

**Greater Los Angeles County Integrated Regional Water Management
Leadership Committee Meeting Notes
July 22, 2009**

**At the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works
900 South Fremont Avenue, Alhambra**

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Chair, Los Angeles County Flood Control District: Mark Pestrella for Gail Farber

Lower Los Angeles Subregion

Vice-Chair: Belinda Faustinos (Watershed Conservation Authority)

North Santa Monica Bay Subregion

Chair: Joe Bellomo (Consultant for Cities of Agoura Hills & West Lake Village) for Randall Orton (Las Virgenes Municipal Water District)

Vice-Chair: Barbara Cameron (City of Malibu)

South Bay Subregion

Chair: Rich Nagel (West Basin MWD)

Vice-Chair: Robb Whitaker (Water Replenishment District)

Upper Los Angeles Subregion

Chair: Andy Niknafs (City of L.A. Department of Water & Power) for Tom Erb (City of LA Department of Water & Power)

Vice-Chair: Nancy Steele (L.A. & San Gabriel Rivers Watershed Council)

Upper San Gabriel Subregion

Chair: Carol Williams (Main San Gabriel Basin Watermaster)

Vice-Chair: Grace Kast (San Gabriel Basin Water Quality Authority)

Water Management Area

Groundwater: Tony Zampiello (Raymond Basin Management Board)

Open Space: Norma Garcia (L.A. County Dept. of Parks & Recreation) for Shelly Luce (Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission)

Sanitation: Sharon Green (County Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County) for Steve Maguin (County Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County)

Stormwater: Shahram Kharaghani (City of Los Angeles Watershed Protection Division)

Surface Water: Grace Chan (Metropolitan Water District) for Jeff Kightlinger (Metropolitan Water District)

COMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Lower Los Angeles Subregion, Chair: Art Aguilar (Central Basin MWD)

OTHERS PRESENT:

Siya Araumi (Los Angeles County Flood Control District)

Hector Bordas (Los Angeles County Flood Control District)

Diego Cadena (Los Angeles County Flood Control District)

Donna Chen (City of Los Angeles Bureau of Sanitation)

George De La O (Los Angeles County Flood Control District)

Terri Grant (Los Angeles County Flood Control District)

Gary Hildebrand (Los Angeles County Flood Control District)

Rochelle Paras (Los Angeles County Flood Control District)

Leighanne Reeser (West Basin MWD)

Tom West (RMC Water & Environment)

Theresa Wu (Water Replenishment District)

Mary Zauner (County Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County)

1. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order at 9:46 a.m.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MAY 27, 2009 MEETING SUMMARY

A motion was made to approve the meeting notes of May 27, 2009. The motion passed unanimously.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

Mark Pestrella presented Diego Cadena with a scroll from the Leadership Committee thanking Diego for his leadership and many years of service to the development of the Greater Los Angeles County Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWMP) and to the Leadership Committee. Diego thanked the members for their work and dedication in implementation of the IRWMP.

Mark Pestrella distributed the new table of organization for the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works and provided an explanation for the structure of the water related Divisions within Public Works, which he now oversees. Mark also introduced Gary Hildebrand as the new Division Chief of the Watershed Management Division at Public Works. Gary will be joining the Leadership Committee as an alternate to Mark.

4. IRWMP NEWS

George De La O provided the following news:

- The LACFCD is conducting today's meeting without assistance from the consultant due to the limited meeting facilitation funding remaining in the consultant contract.
- State budget might pass by the end of July, which would be a good sign that Prop. 50 invoices would be paid soon. We have sent an invoice to the State for the Las Virgenes project and are working with the Local Project Sponsors on our next invoice.
- On-line Quarterly Reports for Prop. 50 projects are due by July 24, 2009. The LACFCD will compile and send to the State by the end of the month.
- A pre-existing list of Ex-Officio members was distributed to the Leadership Committee members, and it was requested that it be updated. Rich Nagel mentioned that since the Metropolitan Water District is already a member of the Leadership Committee, they could be removed from the Ex-Officio member list. He suggested adding members from the California Department of Water Resources or the California Department of Health Services. The LACFCD will send invitations to all Ex-Officio members.
- Region Acceptance Process (RAP) results are anticipated to be released by August/September. The Department of Water Resources (DWR) is also scheduled to release the draft grant implementation guidelines for Prop. 84 at the same time. Mark Pestrella and the RAP interview team also provided a brief update on the RAP interview with the State.

5. IRWMP IMPLEMENTATION

Mark Pestrella invited the members to start a discussion on the future of the Region's IRWMP. He reaffirmed the LACFCD's dedication to and continuous involvement with the IRWMP. He asked and encouraged everyone to be more involved in the IRWMP process and to share responsibility for implementing the Plan's goals. He reiterated the LACFCD's and the Leadership Committee's longstanding view that IRWMP isn't just about money and receiving funds from the State. He is pushing watershed managers within the LACFCD to be more involved in the steering committee meetings.

Barbara Cameron mentioned that the City of Malibu will be rolling out a large proposal, in coordination with L.A. County Waterworks District #29 and West Basin MWD on a targeted pilot program.

Hector Bordas discussed goals identified in our IRWMP and our dedication to achieve them. Wendy La applauded the efforts for agency cooperation to improve water conservation and quality.

6. DAC AD HOC COMMITTEE UPDATE

Belinda Faustinos provided an update on the Disadvantaged Community (DAC) Ad Hoc Committee (attached). She will draft a letter on behalf of the Leadership Committee to DWR to define the meaning of Disadvantaged Community. She also suggested that research needs to be done on a pending legislative bill, AB 626 (Eng – Bond Revenues: Integrated Regional Water Management Grants), which would require that ten percent of all future IRWMP funding go to DAC projects.

7. THE ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE RAYMOND AND MAIN SAN GABRIEL BASIN WATERMASTERS

Tony Zampiello provided a PowerPoint presentation on the subject matter (attached).

8. ONGOING IRWMP FUNDING STATUS

Rich Nagel provided an update on the consultant's contract and IRWMP funding (attached). As of July 22, 2009, the consultant's contract totals \$1,019,084. The Region has a residual of \$27,166. He informed the members that a discussion on how we can financially sustain the IRWMP program is needed.

9. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS/OTHER ITEMS

Sharon Green said there is a draft Federal bill ("Sustainable Watershed Planning Act") related to implementing a national form of the IRWMP program. Richard Nagel suggested agendaing a legislative update and have as a standing item on all future meeting agendas.

10. MEETING ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:35 a.m.

NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, August 26, 2009 at 9:30 a.m.