

Greater Los Angeles Integrated Regional Water Management Plan Meeting Notes – Upper Los Angeles River Watersheds Steering Committee

**September 12, 10 am to 12 pm
City of Los Angeles, LADWP Conference Room 1471**

Present:

Mario Acevedo, LA DWP
John Ball, LA DPW BOS
Mary Benson, Foothill Trails
John Biggs, Brown and Caldwell
Shirley Birosik, RWQCB
Donna Chen, LA DPW BOS
Joyce Dillard

Rebecca Drayse, TreePeople
Alex Farassati, City of Calabasas
Thomas Erb, LA DWP
Darryl Ford, LA City Recreation & Parks
Terri Grant, LACo DPW/FCD
Mark Horne, EIP Associates
Frank Kuo, LACo DPW/FCD

Wendy La, LACo DPW/FCD
Fred Lyn, Pasadena Water & Power
Mark MacKowski, ULA River Watermaster
Lianne McGinley, City of Burbank DWP
Ed Means, Malcom Pirnie
Nancy Steele, LASGRWC

Topic/Issue	Discussion	Action/Follow up
1. Introductions	Tom Erb opened the meeting at 10:07 am with introductions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No Action
2. Approve 07/18/07 Meeting Minutes	The minutes from the 07/18/07 meeting were distributed.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting minutes were approved.
3. Update on Leadership Committee a. IRWM Program News b. Consultant Selection c. Decision Making Structure – Selection of Alternatives d. Name Change: “Leadership Committee” to “Regional Coordinating Committee”	<p>IRWM Program News. CA State Legislature passed AB1481 to clarify that Prop 84 money will be consistent with Prop 50. The State will also be conducting a special session addressing broader water issues specifically around recent court rulings affecting the Sacramento River Delta. Federal appropriations earmarked \$20m for the Los Angeles River.</p> <p>Leadership Committee approved Motion made by Tom Erb regarding the allocation of the \$215m from Prop 84 to the Los Angeles-Ventura Region be allocated based on the principles outline in Prop 84 (Population and Watersheds). Ventura has expressed that it wants to stress the importance of agriculture in the division of funds. A concern was also expressed that advocating population as the split between Los Angeles and Ventura Counties while using other factors among the subregions will be viewed a double standard. Discussion also occurred as how subregional funds are divided and the role the projects should or shouldn't play in how that division takes place.</p> <p>Discussion occurred on the need for further outreach to the watershed to reach key groups that are not currently included and the recent</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Steering Committee approved the following Alternates: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Mario Acevedo (for Tom Erb) ○ Edward Belda (for Nancy Steele) • Steering Committee Members and Stakeholders are encouraged to email suggestions for additional participants in the IRWMP to Mario Acevedo.

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	<p>adoption of an MOU to form a Regional Water Management Group by 4 cities (Lakewood, Signal Hill, Long Beach and Downey). The Leadership Committee has asked that a representative of the new group come to the next Leadership Committee to discuss the intent of the new MOU and its relationship to the Greater LA County IRWMP.</p> <p>Discussion occurred on what groups aren't currently well represented in the IRWMP process, such as property owners and planning departments. Concern was expressed that the lack of a clear allocation formula for project funding may be limiting participation and might spur other parties to break away. It was noted that in order for a breakaway IRWMP to be effective it has to be recognized by DWR (as an area for which regional water management makes sense). It was suggested that research be done into other models for feedback to the IRWMP including expanded use of the website and call in numbers for meetings. Steering Committee members and stakeholders are encouraged to email suggestions for additional IRWMP participants to Mario Acevedo.</p> <p>Consultant Contract. Leadership Committee has approved the selection of the Brown and Caldwell team for the next phase of consultant support and approved entering negotiations for a contract.</p> <p>Decision Making Structure. Leadership Committee completed expansion to 16 members (2 from each subregion, 1 for each water management area, & 1 for the County Flood Control District as chair). In addition the Leadership Committee approved the following selection of Water Management Area Representatives:</p> <p>Groundwater – Tony Zampiello (Raymond Basin) Open Space – Shelley Luce (Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission) Sanitation – Steve Maguin (Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County) Stormwater – Shahram Kharaghani (City of Los Angeles) Surface Water – Jeff Kightlinger (MWD)</p> <p>Each WMA representative will submit alternates to the Leadership Committee for approval at the next Leadership Committee Meeting.</p>	

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	<p>The Steering Committee approved Mario Acevedo as the alternate for Tom Erb and Edward Belda as the alternate for Nancy Steele.</p> <p>The Leadership Committee is currently discussing changing the date of the Leadership Committee meetings. Steering Committee members will be notified if and when there is a change, which could affect the date of the Steering Committee.</p> <p>Name Change. Regarding the suggestion to change the name of the Leadership Committee to the Regional Coordinating Council, the general feeling was that the Committee is fine with either name.</p>	
<p>4. Draft MOU on Governance and Financing Structure</p>	<p>Ed Means provided an overview of the process to develop a new MOU and Operating Guidelines and lead a discussion of key points of the MOU and Operating Guidelines.</p> <p>Funding Structure. The Leadership Committee establishes a budget and the Steering Committees raise the funds and determine the funding allocations among members. Concerns noted included: the desire for general funding guidelines to create uniformity of contributions; the need for support of ongoing operations; avoiding pay-to-play language in the MOU; recognizing the different abilities of participants to donate funds, and the potential to recognize the non-monetary contributions of non-profit organizations. Uncertainty over whether the funding request is a fixed amount or will recur every year was noted; along with a desire to seek funding from the federal government or other funding sources.</p> <p>Signatories to the MOU. It was suggested that Leadership Committee Members should be primary adopters of the MOU, while other participants could sign on in support of the process, but not necessarily as signatories to the MOU.</p> <p>Other Comments. It was suggested that the MOU should recognize one single region. It was also suggested that signing the MOU could be a requirement to getting funding via the IRWMP and that a non-compete clause could be added.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ed Means will provide a working draft of the MOU and Operating guidelines for the next Leadership Committee Meeting. • Email additional comments and/or thoughts on the MOU and operational guidelines to Ed Means and/or Mario Acevedo.
<p>5. Project Integration</p>	<p>Mark Horne provided an overview of the project prioritization exercise, including the discussion at the August 1st workshop, which considered</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No Action

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Exercise	<p>opportunities to expand the range of project benefits or geographically integrate projects. Many projects that identified secondary water quality benefits were not awarded points for those benefits. Thus, many of the projects discussed in the workshop did include a wide range of benefits, but were not scored accordingly. Some projects have the potential to expand their range of benefits, as those projects proceed into design. Revisions to the project prioritization framework are proposed, and a better look at geographic integration opportunities needs to be pursued in the future. In addition, the projects in the database could also be categorized (e.g., project without a defined sponsor, or conceptual concepts that need to be better defined). It was noted that other groups such as School Districts, SCAG and the commercial sector could be included in the project identification process..</p> <p>The County also stated the database had been modified to allow for projects to be filtered according to when they were last updated by the project proponent. The database is still open for project proponents to continue to add projects and improve the descriptions of their current projects.</p>	
6. Funding Contributions	<p>Mario Acevedo discussed funding of ongoing IRWMP related activities for the next 18 months, and distributed a draft funding request with suggested contributions. Each subregion was requested to provide \$200,000 and MWD had also agreed to put money into the regional fund. It was suggested that Foothill MWD, South Pasadena, and La Canada-Flintridge be added to the list for funding requests.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mario will add additional cities/agencies to funding letter and distribute a letter to cities and agencies in the subregion.
7. Schedule for Future Meetings	<p>Next Steering Committee Meeting: TBA</p> <p>Next Leadership Committee meeting on October 4, 2007 at 9:30 am, at LA County DPW 12th Floor, Alhambra.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mario Acevedo will notify the Steering Committee on the time and location of the next Steering Committee Meeting.

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