

# Coachella Valley Integrated Regional Water Management Program

## Planning Partners

Tuesday March 15, 2011  
1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

Coachella Valley Association of Governments  
73-710 Fred Waring Drive, Room 115  
Palm Desert, CA 92260

### DRAFT NOTES

*Italics denote action items.*

#### Attendees:

##### Planning Partners

Doug Wylie, RWQCB  
Megan Beaman, California Rural Legal Assistance  
Foundation (CRLAF)  
Anna Vargas, Poder Popular  
Mike Gialdini, Supervisor Benoit  
Mark Meeler, Myoma Dunes Water Company  
Jack Fifield, Salton Community Services District  
Rosa Reagles, Salton Community Services District  
Jennifer Wong, DWR  
Dave Barakian, Palm Springs

##### CVRWMG

Sara Toyoda, IWA  
Marilyn McKay, MSWD  
John Soulliere, MSWD  
Mark Krause, DWA  
Katie Ruark, DWA  
Dan Parks, CVWD  
Patti Reyes, CVWD  
Roselyn Prickett, RMC  
Daniel Cozad, IPM

#### Meeting Objectives:

- A. Keep participants up-to-date on the Coachella Valley IRWM program.
- B. Discuss future grant opportunities available to local entities.
- C. Provide feedback on the Implementation Grant solicitation process.
- D. Identify future agenda items for Planning Partners meetings.

#### Meeting Notes:

##### **Welcome and Introductions**

Rosalyn Prickett, RMC Water and Environment, welcomed the Planning Partners and the group did self introductions.

##### **Update on IRWM Planning and Accomplishments**

Rosalyn Prickett updated the group on the IRWM process in the Coachella Valley. DWR has awarded the full Planning Grant request of \$1,000,000, and the CVRWMG is waiting for a response regarding the Implementation Grant application.

Planning Partner expressed disappointment at DWR for a lack of commitment to the DAC Outreach Program. One Partner requested an emphasis on providing increased technical support for solving DAC needs.

Planning Partner noted that Environmental Justice Coalition for Water (EJCW) LA Region has started outreach in advance of contract; the same is true with the Coachella Valley region and tomorrow's planned West Valley DAC Outreach meeting. Planning Partner questioned if the LA Region is providing a funding match for their DAC Outreach Program. Yes, the Leadership Committee agencies matched the effort by \$50,000.

Planning Partner suggested that NGOs and other agencies are willing to adopt the Coachella Valley IRWM Plan. *Rosalyn Prickett will send NGO resolutions to CRLAF (c/o Megan Beaman). The CVRWGM will upload all of these resolutions to the website.*

Planning Partner asked if there will be support for submitting projects in Round 2 of the Implementation Grant cycle? The online project database will always be available for project submittal and the CVRWGM can provide support and clarifications, if requested.

Planning Partner asked if projects have to be re-submitted in Round 2? No, they are all still within the project database. The database may also be used as a tool to develop project concepts.

Planning Partner asked if there is any funding for water conservation? Yes, the Round 1 Implementation Grant application included a valley-wide conservation program. Planning Partner noted that conservation is different in DACs. DAC Outreach Program should try to understand conservation issues in DACs. For example, DACs can buy extra \$3 worth of water, but not \$100 to fix a leaking toilet. These issues need to be addressed, and there needs to be education about conservation and quality in those DAC areas.

Palm Springs is considering submittal of a Proposition 1E Grant application with the Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District as a partner. The project would involve reconstruction of the Tahquiz Levee. Rosalyn reminded Planning Partners that the CVRWGM is willing to prepare a letter of support confirming that a proposed Proposition 1E project is included in the Coachella Valley IRWM program database.

Salton CSD may also consider a local drainage project for Proposition 1E Grant funding, with CVWD as a partner for this project.

### **DWR Update**

Jennifer Wong, DWR, gave the following updates regarding the IRWM Grant Program:

- Planning Grant Round 2: Anticipated Summer 2011.
- Local Groundwater Assistance (Final Round): Anticipated Fall 2011.
- Implementation Grant Round 2: Pushed back to Summer 2012 and there will likely be less money available.
- Proposition 1E Grant Round 2: Anticipated Fall 2012.
- Implementation Grant Cycle Round 3: Anticipated Summer 2013.

The CVRWGM asked if regions may consider applying for Round 2 Planning Grant funds for Salt and Nutrient Management Plan development. DWR confirmed this is okay.

### **Implementation Grant Update**

Rosalyn Prickett explained that the CRVWGM is looking for feedback on the Round 1 Implementation Grant project solicitation and selection process, so it can improve for Round 2.

Planning Partners agreed that the online project database is a good tool. Project input is not challenging, but there is a need for technical support. Though Planning Partners agreed that there is a need to “truth” projects before ranking so that they are all evaluated in a consistent manner.

Planning Partner suggested that an oral/face-to-face meeting with project proponents would help to improve projects at the conceptual stage. Partners agreed that the Project Workshop/Open House went well, but that we should allow more time to meet with local project sponsors to discuss projects.

Planning Partner suggested that the Project Workshop should include interviews (with break-out sessions). We should try to understand projects and “perfect” project descriptions. Some project sponsors also need technical assistance to go from project concept to application. Hosting a Project Concept Workshop would help guide development of competitive projects.

Planning Partner suggested that we require a Project Concept submittal in advance (100 words or less). Project proponents would then use this as a “ticket” into the Project Database/Workshops. The CVRWGMG can also redirect project sponsors to other grant programs/phases.

In terms of the decision process, Planning Partner felt that the Issues Group made up of project sponsors was not successful. The table of data was helpful in reaching a decision, but too difficult to make that decision with all interested parties in the room. Planning Partner suggested the need to develop clear prioritization criteria.

Planning Partner inquired why flood control projects were not prioritized? Flood projects were not considered a high priority given the additional Proposition 1E Grant cycle coming up. Regional priorities included: groundwater quality (arsenic treatment), water reliability (conservation), and septic conversion.

### **Planning Partners Agenda**

Rosalyn Prickett discussed the future meeting date and agenda for the next Planning Partners meeting. If DWR does not release the Round 1 Implementation Grant awards in early summer, than the next Planning Partners meeting will be pushed back to September 2011. The agenda will include: updates on IRWM planning and grant timelines; kickoff of the DAC Outreach Program; and establishing regional priorities for Round 2 Implementation Grant.

### **Follow-Up Items**

Rosalyn Prickett will complete the following action items:

- Bring back a tentative calendar for Round 2 Implementation Grant Cycle.
- Send IRWM Conference announcement to Planning Partners.