

Greater Los Angeles Integrated Regional Water Management Plan Meeting Notes – Upper Los Angeles River Watersheds Steering Committee

**April 4, 2007, 10 am to 12 pm
LADWP Conference Room 1471**

Present:

Mario Acevedo, LA DWP
John Biggs, Brown and Caldwell
Shirley Birosik, LA RWQCB
Michael Drennan, Brown and Caldwell
Darryl Ford, City of LA Rec and Parks

Mark Horne, Brown and Caldwell
Frank Kuo, LA County DPW
Fred Lyn, City of Pasadena
Mark Mackowski, Watermaster
Vivian Marquez, City of LA BOS

Lianne McGinley, Burbank City Water & Power
Tim Roe, City of Pasadena
Nancy Steele, LASG Watershed Council

Topic/Issue	Discussion	Action/Follow up
1. Introductions	<p>Mario Acevedo opened the meeting at 10:04 AM with introductions.</p> <p>Shirley Birosik announced that the LA RWQCB is re-evaluating the way they distribute SEP (Supplemental Environmental Project) funds, and indicated that projects in the LA IRWMP database may be eligible for those funds.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shirley Birosik requested that all projects in the LA IRWMP database be updated with as much information as possible to help determine eligibility for SEP funds.
2. Approve 3/15/07 Meeting Minutes	<p>The minutes from the March 15 meeting were distributed.</p> <p>Comments or changes to meeting notes should be emailed to Mario Acevedo</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The meeting notes from 3/15/07 were approved.
3. IRWM Program News a. Meeting of LA and Ventura IRWMP Regions b. Funding Area Meeting with DWR c. Prop 50 Funding Status	<p>No new meetings were held between Los Angeles, Ventura and Upper Santa Clara River since the last Steering Committee Meeting.</p> <p>The group discussed the issue that the Upper Santa Clara River area is developing their own plan and has suggested that they be included as a separate IRWMP for Prop 84 funding, although this effort could be combined with the Ventura or perhaps the Greater LA IRWMPs. A concern was expressed that Santa Clara is allowed to create a separate IRWMP for funding purposes, it could encourage fragmentation of funding areas.</p> <p>Frank Kuo covered discussed the status of current Proposition 50 funds. The State had sent down a</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A motion was passed (with one abstention from LA County DPW): “In order to discourage fragmentation of IRWMP regions, we recommend that the Upper Santa Clara Watershed be included as a part of the Ventura IRWMP region, consistent with watershed boundaries, and not considered as a separate IRWMP region, for the purpose of disbursement of post-Prop 50 funds.”

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	<p>template for the agreement, which was very similar to their standard agreement between the State and a project proponent. The County is responding with comments to address the needs of an IRWM where there are multiple project proponents overseen by one agency. The State is coming to the region on April 11th-12th to tour 8 of the 13 project sites awarded Prop 50 funding.</p> <p>A concern was expressed about grant administration fees at the local level above and beyond DWR's administrative fee of 8.5% for Prop 84 funds, given the limits on administrative costs established in the original grant application. It was recommended that the Leadership Committee get together with other IRWMP's around the state and lobby DWR to provide a portion of their 8.5% fee to cover local grant administration costs.</p>	
<p>4. Greater LA IRWMP Decision-Making Structure</p>	<p>Mark Horne provided a brief highlight of topics that will be discussed in depth during the report and facilitated discussion during the Leadership Committee Meeting tomorrow, including Administrative Practices, Composition & Representation; and the Purpose of Leadership Committee</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A draft tech memo with recommendations for revisions to the existing governance structure will be provided to the Steering Committee members around April 9. Comments are requested prior to the next meeting of the SC meeting (on May 2). • Final recommendations to the governance structure will be considered by LC at their May 3rd meeting.
<p>5. Update on Project Prioritization Framework</p>	<p>Mark distributed a handout which included a summary of the input received at Steering Committees in March regarding the draft framework, and identified potential ranking criteria and a process for the draft framework.</p> <p>LA County DPW provided an update the current talks regarding integrating the short and long forms in the Database to make every field available to project proponents. It was suggested the County expand the database to include fields to identify land ownership and differentiate between the project submitter and project proponent/land owner.</p> <p>Concern was expressed over some of the fields that</p>	<p>Next Steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft TM will be issued in Mid-April based on specific recommendations provided by Steering Committees • Project information should be updated by Project Proponents/Submitters by 5PM on April 30th • Leadership Committee will consider draft Prioritization Framework during May 3rd Meeting • Prioritization would begin in early May.

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	<p>may be used in the initial ranking of projects and that the framework would promote quantity over quality and force integration where it would not make sense. Also projects should not be ranked to fit funding source, but instead, the best projects for the IRWMP should be identified and then matched to funding sources from that list. It was suggested that meeting planning targets and multi-purpose should be the primary ranking criteria and that project readiness should be avoided as a criteria for ranking.</p> <p>Committee members also expressed interest in reviewing the projects to review the ranking scores. It would also be useful for project proponents to come to the meeting and discuss their projects and answer questions to verify the validity of the information provided. The potential of having submitters rank their own projects and then justify the ranking they gave their project. Concern was also expressed that allowing project proponents to vote on the project list could be a conflict of interest.</p>	
<p>6. Consultant Contract Expiration (6/30/07) - Options</p>	<p>Brief discussion on the expiration of the current consultant contract on June 30, 2007. The need to address long-term funding issues was also acknowledged.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was suggested that the contract and consultant support be added to the Steering Committee agenda on May 2nd
<p>7. Upcoming Meetings/ Workshops</p>	<p>Next Steering Committee meeting on May 2, 2007 at 10 AM to 12 PM, at LA DWP, Hope Street, LA</p> <p>Next Leadership Committee meetings on April 5th and May 3rd, 2007 at 9:30, at LA County DPW, Alhambra.</p>	

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