

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

**Tuesday September 21, 2010
3:00 – 5:00 p.m.**

**Desert Water Agency
1200 Gene Autry Trail
Palm Springs, CA**

DRAFT NOTES

Attendees

DAC Issues Group

Anna Vargas, Poder Popular
Cindy Nance, Desert Edge
Community Council
Sergio Carranza, Pueblo Unido
Jennifer Wong, DWR

CVRWMG

Anders Wistrom, IWA
Dan Parks, CVWD
Daniel Cozad, IPM
David Tate, DWA
Gary Lewis, IWA

Katie Ruark, DWA
Marilyn McKay, MSWD
Mark Krause, DWA
Patti Reyes, CVWD
Paul Toor, CWA
Roselyn Stewart, RMC

Meeting Objectives

- A. Keep participants up-to-date on the Coachella Valley IRWM program.
- B. Identify and understand DAC-focused implementation projects.
- C. Review numerical ranking of submitted project list and brainstorm potential priorities for Prop 84-Round 1 cycle.
- D. Ensure outreach efforts are optimized, given deadlines and needs.

Update on IRWM Planning and Schedule

Daniel Cozad, IPM, welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Roselyn Stewart, RMC, provided a brief update on the IRWM program schedule. The Public Draft IRWM Plan will be released on November 1, 2010 for a 20-day public review period. Following incorporation of public comments, the Final IRWM Plan will be released on November 30, 2010 for adoption by the CVRWMG, Planning Partners, and project sponsors. The IRWM Planning Grant Proposal will be completed and submitted to DWR by the September 28, 2010 deadline. All comments from the DAC representatives and Planning Partners are due by the end of the week. The IRWM Implementation Grant Proposal will be prepared by the consultant team starting in October 2010. The proposal will be submitted to DWR by the January 7, 2011 deadline.

Daniel Cozad provided the group with an update on the DAC Demonstration Program. The contract is still undergoing review by DWR's legal team. Jen Wong, DWR, announced that DWR is waiting to process all five of the proposed DAC Demonstration Program contracts concurrently. Anna Vargas, Poder Popular, stated that the DAC representatives had authored a joint letter to the CVRWMG stating their support for using NGOs for the community outreach

component of the DAC Demonstration Program. Daniel confirmed that funding was included in the proposed contract for just that.

Review and Discuss Ranked Project List

Rosalyn Stewart provided an overview of the ranked project list distributed in the agenda packet. She described the color-coded project themes or packages – arsenic treatment, septic-to-sewer conversion, and water conservation – which have been suggested as the region’s priorities for the Prop 84-Round 1 grant application.

The group discussed the ranked project list:

- Project selection criteria should emphasize geographic parity.
- Project selection should NOT facilitate new growth. Should focus on addressing existing deficiencies and critical water supply/wastewater needs.
- CVRWMG agencies all have policies that require developers to fund new infrastructure for growth; not an appropriate use of IRWM funds.
- Agreement by group to use “Public Benefit” as screening criteria.
- Desert Edge community shall coordinate with the County (CED office) to move septic conversion project forward.
- Lake Perris project is included in list because it improves local reliability of imported water supplies.
- Suggestion to add theme/package for stormwater management projects.
- Water conservation messaging currently geared toward DACs is generally focused on (lack of) septic capacity). However, broader water conservation messaging should be developed for DACs.
- Priority projects should be 1) ready to proceed and 2) provide greatest impact to community.

Discuss Short-Term Arsenic Treatment Project

Sergio Carranza, Pueblo Unido, provided the group with a detailed explanation of the short-term arsenic treatment project that has been developed for the region. This project would be a pilot project for development of multiple decentralized treatment systems in compliance with County DEH. Each system would have a certified operator trained by Pueblo Unido. The proposal includes 5 Point of Entry facilities at large MHPs and 200 Point of Entry facilities at residential sinks. Pueblo Unido is also planning to leverage this IRWM funding with other grant opportunities (e.g., USDA Ag Worker Rehabilitation Program).

Anna Vargas acknowledged that the proposal will implement legislation by Perez (AB 2515) that requires MHP owners to install Point of Entry treatment in MHPs greater than 15 units.

Next Steps

The DAC Issues Group will continue to meet concurrently with the Planning Partners to review and provide feedback on IRWM Plan development.

- Suggestion to provide conference call access at all future DAC Outreach meetings.
- Agreement to add Cindy Nance as Planning Partner member representing West Valley DAC issues.