

Coachella Valley Integrated Regional Water Management Program Disadvantaged Communities (DAC) Outreach

Wednesday July 28, 2010
1:30 – 3:30 p.m.

Coachella Valley Water District
85-995 Avenue 52
Coachella, CA 92236

DRAFT NOTES

Attendees:

DAC Workgroup

Anna Vargas, Poder Popular
Cindy Nance, Desert Edge Community Council
Jennifer Hernandez, California Rural Legal Assistance
Foundation
John Rodriguez, ICUC
Megan Beaman, California Rural Legal Assistance
Foundation
Sergio Carranza, Pueblo Unido
Yvonna Cazares, Environmental Justice Coalition for
Water

CVRWVG

Andrea Riesgo, IWA
Dan Parks, CVWD
Daniel Cozad, IPM
David Tate, DWA
Goldy Thach, RMC
Katie Ruark, DWA
Marilyn McKay, MSWD
Roselyn Stewart, RMC
Tom West, RMC

Meeting Objectives:

- A. Keep participants up to date on efforts and confirm understanding
- B. Develop areas of common interest/priorities leading to IRWM Plan goals and objectives
- C. Ensure outreach efforts are optimized, given deadlines and needs
- D. Identify and understand DAC related projects

Meeting Notes:

Update on IRWM Planning and Schedule

Rosalyn Stewart, RMC Water and Environment, provided an update on the State's IRWM program and its upcoming Prop 84 funding opportunities. She announced that the final IRWM Grant Program Guidelines and PSP have been released by DWR. Three regions in the Colorado River Funding Area are competing for \$4 million in Prop 84 Round 1 funding.

We are preparing an IRWM Plan that: 1) identifies local needs and issues, 2) establishes regional goals, 3) identifies projects to achieve the regional goals, and 4) determines how to integrate projects to achieve these goals. She provided an overview of the schedule for development of the Coachella Valley IRWM Plan, which must be adopted by the CVRWVG in order for the region to be eligible for this funding.

- Who the IRWM Plan must be approved by? The IRWM Plan must be approved by the 5 Boards/Councils of the CVRWGMG agencies before the end of December 2010.

IRWM Plan Goals and Objectives

Rosalyn Stewart presented the draft Goals and Objectives that were discussed at the June 22 Public Workshop. Two suggestions raised at the workshop were discussed with group. CVRWGMG recommends no changes because in DWRs prioritization structure, objectives (not goals) are key for measuring progress.

- Suggestion to clarify between the different types of issues associated with groundwater quality – i.e., septic, arsenic, hot pools.
 - The IRWM Plan will have a chapter listing the various issues facing the Valley. The objectives will address what we want to achieve (good groundwater quality) and the metrics will measure how we got there (# septic-to-sewer conversions, # new municipal water connections, etc).
- Providing water and sewer to remote areas will encourage further community-building, which can also encourage economic development/value.
- Suggestion to add “economic” into Goal 5: Ensure the cultural, social, and economic sustainability of water in the Valley.
- What about those residents not connected to municipal water and sewer? Many of those cluster communities are so remote that extension of services would be cost prohibitive. How will these residences be addressed?
 - Same IRWM Plan objectives should be addressed for both urban and remote communities. The objective would not change; rather the approach/solutions would be different.
- These objectives will dictate which projects are best suited for upcoming funding opportunities. Think about your proposed projects; a good project will achieve multiple benefits for either an urban or remote community.
- Suggestion to add “including those in remote areas” into Objective 12: Address water and sanitation needs of disadvantaged communities, including those in remote areas.

Call for Projects – Open through July 30, 2010

Rosalyn Stewart reviewed the Call for Projects timeline and emphasized the importance of submitting projects into the database. The submitted projects will be included in the IRWM Plan to communicate to DWR and others the water management needs in the Valley. The submitted projects will also be considered for Prop 84 Round 1 funding, which may bring up to \$4 million to the region.

- The Call for Projects deadline is Friday July 30th. Participants may stay for the 3-5pm open house in order to enter their projects into the database.
- After the deadline, will there be a review process and suggestions given to project proponents? Yes, the CVRWGMG will review the submitted project list and contact project proponents for any additional information or with integration suggestions.
 - Reminder that July 30th deadline is for Prop 84 Round 1 funding only. Input project concepts into the database when you can, so that if it doesn't make Round 1 it will be there for Round 2.
- Will RMC help to refine project information? Yes, once the short list of projects has been identified for Prop 84 Round 1, RMC will help will help expand project descriptions.

- CRLAF supports using Prop 84 Round 1 funding to address critical drinking water needs in East Valley, particularly the arsenic contamination issue.
 - All projects will need a project sponsor comprised of a non-profit or government agency in order to meet DWR guidelines.
- Updates on outside funding opportunities:
 - MSWD: Recycled water and efficiency project; applied for \$10 million federal grant.
 - CVWD: Water and sewer extensions to East County; applied for rural agricultural grants through USDA; also applied for Indian Health Services grant in collaboration with the Torres Martinez tribe.
 - DWA: Water efficiency; applied for WaterSMART grant from USBR.

DAC Representation on Planning Partners

Rosalyn Stewart explained that Miriam (Environmental Justice Coalition for Water) had suggested that Anna (Poder Popular) and Jennifer (CRLAF) attend the Planning Partners as DAC representatives. The CVRWWMG wanted to raise this to the larger DAC group and confirm the group is comfortable with this recommendation.

- Will the Planning Partners determine the project prioritization and selection process or will that happen at CVRWWMG Board meetings?
 - Project prioritization will occur numerically through the project database, based on the criteria the Planning Partners suggested.
- Are there other groups that need to be represented in Planning Partners? If so, speak up now so that we can include/invite them.
 - Group agrees that both CRLAF and Poder Popular are good representatives for now.
- Concern that needs in the West Valley aren't fully represented. We want that balance so needs of the West and North Valley are included.

DAC Outreach

Rosalyn Stewart explained that the DAC Outreach Demonstration Program will be through a "contract for service" for DWR. The goals of the Demonstration Program are to identify community representatives and educate groups on the IRWM program; identify DAC issues and needs; assist DACs in developing projects; and incorporating this work into the IRWM Plan.

Next Steps

Rosalyn Stewart summarized the next steps as parallel DAC Outreach meetings to support Jennifer and Anna in their work with the Planning Partners.