

# Greater Los Angeles Integrated Regional Water Management Plan Leadership Committee Meeting Notes

May 3, 2007, 8:00 am to 12 pm  
Metropolitan Water District,  
Conference Room 2-450

**Present:**

Mario Acevedo, LA DWP  
John Biggs, Brown and Caldwell  
Hector Bordas, LAC FCD  
Diego Cadena, LAC FCD  
Barbara Cameron, City of Malibu  
Grace Chan, MWDSC  
Donna Chen, LA BOS  
Chris Kroll, Coastal Conservancy  
Lauren Dods, LA County Council, LAC FCD  
Michael Drennan, Brown and Caldwell

Steve Esmond, Brown and Caldwell  
Belinda Faustinos, RMC  
Sharon Green, LACSD  
Mark Horne, PBS&J  
Andrea Hunt, Malcom Pirnie  
Shahram Kharaghani, LA BOS  
Joone Lopez, Central Basin MWD  
Shelley Luce, SMBRC  
Lianne McGinley, Burbank Water and Power  
Ed Means, Malcolm Pirnie

Judy Niron, US Forest Service  
Melih Ozbilgin, Brown and Caldwell  
Rocelle Paras, LAC FCD  
Mark Pestrella, LAC FCD  
Leighanne Reeser, West Basin MWD  
Nancy Steele, LASGR Watershed Council  
Tom West, RMC Water  
Carol Williams, MSGB Watermaster  
Mary Zauner, LACSD

Topic/Issue	Discussion	Action/Follow up
<b>1. Introductions</b>	Diego Cadena opened the meeting at 8:21am with introductions.	
<b>2. Review Meeting Summary from April 5, 2007</b>	<p>Meeting summary from April 5<sup>th</sup> was distributed.</p> <p>Hector Bordas commented that the County was still working on the Prop 84 matrix and draft letter mentioned in the April 5<sup>th</sup> meeting notes. Action items regarding scope of work and schedule deferred to later in the agenda.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No comments or change requests.</li> <li>• Hector Bordas will continue working on completion of April 5<sup>th</sup> Action Items</li> </ul>

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**3. Greater LA IRWMP Decision-Making Structure**

**Leadership Committee Size.** The general discussion was supportive for Leadership Committee expansion to 16 members. Some objections were raised that expanding the Leadership Committee would mean longer meetings and less opportunity to voice feedback. Others noted that expansion would allow the Leadership Committee to have more views represented and a better exchange of ideas for coordination and collaboration as well as giving more interests a seat at the table. The motion for the recommendation that the Leadership Committee will expand to 16 members passed. (Yes-9, No-1, Abstain-0)

**Water Management Areas & Representative Selection.** The discussion looked at the value of the Water Management Areas on the Leadership Committee to not only provide a variety of ideas to meet regional goals as well as the addition of a regional perspective. The general feeling was there was value in keeping the water management areas represented.

Discussion occurred over two options for the selection of Water Management Areas to the Leadership Committee. One option was the Steering Committee nominated people for the WMAs and the Leadership Committee selected the WMA reps. The other was the Steering Committees were assigned a WMA role to fill and the Steering Committee selects a person (who meets some minimum requirement) to fill the role. Some commented this option may not give a regional view and that it might result in an emphasis on water supply and water quality, rather than habitat and open space. A motion was made to recommend that each Steering Committee will be responsible for selection one of the Water Management Area Representatives, with some minimum qualifications (to be established). Specific Water Management Area assigned to Steering Committees by random draw passed (Yes-7, No-1, Abstain-3).

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- The Leadership Committee approved the following motions that the following recommendations be taken to the Steering Committees for review, comments and approval:

- The Leadership Committee will expand to 16 members (Yes-9, No-2, Abstain-0)
- The Leadership Committee should have all 5 Water Management Area represented in the Committee (Unanimous Yes)
- Each Steering Committee will be responsible for selection of one of the Water Management Area Representatives, with some minimum qualifications (to be established). Specific Water Management Area assigned to Steering Committees by random draw. (Yes-7, No-1, Abstain-3)
- Leadership Committee members will serve 3 year terms with no term limits. (Unanimous Yes)
- The name of the Leadership Committee should be changed to Coordinating Council (Unanimous recommendation to approve, but final decision should be made after all Steering Committees have had an opportunity to provide input on this recommendation)
- Adopt recommendations for transparency, except for arranging Leadership Committee Seating. (Unanimous Yes)
- Adopt recommendation for Leadership Committee roles, except for "Divide regional grant funding equitably." (Unanimous Yes)

<p><b>Greater LA IRWMP Decision-Making Structure</b></p>	<p><b>Leadership Committee Terms.</b> Discussion on 3 year terms for Leadership Committee members with the Steering Committee re-appointing or appointing new Leadership Committee members was generally favorable. Motion regarding the recommendations for terms passed unanimously.</p> <p><b>Leadership Committee Name.</b> The idea to change the name of the Leadership Committee to Coordinating Council brought up the discussion that the Leadership Committee’s purpose was to ensure coordination and discussion between the subregion. There was consensus that the new name would better convey the purpose of the group. It was also suggested that any ramification associated with the name changes with the state need to be investigated. The motion for the recommendation that the Leadership Committee name be changed passed unanimously.</p> <p><b>Leadership Committee Transparency.</b> Discussion focused on formalizing the proceedings of the Leadership Committee and the importance of the role of the formalization as grant money is allocated, while maintaining the desire for coordination and collaboration between the subregions. Suggested that name plates for voting members be utilized instead of formalized seating. The discussion as generally favorable for maintaining current seating structure, as well as improving the posting and distribution of items like minutes and agendas. The motion for recommendations for transparency except for formalized seating was passed unanimously.</p>	
<p><b>Greater LA IRWMP Decision-Making Structure</b></p>	<p><b>Leadership Committee Roles.</b> Discussion on Leadership Committee Roles focused on the responsibility “Divide regional grant funding equitably.” The issue was raised if this provision applied to all funding sources or if members were allowed the flexibility to go after funding independent of IRWMP. There was broad consensus that participation in the IRWMP shouldn’t preclude agencies from applying other funding sources. It was noted that one of the intended benefits of the whole region working together is to attract more funding than might be possible if agencies or subregions applied for funding separately. The motion for recommendations for Leadership Committee roles except for “Divide regional grant funding equitably,” was passed unanimously.</p> <p><b>Steering Committee Roles.</b> The Steering Committee role covering “Allocated funding for project implementation” was excluded from the recommendations and held for later discussion with the prioritization and the role of the Leadership Committee in allocating funding. The importance of the subregions to collaborate and coordinate was raised and the recommendations for the Steering Committee responsibilities were amended to include participation in the Leadership Committee. The motion for recommendations for Steering Committee roles with the addition of “Participate in Leadership Committee meetings” and except for Allocated funding for project implementation,” was passed unanimously.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> </ul>

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<p><b>Greater LA IRWMP Decision-Making Structure</b></p>	<p><b>Project Selection/Project Funding.</b> Discussion centered around the roles of the Steering and Leadership Committees in the selection of projects and the division of funding. Several commenters expressed the importance of building local stakeholder support and trust through involvement in the Steering Committees and emphasized the importance of preventing the perception that the Leadership Committee is providing top-down decisions to the Subregions. It was also expressed that the local level can best identify critical needs, address areas where gaps need to be filled and identify the best projects. It was also cited that funding sources outside of the IRWMP (such as the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission) use the IRWMP projects lists as a method to award funding to localities and the subregion can be a facilitator for that coordination. It was also noted that there is a need to assure that the set of projects being put forth in the subregions demonstrate a regional coordination for funding sources such as Prop 50 and 84. In general the idea of criteria was supported as a means to improve projects and make them more competitive for grant funding. The importance of developing long term funding sources was also highlighted. No solution was reached at this point and the LC expressed interest in sending this item back to the SC's for input. The discussion will continue at the Steering and Leadership Committee levels.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> </ul>
<p><b>4. Status of \$25m Award and Contract</b>  <b>a. DWR Tour</b>  <b>b. Status</b></p>	<p><b>DWR Tour.</b> DWR tour of Round 1 projects went very well. County showcased and promoted the subregional projects and provided DWR with fact sheets of all the projects. The tour was used to highlight the unique situation of the County administering projects from multiple proponents.</p> <p><b>Status.</b> County has sent draft contract to DWR for review. Working on issues of administrating grant award to multiple projects, it's a new situation for the State and a work in progress. Draft contract was sent to proponents for informational purposes only at this point. At some point, County may bring Project Proponents into negotiation process with DWR.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• County FCD will continue to work with DWR and project proponents on the development of the contract for the \$25m grant.</li> </ul>

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<p><b>5. IRWM Program News</b></p> <p>a. <b>Prop 50 Round 2 Funding</b></p> <p>b. <b>Meeting of Los Angeles and Ventura County IRWMP Regions</b></p> <p>c. <b>Prop 84 (&amp; 1E) Grant Program Status</b></p>	<p><b>Prop 50 Round 2.</b> Draft guidelines indicate regions awarded \$25M in Round 1 will be ineligible for Round 2 funding. Discussed advocating as an entity for eligibility for Round 2 funding and the possibility of drafting a letter to DWR stating the region position of division of funds and against the ineligibility of Round 1 grant award winners to compete for Round 2 funds. Also discussed the value in supporting other Southern California Regions to get more funding from State due to larger share of the population.</p> <p><b>Los Angeles-Ventura Meetings.</b> Meeting was postponed, will be rescheduled. Prop 84(&amp; 1E) meetings will take place with the Upper Santa Clara Region as well.</p> <p><b>Prop 84 (&amp; 1E).</b> DWR working on guidelines for Prop 84. Suggested region continue to work on draft matrix as well as meeting with Ventura do develop consensus recommendations on divisions of funding grants.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> </ul>
<p><b>6. Project Prioritization Framework</b></p>	<p>Discussion occurred on the purpose of the prioritization framework. It was noted that the current framework is based on the quantifiable objectives adopted in the IRWMP in December, 2006, but it can be modified to included additional objectives for each subregion.</p> <p>Issues were discussed about other criteria needed for the framework. These issues covered the scoring for projects in more than one subregion, addressing other needs of the region, site control (as well as status of land acquisition), and a better way to evaluate non-structural projects.</p> <p>Questions were raised about the previous deadline of April 30<sup>th</sup> for updating projects in the directory. It was clarified that it was not a final deadline for future funding, but a point in time where the database would be downloaded for the purpose of a first run of the framework to see how it worked and what results it provided. Discussed the need to view this first round of prioritization as an opportunity to work on the framework, develop and improve projects without a hard deadline for a grant application approaching.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Project proponents will be notified that April 30<sup>th</sup> was not the deadline for grant applications, but as part of the process of refining the framework to improve it and projects for future grant funding.</li> <li>• The consultant team will go ahead with ranking of projects in database based on draft framework.</li> <li>• The results will be reviewed by the Steering Committees prior to the next Leadership Committee meeting and provide comments and feedback on the framework for the next Leadership Committee meeting.</li> </ul>

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<p><b>7. Update on Consultant Contract Status and Issues</b></p>	<p>Consultant is on schedule and budget to meet deliverables outlined in the scope of work; however the consultant is willing to work with the Leadership Committee to meet the region's needs. The contract is still set to expire on 6/30/07.</p> <p>Additional Steering Committee Meeting support should be able to be provided through use of money in the Contingency Budget.</p> <p>Discussion occurred on how much money of the future was still available in the initial pot of money for work as well as support beyond June 30<sup>th</sup> (involving future funding, continued support and additional support), further discussion differed to later meetings.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Leighanne Reeser will confirm with LA County FCD on the remaining contingences budget to cover additional Steering Committee Meeting support.</li> <li>• A subcommittee was formed to develop a future scope of work. Members of the subcommittee include: Hector Bordas, Belinda Faustinos, Sharon Green, Rich Nagel, Randall Orton, Leighanne Reeser, and Mary Zauner.</li> </ul>
<p><b>8. Future Agenda Items / Other Items</b></p>	<p>Discussion took place on future agenda items regarding future funding, continued consultant support and additional consultant support. Discussion also on current consultant contract and need for future scope of funding.</p> <p>There was also discussion raised on filling information gaps identified in the plan, especially in the areas of habitat.</p> <p>Discussion on changing the Leadership Committee Meeting date and time to avoid conflicts with SCAG and Regional Board Meetings.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Add Agenda Items for the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Continued Funding of Effort</li> <li>○ Continued and Additional Consultant Support</li> <li>○ Future Funding</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Hector Bordas will send email to Leadership Committee Members about possibility of changing meeting date and time.</li> </ul>
<p><b>9. Next Meeting</b></p>	<p>Next Leadership Committee Meeting: June 7, 2007; 9:30 am to 12:00 pm; Executive Conference Room, 12<sup>th</sup> Floor; Los Angeles County Flood Control District</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> </ul>