

**GREATER LOS ANGELES COUNTY  
INTEGRATED REGIONAL WATER MANAGEMENT  
LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY  
JANUARY 28, 2015**

**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS  
900 SOUTH FREMONT AVENUE, ALHAMBRA, CA**

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Gary Hildebrand for Gail Farber (Los Angeles County Flood Control District) – Chair,  
Leadership Committee  
Richard Nagel (West Basin MWD) – Chair,  
South Bay Sub-Region  
Andy Niknafs for Dave Pettijohn (Department of Water and Power) – Chair,  
Upper Los Angeles River Sub-Region  
Nancy Steele (Council for Watershed Health) – Vice-Chair,  
Upper Los Angeles River Sub-Region  
Kelly Gardner (Main San Gabriel Basin Watermaster) – Chair,  
Upper San Gabriel River Sub-Region  
Randy Schoellerman (Water Quality Authority) – Vice-Chair,  
Upper San Gabriel River Sub-Region  
Esther Rojas for Robb Whitakker (Water Replenishment District) – Chair,  
Lower Los Angeles and San Gabriel Rivers Sub-Region  
Marybeth Vergara for Mark Stanley (Watershed Conservation Authority) – Vice-Chair,  
Lower Los Angeles and San Gabriel Rivers Sub-Region  
Joe Bellomo for Randal Orton (City of Westlake Village) – Chair,  
North Santa Monica Bay Sub-Region  
Barbara Cameron (City of Malibu) – Vice-Chair,  
North Santa Monica Bay Sub-Region  
Sharon Green for Grace Hyde (County of Los Angeles Sanitation Districts),  
Sanitation WMA  
Donna Chen for Shahram Kharaghani (City of Los Angeles, Bureau of Sanitation),  
Stormwater  
Grace Chan for Jeff Kightlinger (Metropolitan Water District),  
Surface Water WMA  
Tony Zampiendo (Raymond Basin)  
Groundwater WMA  
Guangyu Wang (Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission),  
Habitat and Open Space WMA

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Angela George, Los Angeles County Flood Control District  
Terri Grant, Los Angeles County Flood Control District  
Russ Bryden, Los Angeles County Flood Control District

Virginia Maloles-Fowler, Los Angeles County Flood Control District  
Erica Sasman, Los Angeles County Flood Control District  
Jan Dougall, Las Virgenes Municipal Water District  
Edward J. Caldwell, West Basin MWD  
Wendy La, LASER, LLC  
Melissa Guerrero, Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority  
Miguel Luna (DAC Coordinator), DAKELUNA  
Leighanne Kirk, West Basin MWD  
Grace Kast, GK Consulting  
Persephene St. Charles, RMC Water and Environment  
Mary Zauner, County of Los Angeles Sanitation Districts  
Raymundo Trejo, USGVMWD

### **1. CALL TO ORDER**

Meeting was called to order at 9:36 a.m.

### **2. APPROVAL OF DECEMBER 10, 2014 MEETING MINUTES**

The Chair requested comments prior to the approval of the meeting summary. Motion to approve the December 10, 2014, meeting summary was made by Leighanne Kirk and seconded by Sharon Green. Meeting summary were approved.

### **3. LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE UPDATE (WEST BASIN)**

EJ Caldwell provided an update on the Sacramento Legislative Advocacy Trip and an overview of the strategy for the visit. The trip date will be finalized shortly and a strategy session will be arranged prior to the trip.

Efforts are being made to track and monitor legislation introduced last year in Congress, including "Water in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century" sponsored by Senators Boxer and Feinstein, and Representatives Grace Napolitano and Peter De Fazio of Oregon. This legislation would fund construction of specific water projects in and outside of California to combat the drought.

### **4. DROUGHT MESSAGING COLLABORATION UPDATE**

No report.

### **5. NEXT STEPS FOR GLAC IRWM**

At the December 10<sup>th</sup> LC meeting, the LC formed a Plan Update ad-hoc committee to review the current GLAC IRWM Plan in order to (1) generate a list of Plan implementation items; and (2) discuss future opportunities to expand the role of IRWM. The Subregions were directed to add agenda items for this work to their steering committee meetings, and then the Plan Update subcommittee was to integrate their responses into a single report with recommendations to be presented to the LC.

An update on the progress of the Subregions was provided to the LC. The Subregions will continue discussing these items over the coming months.

## **6. OPTI PROJECT DATABASE- LICENSE RENEWAL**

The group discussed various options for the renewal of the contract with RMC to operate OPTI. Rich Nagel made a motion to approve funds for a three year renewal and it was seconded by Barbara Cameron with the understanding that a database needs-assessment would be completed within this timeframe. Motion passed unanimously.

## **7. PROJECT PRESENTATIONS**

### **7.1 Marsh Park**

Melissa Guerrero from Mountains Recreation & Conservation Authority showcased the Marsh Park Project, a multi-benefit park project providing water quality benefits as well as a community park along the Los Angeles River. The project included daylighting a storm drain and constructing a detention basin to capture stormwater for treatment.

### **7.2 Joint Water and Pollution Control Plant Marshland Enhancement Project & Whittier Narrows Water Reclamation Plant UV Disinfection Study**

Sharon Green of the Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts (LACSD) presented the Joint Water and Pollution Control Plant Marshland Enhancement Project, which included restoring 17 acres of freshwater marshland located next to the JWPCP. The restoration of the marshland included habitat, water quality improvements, and educational benefits. She also presented the Whittier Narrows Water Reclamation Plant UV Disinfection Study, which used a new method of treatment for effluent.

## **8. STEERING COMMITTEE CHAIRS' & WMA REPS' REPORTS (VARIOUS)**

Subregional Steering Committees reported on the discussions held at their respective January meetings, as follows:

North Santa Monica Bay: SC discussed Plan commitments, future opportunities and the operating guidelines. Randal Orton's retirement is scheduled for the first week of February; acknowledgment for his work was requested. SC is working with Ventura County to collaborate on projects.

South Bay: No report.

Upper Los Angeles River: Nancy Steele deferred her report as part of Agenda Item10, IRWM Grants Update.

Upper San Gabriel and Rio Hondo: SC discussed Plan commitments, future opportunities and the operating guidelines.

Lower San Gabriel and Los Angeles River: SC discussed Plan commitments, future opportunities and the operating guidelines.

Open Space: A report was given on the availability of funding opportunities for open space through Conservancies including Baldwin Hills, Santa Monica Mountains, San Gabriel, and Upper Los Angeles River. The total funding available to Conservancies through Prop 1 is over \$70 million.

Sanitation District: No report

Storm Water: Agencies are completing their Enhanced Watershed Management Plans (EWMP) which are due to the Regional Water Quality Control Board in June 2015.

Surface Water: The Sierra Nevada snowpack is in better shape than last year at this time, but still 30% below normal. The State Water Project has a higher reservoir storage levels than last year at the Lake Oroville and San Luis reservoirs.

Groundwater – The groundwater elevation of the Main San Gabriel Basin has leveled off over the last month. This is due to lower demand and the recharge of a small amount of imported water. The Watermaster is planning to purchase treated Colorado River water for recharge at a cost of \$1 million.

Stormwater Capture – No report

## **9. DAC ITEMS**

Miguel Luna reported on the DAC Committee's December meeting and a meeting of DAC coordinators from across the State. The DAC Coordinators meeting was to develop recommendations for revisions to DAC programs. Recommendations will include a seven point strategy focused on objectives and outcomes and will be forwarded to different State agencies. He also reported that the DAC Committee is working with Assembly Member Rendon's office to arrange for them to speak at the February DAC meeting. Currently, Assembly Member Rendon is drafting a DAC bill that Mr. Luna is tracking.

## **10. IRWM GRANTS UPDATE**

DWR has tentatively approved GLAC IRWM's request to reallocate grant funds awarded to the LA DWP-Burbank Interconnection Project to the other projects in Round 3. Nancy Steele recommended moving the grant funds to another Upper LA River Sub-Region project, Mission Wells Project, which is also being implemented by LADWP. Leighanne Kirk made a motion to approve fund reallocation from the LA Burbank Project to the Mission Wells Project, which was seconded by Esther Rojas and unanimously approved by the LC.

## **11. PUBLIC COMMENT**

No members of the public came forward to comment.

## **12. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS/OTHER ITEMS**

*Approved March 25, 2015*

The Chair provided an overview of ongoing discussions between the GLAC IRWM and Gateway Water Management Authority (GWMA) IRWM. Grace Kast of the GWMA IRWM reported that her Board will review the GLAC IRWM's Memorandum of Understanding and consider joining the GLAC IRWM at their February 2015 meeting.

Tony Zampello requested a needs assessment be completed to document desired characteristics for project database replacement to OPTI.

### **13. ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting was adjourned by the Chair at 11:47 a.m.

**NEXT MEETING:** Wednesday, February 25, 2015, 9:30 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.