponents to discuss the proposed changes. After some discussion, all agreed with the changes.

The final recommended application package is:

Grant Administration – 10% admin costs	\$346,284
Castroville CSD – full request, minus admin costs	\$395,000
RCD – full request, minus admin costs	\$315,063
Salinas River Management Unit – full request	\$526,525
MCWRA – minus \$200K	\$750,000
M1W – minus admin and minus \$305,138 for City of Salinas portion of the budget (flood proofing electric cabinet)	\$1,129,970
<b>TOTAL REQUEST</b>	<b>\$3,462,842</b>

Susan asked if anyone had comments or questions. John Olson asked Susan to clarify some aspects of the process (noted above). Susan noted that Karen McBride (representing Rural Community Assistance Corporation) could not be present at today's meeting but had emailed an electronic vote in favor of approving the recommended application package. Confirming that there was a quorum, Susan then asked for those in favor of approving the application package as recommended by the subcommittee. All were in favor, none opposed, none abstained. The recommended application package as outlined above will go forward for Round 1.

**2. Logistics for Round 1 Application:** Susan provided a brief overview of the timing for the Round 1 application process, along with some logistics. Pre-application materials (a Project Information Form for each project, plus an overall Proposal Summary) will be due to the Department of Water Resources (DWR) late August or early September. A workshop with DWR will follow 2-4 weeks later. The workshop is not mandatory. There was some discussion about this. Elizabeth Krafft said she thought it was important to attend the workshop if the other Central Coast regions were attending, and also to support the Funding Area Memorandum of Agreement. Others agreed.

Susan said the project proponents will need to coordinate and decide:

1. Who the Lead Applicant will be: M1W, Coastal Conservation and Research, and MCWRA have all offered to act as Lead. Each said they would require 10% of total requested funds for administration.
2. Who will write/organize the application: The application will not be labor-intensive as in years past. Susan added that she could continue to lead this process and write the application; however, the project proponents themselves – rather than the RWMG – would need to compensate her for her time from this point forward. Alternatively, the project proponents could write the application themselves, or hire another grant writer.

Susan reminded the group that any project that could potentially impact groundwater levels or quality must have the approval of the relevant Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) in order to be eligible for Round 1. She said the project proponents would be presenting their projects to the Salinas Valley Basin GSA Advisory Committee the following day to request the GSA's approval of the projects. Susan reminded the project proponents that they must also obtain approval from the other three GSAs. She had emailed all of them about this, but has not received any response.

**3. Other Business.** Susan asked the RWMG whether anyone had any objection to canceling the June RWMG meeting. No one was opposed to canceling; therefore the June RWMG meeting will be canceled (for summer vacations). Susan also reminded everyone that at the July RWMG meeting, the RWMG will hold a vote to approve the Greater Monterey County Storm Water Resource Plan.

*The June RWMG meeting is canceled. The next RWMG meeting will be held on July 17, 2019, 1:30PM – 4:30PM, location TBD.*