

**GREATER LOS ANGELES COUNTY  
INTEGRATED REGIONAL WATER MANAGEMENT LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES  
DECEMBER 10, 2014  
LOS ANGELES DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS  
900 SOUTH FREMONT, ALHAMBRA, CA**

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Gary Hildebrand for Gail Farber (Los Angeles County Flood Control District) – Chair  
Leighanne Kirk for Rich Nagel (West Basin MWD) – Chair, South Bay Sub-Region  
Rob Beste (City of Torrance) – Vice Chair, South Bay Sub-Region  
Andy Niknafs for Dave Pettijohn (Department of Water and Power) – Chair, Upper Los Angeles River Sub-Region  
Kelly Gardner, (Main San Gabriel Basin Watermaster) Chair, Upper San Gabriel River Subregion  
Randy Schoellerman, (Water Quality Authority) Vice-Chair, Upper San Gabriel River 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 Zampielo (Raymond Basin) – Groundwater WMA  
Marybeth Vergara, for Mark Stanley (Watershed Conservation Authority) Vice-Chair, Lower Los Angeles and San Gabriel Rivers Sub-region  
Esther Rojas for Robb Whitakker (Water Replenishment District)

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Terri Grant Watershed Management Division Head), Los Angeles County Flood Control District  
Angela George, Watershed Management Division Head), Los Angeles County Flood Control District  
Russ Bryden (Staff), Los Angeles County Flood Control District  
Virginia Maloles-Fowler (Staff), Los Angeles County Flood Control District  
Amanda Guzman-Perez (Staff), Los Angeles County Flood Control District  
Mark Ching, LADWP  
Jan Dougall, Las Virgenes Municipal Water District  
Jeff Helsley, Stetson Engineers  
Wendy La, LASER, LLC  
Chad Lamacchia, LADWP  
Miguel Luna (DAC Coordinator), DAKELUNA  
Ken Ortega, Water Replenishment District  
Guangyu Wang, Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission  
Jason Weeks, Water Replenishment District  
Frances Spivy-Weber, State Water Resources Control Board

## **1. CALL TO ORDER**

Meeting was called to order at 9:43 a.m.

## **2. APPROVAL OF OCTOBER 22, 2014 MEETING MINUTES**

The Chair requested comments prior to the approval of the meeting minutes. Leighanne Kirk received one comment provided to her by Enrique Huerta. The change provided in writing was a comment to Agenda item 5.2(3) in reference to the Greater Los Angeles County Region extended outreach efforts. Per the written statement, Mr. Huerta had suggested submitting the list of water resources projects already in the pipeline to the on-going Program Environmental Impact Report for the enhanced Watershed Management Programs that Los Angeles County Flood Control District is currently seeking comments on as part of the Notice of Preparation.

MOTION: Motion to approve the October 22, 2014 meeting minutes with the change requested was made by Leighanne Kirk and seconded by Sharon Green. Meeting minutes were approved.

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

Leighanne Kirk distributed the agenda and copies of legislative bills discussed at the last Legislative Committee conference call and announced that the next conference call is scheduled for the following Wednesday at 10:00 a.m. Any questions can be provided to her and she will then provide them to Edward J. Caldwell for his follow-up. Marybeth Vergara requested that the call in number for the conference call be provided. She had made prior requests to be added to the conference call distribution. Staff will make sure that the conference call information is distributed to the entire Leadership Committee membership.

Sharon Green stated that during the last conference call Mr. Caldwell asked to get the Leadership Committee's guidance in scheduling the trip to Sacramento on the upcoming months with representation from each sub-region. Previous attempts to schedule the trip have been challenging due to logistics and the busy representatives involved. Sharon Green inquired if there was any interest from the group in scheduling the trip so that she could convey this information to the Legislative Committee. The Chair agreed that the group needed to move forward with the trip and asked that the planning process begin with the identification of a possible timeframe, a list of who would like to participate, and the potential issues that can be addressed. The trip will be scheduled between February and March 2015 and coordination will be discussed as part of the December 17<sup>th</sup> conference call.

## **4. WATER BOND AND DROUGHT MESSAGING COLLABORATION UPDATE**

Kerjon Lee provided an update on meetings and activities of the Public Information Officers Task Force. He shared press releases on the Prop 84 Drought Round Grant Awards, and storm messaging which included the capture of 5,467 acre feet of

stormwater. He also distributed the draft press release for UCLA's precipitation forecast report, which will be released Thursday, December 11<sup>th</sup>.

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

The Chair stated that prior discussions on what we do and where we want to go as an organization have occurred. The Chair introduced Virginia Maloles-Fowler to continue the discussion with the review of certain issues requiring the group's consideration.

### **5.1 Update on Operating Guidelines**

Virginia Maloles-Fowler referenced the copy of Operating Guidelines provided and briefly discussed the sections involving the Sub-Regional Steering Committees' formation process and roles/responsibilities that may need changes, focusing primarily on the importance of having the current chairperson, vice chairperson, and their alternates, and organizations adopt or endorse the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). A matrix on the current authorized representatives and alternates along with a copy of the signed MOU were distributed. She asked the Leadership Committee members present to review and confirm that the list of individuals holding the positions for each of the five sub-regions is up-to-date. She will be following up via e-mail to make sure that the authorized individuals from each organization have either adopted or endorsed the MOU. Further discussion on the roles and responsibilities will be discussed at the next Sub-Regional Steering Committee meetings.

Ms. Maloles-Fowler highlighted the Guidelines section requiring that an entity wishing to be a member of the Steering Committee shall submit a written request to the Steering Committee Chair for a deliberation and a majority vote. Per the Guidelines, Sub-Regional Steering Committees would meet on a monthly basis or as required, which is the current practice. After a brief discussion and feedback from a Sub-Regional Steering Committee on this section, the group agreed to make no changes to the frequency of the meetings. Other items requiring further discussion will be addressed as part of the Sub-Regional Steering Committee meetings.

Russ Bryden reminded the group of a request to establish a subgroup that would review and provide feedback on the Operating Guidelines. This discussion is part of the follow up to that request. The Chair further added that it was important to review and assess the commitments that were made and to revisit the Guidelines to make sure that any necessary updates are made.

### **5.2 Future Opportunities**

Terri Grant reported that the discussion on future opportunities began at the last meeting and highlighted the group's success in obtaining grants to further its goals on integrated water management. She recapped the opportunities discussed:

- 1) Goals & Objectives from the IRWM Plan – Review of the goals and objectives to determine how they are being met and how we can meet them in the future through the selection of future projects.

- 2) Quarterly Project Reviews: Incorporate a quarterly project reviews as part of the Sub-Regional Steering Committee discussions.
- 3) Plan Performance & Monitoring Updates: Establish a plan performance and monitoring process and continue to have projects presentations.
- 4) Outreach to Enhanced Watershed Management Plan Groups: Identify how we can work with EWMP Groups and integrate their participation in the IRWM or make presentations to EWMP groups on how to collaborate with IRWM.
- 5) Retreat: A retreat was suggested to provide information on IRWM.
- 6) Other Funding Sources: Identify federal and local funding to help meet the IRWM Plan goals and review private philanthropic opportunities as another potential funding source.

Terri recommended that a subgroup be formed to develop implementation ideas. The Chair requested that a representative from each sub-region be part of the subgroup to assure input from each sub-region. The purpose of the subgroup will be to identify how the Leadership Committee can move forward in reaching our goals and objectives and to identify any issues that need to be addressed to assure that it is successful. The subgroup will be requested to bring forth a proposal to the Leadership Committee. Names of the sub-regional representatives should be provided to Russ Bryden and Virginia Maloles-Fowler.

## **6. PROP 84 PROJECT PRESENTATION**

Ken Ortega, Assistant Manager for the Water Replenishment District presented on behalf of the Leo Vander Lans Advanced Water Treatment Facility Expansion Project that received grant funds from Prop 84 Round 1. The purpose of the project was to replace imported water with recycled water. The facility expansion includes the same primary treatment processes with some differences: Microfiltration (with MF backwash recovery); Reverse Osmosis (with added 3rd stage RO); UV (with AOP using hydrogen peroxide); and New Stabilization with pH adjustment and calcium chloride addition. The results from this expansion project include increasing treatment capacity from 3.0 to 8.0 MGD, increasing recycled water use from 50% to 100%, and reducing waste and increased overall plant recovery from 77% to 92%.

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

Sub-Regional Steering Committees reported on the discussions held at their respective October meetings, as follows:

North Santa Monica Bay: No report

South Bay: No report.

Upper Los Angeles River: No report

Upper San Gabriel and Rio Hondo: Kelly Gardner reported that their sub-region met and discussed items regarding future opportunities and guidelines, a possible retreat and expanded outreach. They are developing an invitation form letter that will be used to

outreach to city managers to increase their participation in IRWM. They currently have three to four cities involved as part of the sub-region. The Chair indicated that information, based on the collaboration with EWMP, can be provided on the sub-regions to help increase the participation of more cities and other stakeholders who are within the area.

Lower San Gabriel and Los Angeles River: No report

Open Space: No report

Sanitation District: Sharon Green reported that the Sanitation District is working on a legislative proposal to work with stormwater entities and cities regarding their statutory authority on solid waste management and wastewater. Discussions over the years on their possible assistance with stormwater treatment and capture have led to the request to include this change to the statute. A one-page fact sheet was distributed. Conversations with legislative offices on this issue are underway; however, a bill is not in place yet. The legislation would include specifically named districts and language that will allow for other districts that may be formed to participate. The Chair indicated that having the District involved in stormwater will be helpful for the cities and suggested that presentations to the EWMP watershed groups within the District's area be made. Russ Bryden can assist in providing the information on the meetings. She also stated that similar legislation for other districts has passed with no real opposition so the Sanitation District is hoping for a similar outcome. Thus far they have received significant support and will be requesting support letters.

Storm Water: Donna Chen reported that the MS4 permit work is still in progress and a lot of work is underway on the EWMP development which is due to the Regional Water Quality Control Board in June 2015. In November, a workshop was held with several stakeholders invited to provide input. The workshop also involved some of the key projects that are currently being reviewed to be part of the plan, along with other projects. The consultants preparing the EWMPs reviewed different sources for projects, including those included in OPTI, as part of their analysis to make sure it helps in meeting the water quality benefits. Comments on the monitoring plans are being reviewed and changes are being made especially in the areas on toxicity. Approval of the monitoring plans is expected for early next year between February and April. The County is assisting in release of a programmatic program EIR to help cover all these plans for the region.

Surface Water: Grace Chan reported that it was too early in the year to determine what will happen with surface water, but results appears to be looking better than last year. The initial allocation from the state is 10%, which is better than last year's 0% allocation which was later increased to 5%. The allocation may be changed depending on the rest of the water year. There were two Board actions: (1) Approval of updated water supply allocation plan based on storage capacity; and (2) Approval of the conservation and rebates budget increase from \$40 million to \$100 million for this year's SoCal Water Smart Conservation Program Budget.

Groundwater – Tony Zampielo reported that the County EIR for Devil’s Gate Sediment Removal Project was adopted and that he testified at the meeting conducted on this project. He also said that all Basins must complete a Salt and Nutrient Management Plan. He recently presented at the Regional Board and mentioned completing the SNMP for submittal to RWQCB group and a stakeholder meeting. The Main Basin groundwater hit a new low level, 179.9 above MSL, 20 feet below the bottom of the operating range. Main Basin Watermaster took action at the Board level to accept the spreading of limited release and Watermaster, Metropolitan Water District and County Public Works are working together on Management Plans that will allow spreading into County Facilities of Colorado River Water. Authorization from their Board to begin Phase 1 is scheduled for January 1, 2015. On July 1<sup>st</sup> they will determine if they will go to Phase 2 since they are only looking at 15,000 acre feet of water costing over \$4 million to treat. He also mentioned the San Gabriel Water Association’s ad campaign that runs every Friday, providing information on tracking key well.

Stormwater Capture – No report

DAC Committee – Marybeth Vergara introduced Miguel Luna, the new DAC Coordinator and Community Liaison for the GLACR that will start January 2015.

SWRCB – Gary Hildebrand called on Frances Spivy-Weber to provide an update. She stated that there is a meeting scheduled for December 16 and 17, 2014 at the State Water Board level to focus on appeals received on the Los Angeles NPDES permit regarding the EWMPs. The SWRCB has to act on these appeals during the first quarter of 2015. She also provided an update on conservation and drought efforts and spoke on the emergency water conservation regulations that expired on April 2014 and needed to be renewed, changed, or adopted as a permanent policy. She discussed the difference between Prop 1 and Prop 84 and encouraged the committee to look at strategies for getting funds appropriated under DWR and SWRCB, and mentioned that the state budget will be released in spring or July 1, 2015.

Comments from the Committee were to update our approach with grant funding by using the CA Water Action Plan as a guide, form legislative committee, and also look into other state agencies funding (CARBG, CalEPA) focused on water and climate.

## **8. IRWM GRANTS UPDATE (V. MALOLES-FOWLER)**

Virginia Maloles-Fowler announced that the CA Water Plan is available for review and also stated that additional information requested by DWR to execute Proposition 84 Drought Round 3 was being packaged for submittal before the due date of December 12, 2014.

Ms. Maloles-Fowler also reported that one of the projects in Round 3 has requested approval from DWR to revise its work plan thereby reducing the total project cost and grant amount originally requested. She was not sure if the request will be approved or what DWR will do with the remaining funds. She called on Chad Lamacchia from City of Los Angeles Department of Water and Power to explain the changes.

## **9. PUBLIC COMMENT**

No comments.

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

None

## **11. ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting was adjourned by the Chair at 11:23 a.m.

**NEXT MEETING:**        Wednesday, January 28, 2014  
                                 9:30 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.