

**GREATER LOS ANGELES COUNTY  
INTEGRATED REGIONAL WATER MANAGEMENT LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE  
MEETING NOTES [DRAFT]  
SEPTEMBER 24, 2014  
LOS ANGELES DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS  
900 SOUTH FREMONT, ALHAMBRA, CA**

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Gary Hildebrand, Los Angeles County Flood Control District – Chair  
Terri Grant, Los Angeles County Flood Control District  
Leighanne Kirk (for Rich Nagel), West Basin MWD – Chair, South Bay Sub-Region  
Rob Beste, City of Torrance – Vice Chair, South Bay Sub-Region  
Randal Orton, Las Virgenes MWD – Chair, NSMB Sub-Region  
Barbara Cameron, City of Malibu – Vice Chair, NSMB 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 SG/RH Sub-Region  
Randy Schoellerman, Water Quality Authority – Vice-Chair, Upper SG/RH River Sub-Region  
Mark Stanley, Rivers and Mountains Conservancy – Vice Chair, Lower SG/LA Rivers Sub-Region  
Sharon Green, Sanitation Districts of LA County – Sanitation WMA  
Grace Chan, Metropolitan Water District – Surface Water WMA  
Tom Ford, Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission – Open Space WMA  
Tony Zampiello, Raymond Basin – Groundwater WMA

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Paul Alva, Los Angeles County Department of Public Works  
Russ Bryden (Staff), Los Angeles County Flood Control District  
Amanda Guzmán-Pérez (Staff), Los Angeles County Flood Control District  
Maria Elena Kennedy, Kennedy Communications  
Wendy La, Laser, LLC  
Kerjon Lee, Los Angeles County Department of Public Works  
Virginia Maloles-Fowler (Staff), Los Angeles County Flood Control District  
Mercedes Passanisi, Los Angeles County Flood Control District  
Esther Rojas, WRD  
Erica Sasman (Staff), Los Angeles County Flood Control District  
Dan Sulzer, USACE  
Marybeth Vergara, RMC/WCA  
Guangyu Wang, Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission  
Mary Zauner, Sanitation Districts of LA County

## **1. CALL TO ORDER**

Meeting was called to order at 9:40 a.m.

## **2. APPROVAL OF AUGUST 27, 2014 MEETING MINUTES**

The Chair opened the discussion for any changes to the meeting minutes. No changes were requested.

MOTION: Motion to approve the August 27, 2014 meeting minutes was made by Leighanne Kirk and seconded by Randal Orton. Meeting minutes were approved by unanimous vote.

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

Leighanne Kirk reported that E.J. Caldwell was unable to attend the meeting but had no report for the Committee as the Legislature is not in session.

## **4. WATER BOND AND DROUGHT COORDINATION (KERJON LEE)**

### **4.1 Consistent Messaging**

Kerjon Lee, LA County Department of Public Works Public Information Officer (PIO) provided a handout on drought talking points. For the upcoming water bond, messaging is dependent on individual agency's board position.

### **4.2 Opportunities for Increased Collaboration**

Group discussed the public support provided to the new water bond. Some of the boards have presented their support to the bond, while others have provided neither their support nor opposition. Barbara Cameron highlighted an article on the enviro-screen used by the EPA, which will provide the opportunity for more funding for Los Angeles County. Maria Kennedy indicated that she is working to provide more technical support to smaller communities to enable them to apply for funding as many operate their own wells. The EPA screen is not currently being used by DWR. The next PIO Meeting is scheduled for October 9, 2014. **The Chair requested that a press release be developed to highlight the Proposition 84 drought funding recommendation.**

## **5. STRATEGIC PLAN FOR FUTURE OF IRWM IN CA PARTICIPATION, COLLABORATION, AND PARTNERSHIP WITH DWR AND OTHER REGIONS (R. BRYDEN/V. MALOLES-FOWLER)**

Russ Bryden provided background information of the Strategic Plan. This Report will describe the future role of DWR in IRWM and its actions for improving support. This includes funding from the water bond or from other State sources. It was released

two weeks ago. Virginia Maloles-Fowler informed the group that feedback is due back to DWR by October 17, 2014. The plan data is outdated and requires the Region's feedback, which is essentially the provision of current data. In addition, the LACFCD is coordinating comments with other regions (i.e. Watersheds Coalition of Ventura County). **Members were requested to review the strategic plan data and provide their feedback to Ms. Maloles-Fowler, who will then submit the compiled feedback to DWR by the October 17, 2014 deadline.**

**6. UPDATE THE 2006 INTERIM GUIDELINES FOR THE FORMATION, COMPOSITION, AND OPERATION OF THE RWMG FOR GLACR IRWM PLAN (V. MALOLES-FOWLER)**

Virginia Maloles-Fowler reported that the GLAC Region IRWM Guidelines were only interim guidelines, which should now be revisited and finalized. There is room for improvement with possible consideration to changes to the term limits and vacancy replacement (Committee election vs. Sub-region selection). Staff is recommending the creation of a sub-committee to review the Guidelines. Sharon Green, Randy Schoellerman, and Kelly Gardner volunteered to be part of the subcommittee and work with Virginia Maloles-Fowler to review the guidelines and recommend any updates. Discussion included the history of the Guidelines, reviewing term limits and replacing vacancies. Sharon Green highlighted the operational guidelines are referenced in the MOU and the update should take in account this link.

**7. PLANNING AGREEMENT FINAL REPORT (L. KIRK)**

Leighanne Kirk reported that a final report for the Planning Grant funding is required. The receipt of the \$100,000 in retention funds is contingent on the submission of the report. RMC submitted a proposal for the preparation of the final report for an amount of \$12,000. After review of the proposal by a Sub-Committee, RMC was requested to revise the scope of work, as the amount seemed too high given their central role in the Planning Grant activities. A conference call with the Sub-Committee reviewed Final Report requirements to assess if sections of the report could be completed by members. The targeted timeline for completing the final report is two months.

**MOTION:** Initial motion to grant the Sub-Committee the authority to contract with RMC with an amount not to exceed \$8,000 was presented by Tony Zampello and seconded by Sharon Green. The motion was amended by Randy Schoellerman to increase the amount to \$12,000, on the basis RMC was not able to complete the report unless agreement to their current proposal; seconded by Sharon Green. Motion was passed by unanimous vote.

## **8. INTER-REGIONAL COLLABORATION (WATERSHED COALITION OF VENTURA COUNTY – L. RODRIGUEZ)**

Lynn Rodriguez provided an overview of the Watershed Coalition's work underway in Ventura County. The Coalition has about \$62 million in funding from the State and was also recently recommended for drought funding.

Ventura County IRWM Region shares a corridor with two other IRWM Regions, GLAC in the Malibu area, and with Santa Clarita. Membership is open for the Ventura which is smaller than GLAC with 3 watersheds and 10 cities. Ventura imports 25% of their water and Agriculture is their biggest user. There is not a large DAC community. The most important policy issue in Ventura is land use. Additionally, flooding is also a priority issue due to the steepness of the land, where previous floods have been extremely damaging.

Clarifying questions were asked on open membership and optional payment as well as how cities in Ventura engaged in the IRWM process.

They welcome the opportunity to partner with Los Angeles County on projects affecting both regions, including the MS4. Also the overlapping sub-region NSMB will begin meeting with Ventura on joint issues, especially on water and energy.

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

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

North Santa Monica Bay: The Sub-Region did not meet. Randal Orton reported on the recent water main break, which was identified as being caused by pipe corrosion due to incomplete concrete coding.

South Bay: No report; Sub-Region did not meet.

Upper Los Angeles River: Andy Niknafs reported on the tour made to the Marsh Park, which was one of the projects funded under Proposition 84 Round 2.

Lower San Gabriel and Los Angeles River: No report

Upper San Gabriel and Rio Hondo: No report; Sub-Region did not meet.

Open Space: Guangyu Wang reported on the recent land use plan approved last week. The plan includes the prohibition of vineyards, the preservation of open space, and the requirement of all new developments to incorporate stormwater controls, all of which are in alignment with the GLAC Region's objectives.

Sanitation: Sharon Green did not have a report

Storm Water: No report.

Surface Water: Grace Chan reported workshops being held at MET including State Emergency Reporting by Water Agency by October 15 which includes residential water use and water per capita. The Urban Water Management Plan 2015 plan is due by July 1, 2016.

Groundwater: Tony Zampiendo reported that the groundwater levels have further decreased to an all-time low level of 182.7 feet. The basin has received 5,000 AF from MET with Colorado River Water to support the Basin. Three bills on groundwater were recently signed by the Governor requiring more reporting. They worked with proponents on the exception to the adjudication. They have recently upgraded their website and will run water conservation ads for two months starting in October. Work on the statewide discharge is underway with MET. Focus will be on sustainability.

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

Virginia Maloles-Fowler stated that the Proposition 50 Amendment 3 has been fully executed and reported that the Proposition 84 Round 2 Grant Agreement has been received and will be submitted for signature to County Counsel.

DWR released the 2014 Drought Grant Solicitation Draft Funding Recommendations and Proposal Evaluations and GLAC was recommended for the full application amount of \$ 27,261,414. The recommendations printout showing the breakdown by region for the \$200 million and how each application was scored was presented. Discussion on the funding recommendations and possible response by the due date was held. The group opted to not submit a response letter based on the level of funding recommended by DWR. In addition, Grace Chan suggested for staff to discuss application scoring at their level.

#### **11. PUBLIC COMMENT**

No comments.

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

An update on the drought was recommended as a discussion item for the next meeting. The Chair suggested that the identification of other meeting items be based on the meeting notes.

#### **13. ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting was adjourned by the Chair at 11:25 a.m.

**NEXT MEETING:** Wednesday, December 10, 2014  
9:30 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.